

BUSINESS MEETING ITEMS SUMMARY

2008 S.L.A.A. Annual Business Meeting (ABM)

Date: February 8, 2008
To: S.L.A.A. Conference Members, Groups, and Intergroups
From: Sam M., BMIS Editor
Subject: Submissions for the Business Meeting Items Summary (BMIS)

This is the First Draft of the 2008 Business Meeting Items Summary (BMIS) containing all of the items remaining on the agenda from the 2007 Annual Business Meeting.

This BMIS is distributed to Conference Members for discussion and to encourage the submission of appropriate motions and issues for discussion for the 2008 ABM. As you will note, this year there are few items remaining from last year's ABM. This is good news for our Fellowship—last year we dealt with all business brought to the Conference. We expect to do the same for new motions and issues for discussion at this year's ABM.

In order for items to have optimal opportunity for discussion and feedback prior to the ABM, **items must be submitted by April 1, 2008**, either directly to the BMIS Editor or via the FWS Office.

The Conference Charter Committee, through its subcommittee (the BMIS Review Subcommittee), will be glad to assist with structuring submissions (both motions and issues for discussion). Contact the BMIS Review Subcommittee if you have questions about making submissions for the ABM or to request assistance. Specific guidelines for developing submissions for the ABM are used by the BMIS Review Subcommittee. The BMIS Review Subcommittee does not take positions on the substance of submissions nor does it make recommendations for the Conference to accept or reject submissions. However, the Subcommittee does work to ensure that submissions are clearly worded and can be implemented. A review process is employed to assure well-worded items in the BMIS – the “agenda” of the Conference.

Included with this distribution are the forms to be used for submitting motions or issues for discussion.

The BMIS Editor, Sam M., may be contacted via e-mail at bmis_editor@slaafws.org.

BUSINESS MEETING ITEMS SUMMARY

2008 S.L.A.A. Annual Business Meeting (ABM)

2008 BMIS

NOTES:

⇒ **Explanation of Agenda Item numbers:**

Example: 08o#/02-#

08o#/99-#

Current year's Business Meeting Item number is shown before the slash (/).

o designates an agenda item carried into the current year from previous years (old)

n designates an agenda item submitted for the current year (new).

08o#**02-#**

Year item originated and order on that year's agenda is shown after the slash (/)

(subordinate)

Within each item, where appropriate, a subordinate number indicates the order in which each piece was addressed

⇒ **Explanation of agenda item source:**

Example: 08o#/02-# ('02 CCC)

Information inside the brackets - ('year, committee or member of fellowship) indicates the source of the agenda item, if known.

⇒ **Explanation of vote tallies:**

Example: # - # - #

For—Against—Abstain

⇒ **Explanation of committee years:**

Example: 08o#/02-# ('02 CCC)

The '07 CCC started on the last day of the 2006 ABM and was active through all but the last day of the 2007 ABM (July 12, 2007). The '08 CCC started on the last day of the 2007 ABM (July 13, 2007) and is active through all but the last day of the 2008 ABM (July 18, 2008).

⇒ Although an item may be labeled "Tabled" it does not mean it was not discussed or reported on by a Committee at the ABM or has not had action since the last ABM.

⇒ Items are referred to all committees that are likely able to offer relevant information on the issue(s) or would be responsible for its outcome(s).

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES (and their abbreviations):

Anorexia	(CAC)	Literature	(CLC)
By-Laws	(CBC)	Members' Relationship to BOT/FWS	(MRBOTC)
Charter	(CCC)	Members Retention	(CMRC)
Diversity	(CDC)	Prison Outreach	(CPOC)
Finance	(CFC)	Public Information	(CPIC)
Healthy Relationships	(CHRC)	Service	(CSC)
Inter-Fellowship	(CIFC)	Sponsorship	(CSPC)
Intergroup Communication	(CICC)	Steps & Traditions	(CS&TC)
Internet	(CIC)	<i>the Journal</i>	(CJC)

