

## What's the Difference?

### A Primer on Service Entities Related to Women in SAA

You may have heard about the recently formed SAA Women's Intergroup. You may have wondered if it replaces the Women's Outreach Committee (in existence since 2003). Answer: No, it doesn't. But then, why do we need both? If I'm interested in supporting women in the SAA fellowship, which one should I join? Can I join both? Where do I find out more? We hope that the basic explanation and handy chart below will be helpful in answering these questions and many more.

*The bottom line:* There are **two distinct service entities** that support women's full participation in the SAA fellowship. Both are open to SAA members (only) with no gender requirement. **Members can join either or both.**

The *essential difference between them* is that the WOC is an ISO Board committee, formed by the ISO Board, and therefore part of the ISO of SAA corporation. In contrast, the Women's Intergroup is an autonomous intergroup. Here is a brief description of each.

The **Women's Outreach Committee (WOC)** was suggested in 2003 by a woman member of the ISO Board of Trustees, and formed as a Board committee. Their primary purpose is to support the (woman) sex addict who still suffers. Their mission statement is four-fold: to reach out to all women who desire to stop addictive sexual behavior; to assist these women in connecting with other SAA women; to provide a safe place for women to reach out to other women for support and sponsorship; and to give women a voice in the SAA fellowship.

Some of their continuing activities are to:

- produce the "Dear Grace" column in *The Outer Circle*
- maintain the Women's Outreach List (sometimes known as "the Grace list")
- coordinate the Women's Outreach room at each ISO convention
- serve as content expert for the women's pages on the ISO website
- facilitate sharing of ESH with other ISO committees, such as the General Outreach Committee
- coordinate ways for the ISO to hear women's voices, such as panel discussions and workshops at each ISO convention, and the continuing series of teleconferences on "Women in the Fellowship: What's working; what's not working."

Past activities have also included writing pamphlets for women in SAA. We have the WOC to thank for the pamphlets: *Welcome to the Woman Newcomer* and *Safe and Sober Meetings*. The WOC also sponsored five women-only retreats in the years 2011 – 2017. (Note: hosting women-only retreats is a function the WOC recently transferred to the new Women's intergroup.)

The **SAA Women's Intergroup (WIG)** was formed when six SAA members met in April, 2018, having received encouragement from the WOC. They immediately registered their intergroup with the ISO and announced its formation. Their primary purpose is to support the (woman) sex addict who still suffers. They anticipate their primary activities will be to lead or assist in developing, funding and encouraging retreats, workshops, and other events, activities and initiatives, as well as supporting individual women members at these events or through these initiatives. In doing so, the Intergroup may partner with the

ISO (especially the Women’s Outreach Committee) and various other groups, intergroups, committees, and Areas.

The SAA Women’s Intergroup is brand new. They intend to register as a 501(c)(3) corporation and are currently writing Bylaws to support their mission. As an autonomous entity, they can engage in fund-raising and maintain their own bank account.

Here’s the information above in handy chart form.

	<b>Women’s Outreach Committee (WOC)</b>	<b>SAA Women’s Intergroup</b>
<b>Formed? When By Whom</b>	May, 2003 The ISO Board of Trustees	April, 2018 Six individual SAA members
<b>Autonomous?</b>	No, part of the ISO of SAA corporation and reporting to the ISO Board of Trustees	Yes. Responsible directly to the members and member groups who join the Intergroup.
<b>Who can serve?</b>	Any SAA member	Any SAA member
<b>Primary Purpose?</b>	To support the (woman) sex addict who still suffers.	To support the (woman) sex addict who still suffers.
<b>When do they meet?</b>	Monthly on the second Saturday at 10:00 a.m. CST	Monthly on the fourth Thursday at 8:00 pm CST (except for Thanksgiving Day, a US holiday)
<b>Contact for more info?</b>	<a href="mailto:Genoutreach.woc.chair@saa-recovery.org">Genoutreach.woc.chair@saa-recovery.org</a>  ISO of SAA, Inc. PO Box 70949 Houston, TX 77270	<a href="mailto:saawomensig@gmail.com">saawomensig@gmail.com</a>  checks made out to SAA Women's Intergroup can be sent to PO BOX 2901 ISSAQUAH, WA 98027