

## **- SLAA INTER-GROUP (SYDNEY) MEETING MINUTES -**

12MD on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2008 – Crypt, Bondi Junction.

### **1. OPEN WITH SERENITY PRAYER -**

God grant us the serenity,  
To accept the things we can not change,  
Courage to change the things we can,  
And wisdom to know the difference.

### **2. PRESENT - INTRODUCTION / IDENTIFICATIONS**

Joe – I-G Chair & GR Friday night meeting  
Peter H - I-Group secretary  
Jess - GR Monday, The Rocks  
Peter D – Treasurer & relief Web Co-ordinator  
Dean - Tues 10am GR

Apologies - Virginia – meetings list.  
Ivette -

### **3. READ TRADITIONS – done**

**4. CONFIRM MEETING MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING - ACCEPT / AMEND (Our March 06 Inter-Group moved that we do not re-read previous meeting minutes in Inter-Group). CONFIRMED – motions moved by – Peter D. Seconded by – Peter H.**

### **5. CALL FOR NEW BUSINESS?**

Nine proposals by Peter D (Treasurer/Relieving Website Coordinator)-

1. That the accounts for payment listed in the Treasurer's Report be authorised for payment.

Seconded by - Jess - carried

2. That the annual financial statements be received (I circulated these last month).

Seconded by – Dean - carried

3. That Sydney Intergroup should endeavour to maintain a prudent reserve (excluding its investment in literature) totalling six months' operating expenses (excluding literature purchases and abnormal expenditure). Given the annual payment of insurance premium, the state of the reserve and any donations to FWS should be determined annually immediately after payment of the premium.

Seconded by – Peter H - carried

4. Appointment of Web Site Co-ordinator. – Not filled – resolved that GR's take this back to your meetings, need three months sobriety, basic PC skills. Melbourne are aware and Peter D will place the vacancy on the web site

5. That the web site FAQ content be approved. Seconded by– Dean and carried

6. That the web site content protocol be adopted. Seconded by – Jess & carried

7. That the standard Intergroup agenda be restructured as follows:

- all reports be taken as read;

- agenda items be limited to matters requiring decision (plus ID, reading of traditions and approval of minutes);

- to facilitate the above, the Secretary call for reports and agenda items a week before the meeting and circulate those received 2 days before the meeting. Seconded by – Joe & carried

8. Do we want to stage a recovery retreat this year similar to those common in America (there are a number of examples at <http://www.slaafws.org/node/14>)?

Seconded by – Jess & 4 to & 1 dissenting.

Joe moved a motion – GR's to take back to meetings the notion of possibility of retreats, workshops & other suggestions and report back. – carried.

9. Approval of an invitation to provide a story of experience, hope and strength for our Australian web site. Seconded by – Dean – carried.

**6. BUSINESS ARISING – Nil.**

**7. GENERAL BUSINESS -**

**- REPORTS:                    Group Representatives                    -**

**Mond** – The Rocks – Jessica – numbers 15 – 30, regulars, \$80 donation, healthy and all positions filled.

**Tues** – Potts Point – Dean – getting along steadily, \$80 donation handed to Peter D now, no positions filled and is done on a temporary style and it works that way, and has done so for some time; numbers vary from 4 to 15.

**Tues** - Mens Kings Cross – Nil report.

**Tues** - Glebe Women's – Nil report.

**Wed** - Erskineville – Matina – not present & no report.

**Wed** – Waverley – nil report.

**Thur** – B' Junction – Sue S – not present and no report.

**Frid** - Waverley – Joe – present – numbers average 35, all service positions filled, healthy lively meetings with dinner afterwards & attracting newcomers. Paid two weeks in advance. \$100 donation to intergroup now.

**Sat** - 10am – Jen – not present – nil report.

**Sat** – Newtown – Mel – not present – nil report.

**Sun** – Waverley - Sophie – not present – nil report.

#### **Inter Group Positions -**

**Chair** – Joe - I have been doing my home work and taken the agenda items from Peter D and Peter H and have assistance from previous Chair Shareen.

**Secretary** - Peter H –

It has been quiet for me this month – GR's please email in clearly written reports that can be copied and pasted including meeting numbers/average numbers in attendance; positions filled/vacant; issue/s brought up at group conscience for discussion at I-G.

