

March, 2015

[www.slaanei.org](http://www.slaanei.org)

617-625-7961

# NEI NEWSLETTER



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

## S.L.A.A. WILL CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF RECOVERY IN 2016

2016 will mark the 40th Anniversary of S.L.A.A. which started as a New England area meeting in Newton, Massachusetts in 1976. Bids have been requested for hosting the 2016 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) of our Fellowship and are due April 1, 2015.

New England Intergroup is exploring the opportunity to show ABM delegates and members from around the world where S.L.A.A. began. In order to host the ABM and an International Recovery Convention, we would need to submit a proposal that is due April 3. Time is critical to develop the proposal.

Fellowship Wide Services and the Board of Trustees will handle monies and contracts, but a Local Planning Committee needs to be formed to find a site, organize volunteers, support the hospitality suite, help with transportation to and from the airport, help with speakers and the auction fundraiser.

If you are interested in being part of the Local Planning Committee contact New England Intergroup at [abmboston1617@slaanei.org](mailto:abmboston1617@slaanei.org)

"Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself."

— Rumi



**NEI Upcoming Events** NEI is planning some fellowship-building events in the coming months.



### March, 2015

--March 8 – NEI Business Meeting

### April, 2015

--April 12 – NEI Business Meeting.  
--April 25 – NEI Spring Gathering

### May, 2015

--May 3 – NEI Business Meeting



### **1Upcoming Vermont 12-STEP Weekend Retreat Schedule**

March 27-29, 2015  
July 17-19, 2015  
October 2-4, 2015  
December 18-20, 2015

*In Chester, Vermont  
(2 1/2-3 hours from Boston)*

The retreats are not only about sharing experience, strength, and hope, but a chance to have lots of fun and laughs as well! We not only work the Steps, but also provide an opportunity to get to know ourselves, as well as other S&L addicts in a safe place. For more information, visit our retreat web page at [www.slaanei.org/vtweekend.html](http://www.slaanei.org/vtweekend.html)

## NEWSBRIEFS

**\*\*\*NEI SPRING, 2015 GATHERING:** Get Ready for NEI's Annual Spring Recovery Gathering! The Conference is open to anyone who is recovering from sex and/or love addiction or wants to find out more about Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous.

This Spring's Theme: **Sobriety is a Priority**

Saturday, April 25, 2015

8:30 am Registration, 9:00 am – 5:30 pm Keynote speakers / Recovery topic meetings

Andover Newton Theological School, 210 Herrick Rd., Newton Centre, MA 02459  
Conveniently located near Route 9 in Newton, Green Line Riverside D train  
Parking & handicapped accessible.

\$18.00 if paid in advance/\$20.00 at the door—more if you can, less if you can't. No one will be turned away!

### Other Details on the Gathering

Literature will be available for sale and pick-up. NEI needs volunteers to help with registration, literature sales, raffle table coverage, setup, and cleanup. If you would like to help, please write to [activities@slaanei.org](mailto:activities@slaanei.org). Or call 617-625-7961 and leave a message for Peter.

For more information see the flyer with the March mailing or on our website.

**\*\* NEI SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE:** There are opportunities for service at NEI including but not limited to phone service volunteers, group reps and alternative reps. Please inquire to find out how you can share your experience, strength and hope to help yourself and others in this fellowship.

**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). Simply fill out the order form found at the NEI website, <http://www.slaanei.org>. Email an order to [literature@slaanei.org](mailto:literature@slaanei.org). Orders may alternatively be mailed to our P.O. Box and picked up at the next NEI business meeting as long as it's ordered 3 weeks in advance. Or place your order through Fellowship Wide Services at <http://www.slaafws.org> or at 1-210-828-7900.

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**Contact us at [mailinglist@slaanei.org](mailto:mailinglist@slaanei.org) to be added to our emailing list. Thank you.**

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**OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED**

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO COME TO THE NEI BUSINESS MEETINGS TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING. THIS IS YOUR FELLOWSHIP.**

**Our next NEI business meeting is Sunday March 8, 2015 from 5:00PM to 7:00PM.** We invite all S.L.A.A. members to join us **AND PARTICIPATE** at Newton - Wellesley Hospital – Room AR 100 in the Allen-Riddle Building.

