

The Plain Brown Rapper

The official newsletter of the International Service Organization of SAA

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Both beckoning me, waiting for me to explore

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Destinies Shared In The Program

by Alan L. (edited from a letter to a friend)

I felt a cool fall up and down my body as the chill bumps raised on my arms, back, and neck. I don't know exactly what God has planned for us, but it is clear there is SOMETHING planned; that our meeting was NEVER happenstance; and that our destinies have some roads that cross again ... perhaps not unlike the strands of Celtic knot work out and within again.

They might say "put yourself into the work" as people resonate with that and hate to be preached at. I had in my head the idea that "self" must be expunged for God to be in a thing; however, now I'm seeing there is a kind of synergistic or symbiotic relationship between an artist, musician, writer, artisan, craftsman and the work produced.

Rhetorical question: How much of Michael Angelo do we see in The Sistine Chapel?

Perhaps there are very few like us that know us thoroughly and love us anyway ... fewer still that that have the lexicon by which they can read the "hidden language" we speak.

We hear each other and call each other "friend."

My friends, I hope the cruel lash of time and the bite of the things that leave their indelible mark in our hearts and souls and lives are gentle with you as you

wrestle with God for the gift as Jacob struggled with God--becoming Israel.

I hear the unspoken words; the silent cries; the simple pleas; and the whimpering when we're stark naked in front of our God and left to view ourselves in the harsh light of a mirror--seeing what we wish we did not ... yet not able to turn away and deny that we have seen it. Now what do we do?

There is one out here that knows, understands, reads the encryption. There is at least one. To some degree we may feel the cold winter wind blow across our face and somehow know that we are IN the journey now and not beginning it afresh as some adolescent discovering adulthood or an innocent baby discovering his toes, fingers, reflection. It is still too soon for us journeymen to speak with certainty whether the road that rises up to meet us is an up or a down incline in our lives.

Yet we must walk it.

That is a certainty.

And we are not alone. I sense His presence with us.

I think one must have some sort of a thorn in one's flesh to understand that fully. Perhaps we all have one--whether it is our own, or it belongs to somebody else with whom we choose to join in union of relationship or marriage, or it is chosen for us by bloodline.

Destinies Shared In The Program

Continued By Alan L. (edited from a letter to a friend)

Whether or not that latest supposition is true I believe that those that DO have an innate sense and understanding of that piece from the point of pain of the thorn in one's side--whatever its manifestation, color, or form--seem to have a desire to be "transcendent" (at least that's what a musician friend of mine told me recently, and it has also been something my mind has gnawed upon for days) and THAT is the quality which makes those with thorns more exciting, creative, and drawn to those same thorns which crucify them. We are a creative, exciting, energetic, and DIFFERENT sort of people who seek to transcend, where others simply march to the same drummer.

I think we have a different sense of rhythm from the masses.

At times, tears well up in my eyes as I read another addict's poetry, prose, lyrics, song, or creativity--reading between the lines unspoken familiarity of things that line our personalities ... things an outsider would not comprehend but only see on the surface and acknowledge--yet a fellow addict (recovering or sometimes not) may write and in that writing/creativity may sing with comprehension and perhaps raise the awareness of an outsider, as each of us may in turn sense some kindred spirit and/or face a Don Quijote-like cross-

roads from a parallax angle looking in, instead of the crucible and fire of the choices left before them ... and no real choices remaining ... with no wise action.

Why relate? Some spiritual reason. We can resonate with a piece and every illustration and choice of words as if it were painted for us in a deeply saturated canvas of light, sound, oil, sweat, blood, and screams. We can "distill" something unanticipated as our spirit cries out in some sense of shared pain ...

I guess until I see another road-sign I must follow this one I'm on. I guess I will pick up the quill as a challenge and emote and see. What will become of the quill ... is it an extension of me?

And the ink that flows through it will be from my veins--my life's experience, my mind, my spirit ... as the focal point?

Deo volente (God willing) my flesh will not interfere in it but be a focus of the work as God will (I pray) speak thru my hands.

Isn't that what an author/artist/musician is? Don't we merely funnel the gift that God has entrusted to us in some fashion? I guess we will each see.

Only on the other side of Heaven's gates will we know. Only "posterity" and generations to come will judge that for themselves.

Thanks for sharing. Keep coming back. Keep emoting. Keep communicating.