**Literature** – Mel – nil report.

**Treasurer** - Peter D – written report copied & reduced –

**SLAA SYDNEY INTERGROUP  
2007 INCOME & EXPENDITURE**

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
<b>Income</b>		
Branch donations:		
Sunday Waverley	230	875
Sunday Dee Why	-	243
Monday Rocks	575	375
Tuesday am Kings Cross	85	225
Tuesday Womens	213	290
Wednesday Erskineville	150	-
Wednesday Waverley	250	-
Thursday Bondi <sup>(1)</sup>	187	382
Friday Waverley <sup>(2)</sup>	626	670
Saturday Randwick	-	200
Saturday Bondi	300	150
Saturday Newtown	100	-
Adelaide	215	-
Bulli	-	55
Canberra	114	-
	<u>3,045</u>	<u>3,465</u>
Fundraising for delegate expenses US ABM	-	1,387
Fundraising for insurance	-	1,550
Convention net income:		
Raffle for delegate expenses US ABM	-	117
Literature sales	-	479
Other	452	409
Melbourne Intergroup contribution to web site costs	55	-
Literature surplus	52	-
Other	110	39
	<u>3,714</u>	<u>7,446</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Delegate expenses US ABM	-	1,368
FWS rep expenses	-	35
Insurance	2,464	2,218
Literature	-	866
P O Box	180	131
Photocopying	18	64
Telephone	475	711
Web site	105	-
	<u>3,242</u>	<u>5,393</u>
<b>Surplus</b>	<u>472</u>	<u>2,053</u>
<b>2007 BALANCE SHEET</b>		
Cash on hand & at bank	3,578	2,733
Sundry debtors		523
Sundry creditors	(257)	(407)
<b>Accumulated funds</b>	<u>3,321</u>	<u>2,849</u>

**Note: These financial statement exclude the organisation's literature operations.**

(1) 2007 excludes \$20 dedicated to FWS.

(2) 2007 excludes \$54 dedicated to FWS.

**SLAA INTERGROUP MEETING  
9 FEBRUARY 2008  
TREASURER'S REPORT**

**1. Financial Report**

Balance last reported 10 January 2007	\$3,578
Donation Waverley Sunday night	<u>67</u>
Balance as of 2 February 2008	\$3,645
Less unpaid accounts:	
Phoneline costs	-165
Branch donations due to FWS	-74
Due to literature fund	<u>-60</u>
Available cash as of 2 February 2008	<u>\$3,346</u>

*Recommended:* That the accounts for payment listed above be authorised for payment.

**2. Insurance Renewal**

Our public liability insurance expires on 28 March 2008 and must be renewed before then. I have had no Sydney responses to my call for group representatives to advise by 31 January the following details for your meeting:

- average weekly revenue (exclude literature sales);
- average weekly attendance.

Would GRs please attend to this as a matter of urgency? Thank you.

**3. Annual Financial Statements**

These have been circulated.

*Recommended:* That the annual financial statements be received.

**4. Prudent Reserve Policy**

A prudent reserve is a financial reserve which can be drawn upon in the event of unforeseen circumstances. AA type organisations are subject to volatile revenues and like any organisation may face sudden increases in costs, hence the need for a prudent reserve.

Other "A" groups have prudent reserve policies which seek to maintain reserves as follows:

SLAA FWS	total of 14 months operating expenses
AA GSO	reserves have ranged from eight to 12 months in recent years
AA recommendation for central offices & intergroups	one to 12 months' operating expense, depending on local needs

In our case our significant expense by far is our annual insurance premium. Last year's premium of \$2,464 accounted for 76% of total expenditure of \$3,242. Our next most significant expense is phoneline costs of about \$43 per month.

Our revenue is relatively steady, so I don't think we need a prudent reserve at the upper end of the recommended range. However, our insurance premium is paid annually, and insurance premiums can be quite volatile at times. Our prudent reserve policy should reflect these facts.

*Recommended:* That Sydney Intergroup should endeavour to maintain a prudent reserve (excluding its investment in literature) totalling six months' operating expenses (excluding literature purchases and abnormal expenditure). Given the annual payment of insurance premium, the state of the reserve and any donations to FWS should be determined annually immediately after payment of the premium.

Assuming no increase in insurance premium this year, the required reserve at 31 March 2008 would be about \$1,600.

Peter D 3 February 2008

**Meetings List Coordinator – Virginia** – I send my apologies for intergroup this Saturday. I am sending out an updated Feb. meetings list with a new meeting starting up at Erina on the central coast.

thanks and cheers – Virginia 06.02.08

**Telephone Coordinator -**

Matina – not present/no report last meeting (Jan08). Secretary to follow up as it is important that we have good communication and the recorded message is up to date.

