

Report from the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) 2025 by Christiane and Roberto

The ABM was held virtually via Zoom from August 7-10, 2025. The cost of sending two delegates for the German-speaking community was 2 x \$250 registration fee, equivalent to 2 x €236.

Having lasted only 3 days last year, with many motions having to be postponed, this year's ABM lasted 4 days again. This year's agenda included 10 IfDs (Items for Discussion) and 15 Motions, most of which concerned new literature.

The days were tightly organized, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Central American time, with a one-hour lunch break and short breaks between meeting blocks. The meeting times were from 3:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. for Central Europe, and for the delegates from Australia, they started at midnight.

There was an average of 69 participants with voting rights.

The quorum of 80% was always reached.

The technology worked smoothly. As in the previous year, all participants were required to attend a one-hour training session in advance, where they practiced online voting and were given an introduction to netiquette. Participation was only permitted via PC or laptop; cell phones and tablets were not allowed.

In a WhatsApp group set up for this purpose, the delegates discussed a number of topics in advance, e.g., two IfDs and a motion for the second edition of the Basic Text

First, there were reports from the Conference Committees. This was followed by the report from the Service Office (Fellowship Wide Service (FWS)) and the Treasurer: The downward trend in both donations and literature sales has been halted. There was a significant increase. Among other things, it has proven effective to allow 30 seconds of spiritual reminder time to pass after the announcement of the seventh tradition before the meeting continues.

In 2023, \$40,000 was taken from the "prudent reserve" to keep the fellowship running. The goal now is to replenish this amount.

Due to the tense financial situation, the ABM could not be financed in its face-to-face format, as the rent for an event venue and the travel expenses would have made this impossible. Travel expenses are covered for the employees of the service office, the nine board members, the chair of the literature committee, and other relevant services.

This was followed by a question and answer session, during which delegates were able to ask questions to the board members. The main topics were future

prospects and filling vacant positions, which continues to be difficult since Covid.

Next, the motions were processed. Due to time constraints, only the first 15 items on the agenda could be dealt with. We provide a brief summary below. Anyone who would like more information can obtain the minutes of the ABM (in English) from the service office.

1. Literature IFD No. 25o01/22-01

The discussion about the proposed second edition of the Basic Text, “Book” section (without the personal stories) was very controversial and at times very emotional.

The main discussion revolved around comparing our text with the Blue Book of Alcoholics Anonymous (which has been revised several times) and whether “cleaning up” the language would compromise the original message. There were concerns that the new Basic Text might evaluate some relationship styles more positively or negatively. There were also concerns that changing the text could have an impact on the core documents of the community, particularly Signs of Recovery. An important argument in favor of the changes was to make the text easier to translate, to make it more accessible to different populations, and to make it less offensive in important areas, for example by removing misogynistic language.

2. The discussion of the proposed new and revised life stories for the second edition of the Basic Text was not controversial. Those present agreed that new topics such as anorexia and Internet pornography should be included. However, there was some uncertainty as to whether the inclusion of the new stories would automatically result in the deletion of some of the old stories.

3. Motion: Publication of the revised version of the brochure “Anorexia: Sexual, Social, Emotional” and updating of the corresponding Anorexia Core documents. The motion was approved with 63 votes in favor and 2 against.

4. Motion: Publication of the book “A Framework for Living: The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous.” Approved with 50 votes in favor, 14 against, and 3 abstentions.

5. Discussion of the proposed revisions to the “S.L.A.A. Preamble.” These are minor changes, and the discussion was relaxed.

6. Discussion of the proposed revision of the “Twelve Recommended Guidelines for Dealing with the Media.”

The majority said that the changes improved the readability and clarity of the message and made translation easier.

7. Motion from the By-Law Committee: Change the F.W.S. Office address in the By-Laws. Texas law requires that the address be included in the By-Laws. - Approved.

8. Discussion of the proposed “Characteristics of Fantasy Addiction” and “Signs of Recovery from Fantasy Addiction.”

There was a lot of positive feedback and some suggestions. However, there were also voices expressing concern about the fragmentation of S.L.A.A. due to the different types of addiction, as well as the desire for unity, that all these forms belong to sex and love addiction.

9. Motion: Approval of the brochure “Making the Most of Meetings.” 41-18-2 – not adopted in the third ballot.

The text was deemed not yet ready for printing and requires further revision.

10. Motion from the By-Law Committee: Amendment to ARTICLE X: Determination of which members may vote on approval of compensation. Adopted with 57 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 3 abstentions.

11: Motion from the By-Law Committee: Amendment to ARTICLE X: clarifies that the “trustees” of FWS are “directors” within the meaning of Texas law. Approved with 64 votes in favor, 0 against, and 4 abstentions.

12. Motion by the By-Law Committee: Amendment to ARTICLE VI, as previously stated in item 11.

Approved with 62 votes in favor, 0 against, and 2 abstentions.

13. Establishment of a Conference Committee on Fantasy Addiction (CFAC) Approved with 50 votes in favor, 12 against, and 1 abstention.

14. Discussion of the proposed brochure “Strengthening Sobriety Through Sponsorship” and discontinuation of the current sponsorship brochure. Most spoke in favor of publishing the brochure. There were some reservations about the concept of multiple sponsorship and co-sponsorship.

15. Motion 25o15/23-12

To print an 50th anniversary edition of the Basic Text was defeated. The wording of the motion was confusing to many. The motion was to print a version of the Basic Text in which the first 160 pages remain unchanged. The group conscience has decided that the reprinting of the Basic Text should continue in the Literature Committee (50BTS) using the previous process (LCEP) with amendments recommended by those opposed at the ABM.

Election of the Board of Trustees:

Ari F. is confirmed for another year.

Rochelle K. and Max B. are newly elected.

Finally, there were reports from the services that had met and worked during the ABM. We did not attend those.

We have both been elected to serve on the ABM until 2025. Our term of office will therefore end then.

Vielen Dank und gute 24 Stunden (Much Thanks, and have a good 24 hours)

Christiane und Roberto