

The Plain Brown Rapper

The official newsletter of the International Service Organization of SAA

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“We Walk the Same Trail” Very Well Attended!

By Mike L.

The sixteenth annual SAA convention and the first to take place in the beautiful city of Portland, Oregon, happened from May 23 to 26, 2003. Most of the attendees stayed at the downtown Marriott, with its striking view of the Willamette River.

Although the convention started for members of the board and literature committees on Wednesday the 21st, with two days of meetings, and for the delegates on the morning of May 23 with a day and a half of delegate meetings, for most folks “We Walk the Same Trail” got off to a rousing start on the evening of May 23 with two keynote speakers. Following the speakers were two separate SAA meetings, including one for women. SAA meetings were in fact a feature of the entire convention, with the first one taking place on Thursday evening and the last one happening right after the closing ceremonies on Monday.

Saturday morning began with the regional caucuses, open to all attendees, and the first of the approximately 20 workshops that took place during the weekend. Once again there was a workshop this year on using the internet. Other topics included getting started in SAA and outer circle sobriety. Two members of the



literature committee led a workshop that gave attendees a chance to write short personal experiences on a variety of different topics for possible inclusion in the SAA Book. There was also a very well attended workshop on healing grief through the steps.

The joint SAA/COSA banquet on Saturday evening featured a keynote speaker from each of the two fellowships. This was followed by an SAA meeting and several other fellowship opportunities that have become popular in recent years: a dance, drumming, karaoke, and the perennial SAA convention favorite *Stuart Saves His Family*.

Sunday morning started early with a two-hour hike on Mt. Tabor followed by two more sets of workshops. A number of attendees took the cruise on the Portland Spirit down the Willamette River, where we

“We Walk the Same Trail” Very Well Attended!

Continued By Mike L.

were treated royally by the Spirit crew. This was followed by a Mexican dinner for the whole fellowship and an SAA keynote speaker. Sunday night we had a talent show and another drumming session. We also continued the long-standing tradition of the Sunday night candlelight meeting for gays and lesbians, open to all members of the fellowship, which went on until past 1:30 am.

On Monday morning, there was an invigorating three-mile walk around the Willamette River, as well as a re-entry workshop, another standard feature of SAA conventions.

Mid-morning the SAA and COSA fellowships gathered for a joint brunch, after which each of the fellowships had a separate closing ceremony. The SAA ceremony featured one more keynote speaker and an appreciation for the board, the literature committee, and especially the very hard-working Portland convention staff. We all circled up for the Serenity Prayer and “We Walk the Same Trail” was history.

The Portland convention was the second most well attended in SAA history, with almost 300 SAA members in attendance. It was a really wonderful convention, set in a truly beautiful city, and long to be remembered.

Formative Acting out Experiences

[Editor's Note: The following are some excerpts from a story that was submitted for publication in the SAA Book, hence the author is not identified. If you have submitted or are planning to submit your story for publication in the SAA Book, and want to submit an excerpt from it to the PBR, please send it to pbr@saa-recovery.org.]

I had my first powerful, addictive experience with sex when I was about 12. My friend and I were in a San Diego hotel swimming pool on vacation. We had met a 13-year old girl who was friendly to us in a daring way. We started chasing each other and one time she pulled at my bathing suit. Once she did that

both my friend and I felt like she'd given us permission to do the same to her. We began swimming at her underwater and repeatedly trying to pull off her bikini, both top and bottom. I was completely thrilled and had found the bubble for the first time. When I began masturbating about a year later, I returned to this memory, embellishing and

rearranging the scene in whatever way that brought maximum sexual pleasure. All I knew was that recreating the scene in my mind during masturbation really “worked.”

Another formative experience also illustrates the powerful payoff and the lack of regard for others that was to become a way of life for me. It was movie day in my 7th grade cooking class. When the lights went out, I leaned back in my chair and bumped the shy girl in the short dress who was sitting behind me. She didn’t seem to notice. I put my hand on her knee and left it there. She looked nervous but didn’t react outwardly. Throughout the 30-minute movie, my hand remained on her leg, inching slowly upward. My heart was pounding throughout the entire experience, but the girl never pushed my hand away, nor did she look aroused. She just looked too scared to say anything. This experience was imprinted on my mind forever, and I would refer to it also many times in fantasy. It seared a path in my brain, body, and soul that is open and receptive to inappropriate sexual behavior. It created the sex addict’s drug that I was to turn to repeatedly throughout my life.

