First SIA World Service Conference
July 25, 26, 27, 2008

As this was the First World Service Conference of SIA, no precedent had been established on how to run the event. The first order of business was to establish a framework for our conference. A motion was made and passed to use Roberts Rules of Order applied lovingly. Roberts Rules of Order are a series of ground-rules commonly used in parliamentary procedures (example: one member makes a motion, another member seconds it, the chair calls for discussion, etc.). We decided to apply Roberts Rules lovingly which could allow for activities such as brain-storming, dialogue, and/or group discussion. This we felt was important so that everyone in the conference could have a voice.

In order to avoid having the conference agenda decided upon by only a small number of SIA members, no agenda items or conference schedule was set in advance (though some suggestions were made prior to). As a group, we opened with a discussion and brainstormed all possible agenda items for the conference. Each member present added to the list those agenda items which she/he felt were most important. Out of the brainstorm, the group narrowed its focus and decided upon the agenda items that it felt were most pressing. A motion was made and passed to give these items an order.

The following is the agenda for the conference as developed by our group conscience:

1) Decide on a Rough Schedule for the Day (i.e. when to break for lunch and dinner)
2) Begin with a Kickoff Speech by Linda D., co-founder of SIA
3) Develop a Mission Statement for the 2008 World Service Conference as well as for the SIA World Service Conference as it moves forward
4) Set the Date for the Next SIA World Service Conference
5) Discuss the role of Technology in SIA especially as it relates to the following areas:
    a) Responding to Crisis within the SIA Fellowship
    b) The Role of Technology in Communication between WSO and SIA Groups
    c) The Possibility of Creating a 'First Response Team' to Aid SIA Groups in Crisis
6) Discuss and Develop a Service Structure for SIA – this discussion would include a review of ideas explored during the 2007 1st International Gathering of SIA as well as consideration of the 12 Concepts of Al-Anon
7) Discuss Changing the Name of SIA

Once the agenda was established, the Conference quickly decided when to break for lunch and dinner and then proceeded to the next items on the agenda (listed numerically).

2) Conference Kickoff Speech by Linda D., co-founder of SIA

Linda: This organization has gone through a hurricane and yet there was an eye, a pocket of us, and I'm looking at them, that could see the true nature of a 12 Tradition, 12 Step, spiritually based, time-honored program, and you never lost the vision for one moment.

This isn't the first hurricane either. There was a time when an Intergroup wanted to take over the World Service Office. This prompted a visit to the Al-anon World Service Office. We learned that most of their complaints were unjustified but some were. We learned, and we changed.

We were almost financially bankrupt owing a few thousand dollars in employment taxes. A man gave us enough to pay the taxes and then some. He'd told his mother, his perpetrator, to never contact him. She sent him a gift. He sold it, donated the money to SIA, and we all exhaled again.

Recently, we've had people trying to take over individual SIA meetings. It's been a horrible, confusing time for many. The sense of betrayal from people we'd known for many, many years is immeasurable. These folks had

walked side-by-side with us promoting the growth of SIA, and now they were trashing the very program they had nurtured and loved.

My stubbornness is my worst character defect and my greatest character asset. Al-Anon and SIA taught me that my opinion is sufficient, that the minority may be right, and that the 12 Traditions are wise and sound. I love them. I never paid enough attention to them before. Now, I appreciate them. They are there for our survival, they direct our paths, they are our boundaries, and they work. They ground us.

Everybody that's comfortable, please close your eyes -

Please use your imagination: Picture all of the people that are alive because of our collective efforts. They didn't die from suicide, drugs, alcohol, food etc. Picture the stadiums full, the beaches crowded….. the thousands of people that lived a life without depression, anxiety, or sexual problems. They know freedom. They have goals, and they pursue them until complete. They are unafraid of love and intimacy and child rearing. They're comfortable in their own bodies. The live the life they dream.

Now, picture all of the children that were NOT abused because of our collective efforts. SIA helped their parent's get strong and healthy. They were protected. They did not know the loneliness, heavy shame and incredible sadness that we have known.
Their home was a safe haven for them. They were comfortable, loved and warm.