ITEM #	DESCRIPTION/SUMMARY	STATUS OF ITEM	REFER	FEEDBACK/DISCUSSION
08o01/07-02	<p>Issue For Discussion: What are the advantages or disadvantages (especially when dealing with the Traditions) for the S.L.A.A. home page to be “clean” allowing for no mention of other twelve step groups? (<i>BOT Public Relations Committee</i>)</p> <p>Intent: BPRC (Board Public Relations Committee) is seeking feedback regarding the homepage of S.L.A.A. A motion was passed in 1999 (97-11) “<i>1) We adopt a URL link on our website to other ‘S’ fellowships.</i>”</p> <p>BPRC has had discussions that this policy may conflict with Tradition 6 by appearing to endorse other organizations.</p> <p>Investigation shows that the A.A. website is “clean” – includes no mention of other twelve step groups. The A.A. website does include links to Intergroup pages, some of which include links to other twelve step groups.</p> <p>Perhaps the S.L.A.A. homepage should remove the links to other “S” fellowships to comply with the strictest understanding of the Tradition 6 – bearing in mind that Intergroups are free to include whatever links they deem appropriate. [At the Intergroup level, the task of reviewing and approving the activities of these linked other twelve step groups would be time-consuming and divert us from our primary purpose.]</p> <p>Requirements: Staff time to make changes.</p> <p>IF NO MOTION IS RECEIVED BY APRIL 1, 2008, THIS ITEM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA.</p>	<p>Issue for Discussion</p> <p>Discussed at 2007 ABM</p> <p>See 2007 Minutes For Discussion</p>	<p>BMIS Review Subcommittee</p> <p>CIC</p> <p>CS&TC</p> <p>CICC</p> <p>CPIC</p> <p>CIFC</p>	<p>The 2006-07 BMIS Review Subcommittee accepted this item onto the BMIS by a vote of 5-0-0.</p>

<p>08o02/07-03</p>	<p>Issue For Discussion: The Connecticut Intergroup wishes a discussion of FWS Board of Trustees transparency relating to crises at the Fellowship Wide level and future actions which might be taken to promote better open and honest communication while preserving the privacy rights of individuals. (<i>CT Intergroup</i>)</p> <p>Intent: As an Intergroup, we would like to focus discussion on the following Traditions:</p> <p>Tradition 1: <i>Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon S.L.A.A. unity.</i></p> <p>Tradition 2: <i>For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority -- a loving God as this Power may be expressed through our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.</i></p> <p>Tradition 5: <i>Each group has but one primary purpose -- to carry its message to the sex and love addict who still suffers.</i></p> <p>Tradition 7: <i>Every S.L.A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.</i></p> <p>The intent of the discussion is to bridge a trust gap formed between the Board of Trustees of Fellowship Wide Services and the membership at large.</p> <p>Requirements: None.</p> <p>IF NO MOTION IS RECEIVED BY APRIL 1, 2008, THIS ITEM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA.</p>	<p>Issue for Discussion</p> <p>Discussed at 2007 ABM</p> <p>See 2007 Minutes For Discussion</p>	<p>BMIS Review Subcommittee</p> <p>MRBOTC</p> <p>CS&TC</p> <p>ICC</p>	<p>The 2006-07 BMIS Review Subcommittee requested revision of this item by a vote of 5-0-0, the owner made the requested revisions, and the revised version appears at left.</p>
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08o03/07-04	<p>Issue For Discussion: The Board of Trustees (BOT) would like to ask the Conference for feedback on utilizing the various methods of teleconferencing that were suggested by the Board Finance and Operating Committee (BF&OC) over this past year (Freeconferencecall.com and skype.com). <i>(Board of Trustees)</i></p> <p>Intent: As a part of the BOT's directive to oversee operations at the Fellowship-Wide Services (F.W.S.) office and to ensure that F.W.S.'s expense budget is balanced throughout the year, the BF&OC determined that one way we could lower expenses considerably was by utilizing alternatives to the more expensive Global Premiere teleconferencing service that we had been using for the previous several years. The BF&OC passed along a request, through the Conference Charter Committee (CCC), to all Conference committees, asking that they all try out the various alternatives recommended for the remainder of this year. The BOT would like those committees' feedback on their experiences using either of these two alternatives, or any other alternatives that they may have used. What worked and what didn't?</p> <p>Requirements: None.</p> <p>IF NO MOTION IS RECEIVED BY APRIL 1, 2008, THIS ITEM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA.</p>	<p>Issue for Discussion</p> <p>Discussed at 2007 ABM</p> <p>See 2007 Minutes For Discussion</p>	<p>BMIS Review Subcommittee</p> <p>CCC</p> <p>CFC</p>	<p>The 2006-07 BMIS Review Subcommittee accepted this item onto the BMIS by a vote of 5-0-0..</p>
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<p>08o04/07-05</p>	<p>Issue For Discussion: The Conference Steps and Traditions Committee (CS&TC) seeks to share information with the Conference and receive feedback regarding an ongoing process for gathering members' experience, strength and hope to create a new piece of S.L.A.A. literature with the working title, <u>The 12 Steps and 12 Traditions of S.L.A.A.</u></p> <p>The CS&TC expects this book to provide tools and support for S.L.A.A. members to get sober, stay sober, and live in recovery. This book will also give S.L.A.A. meetings a basis for studying the Steps and Traditions as they apply in S.L.A.A. In order that the book reflect the breadth and depth of member experience, the CS&TC has started a process of gathering writings from within the Fellowship by circulating "sharing sheets" for members to respond to, and by organizing regional writing events. The gathered writings will be used as a basis for the book.</p> <p>The CS&TC seeks discussion regarding how best to expand this gathering process throughout the S.L.A.A. Fellowship. (<i>Conference Steps & Traditions</i>)</p> <p>Intent: The use of sharing sheets is a new process within the S.L.A.A. Fellowship, but follows a model used by Al-Anon to write their 12 Step, 12 Tradition book, <u>Paths to Recovery</u> as well as other Al-Anon literature. By gathering sharing sheets, the CS&TC can learn what has worked best for recovering S.L.A.A. members. We feel the best way to reflect the full, wide-ranging issues of S.L.A.A. members is to receive sharings from a large cross-section of our diverse membership. The CS&TC has held three pilot writing events during May and June 2007 and would like to expand these events throughout the Fellowship over the coming year, the assistance of Intergroups, groups, and individual members is essential to this project.</p>	<p>Issue for Discussion</p> <p>Discussed at 2007 ABM</p> <p>See 2007 Minutes For Discussion</p>	<p>BMIS Review Subcommittee</p> <p>CLC</p>	<p>The 2006-07 BMIS Review Subcommittee accepted this item onto the BMIS by a vote of 5-0-0.</p>
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In the spirit of the Second and Ninth Traditions* the CS&TC wants to take this opportunity to hear more about what the Conference thinks regarding our plans. The intent of this IFD is,

