

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT) ANNUAL REPORT

Regular and Interim Meetings: First Saturday of each month for 3-hours. Varied times.

Special Meetings: Varied dates and times for 3.5-hours.

21 July 2025 – Prepared by Chris D., BOT Chair

Below are highlights of BOT meetings and other activities (including email votes) since the last Annual Business Conference/Meeting (ABC/M) ended on August 10, 2024.

2024-2025 Board Members:

Term Ending in 2025	Term Ending in 2026	Term Ending in 2027
Phoenix G. (TX)	Ari F. (CA/NJ) (to be	Jeff R. (WA)
	confirmed)	
Rick B. (FL)	Chris D. (CA)	John S. (CA)
	Jack F. (Australia)	Patrick D. (UK)

F.W.S. Officers:

President and Board Chair: Chris D. (CA)

Treasurer: Jeff R. (WA) Secretary: Jack F. (AUS)

Chairs of Board Committees

BABMPC¹ (Board Annual Business Meeting Planning Committee): First Phoenix G. (TX)

and then Ari F. (NJ/CA)

BDC (Board Development Committee): Chris D. (CA)

BCTC (Board Copyright and Translation Committee): Rick B. (FL)

BFC (Board Finance Committee): Jeff R. (WA)

BHRPC (Board Human Resources/Personnel Committee): John S. (CA)

BOC (Board Outreach Committee): Jack F. (AUS)

BPDC (Board Publication and Distribution Committee): Patrick D. (UK)

B7TC (Board Seventh Tradition Committee): Phoenix G. (TX)

BTC (Board Technology Committee): Rick B. (FL)

BOT Conference Liaison Appointments

CAC (Conference Anorexia Committee) - Rick B. (FL)

CBC (Conference By-Laws Committee) - Phoenix G. (TX)

CCC (Conference Charter Committee) - Chris D. (CA)

CDC (Conference Diversity Committee) - Jeff R. (WA)

CFC (Conference Finance Committee) - Jeff R. (WA)

CHRC (Conference Healthy Relationships Committee) - Phoenix G. (TX)

¹ Board Committee information at the end of this report.



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Conference Translation and International Outreach Committee (CTIOC) and Conference Intergroup Communications Committee (CICC) - Rick B. (FL)

CJC (Conference Journal Committee) - John S. (CA)

CLC (Conference Literature Committee) - Patrick D. (UK)

CMRC (Conference Member Retention Committee) - First Phoenix G. (TX) and then Ari F. (NJ/CA)

Conference Public Information Committee (CPIC) - Jack F. (AUS)

Conference Service Committee (CSC) - John S. (CA)

Conference Sponsorship Committee (CSPC) - Patrick D. (UK)

Conference Steps, Traditions and Concepts Committee (CSTCC) - Jack F. (AUS)

<u>August 24, 2024</u>

- Board orientation conducted and completed.
- Authorized the execution of bank resolutions for the F.W.S. President and Treasurer for financial institutions. (Approved 8-0-0)
- Approved non-BOT members of the Board Finance Committee (BFC) and Board Outreach Committee (BOC).
- Determined BOT membership of BOT Committees and Conference Liaison Appointments.

September 7, 2024

- We added Venmo as a means of contributing to F.W.S.
- We opened bank accounts at Wells Fargo as we transition away from Frost Bank.
- Board Chairs delivered each BOT Committee's goals for the Conference Year (CY).
- Delivered Conference Committee Liaison Reports.
- Treasurer stated that starting October 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024 (10 months of the current fiscal year) we were down 18.37% in group contributions, down 25.99% on Intergroup contributions and down 43.77% on individual contributions.
- Approved the balance sheet and profit & loss statements for April-July 2024. (Approved 8-0-0)
- Approved Chair of the Board Technology Committee (BTC).
- Approved non-BOT member to the BPDC.



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- Approved to hold the 2025 ABC/M completely virtually. (Approved 8-0-0)
- Approved appointing Ari F to the BOT for a two-year term.
- Appointed Ari F. to be chair of the Board Annual Business Meeting Planning Committee (BABMPC).