**International Representative –**

Melinda – not present – no report sent in.

**Mail Box Report –** Virginia holds the key – Peter D is managing this and is okay.

**Web Site Coordinator –** position is vacant, Peter D (relieving) copied/pasted -

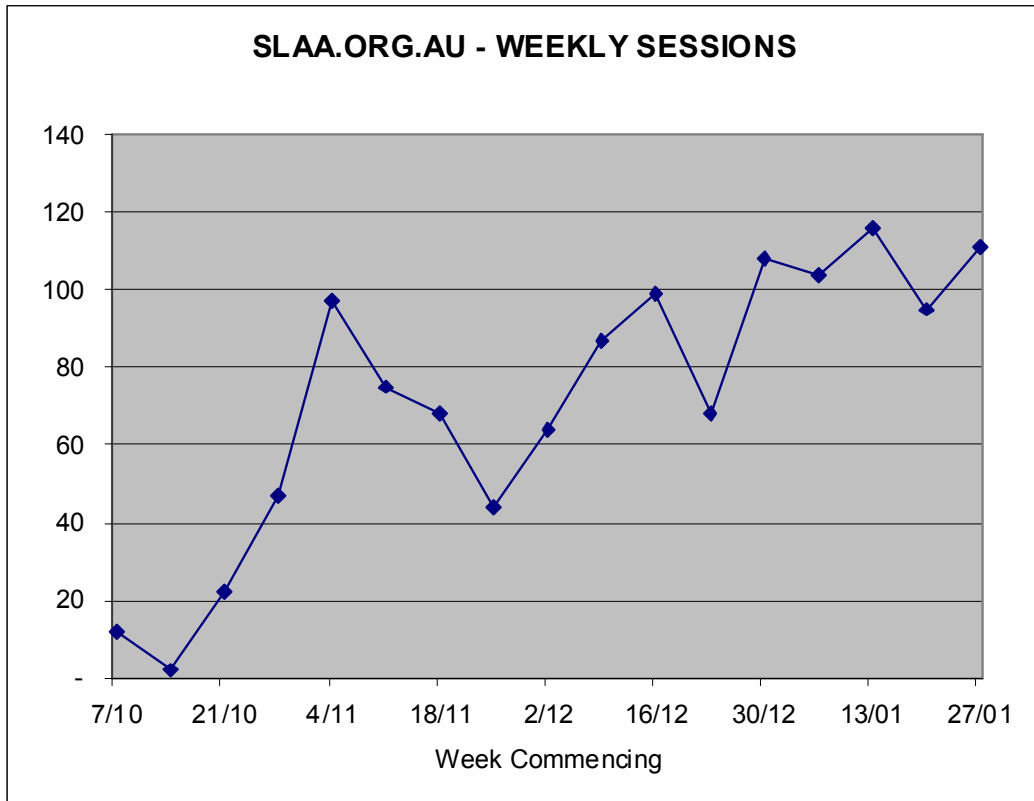
SLAA INTERGROUP MEETING                      9 FEBRUARY 2008                      WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT REPORT

**1. New Web Site Co-ordinator**

We are still looking for a web site co-ordinator..

**2. Site Performance**

Traffic continues to increase, with weekly sessions increasing from 85 for December 2007 to 107 in January 2008:



A "session" is defined as a series of clicks on the site by an individual visitor during a specific period of time. A session is initiated when the visitor arrives at the site, and it ends when the browser is closed or there is a period of inactivity.

Search engines continue to refer about 20% of visitors and FWS about 12%:

Sessions				
Month	Search	FWS	Other	Totals
Oct-07	1	7	46	54
Nov-07	65	42	193	300
Dec-07	67	41	237	345
Jan-08	91	61	338	490

SLAA continues to not rank very highly on a Google Australian search for "sex addict", but comes up on the first page on a search for "love addict".

Unusual item of the month: the visitor from Uruguay (we had one from Brazil too).

### 3. Site Development

I have now written some FAQ for inclusion on the site and this is attached.

**Recommended:** That the web site FAQ content be approved.

### 4. Content Protocol

With the initial development phase complete, I believe we now need to formalise a process for content changes. I've prepared the attached content development protocol which is presented for approval. It reflects the process I followed for development of initial content.

If Sydney Intergroup approves the protocol, we should then send it to Melbourne Intergroup (who have funded half the site cost) for their approval.

I will also start circulating this report to Melbourne Intergroup.