Right Now

Authored/contributed by Alan LongHair

With respectful apologies to *Sammy Hagar, Ed & Alex Van Halen*

RIGHT NOW

People are dying in their addiction, affliction

RIGHT NOW

Sad, miserable, lonely humans are acting out

RIGHT NOW

Someone's struggling with their steering wheel

RIGHT NOW

Someone's wrestling with going to a meeting

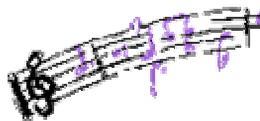
RIGHT NOW

An addict is suffering with thoughts of acting out

RIGHT NOW

An ill human being is struggling with a spouse

... Thank God for the chance to recover ...



Divine Heart of Love

by Rand L., Santa Fe

Editor's Note: The Big Book says that the wording of the Third Step prayer "was, of course, quite optional so long as we expressed the idea, voicing it without reservation." Here is Rand's version of the Third Step prayer.]

Source of all kindness, goodness, creativity, and power,
Here I am, all of me,
Without blame, excuses, or apology.

I accept You as my guide,
Partner,
And Empowerer
In the rebuilding of my shattered life
And the creation of a purposeful future.

I depend upon Your perfect wisdom and compassion
To sustain me in Your harmony
Today.

Free me from the entrapment of my irresistible
Wounds, limitations, and self-absorption,
So that Your love can reach all the
Lonely hurting parts of me,
Enabling me, as You intended from the beginning,
To fulfill my fullest creativity and destiny.

I wish to be a lighthouse of Your hope
To the weak, lonely, and desperate like myself
As you lead them to me in Your gentle wisdom.
But grant that I may point them to You and not myself,
Lest they, and I, be consumed by their neediness.

Where my agenda and Your perfect love and wisdom conflict today,
Help me choose Your way today.
For I did not create myself and reality,
I cannot sustain myself and reality,
And I cannot bring myself and reality into harmony.

Thank You for that no matter what I do, think, or feel,
Your love for me will never change.

Amen.

I Went Surfing

by Scotty W.

My recovery is sorta like surfing.

We struggle to get on the board, aim it in the right direction, paddle like hell sometimes, and try to stand. We fall a lot, especially at first. Every so often, we'll "catch.". Every so often, we'll stand up for a little, and the feeling is tremendous.

But here's the thing. The goal is not to stay out of the water, nor is it to reach the shore. My goal is to practice and learn to be more comfortable and successful surfing the waves, over and over again, day after day. Sure I'll fall, but that doesn't end my efforts.

Some days I'm more successful than others. Some days are serene, and the waves are much easier to catch and ride. Some days are stormy, and it takes every tool I've learned just to stay on the board.

So I keep practicing, and listen intently to techniques and suggestions by other surfers, including my sponsor and the other "Big Kahunas", the more experienced surfers. We'll all get together in a group around the fire in the evening, and share our personal surfing stories. My surfing buddies are extremely helpful as I continue to learn. We share a special

bond only surfers can fully understand. But they can't do my surfing for me. No matter how much I read or listen or nod my head in agreement around the fire at night, I know I must take to my board again tomorrow and brave my own waves, in order to learn to surf.

But oh, what a feeling to be able to say "I'm surfing". When I share what I did yesterday, it would be incomplete to say "I tried a lot, but fell off my board". I can almost never say "I hit every wave, and was perfect every time." When I share around the fire in the evenings, I can be satisfied to say "I went surfing."

Even on the worst of days, I can be satisfied to know I went surfing.



Defending the First Step

By Dave R., Plano, Texas

A number of SAA groups have a tradition of presenting a formal "first step." Other groups do not. Let me stand up and defend the tradition.

A formal "first step" is a presentation to the whole group that tells a person's story. I have heard some very powerful stories that way. Many times after hearing one, I have found myself working harder on my own recovery.

To some who have come from other fellowships, the formal first step sounds more like a public "fifth step," and they cannot see the benefit of doing that so

early in recovery. Let me show why that impression is not correct, and that there are benefits to the tradition.