October 4, 2024

- Treasurer and BOT Chair flew to San Antonio to assist with the F.W.S. inventory

 no charge to the Fellowship.
- Mike T. provided us great help with the August and September BOT minutes.
- Treasurer updated BOT on contribution challenges. Big donations were received from a couple of European Intergroups.
- Approved six non-BOT members to the BOC, Board Publications and Distribution Committee (BPDC) and the BTC.
- Accepted partial refund offered from our ONR subscription. (Approved 8-0-0)
- Approved the Service Superstar Brochure to be added to the Webstore as a free pamphlet to be printed and placed into literature orders for 6 months. (Approved 8-0-0)
- Approved that all BOT meetings to be based on UTC time zone. (Approved 8-0-0)

November 2, 2024

- Approved some Board Minutes.
- Approved a compensation offer for the IT Contractor. (Approved 8-0-0)
- Approved a contract for the IT Contractor. (Approved 8-0-0)
- David Crawford signed the IT Contractor contract.
- Approved IT Contractor reporting directly to the Board Member assigned the role of the Office Supervisor. (Approved 8-0-0)
- Rescinded the F.W.S. policy regarding temporary employee timecard submittal dated July 2012. (Approved 8-0-0)
- Reviewed the Executive Director's and all the Board Committee and Liaison reports.
- Authorized the Conference Charter Committee (CCC) to schedule a four-day Virtual ABC/M in 2025. (Approved, second vote, 6-2-0)



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 Approved non-BOT members of the (Board Human Resources/Personnel Committee) BHRPC and BOC.

December 7, 2024

- Board Chair realized that email address, <u>botchair@slaafws.org</u>, had not been working so the IT Contractor fixed that.
- Various domain names were anonymously donated and transferred to F.W.S.
- Announced the new 1976 Campaign with flyer.
- Approved non-BOT member of the Board Development Committee (BDC).
- Approved dates of 2025 ABC/M as August 7-10, Thursday Sunday. (Approved, second vote, 5-3-0)
- Approved depositing the entire bequest into the Endowment Fund, move \$20,000 USD to the operating account; remainder can be transferred elsewhere once the amount has been voted on by the Conference. (Approved 8-0-0)
- To approve the 30th September Membership Survey 2024. (Approved, second vote, 5-3-0)
- Raise free-shipping minimum from USD \$75 to \$100 as of January 1, 2025.
 (Approved 8-0-0)

January 4, 2025

- Approved the purchase of three refurbished laptops for the office and updates to their Microsoft Office applications.
- Reviewed all the Board Committee and Liaison reports.
- Reviewed the financial highlights of November 2024.
- Elected non-BOT member of BOC for purposes of proofreading the F.W.S. Newsletter only.
- Approved our Executive Director reporting to local authorities in San Antonio some information she received. (Consensus)
- Elected James B. (UT) as the recordkeeper for the BOT Meeting minutes for the 2025 Conference Year.

February 1, 2025



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- Board Chair worked with the CCC and ARS Chairs to finalize the 2024 ABC/M minutes.
- Approved the Fiscal Year (FY) first quarter financials presented by the Treasurer.
 (Approved 8-0-0)
- Rescheduled one of the scheduled BOT meetings.
- Approved the registration fees for the 2025 ABC/M of \$250 USD for delegates and USD \$125 for observers. (Approved, second vote, 5-2-1)
- Approved including a one-time \$20 USD coupon voucher for all Delegates registered for the 2025 Virtual ABC/M to use towards any product in the F.W.S. Online Store. (Approved, second vote, 6-2-0)
- Approved holding the 2025 pre-ABC/M BOT meetings virtually. (Approved, second vote, 7-0-1)
- Approved a BOT response to a request by the Conference Public Information Committee (CPIC) regarding ownership of the S.L.A.A. YouTube channel. (Approved, second vote, 5-3-0)
- Approved replacing the Lifesaver Campaign on the website with the 1976 Campaign and informing Lifesaver donors that the campaign's name is changing. (Approved 6-1-1)

March 1, 2025

- Reviewed all the Board Committee and Liaison reports.
- Approved the printing costs of two booklets, "Sex and Love in the Digital Age" and "Anorexia 10-11-12." (Approved 8-0-0)
- Authorized the Executive Director to order 10,000 copies of the Basic Text. (Approved 8-0-0)
- Discussed shipping costs of orders that come into F.W.S.
- Voted to split the BOT's pre-ABC/M meeting into five 3.5 hour sessions instead
 of meeting the entire weekend before the ABC/M. (Approved, second vote, 6-20)
- Eliminated Hazelton's special Basic Text pricing in light of their decreased orders. (Approved 8-0-0)
- Approved paying the printing costs of the conference-approved "The Importance of Making Outreach Calls." (Approved 8-0-0)
- Approved making a 90-day trial period from the first meeting for all new non-BOT members of Board Committees. (Approved 8-0-0)



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Approved making the BABMPC membership list non-exclusive. (Approved 7-1-0)

April 5, 2025

- Several BOT minutes approved.
- Confirmed times for additional BOT meetings.
- Received the Treasurer's report on February 2025.
- Received an update on the BABMPC Mission Statement.
- Authorized the IT Contractor to purchase a server for F.W.S. for up to \$4,000 USD. (Approved 8-0-0)
- Approved Greater Delaware Valley Intergroup (GDVI) as the hosting Intergroup for the 2025 virtual ABC/M. (Approved 7-0-1)
- The Board commissioned a comprehensive report from the BPDC regarding potential strategies for international distribution. (Approved 8-0-0)
- Discussed a new S.L.A.A. Meeting Finder.