The Door—an illustration of Progression

I’ll skip forward to my middle twenties to illustrate the progression of my sex addiction. It had been barely 6 months since I had begun my coaching / substitute teaching job when I “stumbled” on the girl’s locker room door. I was using an adjacent equipment room to change clothes for practice. I had been using this same room for months, but on that day (which ironically “happened” to be Valentine’s Day) I crossed a new line. At the sound of the lockers clanging I had the insane idea to peek in the door to which I had the key. When I took that action my body filled with adrenaline and I was hopelessly hooked.

Sex addicts know the feeling of the adrenaline rush that comes with doing a high level, dangerous activity for the first time. I suppose that even a person who wasn’t sexually addicted might have taken a look. But for me that look led me into a progression of increasingly risky and voyeuristic acting out behaviors. Within a few weeks I was leaving in the middle of practice to take a peep through the Door. I felt ashamed to be so blatantly neglecting my duties and violating the trust that had been placed in me. I shared everything with my sponsor in Alcoholics Anonymous

Formative Acting out Experiences Continued

(AA), prayed about it and tried to apply the 12 Steps to my situation. Still, I was unable to stop the behavior. I kept looking for ways to get a closer view, taking riskier actions, trying to find that original rush.

My powerlessness over the Door plus feelings of impending doom helped me get into recovery for my sex addiction. At the time I was 1-1/2 years sober in AA and I knew that we are only as “sick as our secrets”, so I had been confiding all my transgressions with my AA sponsor. At first he was amused and even envious but when I continued to forecast doom he encouraged me to go to a particular men’s AA meeting where the members had some understanding of “sex problems.” I attended the meeting and shared what I had been doing. A guy came up to me after the meeting and suggested 3 things: 1) be careful who you share this with, 2) try Sexaholics Anonymous (SA), 3) get rid of the key that gives you access to the Door.

It’s amazing in retrospect at how much denial I was still in. I was insulted a little by the advice but fortunately I was humble and beaten down enough to listen. Getting rid of

the key was something I had never thought of. At first, all I could think of were reasons why I “needed” it. Finally, when the pain, remorse, and fear became too much, I was willing to take all of his suggestions. Eventually, my SA sponsor got me to give up the key, change clothes somewhere else, and look toward giving up my coaching responsibilities.

Career Loss

I eventually lost my teaching credential as a result of inappropriate conduct in the classroom. At the time I knew I was in trouble and had been in SAA for several years. (Note: I had transitioned from SA to SAA when I got in a relationship with a young woman thereby making healthy sexual activity a slip by SA definition.) At the time of the incident that led to my career loss, I was “checking in” to my sponsors everyday before and after work. I was talking to friends who were also battling to recover from sexual addiction. I was praying and meditating for 15 minutes per day, going to meetings, exercising, and trying to live a healthy, spiritual life. None of it was enough at the time to keep me from acting out.

Step Four Presentation

by Tony

I'm Tony, and I'm a sex addict. I've been going to SAA in Minneapolis since 1985. My SAA inner circle boundaries are NO to pornography, writing porn, *Playboy*, strippers, videos, and movie channels (like HBO). And my outer circle behaviors are exercise, praying, meditating, and watching TV. I was sober for years in the 1990s, but have slipped a lot in the last few years. My defects of character such as fear and resentment cause my slips. I gave this Step Four presentation to two Minneapolis SAA groups I go to. And I did a formal Step Five with a minister and a counselor in the last years.

FEARS

My fears are abandonment or desertion and failure.

When I was a child my father traveled a lot, and I felt abandoned. In school I was called a retard because I had dyslexia, and in high school I was called a freak because I used drugs.

I fear desertion by my wife because she threatens divorce a lot, when I slip or have problems.

I fear failure as a husband, and I am unable to have sex with my wife. I feel like a failure to our two teenage daughters,

and abusive to them because of my problems with teenage porn.

