

**2009 Survivors of Incest Anonymous World Service Conference**  
**July 24-26, 2009**  
**Ramada Conference Center, Edgewood, Maryland**

July 24, 2009

6:00pm Fellowship and refreshments

8:00pm SIA meeting

July 25, 2009

9:00am *We opened with the Serenity Prayer. Then we added up our total years of recovery which came to 137 years (when 9 people were present/15 yrs average). Throughout the 3 days, a total of 16 survivors were in attendance. We introduced ourselves and spoke of why we came. What follows is a sampling of the attendee's statements: "SIA changed my life and I want to give back to SIA~My group is very interested in what is going on at the World Service level~Service keeps on the program~One gets back what one puts in~ SIA saves lives and I want to see SIA continue and want to be part of it for life~ Needs to give back and is grateful for support.~Is glad for boundaries and committed to service at all levels, it helps to recover by helping others~Conference vital to taking SIA to next level~To develop concepts, charter, and to help SIA grow~Wants SIA to be self-sustaining~Grateful for ability to do service at this level."*

*Point of Order: Our Chairperson Elias asked us to keep in mind majority is only one opinion; please feel safe to express a minority opinion.*

By group conscience we decided to agree on an agenda for the day:

By a vote of 5-3 we decided to read the 2008 minutes aloud before setting the day's agenda. After reading, the group went over the 2008 minutes to correct any grammatical and punctuation errors before voting for approval. *Clarification by Becky-minutes were edited by attendees of previous conference, a final edit was done and sent to all groups via newsletter. Any grammatical changes made will not need to go out to groups again.*

- Motion was made to approve the 2008 World Service Conference's Minutes with the minor grammatical corrections. (Becky to make corrections)Seconded.(discussion...the only people that may vote were attendees from last conference) Seconded. Vote- **MPU (Motion Passed unanimously)**

Agenda ideas and suggestions:

- To read the 12 Traditions
  - Discuss group unity regarding perpetrators in meetings
  - Service Structure
  - Discuss if these items are going to be discussed in breakout groups or as a whole.
  - Accept Robert's Rules of Order-applied lovingly
  - Change SIA's name?
  - Streamlining phone bridge meetings
  - History of SIA/Linda's talk-Linda's keynote speech
  - Groups in crisis
  - World Service Conference Mission Statement
  - Conference call for conference attendees to see how "things" are progressing.
  - Safety at meetings
  - Technology (conference call w/groups) (email addresses for individual groups) (possibility of having an open phone line so others may attend conference by phone)
  - Finances
  - Making conference accessible to disabled people
  - Intergroup for phone meetings
  - Systems of support for and between groups
  - Third version of 12 steps
  - 12 Concepts-draft in each person's packet-present for approval
  - Conference approved literature
  - Language of Tradition 3
  - Break and lunch times
  - Report back from 2008 World Service Committees
  - Literature piece for how groups may handle a crisis
  - Closed groups
  - SIA big book
- Motion made to use Robert's Rule of order applied lovingly- Seconded. Voice vote-**ayes have it**
  - Motion made to read 12 Traditions and set time schedule for today. Seconded. Voice vote -**ayes have it**

- Motion to put names next to the top 3 items each individual wants to work on. Seconded. Voice Vote- **ayes have it.**
- Motion to move visit to World Service Office to Sunday. Seconded. Voice Vote **ayes have it.**
- Motion that we use the standing committees we have and create another one called, "group concerns". Organize agenda items into each committee then break into those committees. Seconded. Vote-**MPU**

*Points of order*

- ✓ *Discussion to defend a motion-we will be more effective.*
- ✓ *There will be a set time to end committee meetings at which time committees will make a report and recommendations to the whole group.*

- Motion made to break into committees now and if some want an SIA meeting they may move to another space for a meeting. Seconded. Voice Vote **ayes have it**

*These are the five committees; Four were created at the 2008 WS conference and one added at this conference; Literature, Finance, Outreach, Conference (Bylaws and Planning) and Group Concerns.*

- Motion-to meet 2 committees first hour and 2 the second hour. Conference and Group concerns first and Literature/Finance (*combined for this meeting*) and Outreach Seconded. Vote- **MPU**

*At this time members went to the committee meetings of their choice. Each agenda item from above was placed into one of the 5 committees. These were discussed and then findings and recommendations reported back to the whole group.*

**Literature Committee Topics:** Third version of the steps-existing comments from members; Conference Approved Literature (and approval of outside literature, eg. Courage to Heal); SIA "Big Book".