April 19, 2025

- It was announced that Rita H. is pulling back a bit from service. She's been our informal archivist for many years. The BOT will be considering ways to transport her archives to storage in San Antonio.
- Discussion of populating Board Committees for the following Conference Year.
- Authorized five full scholarships for international attendees and ten full scholarships for international or domestic attendees first come, first served basis for the 2025 ABC/M only and limited to one per intergroup. (Approved 8-0-0)
- Decided that the BOT will speak on IFDs/Motions at the 2025 ABC/M instead of submitting them to the Agenda Review Subcommittee (ARS) beforehand. (Approved, second vote, 6-2-0)
- Meeting focused on determining BOT comments on majority of motions/IFDs for the 2025 ABM Agenda First Version.

May 3, 2025

• Reviewed the Executive Director's, IT Contractor's, and all the Board Committee



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and Liaison reports.

 Treasurer presented the S.L.A.A. Financial Summary for FY 2024–2025, Q2, and the full financials for October 2024 – March 2025. Financials were approved. (Approved 8-0-0)

May 17, 2025

- Appointed a non-BOT member to the BCTC.
- Approved recommended compensation to the F.W.S. office team.
- Approved the new Expense Approval Matrix for 2025. (Approved 7-0-1)
- Approved holding a BOT meeting on August 2, 2025. (Approved 7-0-1)
- Edited the Conference Service Manual (CSM) Safety Statement for the 2025 ABC/M. (Approved 7-0-1)
- Discussion held on the definition of Groups for ABC/M Registration purposes.
- Determined BOT comments for motions/IFDs for the 2025 ABM Agenda Second Version.

June 7, 2025

- Approved several BOT minutes.
- Voted to request time for Board Committees sessions at the 2025 ABC/M. (Approved 8-0-0)
- Approved an additional six months of printing of the Service Superstar Brochure to be placed for free in literature orders by the F.W.S. Office. (Approved 8-0-0)
- Approved attorney fees for a copyright attorney to answer various questions.
 (Approved 8-0-0)
- Approved a \$100 USD donation to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (South Chapter) in honor of David Crawford, our IT Contractor, who unexpectedly passed away in May 2025. (Approved 8-0-0)
- Approved the edited version of the Bylaws Article V, Section 5 for submittal to the ARS. (Approved 7-0-1)
- Discussed revision of the current contribution policy and donation limits.
- Approved that F.W.S. contract with John D. from Greater Delaware Valley Intergroup to be our IT Contractor at a monthly flat rate for webmaster and remote IT support.



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- Approved: For the purpose of determining the number of Conference delegates, only groups that hold real-time meetings—either in person or virtually—and are formally registered with F.W.S. shall be counted for the 2025 ABC/M. (Approved 8-0-0)
- Approved: To sell the Healthy Relationships Starter Pack at the price of \$27.62 USD (physical) and \$10.35 USD (digital). To sell the Healthy Relationships Advanced Bundle at the price of \$28.75 USD (physical) and \$10.78 USD (digital). To sell the Healthy Relationships Partnerships Bundle at the price of \$26.99 USD (physical) and \$10.78 USD (digital). (Approved 8-0-0)

July 21, 2025

- Approved: The Board advance to the Fellowship the motion that the annual contribution limit be applied only to living individuals and that Intergroups, Groups, and bequests be exempt from the contribution limit. (Approved 7-1-0)
- Approved: The Board advance to the Fellowship the motion that the annual contribution limitation be increased from \$20,000 to \$25,000 for the upcoming Conference year, rising by 3.5% each Conference year thereafter. (Approved 7-1-0)
- The Board clarified the difference between accepting outside contributions and accepting promotional price offerings aimed at non-profits. The consensus was that F.W.S. continue to make use of these kinds of offers, much like other non-profits and anonymous fellowships do. It was noted that S.L.A.A. groups and intergroups may not use the F.W.S. tax identification number if registering for similar discounts themselves.
- Approved: The Executive Director has the authority to make non-substantive changes to S.L.A.A. policies to ensure consistency, clarity, and alignment with S.L.A.A. motions and policies without requiring prior approval from the BOT. Non-substantive changes are edits that do not alter the intent, meaning, or fundamental provisions of a policy. Examples include: correcting typographical errors, grammatical issues, or formatting inconsistencies and updating references to addresses or committee titles, for example. The Executive Director will notify the BOT of any non-substantive changes at the next scheduled BOT meeting or before. A record of all non-substantive changes will be maintained and made available for review. (Approved 7-0-1)
- Board committee information will be posted on the F.W.S. website, with



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descriptions and application forms.