I feel deserted by SAA groups because I keep slipping. I feel like a failure at SAA, which is a self-fulfilling prophecy. I feel deserted by counselors I have had that have refused to see me, and say I won't get better. I feel God deserted me, and doesn't hear and answer my prayers to stay sober and recover.

RESENTMENTS

I resent my wife because of her divorce threats, and her anti-sex (I think she wants me to be celibate and impotent), and anti-TV (she's against all TV) attitudes. I also resent SAA, because I feel rejected by them, and all my sponsors quit being my sponsor, I think because of my slips. I resent the abusive counselors I have had.

PERSISTENCE

I start getting sober and fail a lot. But I keep trying, and keep asking God for help staying sober and recovering.

FORGIVE / ACCEPT

Everyone I resent I try to forgive and accept and ask for God's help.

I PRAY TO GOD to remove my fear and resentment defects of character.

I PRAY TO GOD to help me stay sober and recover.



First Step

By Santi L.

I read carefully the suggestions for the First Step outline suggested by an anonymous member in the November-December 2002 PBR. I found them very creative and will try to incorporate some of those as I sponsor new men in the program. I'd like to explain my approach to working the 1st step with newcomers or any new sponsee, which comes down to a compilation of ideas and work I've done with sponsors through the years.

When I work with newcomers I ask them to remember back as far as possible and write down in chronological order a brief, not detailed, one- or two-sentence description of their sexual activities. They are to do this not for every year lived but for every several years from the beginning up to the present. What happens in this exercise is that they are forced to review the progression of their disease. I particularly want them to focus in on the years when they first began to

think or feel there might be a problem. For example, in my own history I remember during my honeymoon in Hawaii that I found it fascinating when there was a show on sexual addiction on TV. I guess since I am also a sober member of AA and GA my wife just thought nothing much of it. Looking back at that experience it is probably the first time I had considered that I might have an issue with sex, after all there aren't too many "normal" individuals who would sit around in Hawaii during their honeymoon to view a program on sex addiction!

After the newcomer has made a thorough but not detailed list of their lives and sexual misadventures it is not difficult for them to admit powerlessness over their addiction. We are part way there. Then comes the most important part, where the newcomer has to work on the second half of the first step, "and that our lives had become unmanageable." I believe this is the most important part of the first step

because I know that self-knowledge ("Admitted we were powerless over our addiction") will not lead to sobriety. There are many homeless people who know they are alcoholics or addicted and yet continue their behavior. I ask my sponsees to put consequences to their sexual history and acting out behaviors. How many friends do they have and are they really friends? How is their relationship with family members, and have they lost some because of their selfishness and self-seeking expressed in their behavior? How about jobs, careers, business opportunities? How about immediate families? First wives and separated children living in divided homes? How about the ability to concentrate on projects and carry out the simple tasks of life? Isn't there always a struggle? It is essential that the addict make the leap from the powerlessness of the behavior to the total unmanageability of their lives. Unless they do this it will be very difficult to open the door to God's graces, because as long as an addict has any fantasy of controlling their lives they will not surrender totally. A relationship with God is the answer to all the difficulties of an addict but as long as he believes he can manage his life why would he surrender to a

God he probably doesn't know, trust or understand? After a newcomer has made a list of the consequences of their history of acting out then they are able to see clearly the unmanageability of their lives and the poor results of a life lived for self. This is a wonderful way to bridge to the Second and Third Steps.

Although it may appear as if when working on this first step we are doing some Fourth Step work, that is not so and does not have to happen if the sponsor offers specific instructions. We do not go into detail of who, what, where, and when. This first step work is done in summary form and does not go into names, personal details and specifics.

I ask my sponsees to write everything out in pencil or pen and not to do the work on the computer. The heart and soul come out in written form. When one works on the computer too much mind is used and there is the likelihood that someone will go back and delete, cut and paste, etc. A work done on the computer is much less likely to address the spiritual aspects that are so important in this work.

