

# BOT Chair Report

November 15, 2009

Greetings Friends,

The most important item this first quarter of the fiscal year is approving the budget for 2009-10 that began October 1<sup>st</sup>. This is coupled with a cash flow decrease due to a drop in literature sales and contributions from August-October. Luckily, since November there has been an increase in sales and contributions, but given the effects of the world economy and North American recession the Board of Trustees (BOT) has adopted a budget based on a "Worst Case Scenario" at its special meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Beginning in September, the General Manager (GM) of the FWS Office announced the closing of the office on Fridays and the temporary lay-off of one part-time employee due to the cash flow decrease. This will continue into 2010 as the office adjusts to the impact of the economy on office operations. I point out this is not the first time our organization has had to do this in its 33 years as a non-profit corporation and is one of the requirements before Prudent Reserve Funds may be used.

You will find the GM's report in this issue and the Budget for 2009-10 along with the Budget for 2008-09 with an Actual column. As in any budget, these are best "guesstimates" including the Actual column. The GM will be working to produce the fiscal-year report ending September 30<sup>th</sup>, as well as hiring a bookkeeper from the CPA contracted to do all legal and financial reports. This will necessarily delay financial reports in the next few months as the set-up process takes place.

I am pleased to announce that the Annual Reports to the Attorney General of Massachusetts for 2006-2008 were submitted November 1<sup>st</sup>; in addition, sales tax to the State of Texas on goods sold in Texas for 2006-2008 have also been paid on November 11<sup>th</sup>. IRS filings for 2006-08 were completed June 27<sup>th</sup>. You may be wondering why we are behind and if you read past BOT chair reports in the **FWS Newsletters** this will be clear. However, suffice it to say that the move in January 2006 from Boston to San Antonio, hiring and firing of staff that first year, computer crashes with loss of important data, financial crisis requiring use of \$82,000 from the Prudent Reserve Fund in 2007 and resignations and reduction in BOT members all resulted in delays in our fiduciary duties the past few years.

One of my goals as BOT chair has been to stabilize office operations and come into compliance with all state and federal government requirements. This means hiring or contracting professional services to support and assist the FWS office in this endeavour. For too long we have relied on the GM to perform tasks that were previously provided by contracted professional services and this has led to unreasonably long hours.

In addition, another goal has been to get our house in order with regard to lapsed registrations of trademarks, new logos, licensing agreements and copyright including guidelines to the Fellowship about their use. This has taken some time, but the BOT approved the Copyright and Translations Subcommittee (CTS) in September. We are fortunate to have two members who are attorneys, one specializing in Copyright/Trademarks, providing us with expert opinion and guidance along with the GM, the Conference Translations Committee (CTC) chair, and the BOT chair as members on this subcommittee. The CTS reports to the Board Finance and Operating Committee.

The Web Team has also been instrumental in developing policies and guidelines for the FWS website and related services. Please see the article by the FWS webmaster in this issue.

I visited the FWS Office October 8-14<sup>th</sup> during which time the GM Evaluation took place. Another BOT member, Leon C. from Dallas TX, also came to the office for a few days and was present for the evaluation. It had been 2 1/2yrs since this evaluation was done and is an important function of the BOT chair/General Manager Supervisor responsibilities. This is the second time this year I have gone to our San Antonio office to work, provide support, and be a resource to the GM and staff. It has been a highlight in my role as BOT chair to see how well the FWS Office is doing and that staff is supported in their work on behalf of the Fellowship and corporation.

There were seven BOT members after the Annual Business Meeting in July 2009. Recently we received Bob F.'s resignation and on behalf of the BOT I would like to thank Bob for his service on the BOT. The BOT members with year expiring and in order of seniority on the BOT are:

<b>Chris D. (2010)-6<sup>th</sup> year</b>	<b>Kim B. (2011)-2<sup>nd</sup> year</b>	<b>Open (2010)</b>
<b>Richard C. (2011)-5<sup>th</sup> year</b>	<b>Tom F. (2011)-2<sup>nd</sup> year</b>	<b>Open (2012)</b>
<b>Rita H. (2010)-3<sup>rd</sup> year</b>	<b>Leon C. (2012)-1<sup>st</sup> year</b>	<b>Open (2012)</b>

## BOT Committee Chairs

**BFOC** chair-Tom F.

**BPRC** chair-Kim B.

**BGNC** chair-Leon C.

## BOT Liaisons for Conference Committees

**Anorexia:** Richard C.

**By-Laws:** Inactive

**CCC:** Leon C

**Diversity:** Richard C.

**Finance:** Tom F.

**Healthy Relationships:** Richard C.

**Interfellowship:** Leon C.

**Intergroup Communication:** Inactive  
**Internet:** Leon C.  
**Journal:** Rita H.  
**Literature:** Rita H.  
**Members Relationship to BOT/FWS:** Inactive  
**Members Retention:** Tom F.  
**Prison Outreach:** Leon C.  
**Public Information:** Kim B.  
**Service:** Tom F.  
**Sponsorship:** Inactive  
**Steps and Traditions:** Kim B.  
**Translations:** Rita H.

Normally, the BOT has nine members. The Board Governance and Nominating Committee (BGNC) continues to look for suitable candidates to serve at the world-wide level. If you know of a member with 3 or more years of continuous sobriety, a knowledge and love of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, and professional expertise in one of the following; office operations, accounting, legal, human resources/personnel, who would be interested in devoting a minimum of 20-30 hrs/month in board service please have him/her contact the FWS office at +1 210-828-7900 or Fax +1 210-828-7922 or email [generalinformation@slaafws.org](mailto:generalinformation@slaafws.org) or write Fellowship-Wide Services 1550 NE Loop 410, Ste 118 San Antonio, TX 78209.

I cannot end this report without thanking each of you for the service and support to the program and Twelve Step Fellowship of Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous that you provide. You know who you are because you are interested enough to read this report and show up at a meeting carrying the message of hope and recovery from our patterns of sex and love addiction. Stepping up to service at the world-wide level is a commitment like none other and we bring our self-defined sobriety as well as our emotional sobriety to nurture others to do the same.

Grateful for your service,  
Rita H.  
BOT chair