- a) to provide the Conference with as much information as possible about our plans for the S.L.A.A. 12x12,
- b) to provide an opportunity for Conference members to ask questions and give us their input on our plans, and to suggest improvements on our thinking,
- c) to make sure that we to align our actions, as closely as possible, with our sense of the group conscience of the Fellowship, as represented by the Conference.

Please feel free to speak with any CS&TC member for more details and/or request an information packet about the project. This information packet will include a history of how we came to be where we are now and why we are considering the plans we are presenting in this and other IFD's.

* Tradition Two: "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority -- a loving God as this power may be expressed through our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern."

* Tradition Nine: "S.L.A.A. as such ought never to be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

Requirements:

None.

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08o05/07-06	<p>Issue For Discussion: The Conference Steps and Traditions Committee (CS&TC) seeks to share information with the Conference and receive feedback regarding tentative plans to hire a professional writer/editor from within S.L.A.A. to assist in the creation of a new piece of S.L.A.A. literature with the working title, <u>The 12 Steps and 12 Traditions of S.L.A.A.</u></p> <p>The CS&TC expects this book to provide tools and support for S.L.A.A. members to get sober, stay sober, and live in recovery. This book will also give S.L.A.A. meetings a basis for studying the Steps and Traditions as they apply in S.L.A.A. In order that the book have a uniformity of style and purpose, as well as consistently readable and accessible text, the CS&TC is researching a process for hiring a member of the Fellowship, with professional writing and editing skills, who would build upon sharings gathered from throughout the Fellowship to create the book. The CS&TC would oversee the work of the writer/editor and present a complete manuscript to the Conference Literature Committee for conference approval in the usual manner.</p> <p>Building on the successful model of Al-Anon experience, our intention is to solicit resumes of interested writer/editors by distributing flyers about the project throughout the Fellowship. A Request for Proposals (RFP) would be sent to potential writer/editors who submit a resume, asking them to submit a writing/editing sample based on a selection of sharing sheets for the book. The CS&TC would then select a writer/editor from among those who submit samples.</p> <p>The CS&TC seeks discussion regarding the idea of hiring of a professional writer/editor from within the Fellowship for a 12x12 book. In particular, we are interested in whether this idea has support within the Fellowship, and what thoughts Conference members may have about how to improve upon this idea. (<i>Conference Steps & Traditions</i>)</p>	<p>Issue for Discussion</p> <p>Discussed at 2007 ABM</p> <p>See 2007 Minutes For Discussion</p>	<p>BMIS Review Subcommittee</p> <p>CLC</p> <p>CFC</p> <p>BOT</p>	<p>The 2006-07 BMIS Review Subcommittee accepted this item onto the BMIS by a vote of 5-0-0.</p>