**Break Out Session Findings:**

*This committee hereby joins the existing literature committee formed at the last World Service Conference to work on the following items:*

1. *Big Book*
2. *3<sup>rd</sup> Version of the Steps*
3. *Conference Approved Literature*
  - *Develop a process to approve new literature.*
  - *Develop a process to include the term "conference-approved" on all existing and new literature, the literature order form, and website.*
  - *Develop a process to review, edit, and approve existing literature without incurring additional costs.*
  - *Turn existing literature into PDFs so they can be downloaded for a fee*
  - *SIA currently uses 2 versions of the twelve steps. Do we need a third version?*

**Conference Response**

- Motion made to not pursue process for approving outside literature as it would be a violation of Tradition 6. Seconded. Vote-**MPU**
- Motion that the written responses previously gathered in 2007 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> version of 12 steps be reviewed and brought back to the next conference. Seconded. Vote- **8 approved, 1 abstention, 0 against.**

**Outreach and Finance Committees Topics:** Technology; Members with disabilities; Phone Bridge; Financial appeals

**Break Out Session Findings:**

1. *Technology, as in phone meetings*
  - *nocostconference.com, Skype—can be used with just audio for those who don't want to be seen. Tina will research and report back to committee about cost and details of phone/Skype meetings. We are hoping that the phone/Skype stuff can/will help people with disabilities as well.*
  - *Group Question Line/"Long Timers" Line-We would like to set up a meeting once of month, via some kind of conference call to address group concerns issues across SIA as a whole. Such meeting is suggested to run 1-1/2 hours. Its purpose is for Group Concerns or a Group Answer/Connection. Maybe, every third Thursday of the month, groups can call in and discuss this number for conference calls about group concerns. Could be for people who want to start meeting as well. The moderator should commit to being on the line for the whole allotted time. If everyone here at the conference will commit to one month, we'll have the whole year covered.*
  - *Website: We have a site that was set up by someone who isn't helping anymore. We are currently with Wild Apricot.com. Kathleen does website stuff, and her husband does Computer Science stuff. She is willing to make changes, updates and corrections to our website. Important Questions: How to register meetings? Directory: We have a database (Access) that lets everything show up on our end, and only*

*certain info shows up on the web. It will take a couple of months to set up properly. Kathleen & Becky will work together to get this set up. Kathleen will join Becky and Linda at the World Service Office on Monday, July 27th in order to begin the process of correcting/updating the directory.*

- *Group Email Address: Sounds terrific for users to access group email, but we might need to get our own domain. And we need to see how much it will cost, and who will set it all up.*

- Farhad has verified that through WildApricot.com, we can't generate our own email address. They have a proprietary system, and we are using their database, not our own.
  - Open phone at the conference-We should check into Skype. Skype can be used without video to protect anonymity of those who don't want to be streamed across internet. Tina will check into Skype.
2. **Financial Appeal (Newsletter)**
- We could do a separate appeals letter and send out to our groups. There is info in the newsletter. Should we appeal to others (like Oprah, etc) for funding? Is that a break or violation of the tradition? If, for example, she's not a member of the program, can she donate without interrupting the program? We need booklet maker and other stuff.
  - Tina will draft the next financial appeals letter. Becky will also write one, when she gets the database under control.
  - How can we get more people to sign up for the email updates?

#### Conference Response

none

**Conference Committee Topics:** Mission Statement; 12 Concepts; Quarterly conference calls; Voting rights; Service structure; Conference structure flow chart; SIA name . Notes from committee meeting:

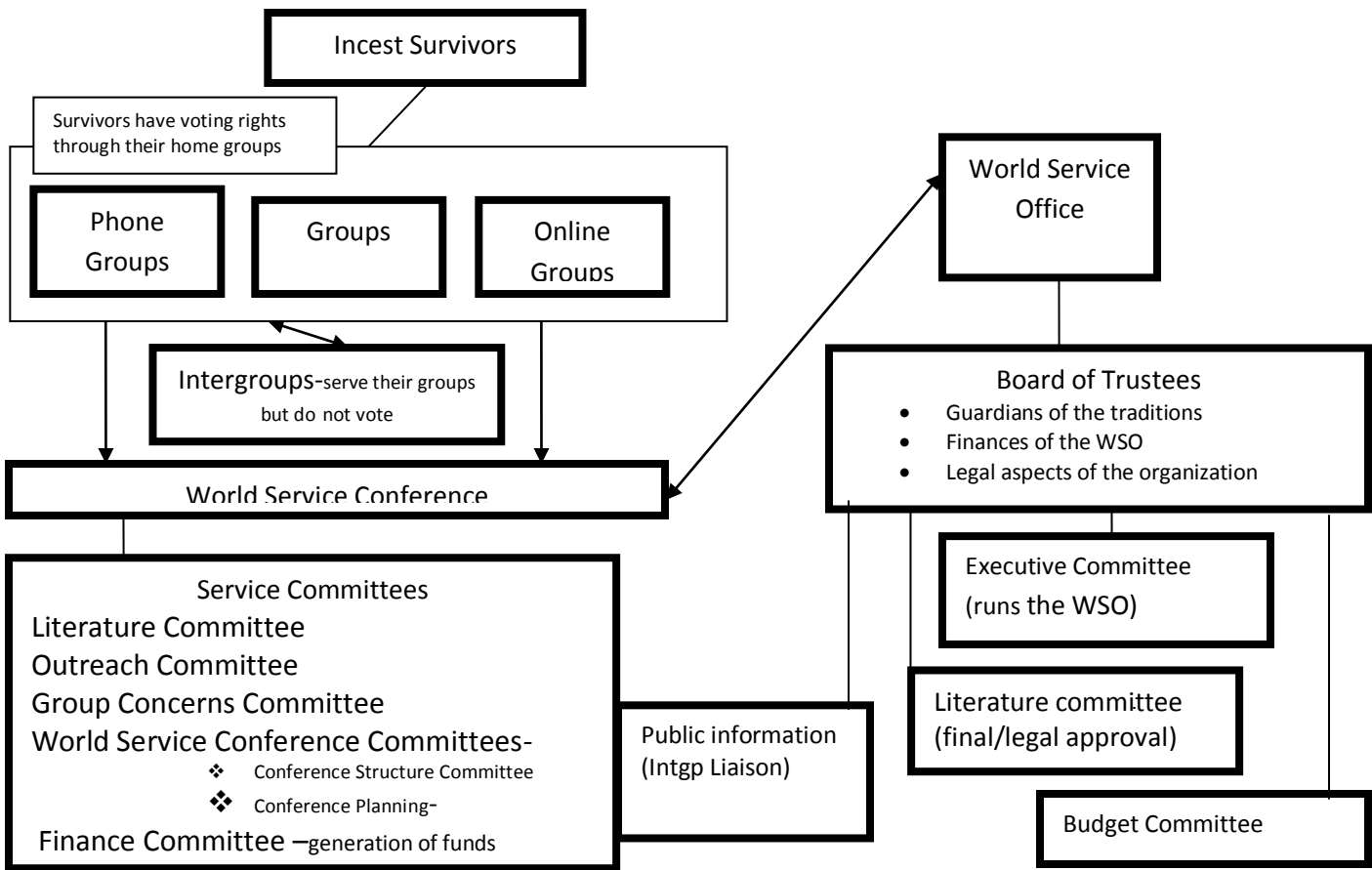
#### Break Out Session Findings:

1. **Name Change**
  - On the topic of changing the name of SIA, the committee proposes discussion around two main themes:  
*Theme 1: To preserve the name as suggested in Tradition 3, to keep the focus of the group on the child.*  
*Theme 2: To recognize, for the purposes of outreach, that we need to broaden the understanding of our group for the newcomer, here is one suggested alternate name: "Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse." We wish to allow groups to decide what the word "child" can mean, and we trust that groups can define incest. We also trust that a process will become clear for disseminating this information to the groups, and obtaining feedback from the groups about this issue.*  
*Theme 3: SIA: Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse*
2. **Mission Statement**
  - After discussing the proposed mission statement from 2008, the committee recommended that we adopt the main paragraph of the 2008 statement, and leave out the four clarifications as redundant. This decision was not unanimous, as there was at least one person that felt like the first clarification statement amplified the mission of the Conference.
3. **Twelve Concepts**
  - After discussing the copy of the twelve concepts that was given to us, the committee recommended that we use these concepts as written for now, and work on further refining the concepts for formal adoption.
4. **Service Structure**
  - The committee discussed the need to look into models of other groups for empowering delegates, since all groups are not fully able to participate in the conference by sending delegates. It is important to empower the conference to make recommendations, and to make certain decisions. At the same time, the committee wishes to respect Concept 1 as currently written: "The ultimate responsibility and authority for SIA world services belongs to the collective conscience of our whole fellowship."
5. **Future Plans**
  - The committee plans to meet at least 2 more times during the year to make more concrete recommendations.