Thank you, please open your eyes.

We have changed the surface of this planet. There are 253 years of recovery in this room today!

There are children will not ever say, "I thought I was the only one."

This generation is the first generation to talk openly about this subject. We broke open the cages of silence, ignorance and denial. And we've only scratched the surface. So much more needs to be done - with individuals, groups, intergroups.

Lee and Lisa, co-founders of SIA, have happily agreed to join the board again. We have 3 new board members: Becky PA, Elias NY, Axie ME

*I am excited. I haven't been gung-ho for a while. Thank you. Thank you for coming. For showing your support. I'm feeling your enthusiasm. SIA isn't **MY** program, it's not yours. It's a loving Higher Power's program who designed it and has provided the power to keep it alive. With the help of a loving HP, will you join my voice and we'll become a chorus.*

A brief history of SIA was also provided but due to space limitations, has been deleted.

3) Develop a Mission Statement for the 2008 World Service Conference as well as for the SIA World Service Conference as it moves forward.

Each member present shared her/his personal reasons for attending the 2008 World Service Conference. Out of this list, the group worked to develop a cohesive mission statement for the Conference as an SIA service body as well as for the 2008 World Service Conference we were attending. The group worked quite a while on the development of a mission statement but due to time limitations the group voted to adopt a working draft of the Mission Statement in order to allow time for other items on the agenda.

The following is the Working Draft of the Mission Statement for the World Service Conference as it moves forward. This draft includes four suggestions for the final sentence in the statement.

We gather in service with the intention to hear from individuals, groups, intergroups and committees as to progress, problems, and visions for the next year, to insure the integrity, commitment, continuity, growth, and accountability to the mission, steps, traditions, and concepts of SIA as a whole.

> *1) Let the hand of SIA always be there to carry the message of hope to the survivor who still suffers.*
> *2) In this way, we continue to bring hope and support to the newcomer.*
> *3) So as to better carry the message of hope, courage and provide support for the survivor who still suffers.*
> *4) Share our hope, strength and courage with the survivor who still suffers*

> The group decided that the Mission of the 2008 SIA World Service Conference was to protect the integrity of SIA.

4) Set the Date for the Next SIA World Service Conference

> *A motion was made and passed to hold the next SIA World Service Conference the last weekend of July 2009 in Maryland.*

5) Discuss the role of Technology in SIA especially as it relates to the following areas:
   ### a) Responding to Crisis within the SIA Fellowship
   ### b) The Role of Technology in Communication Between WSO and Groups
   ### c) The Creation of a 'First Response Team' to Aid SIA Groups in Crisis

The following are some points of discussion raised by members of the Conference in relation to this agenda topic. The inclusion of these points of discussion does not imply that the Conference endorses any of the opinions raised in the discussion below. The discussion is included here to better help those SIA members not present at the Conference to understand some of the discussion raised leading up to the motions listed below:

✓ The recent start up of an "outside group" by SIA members caused confusion among many SIA members as to which groups were still part of SIA. One source of confusion was that the SIA message was being mixed in with the outside program's message.
✓ It was suggested that there is a need to contact registered SIA groups to confirm if they are still active and still identify as SIA.
✓ A worker at the SIA World Service Office informed the Conference that WSO already contacts SIA groups regularly but many group contacts registered with WSO are not still active members of the group. As a result, WSO has no means to contact the group and/or confirm if it is still actively meeting.
✓ A suggestion was made that it might be helpful if individual SIA groups have an email address and account operated by the group to ensure that not just one member is the email contact for any group.
✓ It was suggested that SIA could organize quarterly conference call meetings at which intergroups and/or SIA groups could check in with WSO and discuss issues that might arise. These conference calls could also help SIA to continue business began at the World Service Conference and to help reps and/or committee members to carry out SIA related projects.