I hope you find the description of the way I work the First Step with others to be useful. I am 25 years clean of gambling, 18 years sober from drugs and alcohol and 8 years sober in SAA. I've had

Sponsorship Corner: First Step Continued

By Santi L.

the blessing of working with many sex addicts who are sober and in recovery today with several years of sobriety, and I treat my commitment to SAA as a ministry to serve others while honoring my Lord. We have a vibrant SAA community here in Charlotte and I am blessed to live in a city that is very God-conscious. We have no less than 20-30 men who are

in the 1-8 year sobriety range and at our regular meetings a regular membership of around 60 to 70 folks. Thanks for considering my writing and may God bless all of you committed to serving Him and your fellow man.

In His Grace,
Santi L.

From the Editor

By Mike L.

As I write these words, the 2003 convention in Portland, Oregon, is still a little less than two months away. By the time you read them, it will be over.

I think back to my very first SAA convention in Ann Arbor, Michigan, back in 1995. I had been a member of SAA since 1991, with a one-year hiatus along the way. I originally signed on for the 1994 convention in Phoenix and then got cold feet and backed out.

I did go to Ann Arbor the following year, as mentioned, and the financial and other support I received from the Houston Sunday night men's meeting pretty much guaranteed that I wouldn't be backing out of this one. What an amazing experience it was! When I came out of the delegate meetings for lunch on that Friday afternoon, I was greeted by one of the most beautiful days I had ever seen, not a cloud in the sky and a wonderful temperature in the mid-70s. We don't often get days like that in Houston, and certainly not at the end of May. In that regard I think back also to a late Sunday afternoon church service in Los Angeles at the 1999 convention, and how nice it was for the church just to be able to just have the windows open with no need for air-conditioning. That would have been unthinkable in Houston at that time. (On the other

hand, lest I scare you away from attending a Houston SAA convention, the weather here, at least for the last two, remained reasonably pleasant for most of the weekend anyway.)

But getting back to Ann Arbor, I went through the convention all wide-eyed and excited, and by mid-afternoon on Sunday I knew I had made a mistake in arranging my return flight for Monday morning, for this meant that I would miss the end of the convention. I understood that there would be a charge to change my flight at the last moment, and I didn't care. I called the airline and not only were they able to change my flight so I didn't leave until the afternoon, but they didn't charge me either.

I'm sure I had my first convention in Ann Arbor in mind when I made my reservations for the Portland convention this year. For some reason, it was incredibly difficult to find a flight back to Houston that didn't either leave before noon on Monday or after 6 pm. A number of the later flights did not get back to Houston until midday Tuesday. But I was persistent and I finally found one flight that left at 2:25 on Monday. I hope I don't get to the airport and find that I accidentally booked a flight for Portland, Maine, instead!

As I said, by the time you read this message the convention will be over. So I want to take this opportunity to greet all of you wonderful folks that I got to renew acquaintances with this year, say hello to all of you that I met for the first time, and express my envy to those of you who will be attending your first SAA convention next year.

I'm interested in hearing how the convention was for you, especially if it was your first one. If you want to share your experiences at this convention with the PBR, send them to pbr@saa-recovery.org and we'll publish in the next issue or a future issue.

My wishes to all of you for a blessed next 24 hours, until next time.



Sobriety

by Art F.

S

Steps	Work the Twelve Steps.
Sponsorship	Find someone to work the steps with.
Share	Share your whole story with at least one person.
Shame	Find ways to keep yourself out of your shame.
Sanity	Work on your own personal life trying to maintain some sanity.
Sexuality	Learn as much as you can from others about what healthy sexuality is.
Serenity	Think about and plan things that will help you achieve some serenity.

O

Openness	Be open to wisdom from others and new ideas.
Omnipotent	Allow some room in your life for a power that's greater than you.
Options	Learn that you have options or choices about what you have been doing.
Organize	Plan your life around recovery, organize your needs and priorities.
Ourselves	Accept ourselves for who we are, value what we have and do.
Own	Own past behavior and actions, we did the best we could with the tools we had.

B

Believe	Believe that you can recover. Believe in a Higher Power of your choosing.
Be	Be gentle with yourself, we are fragile and prone to returning to old ways.
Baffling	Understand that it is not possible to figure everything out. Accept what is.
Baggage	We all have our own baggage (past traumas); learn to put it down.
Boundaries	Work with your sponsor to establish some protective boundaries for you.
Become	Become more willing, more open, more wanting for a better life.