The first thing about the formal first step is that it is not a fifth step. It is not a fearless and thorough moral inventory. To do a fifth step takes a long time. Mine took a full afternoon. The formal first step is usually much shorter. A formal first step is just that, a *first step*. That is, in it, we focus on the powerlessness

over the addiction and the unmanageability of our lives. In my first step, I talked about how the family system set me up to be an addict, and how powerless I was to stop the addiction despite using religious and geographic cures. I talked about the cost, about how I lost friendships because of the addiction, about how I lost myself in

I have heard some very powerful stories that way. Many times after hearing one, I have found myself working harder on my own recovery.

the addiction, and about the real legal costs I would face if I continued in the addiction. Yet, I was not able to stop. Through this telling I made very clear the unmanageability of my life.

The second point is that presenting the formal first step often signals the

winding down of the emotional aspects of working on a first step. Working on a formal first step is a good thing to do after the first major slip after joining the program. At that point, we have been faced with how powerful the addiction really is even though we have joined this program. Facing how powerless we have been and how unmanageable our lives have been can help move us into accepting how we need to ask for help. It can help us make that difficult transi-

tion from trying to use the program as just another technique for managing the addiction to submitting to the discipline of working the steps in order to gain a new life.

There are real benefits from presenting my first step to the group. The first benefit is that I have shared that part of my life with a number of people. Presenting this part of my life breaks the isolation that I have lived in for so long. Secondly, I can receive feedback from many people. When I did my first step, I got affirmations that my cry for help had been heard. In addition, I now had a whole group of new friends I hadn't had before. I shared my deepest shame with others, which helped me to let go of it.

Another benefit comes from hearing these presentations. I have gained recovery from almost every one I have heard. I get reminded of the pain, shame, and powerlessness that I went through in my addiction.

There is one danger with these formal first steps. Some people do them co-dependently.

That is, some people go through this process as a ritual. I had one sponsoree ask me to be available for him one night, as he wanted to pull an "all-nighter" so that he could present his first step the next day. I told him that such behavior was not recovery. Others appear to

It can help us make that difficult transition from trying to use the program as just another technique for managing the addiction to submitting to the discipline of working the steps in order to gain a new life.

see the formal first step as a kind of "graduation" from the program and don't come back after finishing one. I encourage sponsors to point to the difficult second and third steps while a sponsoree is in the midst of working on the formal first step. The rest of the 12 steps are needed to achieve serenity.

A formal first step is a first step. In it, I focus on the powerlessness and unmanageability of my life. The process of working up to a first step, presenting it and receiving the feedback from the group can really help me bond with the group and help me to take the next step in reaching out for help with this addiction. For those who have not done one yet, I encourage you to try it.

Poetry in Paths

by Craig R.

Discovering a path before
Knowing a path behind
Wondering which is better to explore?

The one ahead a blind quest
The one behind an experience or history
Knowing I'm just a guest

The decision is mine
Choose one or the other
Instead I seek a different line
I see, instead, another

How can I know what I am to be?
If I do not embrace who I have been?
Because it is all, all in me.
My life, my parents, genetically.

The stories are there for discovery
All I need is a willing soul
Listening and Searching, sparking their recovery.

Who have I been in this greater path I walk?
Who have I been? How did I talk?

I see myself and recognize my father in me.
I look to the side and mother's smile is there to see.
I look to my son and see a mirror under gauze
I look to my daughter and the sight brings a pause.
I know even as my children are a continuation of me
My path started somewhere--back in that clouded history.

Then this is the journey
The cause of my dreams
A soul's wanderings among all the streams
Partaking of that course, that lesson, that jubilee
Of life.

I am who I was and I am something more
I am a culmination of those who came before
And fought
 And died
And laughed
 And cried
And loved
 And lied
All are reflected in me

I think I am decided
My path behind--my history
Must have been a good one
Tho it seems lost to me.

Because my spirit bubbles and chooses to grow
My hope clings with a spirit that I don't know
I have that joy and those tears
I am both young at heart and old in years.
I am that boy, standing there on that dock
I am that old man, beside that warm rock
I am the young lady with dimples so deep
I am the mother who knows a peace to keep

This is my heritage, a knowledge coming from within
This the path I've walked, with no place to begin
Instead I'm in the middle looking for names to assign
To identify who I've been and why it's mine.

The path behind, the path before
Both beckoning me, waiting for me to explore
And knowing I will find something I've always known...
Going ahead or turning back are the same
--and so I've grown--

I don't have to decide
Only open my eyes and recognize
I am more than I was
I am made of all the parts
And I can explore to my heart's content.
Learning and finding and knowing with pride
I am me. That's what I decide.