A motion was made and passed (after some amendments), to create a committee to help individual groups set up their own email accounts and/or provide an email address to SIA groups. Due to technical considerations, a committee was formed to research this possibility and its implications.

Note: Any SIA member may volunteer for any committee referred to in these minutes. Contact World Service if you are interested in joining a committee.

The following are some additional points of discussion which were raised as to the possible advantages/disadvantages to suggesting that groups obtain email addresses as well as discussion of technical considerations for the email committee (created above) to consider:

✓ It is possible for any member of an SIA group to have the emails which were sent to the group's email address forwarded to the individual member's private email account. This would ensure that more than one member would receive a copy the SIA group's email messages.

✓ SIA members will need to know why the conference is suggesting that their group set up an email account that multiple members can access. (The most important reason for this suggestion is to ensure that individual SIA groups remain in contact with WSO so that World Service can verify that the group is still actively meeting).

✓ There is the possibility of grandfathering in groups that already have web addresses and/or email accounts so that they don't need to set up a new account.

✓ It was suggested that that groups who are concerned about privacy might be more comfortable with being assigned an email account by SIA than setting up their own account. This would require SIA to provide groups with an email address and account.

✓ The question was raised: How will the SIA groups know that their email addresses and accounts are going to be protected? The Conference suggested to that it would like the committee to consider the importance of protecting SIA members' and groups' privacy.

Result: A committee was formed to look into the matter of helping groups set up group email accounts. Julie K.(chair), Delyn H., Cynthia R., Linda D, Lynn B., and Farhad volunteered to be on this committee.

Note: Any SIA member may volunteer for any committee referred to in these minutes. See sign up sheet which is included in this mailing.

A *motion was made and passed to include the following statement in the minutes of the Conference:*

In response to concerns expressed by SIA groups and intergroups, the Conference asks the Board of Trustees to consider its legal responsibilities regarding activities by outside groups within SIA meetings, functions, and information systems.

The Conference then voted to publish in our minutes the following statement to SIA members and groups:

We would like to acknowledge the courage, strength, and tenacity of SIA members who have guarded and upheld SIA traditions in order to keep SIA alive and well in their areas.

Further discussion related to the 5th item on the agenda (Discussion in no way implies that the Conference as a whole endorses any of the following statements):

✓ Tradition 10 states "We have no opinion on outside issues; hence the SIA name ought never been drawn into outside controversy."

✓ Some members voiced that although they didn't want to deny that the recent actions of this 'outside group' did some damage to the fellowship of SIA, that rather than focusing on those events it would be better to focus on spreading the message of SIA.

✓ It was suggested that a pamphlet be created to give information to SIA groups on how to handle situations that threaten the unity of the group or of SIA as a whole.

✓ It was noted by the Conference that the SIA Board of Trustees is responsible for legal issues and financial issues related to the fellowship as well as and guarding the traditions of SIA.

Motion was made and passed to create service position to coordinate phone bridge meetings between groups or group liaisons, intergroups, and WSO to foster communications-- Jeff R. and Cathy R. volunteered to work on this project.

Motion was made and passed to hold the Conference accountable to create systems of support for groups (example: literature, liaisons) to help maintain SIA unity.

6) Discuss and Develop a Service Structure for SIA – this discussion would include a review of ideas explored during the 2007 1st International Gathering of SIA as well as consideration of the 12 Concepts of Al-Anon

Discussion:

✓ The Conference began discussion of agenda item 6 by reviewing the service structures of other 12 step fellowships. We compared SIA's current service structure with service structures in other fellowships.

✓ It was suggested that as We (the Conference and SIA as a whole) begin to develop and expand SIA's service structure, that we start with concept that SIA groups need to have ultimate say about what happens in SIA. In other words – the service structure must reflect the authority of SIA groups over matters pertaining to SIA as a whole, not WSO or the World Service Conference.

✓ It was noted that SIA needs a better structure to get information out and hear back from SIA groups.

✓ It was noted that according to the current structure of SIA, it is each SIA **group** that gets a vote on matters pertaining to SIA as a whole, not individual members or intergroups.