Intent:

The hiring of a writer/editor to prepare literature is a new process within the S.L.A.A. Fellowship, but follows a model used by Al-Anon to write their 12 Step, 12 Tradition book, Paths to Recovery as well as other Al-Anon literature. The CS&TC is currently gathering sharing sheets from SLAA members to serve as the raw material for a 12 Steps and 12 Traditions book, but we feel that transforming that raw material into a highly effective piece of literature is a job for a single individual with professional writing and editing skills as well as S.L.A.A. experience. The writer/editor will remain anonymous, and CS&TC will oversee the writing and editing process to ensure that the completed manuscript best serves the needs of the S.L.A.A. Fellowship.

In the spirit of the Second and Ninth Traditions* the CS&TC wants to take this opportunity to hear more about what the Conference thinks regarding our plans. The intent of this IFD is,

- a) to provide the Conference with as much information as possible about our plans for the S.L.A.A. 12x12,
- b) to provide an opportunity for Conference members to ask questions and give us their input on our plans, and to suggest improvements on our thinking,
- c) to make sure that we to align our actions, as closely as possible, with our sense of the group conscience of the Fellowship, as represented by the Conference.

Please feel free to speak with any CS&TC member for more details and/or request an information packet about the project. This information packet will include a history of how we came to be where we are now and why we are considering the plans we are presenting in this and other IFD's.

	<p>* Tradition Two: "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority -- a loving God as this power may be expressed through our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern."</p> <p>* Tradition Nine: "S.L.A.A. as such ought never to be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."</p> <p>Requirements: CS&TC will develop a flyer about the project seeking interested writer/editors and a request for proposal. CS&TC will select a writer/editor.</p> <p>IF NO MOTION IS RECEIVED BY APRIL 1, 2008, THIS ITEM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA.</p>			
08o06/07-07	<p>Issue For Discussion: The Conference Steps and Traditions Committee (CS&TC) seeks to share information with the Conference and receive feedback regarding funding options for the development of a new piece of S.L.A.A. literature with the working title, <u>The 12 Steps and 12 Traditions of S.L.A.A.</u></p> <p>The CS&TC expects this book to provide tools and support for S.L.A.A. members to get sober, stay sober, and live in recovery. This book will also give S.L.A.A. meetings a basis for studying the Steps and Traditions as they apply in S.L.A.A. The book is intended to have a chapter for each Step and Tradition of S.L.A.A. The CS&TC would like to like to be able to pay fair market value for the services of a professional writer/editor from within the Fellowship to assist in the development of the book. In order to achieve this goal we are considering the possibility of CS&TC, as a Conference Committee, raising funds within the Fellowship.</p>	<p>Issue for Discussion</p> <p>Discussed at 2007 ABM</p> <p>See 2007 Minutes For Discussion</p>	<p>BMIS Review Subcommittee</p> <p>BOT</p> <p>FWS</p> <p>CCC</p> <p>CFC</p>	<p>The 2006-07 BMIS Review Subcommittee accepted this item onto the BMIS by a vote of 5-0-0..</p>

The CS&TC seeks discussion regarding the idea of raising funds for the development of a 12 Steps and 12 Traditions book. In particular, we are interested in whether the idea of CS&TC, as a Conference Committee, raising funds has support within the Fellowship, and what thoughts Conference members might have about how to improve upon this idea. (*Conference Steps & Traditions*)

Intent:

An S.L.A.A. Conference Committee raising funds at this level is a new process within the S.L.A.A. Fellowship. The CS&TC has reviewed books published by other 12 Step Recovery groups and feels that Al-Anon's experience with Paths to Recovery most closely fits the CS&TC vision for an S.L.A.A. book. Al-Anon paid a writer/editor from within its fellowship approximately \$25,000. CS&TC believes that this book will require similar pre-publication costs. We are considering raising this money within the Fellowship ourselves in order to minimize the burden of the project on the F.W.S. treasury and other parts of our service structure.

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Requirements:

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