Recovery New Year Resolutions

By Anonymous

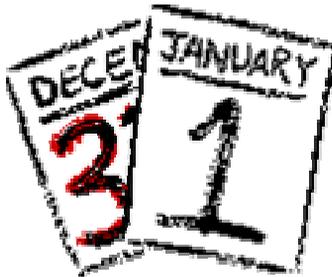
While not as popular as in the past, many people still make New Year's resolutions. With my sponsees, I help them formulate resolutions to advance their recoveries and the groups' recoveries. I sit down with each one to discuss what he has done this past year and what he is willing to commit to for the next year. We put these down on paper or in PDA's so that we can check up on their progress; in fact a midyear check in on their progress is one of my resolutions. We break down our examination into three general areas: their daily program, their participation in larger SAA offerings, and service work.

In the daily program, we cover the five basics of recovery

(as AA identified them). I ask them to take a realistic look at their lives now and see what is realistic for the next year. How often are you going to call your sponsor and how often will you call other recovering addicts?

How many days per week and how much daily will you read from recovery literature? How many meetings will you attend per week? For those in other 12 Step programs, they commit to them as well. How

often will you pray and meditate and for how long? For those who don't the question becomes, what will you do to develop some kind of prayer and meditation routine in the year to come? What are you going to do for working one or more of the 12 Steps? Finally,



as your sponsor how can I help you with these?

Then we look at their participation in larger SAA offerings. In this part of the country, ours and some of the surrounding states offer workshops, retreats, mini conferences lasting any where from a day to a full weekend. There also are a couple of SAA social events each year. Finally, there is the international convention which most of them find is within their reach. By participating in one or more of these, they can get other perspectives on recovery and get to know recovering people from other groups or states.

Finally, we look at service. This area includes outreach to newcomers, acting as a trusted servant in a meeting, starting a new meeting, writing an article for the local SAA newsletter or the PBR, and helping to organize the SAA convention. It also involves some of our intergroup services: committees, outreach efforts, telephone answering committee, and serving as a meeting rep.

Finally, service also includes examining their readiness to be sponsors. Most of them wanted to duck sponsorship, but I told each of them that after he had a year or

more of abstinence-based recovery, he will want to be open to it. We talked about what they needed to do to be ready to sponsor, if and when the time came. I assured them that I would be there to help them work through any difficulties.

This took fifteen to thirty minutes with each sponsee. At our midyear check-in, each had made progress; and as I look at their various lists now all have grown substantially through work on each of these resolutions. Each one is better able to help other sex addicts recover now.

This is one way to help sponsees develop recovery resolutions for the new year. Are there sponsors who would be willing to tell what you do to help some of your sponsees? Will some of the people who have made resolutions share what your sponsors suggested you do? Please send contributions, questions or any other feedback to:

Sponsorship Corner
PBR/ISO of SAA
P. O. Box 70949
Houston, TX 77270
or e-mail to:
PBR@saa-recovery.org



ISO News



ISO Literature Committee, ISO Board, & Board Committees

ISO Board Minutes

The Board of Trustees of the ISO of SAA, Inc., met via teleconference on September 28, 2002. The following is a report on votes taken.

Approved That, having acted within the scope of its authority in executing a contract between the ISO of SAA, Inc., and the authors, Jeff W. and Pat C., the Board of Trustees has the authority and the responsibility to act for the ISO of SAA, Inc. in carrying out the terms of that contract.

Approved That, as a part of carrying out the terms of the contract, the Board, acting for the ISO of SAA, Inc., acknowledges it has received from the authors a manuscript for the contracted work in the form of two drafts, the first received in May 2000 and the second in May 2002.

Approved That, also as a part of carrying out the terms of the contract, the Board, acting for the ISO of SAA, Inc., and after receiving sufficient information from the ISO Literature Committee, deems that the manuscript as received is not ready for publishing in its present form.

Approved That, also as a part of carrying out the terms of the contract, the Board, acting for the ISO of SAA, Inc., and after receiving sufficient information from the ISO Literature Committee, deems that the authors failed to make in the second draft the changes or revisions to the first draft that had been designated in writing by the ISO of SAA, Inc., through its Literature Committee.