After the discussion, the Conference decided to diagram the service structure in SIA as it currently operates. We did this to get a better picture of how things currently operate in SIA. The Conference felt that before trying to brainstorm on how SIA's service structure might be improved or expanded, we needed to see more accurately how SIA's service structure currently functions.
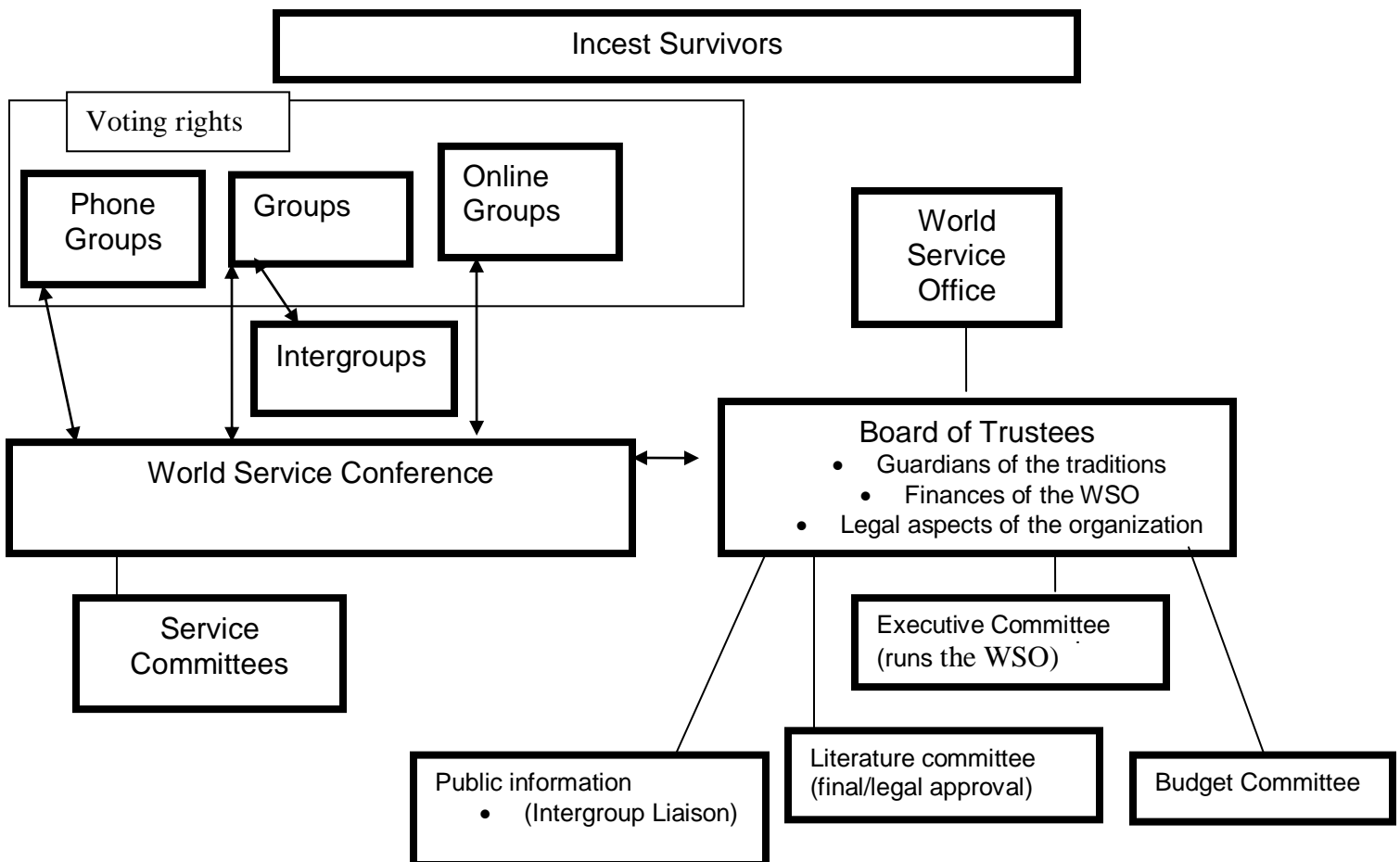
☐ The following motion was made and passed:

Motion: In a previous survey, groups decided that each group gets one vote on any matter pertaining to SIA as a whole.