R

Read	Get in the habit of reading a “thought-for-the-day”-type book or books each day.
Relax	This is not a hurry up program, you will be ready, when you are ready.
Rearrange	Alter your daily habits so you can include quiet time, play time and rest time.
Reward	Celebrate any success, treat yourself to some thing you like, reward progress.
Recover	This has to be very important to you, recovery is everything.
Relapse	Don't panic, talk to someone, go to group, break the bubble, be honest about it.
Risks	Try taking risks by reaching out for help, learn that it is OK to ask for help.

I

Isolate	Make plans with someone rather than toughing it out by yourself. Call somebody.
Inquire	Ask questions, find out how others deal with situations or problems.
Insanity	Repeating the same behaviors and expecting things to change. Own this thinking.
Integrate	Listen at the meetings and try some of the ideas in your own recovery.
Intimacy	Find out what real intimacy is about; develop your own intimacy with someone.
Insecurity	Relax, most of us in the group feel insecure, unworthy of anybody else's time.

E

Easy	"Easy Does It" is a slogan that reminds us to go slow, take your time.
Educate	Read about addiction; it helps to understand what is going on with you.
Ego	Set your ego aside; the hallmark of recovery is humility.

Sobriety **Continued** by Art F.

Encouragement	Get the support and encouragement you need from someone in the group.
Esteem	Doing small things that are good for me helps me build some positive self-esteem.
Euphoric	Using "euphoric recall" of positive experiences helps me feel better about myself.

T

Twelve	The Twelve Steps. Working the steps is the recovery road.
Time	Recovery takes time. Be patient with yourself and others.
Talk	Gain the courage to speak out at meetings, it is the only way to defuse shame.
Telephone	Try calling someone, it may just break the cycle you're in or change your thinking.
Therapy	There is no shame in getting professional help to deal with some issue.
Thankful	An "attitude of gratitude" can be very healing.

Y

You	This is all about YOU, recovery is yours if you are willing to work for it.
Yes	Yes, you can recover no matter where you have been.
Years	Age does not matter, recovery is for any age.
Yesterday	You can learn from your past but it is gone and cannot be changed.
Yourself	YOU ARE THE ONE WHO CAN BEST TAKE CARE OF YOU!



ISO News



ISO Literature Committee, ISO Board, & Board Committees

ISO Board Minutes

**The Board of Trustees of the ISO of SAA, Inc.,
met before the ISO Convention
in Portland, Oregon, on May 21-22, 2003.
The following is a report of votes taken.**

Accepted:

The following Literature Committee SAA Book report for the month of April:

“The editors are working on two sections of the book at the present time: the Introduction, and a chapter tentatively called Sex Addiction. We have not yet completed the review and approval of the sections done so far. As soon as text is approved by the editors (and new writing by the authors) it will be posted for the LitCom and authors to read on a password-protected website.

“The website has been set up and is ready to go, thanks to Bob D., the ISO webmaster. We are still working on one aspect of it: making it possible for LitCom members and authors to post comments on the site. In the meantime, comments will be uploaded from the e-mails that are sent to the editors.

“The website will also be available to Board members for viewing. Notice will be given to all, on a monthly basis, of new text being uploaded to the site for review.

The authors are writing a chapter on the Twelve Traditions, with a deadline of April 20, at which time the chapter will be posted to the website for review.

“The editors and authors have scheduled brief monthly teleconferences so as to facilitate communication during the book project. We met on April 1 and the conversation was productive.

The Literature Committee is planning to hold a workshop at the Portland convention where members will be encouraged to write about various aspects of their recovery in SAA. The proposal for this workshop has been submitted to the Convention Committee. The plan is to use excerpts from members' writings as sidebars or discrete sections in the text, in order to highlight or illustrate certain subjects with quotations and personal experiences.”

ISO Board Minutes Continued

Approved:

A motion to increase the Office Oversight Committee (OOC) to six members.

Approved:

A motion to direct the OOC to continue its search for alternate office facilities for the ISO Office and to report back to the Board in August.