Approved That, finding itself in possession of a manuscript that is not ready for publishing in its present form and given the authors' failure to make designated changes or revisions to the first draft, the Board, acting on behalf of the ISO of SAA, Inc., chooses to invoke its right and to exercise the permission granted it in its contract with the authors to designate how the work is to be completed in a manner that is agreeable to both the authors and the ISO Literature Committee.

Approved That, in the Board's process to be used to complete the work, the Board of Trustees will act as the champion, as described in the ISO approved Literature Committee Handbook (page 13), of the second draft of the SAA Book, submitting it to the Literature Committee for approval with the understanding that the manuscript will be edited and revised by a team composed of two members of the Literature Committee to be designated by the Literature Committee, the two authors, Jeff W. and Pat C., and an independent, outside, professional, experienced book editor to be contracted by the Board of Trustees on behalf of the ISO of SAA, Inc., and that the contracted book editor will be responsible for working with the designated Literature Committee members and the authors to produce a final manuscript that is publishable in structure and style and approvable in content by the ISO Literature Committee.

Approved That the designated Literature Committee members, following the bylaws of the ISO of SAA, Inc., will have supervisory authority over the content of the manuscript, meaning they will make known to the editor and the authors if there is specific information or

material that must be included in the work or specific information or material that cannot be included in the work.

Approved That the authors will cooperate with the contracted editor and the designated Literature Committee members in revising the manuscript, bearing in mind that failure to do so, will leave the Board of Trustees with no choice but to seek a different process for completing the work.

Approved That, although the editing team is left to its discretion in determining how to perform its work, the Board does insist that the manuscript be revised in small sections rather than the work being undertaken as a whole.

Approved That, as revision of each section of the manuscript is completed, it will be transmitted to the ISO Office for distribution to the Board and the entire Literature Committee, with the Literature Committee deciding how to present its feedback, if it has any, and the editing team deciding at what point the feedback is to be considered.

Approved That the ISO Office will furnish the editing team with electronic copies of the second draft for its exclusive use as the editing team requests.

Approved That the Board chair be authorized to contract with a professional book editor at a cost not to exceed \$15,000.

Approved That, in addition to the fees charged by the professional book editor, authorized editing team expenses will include those for materials, telephone, postage, travel, food, and lodging, with expenditures of more than \$500 requiring authorization from the Board.

Approved That the ISO Office will pay all SAA Book expenses with funds from 1) designated SAA Book Reserves, 2) undesignated Publications Reserves, and 3) Operational Reserves, in the order presented.

Approved To elect Penny K. and Shelley K. by acclamation to serve on the committee to select an editor.

Note: The Board then communicated the approved motions to the ISO Literature Committee as a proposed process for completing the ISO Book Project. The Literature Committee agreed to meet on October 5, 2002, to consider the Board's proposal (see Literature Committee Minutes).



ISO Board Minutes

The Board of Trustees of the ISO of SAA, Inc., met via teleconference on October 19, 2002. The following is a report on votes taken.

Approved To send to the Literature Committee a letter thanking them for their input and support and asking them to present their plan for working with the authors, Board, and Literature Committee to obtain the goal of producing the SAA Book.

Note: The Board agreed that its chair, Roger B., would draft a letter to the Literature Committee over the weekend, with the draft to be distributed to all voting members of the Board for approval. A copy of the approved letter that was sent to the Literature Committee follows.



Dear Members of the Literature Committee,

Thank you for your prompt consideration of the SAA Book process that we communicated to you during our meeting on September 28. We are disappointed you voted not to accept it as a plan for completing the SAA Book Project. At the same time, we are heartened by the tone with which you communicated your decision to us and find in your response reasons for being optimistic about a cooperative and successful completion of the project.

Borrowing from your statement to reflect our own position, we too "remain committed to the project of producing a book that will carry the message of recovery through the Steps and Traditions of Sex Addicts Anonymous." We too "look forward to working with the [Literature Committee] and the authors to design a process that can bring us all to this goal."

We also want to "work with all the parties involved to come up with a plan that would be agreeable to the group conscience." To this end, we now ask you to provide us with your own plan for completing the SAA Book Project. We think for this process to function, then the Literature Committee needs to be able to endorse it. The Literature Committee needs to present its plan of how there can be an effective process. If it is then agreeable to the authors and the Board, all of us will have served the fellowship well, and the prospects for our mutual success will [be] bright indeed.