July 5, July 19 and August 2, 2025

The BOT is scheduled to meet on these three days.

BOT Chair's Comments

We started this Conference Year (from the end of the 2024 ABC/M to the end of the 2025 ABC/M) with seven BOT members – we can have up to nine members. We appointed Ari F. (NJ/CA) to a two-year term and she will be up for confirmation at this ABC/M. We then had eight BOT members for the rest of the year.

Our biggest challenge and goal this Conference Year was to try to get our finances stable. F.W.S. was barely meeting monthly expenses at the beginning of the Conference Year because of a precipitous decrease in contributions. This was the reason for our vote in September to have a virtual ABC/M. Fortunately, several Intergroups and Groups have since provided some generous contributions.

We are still struggling to get Individual contributions increased. Our hope is that the 1976 Campaign to celebrate our upcoming 50th anniversary (our first meeting was 28 December 1976!) will generate some interest for our members to contribute monthly to F.W.S. While any amount is helpful, we're asking those who can to contribute 19.76 in their own currency on a monthly basis – you can learn more at https://slaafws.org/donate/. Overall, we're not out of the woods but we're in a lot better position than we were in August.

One change that happened this year was to rotate the start times of our BOT meetings in light of being an international Fellowship. Instead of a U.S.-centric start time, we tried to make it easier for our Australian and UK BOT members. We also started to state our meeting times in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) because it's the primary time standard used globally.

Another change to our meetings was that the BOT normally meets for at least two full days the weekend before the ABC/M to get our agenda items addressed. We instead voted to schedule an extra 3.5 hour meeting for April-May 2025 in between our normal



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monthly meetings to address the backlog.

A highlight for Treasurer Jeff R. (WA) and me was participating in the inventory count in October at F.W.S. in San Antonio, TX, at our own cost. We were blessed enough to spend time with our wonderful team: Pam (Executive Director), Christina (Administrative Assistant) and Hector (Logistics Manager). We plan to do the same this October if possible.

While in San Antonio, we also were able to chat with our IT Contractor, Dave Crawford. He was a delight. Sadly, he passed away unexpectedly in May. His death had a big impact on everyone associated with F.W.S. This was especially true of the F.W.S. team because, although they're all non-S.L.A.A. members, they have worked together for us for over ten years.

It's an honor to serve on the BOT. If you have three years of continuous, self-defined sobriety in S.L.A.A., you may want to consider applying to join us – S.L.A.A. needs you! I've met some of my favorite people serving at this level of service. Plus, being on the BOT is the epitome of being in the center of the herd and, for me, provides strong protection against acting out.

Finally, I want to thank the BOT for providing me the learning opportunity of being the BOT Chair this Conference Year.

Chris D. (CA) 23 June 2025

Board Committees

<u>Board Copyright Translation Committee (BCTC) – Focuses on protecting and maintaining copyright and trademarks, and following up on royalties from the translation of literature.</u>

<u>Board Development Committee (BDC) – Focuses on the internal activities, systems and procedures of the BOT to insure its long-term effectiveness.</u>

Board Finance Committee (BFC) – Focuses on matters of a financial nature or which



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have potential financial implications.

- <u>Board Human Resources/Personnel Committee (BHRPC) Focuses on all matters related to staff and volunteers in or associated with the F.W.S. Office.</u>
- <u>Board Outreach Committee (BOC) Focuses on oral or written communications emanating from F.W.S. relating to Outreach.</u>
- <u>Board Annual Business Meeting Planning Committee (BABMPC) Provides guidance, oversight, and support to successfully implement the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) & International Recovery Convention (IRC)</u>
- <u>Board Publications and Distribution Committee (BPDC) Focuses on the publishing and distribution of Conference-approved printed material for the Fellowship and Journal publications.</u>
- <u>Board Seventh Tradition Committee (B7TC) Help ensure the long-term financial well-being and fiscal sustainability of the Fellowship.</u>
- <u>Board Technology Committee (BTC) Establishes a working technology strategy and addresses the technology needs of the Fellowship.</u>