Approved:

A motion to invite Board and Literature Committee alternates to participate at their discretion in teleconferences, contingent on the availability of a rate of three cents per minute.

Approved:

A motion to increase the price of the *Fellowship Directory* to \$3.00.

Approved:

Creation of a Board committee and a focus group for women's outreach.

Approved:

Concerning Article V, Section 3 of the ISO By-Laws, the Board's interpretation of the phrase "ISO publications" being documents which contain the recovery message and philosophy of SAA.

Approved:

Permission for an observer to attend the Delegate Meeting and identify himself to the delegates as an observer from Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous.

Approved:

A Board response to a letter of concern from Chris C. (Both the letter from Chris C. and the Board's response can be found on pages 19 and 20 of this issue of the PBR)

Approved:

Authorization for Don K. to make his financial presentation to the Delegates and to authorize the ISO to send financial packets to the Delegates.





ISO Board Minutes

The Board of Trustees of the ISO of SAA, Inc., met after the ISO Convention in Portland, Oregon, on May 25, 2003. The following is a report of votes taken.

Elected:

Roger B., Great Lakes Region, chair of the Board, Greg B., North Central Region, secretary of the Board, and Don K., at-large member, treasurer of the Board.

Approved:

A motion to place our PSA on our website and allow ISO approved intergroup/group websites to use the PSA on their websites.

Approved:

A motion that the Board minutes

be transmitted to Board members and alternates electronically.

Approved:

A standing committee named the "Online Outreach Committee" tasked with evaluating our website and reporting to the Board; that the ISO Board of Trustees task the Online Outreach Committee with providing a report to the Board at the August 2003 meeting; the report will assess the current website as a tool and a publications medium.



ISO Delegate Meeting

The following is a report of the actions taken and the recommendations made to the ISO Board of Trustees made during the Delegate Meeting held in Portland, Oregon, May 23-24, 2003.

Approved:

The ISO of SAA, Inc. budget for 2004.

Elected:

Don K. as at-large member of the Board of Trustees.

Approved:

A change to the ISO by-laws to conduct an audit of the ISO Office "at the change of the Director of Fellowship Services or of any other principal employee whose position includes significant, independent handling of ISO finances,

ISO Delegate Meeting Continued

unless Board action shall deem it unnecessary.” (In order to go into effect, the same by-law will have to be approved by the 2004 delegates.)

Recommended To The Board:

To consider changing the name of our international newsletter, *The Plain Brown Rapper*, taking suggestions throughout the year, and deciding on a name at next

year’s Delegate Meeting, using the Delphi technique.

Recommended To The Board:

“To consider stocking for sale the workbook by Patrick Carnes, *Facing The Shadows*.”

Note: According ISO by-laws, recommendations made by the ISO delegates must be considered by the Board of Trustees.



ISO Literature Committee

The ISO Literature Committee met during the Annual ISO of SAA, Inc. Convention held in Portland, Oregon, May 21 – 27, 2003. The following is a report on approved motions.

Approved: A motion to approve the Tools of Recovery pamphlet for submission to the fellowship.

Approved: A motion to table discussion on the style rules until next teleconference.

Approved: A motion that we as a committee take an official position on new delegate Item C.

Approved: A motion that the literature committee officially oppose the new delegate Item C.

Approved: A motion that we recommend to the board that a profes-

sional proofreader review all future literature before final publication.

Approved: A motion to elect Joe T. as LitCom chair.

Approved: A motion to elect Elizabeth S. as LitCom vice chair.

Approved: Motion to elect Tim L. as LitCom secretary.

Approved: A motion that we recommend to the Board that each piece of current literature be reviewed by a professional proof reader before its next printing.

Letter to the PBR

By Chris C.

SAA is a spiritual program; we run on spiritual principles embodied in the Steps and Traditions. The extensive coverage of the efforts to produce a text that carries the SAA message (PBR Nov.-Dec., 2002) raises some serious concerns from a spiritual perspective.