Your written plan for completing the project will also serve to keep the Board of Trustees informed of your work and make it possible for the Board to act on your outstanding request for two electronic copies of the manuscript.

We hope you are open to writing a plan similar in detail to the one we communicated to you and to doing so as soon as you can.

Respectfully,

The Board of Trustees



ISO Board Minutes

The Board of Trustees of the ISO of SAA, Inc., met via teleconference on November 9, 2002. The following is a report of votes taken.

Approved: The following guidelines to be followed by the 2003 Convention Committee and all future convention committees:

ISO Convention Entertainment Guidelines

It is essential that the entertainment venues at the conference be safe for all who participate, audience members as well as performers. Due to the sensitive nature of the issues we deal with in this program many of our members can be easily triggered or frightened by things that would not be a problem outside of these rooms. We respectfully remind those who wish to participate in the talent show, karaoke or other entertainment venues at the conference that "night club style" entertainment is not appropriate in this setting.

Talent show acts will be auditioned prior to the show. In addition each entertainment venue will have a mod-

erator present who will respectfully signal a performer should the presentation violate these boundaries established by the entertainment committee. This will be done in the same spirit in which we raise our hand at a meeting. The intent is not to limit anyone's artistic expression or censor free speech but to keep the conference as safe as possible for all members. In recovery we learn that PG rated entertainment can be very satisfying. Humor, drama and beauty can be appreciated without the titillating edge of sexual innuendo (or worse) superimposed upon them. Please be respectful of others' boundaries and please cooperate with auditioners and moderators should they request you to modify your presentation. Thank you for your interest in participating in our conference sponsored events!

Approved: That the 2003 Convention Committee use the following guidelines in regard to COSA re-

imbursing the ISO of SAA, Inc., for meal costs:

- a. COSA agrees to confirm the expected number of meals at each catered event 72 hours before the function, i.e., no later than May 20.
- b. COSA agrees to pay an advance deposit in an amount to be determined by the hotel in its reasonable discretion, being prepared to pay by May 20 a deposit of up to 75% of the cost of its estimated meals.
- c. COSA agrees to pay the outstanding balance of the cost of its meals (exclusive of disputed charges) upon receipt of invoice and agrees that receipt of its invoice will coincide with the receipt of the ISO's invoice from the hotel.

Approved: To pay an outstanding convention debt of \$3,095 to Lowell S. out of the 2002 ISO Convention surplus.

Approved: That a special holiday mailing be made as designed.

Approved: That Klaus P.'s hourly wage be increased by \$1.05 to \$13.00 per hour retroactive to his employment anniversary date of September 11 and that Jonathan C.'s hourly wage be increased by \$1.00 to \$11.00 per hour retroac-

tive to September 23, the six-month anniversary date of his employment.

Approved: The following policy and procedures in regard to ISO staff health benefits:

- a. The ISO will continue to offer a benefit similar to the current health benefit to full-time employees, with a specific amount (presently \$248 for each full-time employee) being deposited monthly into an Employee Benefit Reserve.
- b. When an employee presents a receipt for medical or health related services or products for herself/himself or for immediate family, the reimbursement the employee will receive from the Employee Benefit Reserve will be considered a health benefit and will not be taxed.
- c. If the employee opts to receive money from the reserve for other than medical or health related reasons, the money the employee will receive from the Employment Benefit Reserve will be considered wages and taxes will be withheld.
- d. There will be no provision for annual distribution of money from the Employee Benefit Reserve, meaning the reserve will continue to grow until

paid out to the employee.

- e. At termination of employment, the employee will receive whatever amount is in her or his Employee Benefit Reserve and taxes will be withheld.
- f. This policy will be published as an addendum to the ISO's Personnel Policies Manual.
- g. The ISO Office and the OOC will continue to look into other insurance options.

Approved: That the outreach edition of the *Sex Addicts Anonymous* pamphlet be sold to registered groups and intergroups at cost plus shipping and handling when ordered in quantities of 500 or more.

Approved: To accept the Literature Committee's 10-point plan [see report of LitCom minutes] with the deletion of the sentence, "The above definitions will always be subject to free and open debate in particular cases," and upon the authors' approval of the plan.

