

Liz D., BOT Member

My name is Liz D. and I am a recovering sex and love addict. I joined the Board of Trustees in August of 2007 (see my letter of introduction in the Fall Newsletter at [www.slaafws.org](http://www.slaafws.org)).

In this submission to the newsletter I was asked to share what I think the goals are for the Board, the Conference, FWS and SLAA as a whole and also to tell you about what service as a Board member has meant to me and my recovery.

I believe SLAA as a whole is meant to "live" in service to Tradition 5, carrying the message to the addict who still suffers, through an active practice of the way of life embodied in the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. That said, I believe the Board, FWS, and the Conference each have important "primary purposes" in successfully supporting the fellowship as a whole carry our message. For me, the conference is the voice of the group conscience of the fellowship at large and the Annual Business Meeting of the Conference is a place where the communication necessary to keep the fellowship in service to our mission happens. I believe Fellowship Wide Services exists to provide whatever services are necessary to serve Tradition 5 that cannot and/or should not be carried out by an individual group and/or intergroup – literature publication and sales, legal protection of the organization as a whole, operational support to all conference committees, operational management of the Annual Business Meeting, and maintenance of the fellowship wide website are a few things that come to mind. I think of the Board as the Conference's delegates to oversee the work of Fellowship Wide Services in a manner consistent with the Steps and Traditions. I also believe that the Board and FWS serve as an initial point of contact/representative to people from the world outside of SLAA inquiring about SLAA. I believe the Board and the Conference come together to be the body who consider and protect "matters effecting SLAA as a whole" as referred to in Tradition 4.

How can we make these ideas a reality? Where are we with actualizing these goals? As part of a practice of humility – given that I am such a new Board member, I believe I do not know and do not yet feel ready to say how I think we can better live in service to Tradition 5. What I can comment on is my goals for myself. For my first year of board service these include: gaining a better understanding of the structure and practices of the Board of Trustees through active participation and questioning, offering what experience, strength and hope I feel is appropriate at any given time, and seeking guidance from my Higher Power about what my purpose is in service to the fellowship as a Board Member and the power to carry that guidance out.

A short word about BOT and Conference service – my life is infinitely better due to the service I have been allowed to give and the people whose recoveries I've connected to as a result of doing service together. I cannot say enough how nourishing and satisfying service work within the Conference and the Board have been for me and how much both have contributed to living sober one day a time. One Saturday morning I was at a meeting and I heard a woman say that in the spiritual world the word for giving and receiving are the same thing – I experience that in my SLAA service.

Thank you for allowing me to be your trusted servant.