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**TELEPHONE AND ONLINE MEETINGS --**

There are those of us who are isolated or otherwise unable to get to meetings. Consider online and telephone meetings. **Attend online and telephone meetings as often as possible.** You will find a list of these at:

**<http://directory.slaafws.org/>.**

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The views expressed in the NEI Newsletter are the opinions of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of New England Intergroup.

**STEP AND TRADITION OF THE MONTH**

**STEP 3:** Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood God.

**TRADITION 3:** The only requirement for S.L.A.A. membership is the desire to stop living out a pattern of sex and love addiction. Any two or more persons gathered together for mutual aid in recovering from sex and love addiction may call themselves an S.L.A.A. group, provided that as a group they have no other affiliation.

**What Tradition Three Means To Me**

The Tradition of the month for March is Tradition three, which states

*The only requirement for S.L.A.A. membership is the desire to stop living out a pattern of sex and love addiction. Any two or more persons gathered together for mutual aid in recovering from sex and love addiction may call themselves an S.L.A.A. group, provided that as a group they have no other affiliation.*

The “only requirement” part of this Tradition is to make S.L.A.A. welcoming to newcomers. No one is required to stay sober for a length of time before joining the fellowship. No one is required to pay to attend meetings. The fellowship, as the Preamble states, “is free to all who need it.” Even though it is a spiritual program, no one is required to belong to any particular religion or even to be religious to be an S.L.A.A. member. We also don't exclude attractive people from our meetings. If someone is attracted to another person at a meeting, they have to learn how to handle it in a sober, respectful way.

This doesn't mean that every individual meeting has to accept everyone. What should a meeting do if a teenage sex addict wants to attend? Some people in the program are legally required to keep away from minors. Allowing teenagers to attend means excluding others. This doesn't mean all meetings must exclude teenagers, either. All meetings are autonomous, so if a minor wishes to attend an S.L.A.A. meeting that meeting must decide for itself how to handle it.

The “affiliation” part of this Tradition aims to keep S.L.A.A. meetings available to everyone. An S.L.A.A. meeting held at a church cannot be exclusive to members of the church. That's another affiliation. You can't have a joint S.L.A.A. and A.A. meeting. Calling it an A.A. meeting is another affiliation and it excludes sex and love addicts who are not also alcoholics. If you get together with friends in recovery to watch football, you can't call that an S.L.A.A. meeting. The primary purpose is not mutual aid in recovery, it's watching football. That's another affiliation.

It's not always clear what another affiliation is, however. There have been meetings that registered as both S.L.A.A. and another S-fellowship, such as Sex Addicts Anonymous (S.A.A.) or Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (S.C.A.). This has happened locally and in other regions too. Does affiliation with another S-fellowship count as a violation of Tradition three? Some people say no because all of these groups share the same recovery goal. Some say yes because another S-group is still another affiliation. The position of the S.L.A.A. Board of Trustees is that affiliation with another S-fellowship is a violation of Tradition three.

David B

**LOCAL MEETING CHANGES**

**SUNDAY RI. WARWICK, 7:30 PM (CD12)** All Saints' Episcopal Church, 111 Greenwich Ave **Meeting Disbanded**

**SUNDAY MA. NEWTON, 8:00 PM (O12,h, NS)** Steps for a Sober Weekend, Newton-Wellesley Hospital, 2014 Washington Street, Allen Riddle Building is a separate brick building to the left of the main hospital. Meeting is open to all sex love and relationship addicts. **As of 01/02/15, room location changes to Allen-Riddle Building - Room 100.**

**MONDAY MA. PROVINCETOWN, 6:30 PM** This meeting is no longer solely S.L.A.A.-affiliated.

**TUESDAY MA. WEYMOUTH, 7:00 PM (CL)** Commitment to Reality. Workbook Meeting. East Weymouth Congregational Church, 1320 Commercial Street. **Needs Support**

**THURSDAY MA. TOPSFIELD, 7:00 PM** This meeting has disbanded as of 01/22/15.

**THURSDAY MA. RANDOLPH, 7:30 PM** This meeting has disbanded as of 01/29/15.

**FRIDAY MA. ORLEANS, 8:00PM (CLDS12, 60 min)** Pause for A While, 26 Giddiah Hill Road. **New meeting**