Note: The following letter was approved to the Board and is attached as a part of the Board Minutes for November 9, 2002.

Dear Literature Committee,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish to thank you for your proposed plan. I am happy to be able to report to you that the Board received your proposed 10-point plan favorably and is supportive of it provided the authors are also in agreement with it and provided the following sentence is removed: "The above definitions will always be subject to free and open debate in particular cases."

The exact motion passed by the Board was as follows: To accept the Literature Committee's 10-point plan with the deletion of the sentence, "The above definitions will always be subject to free and open debate in particular cases," and upon the authors' approval of the plan.

The Board appreciates and respects that the exchange you and the authors need to engage in will be marked with creative tension. We expect you to engage in free and open debate amongst yourselves. We realize at the core of this project's success is the willing cooperation and mutual respect which all need to exchange with each other.

It is my hope and the Board's that you will be agreeable to our two provisos. Probably it is readily understandable that the au-

thors, as one of the parties involved, have to be in agreement with plan. As for the sentence we are asking that you delete, we hope this does not prove to be a stumbling block. We realize that parts of this plan might not work as well as intended. If the definitions or any other part of the plan require modification as the work unfolds, there can be free and open debate. We think it is understood that if any of the parties concerned comes to the conclusion that the plan needs to be modified, they have the right to be heard by the other two parties and that all parties have the right to participate in the ensuing debate. In the meantime, all parties will be committed to your plan as written, with each doing its best to make it work.

The Board asked me to communicate its action via this letter, which itself the Board has approved. I am also transmitting to the authors a copy of the 10-point plan as you presented it to the Board, along with a copy of this letter.

Please let us know of your decision in regard to accepting our provisos. We will inform you of the response we receive from the authors.

With respect and gratitude for your service,

Roger B.,
Chair, Board of Trustees
ISO of SAA, Inc.

Note: On November 12, the ISO Literature Committee accepted the Board's two provisos. With the Literature Committee and the Board in agreement, the 10-point plan was sent to the authors for their consideration.





ISO Literature Committee Minutes

The ISO Literature Committee met via teleconference on October 5, 2002. The following is a report on votes taken.

Approved That we vote no on the plan that was presented to us but that we want to work with all the parties involved to come up with a plan that would be agreeable to the group conscience.

Note: The Committee agreed that its chair, Chris D., would draft an additional statement to be approved by the Committee and sent to the Board. A copy of the approved additional statement that was sent to the Board follows.

Although the Literature Committee did not approve the plan presented to us by the Board, because of various concerns based on the Twelve Traditions, we remain committed to the project of producing a book that will carry the message of recovery through the Steps and Traditions of Sex Addicts Anonymous. We look forward to working with the Board and the authors to design a process that can bring us all to this goal. As always, we are available to answer any questions you may have concerning this matter.

In service,
The Literature Committee of ISO

In response to the ISO Board's request for a written process for completing the SAA Book Project, the Literature Committee sent the following statement:

Statement of intent:

It is the intent of the Literature Committee to facilitate the production of a text that carries the message of recovery through the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Sex Addicts Anonymous, and that reflects as much as possible the experience, strength and hope of the SAA fellowship, and the diversity of our membership.

In order to reach this goal in a timely manner, we propose that the Literature Committee directly supervise the implementation of all proofreading and editing changes in the manuscript, with regular progress reports to be made to the Board, direct oversight of the process to be maintained by the Literature Committee, participation by the authors in all discussions and meetings,



ISO Literature Committee

and the authors to be in charge of any new writing that may be required.

The following 10-point plan defines the terms and procedures to be followed:

1. Proofreading, Editing and Writing: Definitions

Proofreading: The correction of errors in, or modification of, grammar, spelling, and syntax.

Editing: The revision of existing written material, consisting of the following:

Deletion of material. Rearrangement of material into a different order. Substitution of words, or rephrasing, for purposes of clarity, tone, style, or structure. Insertion of words or sentences for purposes of continuity.

Writing: The production of new material, whether of sentences, paragraphs, sections, or chapters. Writing implies the addition of new content, or such revisions of old content that are substantive to such a degree that they require the complete replacement of old content.

The above definitions will always be subject to free and open debate in particular cases.

2. All writing will be done by the authors upon the Literature Committee's request, and within time parameters determined by the Literature Committee.