First: the existence of a contract between the Board of the ISO of SAA, Inc. and the authors suggests that there will be the payment of money upon the completion of the book. If this is the case, then it would seem to be a violation of our Eighth Tradition, which prohibits carrying the SAA message for pay. The “special workers” clause of the Tradition could not exempt the authors because that only applies to people who “make it possible” for the message to be carried; it clearly does not apply to people who are carrying the message by writing a book (see the Twelve and Twelve, pp. 168-169). If money is a part of the contract, then the Board and authors are professionalizing our Twelfth Step.

Second: the process appears to lack a spiritual focus. The production of the book seems to be led by the collective willpower of the Board and Literature Committee, rather than by the will of our collective Higher Power (Tradition Two). Signs of this include the struggle for authority over the book and the Literature Committee's low standard for the text being the ability of members to “... ‘live with’ the results.” If the book is to truly carry our SAA message, it will be the result of the guidance [of] our HP and it will allow the fellowship to embrace its contents passionately.

Third: the inadequacy of the two drafts coupled with “the authors’ failure to make designated changes or revisions” leads to a number of questions. Is this a spiritually appropriate arrangement for producing our basic text? Are the authors the HP-chosen people to write our book? Is their approach what our HP wants? Finally, is this the time that our HP wants us to develop a book?

I mean no offense by raising these points. Perhaps these concerns simply arise from a misinterpretation of the PBR articles, and/or an inaccurate assumption about money being exchanged for the writing. I hope this is the case. If not, will the responsible parties please consider these three concerns?

No text is better than a spiritually deficient one.

Chris C.

Response to Chris C.

By ISO of SAA Board.

Dear Chris,

Being part of a voluntary organization your letter was one among many received by the PBR editor. It took several months before the Board was able to review your letter. We apologize for this delay.

To address the first point of your concerns, the Board's interpretation is that the authors are in fact "special workers". The authors are SAA members who we felt deserved to receive royalties given the huge amount of time that writing a basic text requires. We do not believe the payment of royalties to be a violation of Tradition Eight since there is precedence for this practice in AA. Bill W. was compensated for writing the AA Big Book. It has been the general practice of SAA to mirror AA's process in many business matters.

To address your second point that the process "appears to lack a spiritual focus", it has been our collective experience that the higher power often uses the human struggle for control and final surrender to achieve the common good. In *AA Comes of Age*, (a historical text on AA) it is very clear that AA survived tremendous challenges and conflicts as a young fellowship growing up. These differences of opinions shared between the authors, the Literature Committee and the Board actually led to a common solution to continuing the process agreed upon by all three parties.

Your third point was a concern of ours also until the authors revealed that the process of writing a book includes numerous drafts with ongoing editing before the final book is published. At present the Literature Committee has appointed two individuals to edit the drafts into a final text. The editors have already given monthly reports to the Board on their progress. In addition the authors will have access to their edits as well. The editing process has already begun on the Introduction and First Chapter of our basic text.

We are confident that the current process agreed upon by all parties will ultimately serve the greater fellowship of SAA very well. It appears to be an expression of our higher power's will for us at this time. We thank you for bringing these concerns to us.

In your service,
ISO of SAA Board

**ISO News**

Continued



Prison Outreach Committee

Prison Outreach Committee

By Mike L.

The big news of course is the recent convention, "We Walk the Same Trail," in Portland. I briefly addressed the delegates on Friday morning about the need for more folks to be involved in Prison Outreach. The regular Friday afternoon Prison Outreach focus group had 13 in attendance. Although we elected a couple of committee members to the Prison Outreach Committee, I have since decided to disband the actual committee on the grounds that it has been inactive for years, with all the work previously assumed by the committee long ago having devolved on the regional coordinators, assisted by the chair. My thanks to those who stepped up for the committee this year and in previous years.

We had a small and enthusiastic group in attendance at the prison outreach workshop led as always by Tim E. and myself. I personally felt that this particular workshop was the best one since Tim and I started leading it several years ago. For those who are interested in Prison Outreach, a tape of the workshop is available from the office.

During the board elections, Tim E. assumed the position of board alternate for the North Pacific region and will also be serv-

ing as Prison Outreach liaison. I am very happy to have him in this position given his long interest in Prison Outreach. Tim and I have already begun making plans for next year's Prison Outreach workshop at the 2004 convention.

