

September 2017

www.slaanei.org

(617) 625-7961

NEI NEWSLETTER



New England Intergroup of S.L.A.A.

"We had to keep in mind that very important difference between leveling with someone and simply 'leveling' someone,"

-S.L.A.A. Basic Text, Step 9, p. 94

NEI-Sponsored Events 2017

September 2017

- 8-10 Anorexia Focused
12-Step Retreat
Chester, VT
- 10 NEI Monthly Mtg @ 5pm*
- 16 Fall Walk & Meeting
Ravenswood Park
Gloucester, MA
- 29-Oct 1 12-Step Retreat
Chester, VT

October 2017

- 15 NEI Monthly Mtg @ 5pm*

November 2017

- 4 Fall Recovery Gathering
Newton, MA
- 19 NEI Monthly Mtg @ 5 pm*

To confirm date, time or note any changes to any of the events above, please call NEI at (617) 625-7961 or visit www.slaanei.org

*NEI Monthly Meeting

Join in! You can participate by phone by calling the conference line at (712) 432-6100 and then entering participant code 74128638#

S.L.A.A. Inspiration Line (215) 574-2120 Your 24/7 Sponsor

Check out this recorded message of experience, strength and hope. At the end of the share (that is changed almost daily) you have the chance to leave comments or get current. Great for the drive to work or anytime you need positive program connection!

S.L.A.A. Fellowship-Wide Services Newsletter Available

Read past issues or subscribe online by visiting:

<https://slaafws.org/fwsnews-previous>

July 2017 Annual Business Meeting Update

by Seth S., NEI Delegate

The Annual Business Meeting (ABM) of the Augustine Fellowship (S.L.A.A.) was held July 25-28, 2017 in Framingham, MA, at the Sheraton Tara Hotel. This meeting is held each year by the fellowship to conduct the business of S.L.A.A. and to further the tools and means of recovery for the addict who still suffers.

The New England Intergroup (NEI) hosted this year's event that included, among other logistical support, providing refreshments and staffing the Hospitality Suite for the duration of the conference so delegates could have a safe and social space to relax and recharge. Another highlight was the bus trip to the original Newton Founder's Meeting on Tuesday night. The Founder's Meeting is the very first meeting of the S.L.A.A. Fellowship and still takes place in the same living room of the Grace Episcopal Church in Newton Center. To accommodate the large number of ABM attendees, the Tuesday meeting took place in the church's main hall instead of the cozier living room. The format of the meeting allowed for open sharing and a number of ABM delegates chose to speak, often identifying where they were from in the United States as well as from around the world.

Delegates are selected by their individual intergroups to represent their intergroup in the items discussed and voted on at the ABM. These items may include various proposals to add to the conference-approved literature and/or to amend the by-laws of the Fellowship. During the ABM there were also presentations about the health of the finances of the Fellowship on a national basis.

The ABM also selected and elected members to the Board of Trustees and one member from Poland was elected to sit on the Board. This is truly an international fellowship and S.L.A.A. appeals to suffering addicts all around the globe.

Next year the ABM will be held in San Antonio, TX, the headquarters of S.L.A.A.'s Fellowship Wide Services. For more information, or to read the minutes from this year's ABM, visit: slaafws.org.

Last Fiscal Year was a Healthy One for NEI

by Michael

Our 7th tradition states that every S.L.A.A. group should be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions. The NEI continues to follow this tradition. Last year was a very busy year for NEI, hosting both the FWS Annual Business Meeting and the International Recovery Convention in Boston in July 2016. Although there were significant expenses incurred by NEI to put on these meetings, contributions by individuals to support our hosting, plus the sale of convention merchandise, more than covered expenses and led to a one-time net income of \$4,582.55.

In the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2017, NEI received a total of \$3,878.42 in 7th Tradition contributions. In addition, NEI hosted six weekend retreats: five in Vermont and one in Massachusetts, plus the Spring Gathering and several other activities. Operations, which include running the 24/7 answering service, postage, rent, supplies, and the telephone line, ran \$3,676.70 for the year.