**Recommended:** That the web site content protocol be adopted.

Peter D

3 February 2008

[WWW.SLAA.ORG.AU](http://WWW.SLAA.ORG.AU)  
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The following material is submitted for approval for inclusion on the FAQ page of [www.slaa.org.au](http://www.slaa.org.au). It is inspired by the [FAQ](#) at [www.slaafws.org](http://www.slaafws.org) but is not the same as we do not have copyright permission to quote from that site. It is only meant to cover the basics, with additional FAQ covered by the references given at the end.

**1. *How does anonymity work?***

SLAA is very protective of the anonymity of its members. Accordingly, meetings are normally closed to outsiders and those who are merely curious. At meetings and for all program matters, we only identify ourselves by our first name (and sometimes the initial of our surname, to avoid confusion with others who have the same first name). We also keep confidential the proceedings of meetings and minutes are not kept.

**2. *How much does the program cost?***

There is no charge for SLAA membership or attending meetings. However, a basket will be passed around at a meeting for voluntary contributions to cover meeting costs such as tea and coffee, rent and insurance.

**3. *What happens at meetings?***

Meetings have a variety of formats including guest speaker and steps study. Meetings allow members to share their experience, strength and hope in the program and what's presently happening for them spiritually and emotionally. Australian meetings generally last 1½ hours although there are some 1 hour meetings. You can gain additional understanding of meetings by sampling the [SLAA meeting formats](#) detailed at our international web site. [Link to *Catalogue Of Diverse Meeting Formats* at [www.slaafws.org](http://www.slaafws.org).]

**4. *Do I have to speak at a meeting?***

No, you do not. You may be asked to identify yourself by your first name only.

**5. *What's a Power Greater than Ourselves?***

We in SLAA believe we suffer from an illness which can be alleviated by a spiritual experience. A "Power Greater than Ourselves" is a power by which we can obtain this spiritual experience. If we are religious, this may be our God; if not, it may be as simple as SLAA itself. When we speak of God, we mean the god of your own understanding. SLAA is not a religious program, nor is it associated with any religion (nor with any other organisation at all).

**6. *How long does the program last?***

The program lasts for as long (or as short) as you want. There is no set period.

**7. *How do I become a member?***

SLAA has no formal joining process. A member is any person who identifies as one.

**8. *I went to a meeting but no one was there.***

The meeting may have ceased at that venue. If this happens two weeks in a row, please e-mail our meetings list co-ordinator [link to e-mail address] so that we may remove the meeting from our lists.

**9. *What is the HOW concept?***

HOW stands for honesty, open-minded and willing to listen. The HOW concept is not SLAA endorsed but simply represents what some of us have found to be effective in our struggle with sex and love addiction.

The answers to further frequently asked questions may be found at our [international web site](#) and in [The Beginners Kit](#). [Link to both]

**SLAA AUSTRALIA WEB SITE  
CONTENT PROTOCOL**

1. It is acknowledged that both Sydney & Melbourne Intergroups have approved the initial web site content.
2. The Web Site Co-ordinator (“WSC”) may make the following additions and alterations to the site at his or her discretion:
  - ◆ on the News page, post minutes of Intergroup meetings (both Intergroups have already given approval for this);
  - ◆ on the News page, post announcements as requested;
  - ◆ on the News page, post links to or copies of announcements & other new items posted by Fellowship Wide Services on its web site;
  - ◆ on the Meetings page, make changes advised at Intergroup or to the Meetings List Co-ordinator, provided the relevant meeting’s group conscience has approved its listing on the site;
  - ◆ on the Literature Orders page, changes requested by the Literature Person;
  - ◆ editorial corrections – being minor changes or corrections - as required.
3. Any member of either Intergroup, including the WSC, may recommend to the relevant Intergroup persons to be approached to write for the Stories of Hope and Recovery page. On approval by the relevant Intergroup, it is the responsibility of the WSC to liaise with that person to complete their story. On completion, the WSC may post the story on the web site unless he or she has any concerns, in which case he or she should put the story and those concerns to the relevant Intergroup.
4. Other content changes may not be made without the approval of both Intergroups.

Approved by Sydney Intergroup on xx xxxx 2008.

Approved by Melbourne Intergroup on xx xxxx 2008.

**8. NEW BUSINESS DISCUSSION –**

All nine items in “5” Call for New Business” above discussed and outcomes recorded above.

**9. CLOSE MEETING WITH THE SERENITY PRAYER -**

++++++ MEETING CLOSED AT - 13.28 hrs ++++++

(reminder that group conscience decided that we email in written reports to intergroup secretary prior to IG Meeting.