The authors will provide regular progress reports to the Literature Committee and Board on any new writing that is needed.

3. Proofreading and editing changes will be implemented by two members of the Literature Committee, who will be elected by the Literature Committee.

The original electronic copies will be preserved, and all proofreading and editing changes will be made in duplicates of those copies, so that the original versions of the drafts will always be available for review.

4. Material from both the first and second drafts can be used. Material from these drafts can be combined, collated etc. to produce a proposed editing change.

When material from the first draft is used, its source will be attributed, so as to facilitate review by all participants.

5. At least one more retreat will be held by the Literature Committee, to which the authors will be invited. This retreat is for the purpose of determining the desired structure, style, and content of the book. The information gained from both retreats, documented in writing, is to form the basis for all proposed editing changes.

6. Decision making at the retreats, and in the reviews of all editing changes, should follow a principle of consensus, i.e. those on the Literature Committee who have serious objections to any proposal need to be heard and their objections seriously discussed and considered so that these members can at least "live with" the result.

7. In addition to any retreats, the authors will be invited to participate in any teleconferences or portions of teleconferences devoted to the book.

The committee will make every effort to ensure that any and all suggestions, views, concerns and objections from the authors will be heard, seriously

discussed, and considered in its deliberations concerning editing changes.

8. All proposed editing changes will be progressively submitted, once a month, to the Literature Committee and the authors for review and input, to be amended through discussion by all, and tentatively approved through consensus by the Literature Committee, as stated in no. 6 above.

A secure web site will be used to post proposed editing changes.

9. A progress report, along with all editing changes that have been tentatively approved, will be submitted to the Board once a month.

The progress reports will be written by the two Literature Committee members in charge of implementing editing changes, and submitted to the Literature Committee as a whole for approval before being submitted to the Board. The same secure web site as in no. 8 can be used for this purpose.

10. The Stories subcommittee of the Literature Committee will continue to supervise the editing of personal stories. All edited stories will be submitted to the Literature Committee and the authors for review.

Correction Note

It was brought to our attention that in the last issue, there was a mistake in the 12th step, listed under “How to Submit a PBR article.” The 12th step states, “as the result of these steps,” not “as a result of these steps.” Our apologies for this oversight. The little articles do make a difference.



Good News!! More Spanish Literature!!!

We now have three of our pamphlets translated into Spanish. We already had *Sexo Adictos Anónimos (Sex Addicts Anonymous)*. Now we have *Los Tres Círculos (Three Circles)* and *Para Comenzar en Sexo Adictos Anónimos (Getting Started in Sex Addicts Anonymous)*.

New Volume Discount On SAA Outreach Pamphlet

At its meeting on November 9, the ISO Board approved a new volume discount on the outreach edition of the *Sex Addicts Anonymous* pamphlet that is widely used within the fellowship as an outreach tool.

The pamphlet that normally sells for twenty cents will now be sold by the ISO Office at cost plus shipping and handling when ordered by registered groups or intergroups in quantities of 500 or more.

The Bloomington, IN, Hope & Recovery meetings, when they needed a large quantity of the pamphlets to be used in their outreach program, initially suggested the new discount

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** on the right. 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 assigns 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 claim by myself or my successors.

SIGNED: _____ **DATE:** _____

WITNESS: _____ **DATE:** _____

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Sex Addict Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share experience, strength and hope with each other so that we may stop our compulsive sexual behavior and help others to recover from sexual addiction and dependency.

Membership is open to all who share a desire to stop compulsive sexual behavior and are willing to follow this simple program.

Our program is based on the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous, but we are not affiliated with A.A. or any other organization or agency.

We are not a religious organization or aligned with any sect or denomination.

Region **Board Members** **Board Alternate** **Literature Committee** **Lit. Com. Alternate**

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Inter-Mountain	Shelly K	Jeanette W.	Chris D. <i>Chair</i>	Chris D.
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North Pacific	Frank B.	Joel D.	John H.	Tom B.
South Central	Judy N.	Darryl H.	Greg G.	Nate G.
South East	Francie E.	Michelle D.	Joe T.	Don C.
South Pacific	Ed B.	Larry O.	Thom C.	
At Large	Penny K. <i>Treasurer</i>		Mike L. <i>(PBR Editor)</i> <i>Secretary</i>	