We recognize the current Service Structure of SIA, as pictured below, is accurate, but not ideal, and are working towards forming a more complete structure in order to carry out SIA's mission.

Below is the diagram that the Conference developed depicting the current service structure in SIA:

Current Service Structure

Incest Survivors

Voting rights

Phone Groups

Groups

Online Groups

Intergroups

World Service Office

World Service Conference

Board of Trustees
- Guardians of the traditions
- Finances of the WSO
- Legal aspects of the organization

Service Committees

Executive Committee (runs the WSO)

Public information
- (Intergroup Liaison)

Literature committee (final/legal approval)

Budget Committee

Upon review of the service structure, a motion was made and passed to create five service committees: Outreach, Finance, Literature, Conference Bylaws, and Conference Planning

Discussion:

☐ The first three committees (Literature, Finance, and Outreach) are needed in order to

1. Get the word out to all that SIA exists so more newcomers can find out about SIA
2. Let groups know that WSO and the Conference are there to support them
3. Create and edit new literature for SIA
4. Disseminate SIA literature to as many people as possible.

☐ The last 2 committees were created to help the operation of the conference itself. These committees are the Conference Bylaws Committee (writing conference bylaws) and Conference Planning (planning logistics for next year's conference).

NOTE: All SIA members are invited to serve on these committees.
See sign up sheet which is included in this mailing.

After the creation of the committees several SIA members attending the conference volunteered to serve on the committees. The volunteers (so far)are:

☐ Literature Committee: Cathy R. chair; Juanita, Axie; Delyn
☐ Finance: Joan, R
☐ Outreach: Farhad, Greg, Delyn,
☐ Bylaws Committee: Becky G. chair, Farhad, Lynne
☐ Planning Committee: Elias, Becky G.

7) Discuss Changing the Name of SIA

Due to time constraints and the desire to give the seventh agenda item ample time for discussion there was a consensus vote to table agenda item 7 until the next SIA World Service Conference.

Agenda item 7 was never formally discussed by the Conference but the following are some discussion points raised during the brainstorming process at the beginning of the Conference when this agenda item was suggested:

✓ The name Survivors of Incest Anonymous is confusing to some newcomers and people unfamiliar with SIA. Many survivors may be discouraged from attending an SIA meeting because they feel their abuse does not qualify as incest (examples: clergy abuse, abuse by a neighbor, ritual abuse) although SIA defines incest broadly and therefore these survivors would qualify as members of SIA.
✓ Changing the name of SIA could help SIA reach more survivors who are deterred by the word 'incest' but who qualify as SIA members.
✓ Helping the incest survivor who still suffers is the primary purpose of SIA as stated in Tradition 5.

Note: The SIA World Service Conference is a service body of SIA. Its purpose is to serve SIA groups – not to govern them. Any change of this nature – such as a change of the name of SIA – could be made only after a fellowship-wide vote. In a previous survey SIA groups decided that each SIA group would get one vote on any matter pertaining to SIA as a whole. The seventh agenda item was raised as a point of discussion. The World Service Conference has no power to make decisions such as changing the name of SIA without putting the matter to vote in which each SIA group registered with WSO has a voice.

World Service Conference Financial Report

The following is the financial report given at the end of the SIA World Service Conference. It was presented to the Conference by a member of the World Service Planning Committee and approved by consensus:

Expenses:

Hotel Conference Room and Gratuity: $240
Refreshments and Paper Products: $50

Income:

Conference Registration Fees: $500

There was a consensus vote by members of the Conference to donate the remaining balance to the SIA World Service Office.

Total amount donated to WSO: $210