A particularly bright aspect of NEI finances last year was the successful drive to increase availability of scholarships to the 12-step weekend retreats. Offering scholarships to all six retreats cost NEI a little over \$900. Total contributions to the scholarship fund last year were over \$1,700, which allows NEI to continue to offer scholarships this year to retreat attendees who otherwise couldn't go.

Overall revenues for the year totaled \$37,210.55. Expenses for the year were \$30,172.20, and net income was \$7,309.08. This income took the bank account for NEI to a healthy balance of \$11,085.96 as of the end of June. Part of the net income from last year was used this summer, as NEI again hosted the FWS Annual Business Meeting (see above article) in July. The remainder will be used to maintain a financial cushion that meets the recommended level for a non-profit organization of at least four months of operating expenses.

Does your group need S.L.A.A. Basic Texts, pamphlets or chips?

Local S.L.A.A. meetings in Eastern MA and Rhode Island are encouraged to order their S.L.A.A. literature through New England Intergroup (NEI). To save on shipping and handling, simply fill out the order form found at the NEI website:

www.slaanei.org/intergroup/ordering-literature/

Email an order to:

literature@slaanei.org.

Alternatively, orders may be mailed to our P.O. Box and picked up at the next NEI business meeting as long as it's ordered three weeks in advance. Finally, you can place your order through Fellowship Wide Services at store.slaafws.org or call (210) 828-7900.

Contact us at mailinglist@slaanei.org to be added to the NEI emailing list. Thank you.

Opportunities To Get Involved

Please feel free to come to the NEI business meetings to see what's happening. This is your fellowship and all are welcome to participate.

The next NEI business meeting is Sunday, September 10, 2017 from 5-7 PM at Newton-Wellesley Hospital, Room AR 100 in the Allen-Riddle Building, the small brick building located adjacent to the main hospital. Can't make it in person? No problem! Join us by phone calling:

Conference Call-in Number
(712) 432-6100
Enter Participant Code:
74128638#

Telephone and Online Meetings

There are those of us who are in isolated locations, have children or elders to care for, or are otherwise unable to get to meetings. Consider online and telephone meetings that take place every day of the week at varied times throughout the day. The full list can be found at:

<https://slaafws.org/meetings/>

STEP & TRADITION OF THE MONTH

STEP 9: Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

TRADITION 9: S.L.A.A. as such ought never to be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

Step 9: Making Amends

by Lisa

My sponsor has taught me that making amends is not only about apologizing for the harm I have done, but also making a commitment to changing my behavior – with that person and others in the manner in which I did harm. Am I willing to make a commitment to my Higher Power like I did in Steps 6 and 7 and let go of those defects of character which harmed others?

Some of the questions my sponsor asks me to write about when deciding to make a 9th step amend are the following:

1. Why are they on my amends list?
2. What are my intentions/motives? Are my intentions wise?
3. What do I hope to accomplish?
4. What are my fears/concerns?
5. If I'm making a direct amends, can I work through my fear and let go of the results?
6. Do I have any expectations?
7. Is making an amends in the best interest of the person that was harmed? Will making amends cause more harm?
8. What kind of amends do I make?

After I write about these questions, I make a decision about whether the timing is right to make this amend? Am I ready to apologize? Can I let go of the result? Am I ready to commit to change? Then once I make a decision, I wait 24 hours and ask my Higher Power to intervene. I have found that these questions help me guide me as I work through my Step 9 list.



LOCAL MEETING CHANGES

1) FRIDAY MA. CAMBRIDGE, 7 PM (OT, 60 min) Check In, Don't Check Out, Men's Beginner's Meeting. First Parish in Cambridge, 3 Church Street. For questions or more information contact Rob at rob2891@yahoo.com or 617-922-2843 or Mark at connors1967@yahoo.com or (617) 283-9106. ****New temporary meeting location at First Parish in Cambridge while current location is under renovations through the end of September.**

2) SUNDAY, MA. BARNSTABLE, 7 PM (C), Unitarian Church of Barnstable, 3330 Main St (Rte 6A), go through church, to the back and there will be the library where the meeting takes place. **Group starts meeting on 07/16/17****

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL GROUPS:

All changes to the meeting list require an NEI Meeting Registration Form to be completed. This applies to any time, date, place or address changes as well meeting name changes and contact changes. Please submit updates online at slaanei.org/meetings/register-or-update-meeting/