At the final literature committee meeting during the conference, I expressed to the committee my desire to convert into a pamphlet the notes Arnold D. originally prepared and that we have been circulating for years. Given the amount of work I have already put into revising and updating the notes, I think preparing the pamphlet will be a simple process.

I want to take a second to honor and thank Bernie C. for his several years of service as the Great Lakes Prison Outreach Regional Coordinator. Bernie, you did a great job and I will greatly miss you in the position. Similarly, I want to honor and thank Tim E. who has been serving as the North Pacific Prison Outreach Regional Coordinator and who has also been active in filling in for regions that did not have a coordinator. Tim, I can't thank you enough, and I look forward to working with you as the board liaison. And indeed I want to thank all of those who stepped up this past year to serve as regional

Prison Outreach Committee Continued

coordinators. We couldn't do this without you.

I have not been given the final information from the regional caucuses on who the new regional coordinators are. I understand that there is at least one vacancy, so if you are interested in being involved as a regional coordinator, please get in touch with me. My home number is 281/452-3040 and my e-mail address is elrojo9701@yahoo.com.

I often get letters from prisoners making specific requests for a pen pal, sponsor, or what-have-you. Here are the ones I have received since the last PBR:

- John K. in Columbia, SC, is looking for a sponsor.
- Chuck B. in Lawrenceville, VA, is looking to write to somebody in the Miami, FL, area.
- Maurice L. in Wewahitchka, FL, is looking for someone in Pinellas County, FL, to write to.
- Michael C. in Clio, AL, is looking for somebody to come speak at their Thursday night meeting.

If you are interested in helping any of these prisoners, please get in touch with me at the phone number and e-mail address listed above. Regional coordinators, if you receive requests similar to these, please pass them on to me for publication in the PBR.

It was great seeing those of you who were at "We Walk the Same Trail." I look forward to seeing as many of you as can make it to next year's convention.

IN MEMORIUM

Claude E. of Houston, Texas, passed away Sunday, June 8, 2003. He was 77. His friends in this program of life (as he would call us) acknowledge his contributions to our fellowship, most of which went unheralded. Probably the most important of these contributions was his reminder to anyone who would listen that the ISO of SAA, Inc., is a corporation and, as such, needs to be operated according to sound business principles and built upon a firm financial foundation. To this end, he initiated the Office Oversight Committee and participated in it for most of the past 11 years. Six times he was an at-large member of the Board of Trustees, serving during those years as treasurer. He was the primary force behind establishment of the Outreach Endowment Fund and was untiring in his promotion of the LifeLine Partners Program. Most of all, however, he is remembered as a friend who was profoundly grateful for the gift of "eleven bonus years," as he described his recovery. Even as we miss you, our faithful and trusted servant, we celebrate the completion of your miraculous journey.

How to Submit a PBR article

First:

Write from your experience, strength and hope. Others may need to hear exactly what you have to say.

Second:

Send your article by e-mail to: PBR@saa-recovery.org

or mail to:

ISO
P. O. Box 70949
Houston, TX 77270

Third:

Send the **Article Release Form** below. Download an extra from the SAA website if needed, or feel free to make copies.

“Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to other sex addicts...” Step 12

Submission deadlines::

Dec. 15, Feb. 15, April 15, June 15, Aug. 15, Oct. 15

Release Form: I hereby give this newsletter, its successors and assignees and those acting on its authority, permission to copyright and/or publish any articles, poems, or other written material or art work pertaining to my personal story of recovery from addiction and my personal experience with or opinions about the SAA fellowship or program. I understand that additions may be made to my written material and that it may be changed or edited. I further understand that every effort will be made to assure my anonymity. I possess full legal capacity to exercise this authorization and hereby release the ISO newsletter from any claim by myself or my successors.

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Sex Addicts Anonymous is a twelve-step program of recovery based on the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous. Our primary purpose is to stop our addictive sexual behavior and to help others recover from their sexual addiction. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop addictive sexual behavior. Our fellowship is open to women and men regardless of religion, race, ethnic background, marital status, sexual orientation, or profession. Our members define their own sexual boundaries with the guidance of their sponsors and other group members. We encourage our members to discover and explore what healthy sexuality means to them.

Region

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