#### Conference Response

- Motion to adopt the draft of the 2008 World Service Conference Mission Statement as follows. Seconded. **Vote-7-for- 0-against- 3-abstain PASSED**  
*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. The hand of SIA will always be there to carry the message of hope to the survivor who still suffers.*
  - Motion that a "blurb" be placed in the newsletter asking, "Do you want to change the name of our program? Do you have any suggestions?" Seconded. **Vote 6-for 1-against 3-abstain. PASSED**
  - Motion that next conference take place August 6-8, 2010. Seconded. **Vote-MPU**
  - Motions that the conference be held at the Ramada Inn Conference Center, Edgewood, MD, but will possibly take place in other parts of the country after that, with consideration to transportation issues. Seconded. **Vote-MPU**
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- Motion to delegate to Conference Committee to meet and discuss service structure (diagram update below), concepts, schedule and agenda for next year's conference. Seconded. **Vote- 8-for 0-against 2-abstain. Passed**

#### Current SIA Service Structure



**Group Concerns Committee Topics:** Perpetrators at meetings; Crisis Responses; Safety; Unity; Closed Groups; Third Tradition; Disabilities; Support between groups.

**Break Out Session Findings:**

1. *Perpetrators in meetings: Many people are mandated reporters. In some states, everyone is mandated to report child sexual abuse. We, SIA, leave ourselves open to lawsuits if we don't close out perpetrators. This issue must be reexamined based on law changes since 1995. In order to allow perpetrators at SIA, we would have to change our Third Tradition and other Traditions; otherwise we are in violation of Traditions. Based on the advice of an attorney, the board concludes that perpetrators of child sexual abuse and all discussion of acts of perpetration committed by attendees must be disallowed at meetings. The board recommends that such is best discussed in therapy, but never during SIA meetings.*
  - o *We addressed a possible definition of Perpetrator. The definition could possibly include: "You have not, of your own free will, sexually abused another person." We could not come up with a definition of incest. The group decided it was not important. A draft of a letter regarding perpetrators at meetings from the Board of Trustees was read and unanimously approved by the committee, with the understanding that some editing was still to take place.*
  - o *Conclusions: While in meetings, we strongly suggest that only survivor issues are discussed. We have to dis-allow perpetrators in order to be free from litigation or expulsion from our meeting places, if they were to find out sexual predators gather there. Discussion of current or past perpetration committed by attendees is specifically disallowed. No meeting listed on the meeting list should say "no perpetrators" anymore.*

*This is because all meetings must be perpetrator-free. Saying "no perpetrators" could imply to newcomers that the meetings that don't say "no perpetrators" allow perpetrators.*
2. *Accessibility in meetings: Closed Meetings—single sex, pro-survivor, disabilities.*
3. *Support between groups.*
4. *Third Tradition*

- *Safety: Maybe we can define the word for ourselves and decide what it means to us and how we can proceed with using it.*

5. *We will start a yahoo group to communicate between each other on issues to be addressed throughout the year*

### **Conference Response**

- Motion that perpetrators are not allowed at any SIA functions. Seconded. Vote-**MPU**
- Motion that the statement from the board include the fact that the 2009 World Service Conference chose to unanimously support the board's decision concerning banning perpetrators from all SIA functions. Seconded. Vote-**MPU**
- Motion to reconvene at 9:30 Sunday to select committee chairs and/or co-chairs. Seconded. Vote-**MPU**

July 26, 2009

9:30 am Reading of the draft of the 12 Concepts of SIA

1. *The ultimate responsibility and authority for SIA world services belongs to the collective conscience of our whole fellowship.*
2. *The World Service Conference of SIA and its service arms have become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and effective conscience of SIA as a whole.*
3. *The right of decision makes effective leadership possible.*
4. *Participation is the key to harmony.*
5. *The rights of appeal and petition protect minorities and insure that they be heard.*
6. *The Conference acknowledges the primary administrative responsibility of the SIA Board of Trustees.*
7. *Based on our charter and by-laws the Board of Trustees have legal rights while the rights of the Conference are traditional.*
8. *The Board of Trustees delegates full authority for routine management of the SIA World Service Office to its executive committees.*
9. *Good personal leadership at all service levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. In the field of world service the Board of Trustees assumes the primary leadership.*
10. *Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.*
11. *The World Service Office is composed of selected committees, executives and staff members.*
12. *The Conference shall observe the spirit of SIA tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Fellowship it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.*

*Some Suggestions: Committees choose chair or temporary chair. You may be on as many committees as you wish. Offer of Uniontown Retreat Center for service committee gathering-October 30-31, 2009*

Chair Committee reporting dates to Elias-*please make a report even if your committee has been unable to meet.*

- ❖ October 25, 2009
- ❖ January 25, 2010
- ❖ April 25, 2010
- ❖ July 25, 2010

*Attendees volunteered for committees and chairmanship. Other SIA members who did not attend the conference are welcome to join these committees.*

**Literature Committee** –Chair: Annie

Lisa, Linda, Amanda, Tina, Amma (she uses phone or snail mail)

**Outreach Committee** –Chair: Tina

Linda, Annie

**Group Concerns Committee** –Chair: Elias & Lisa

Becky, Elias, Linda, Amanda, Tina, Amma (she uses phone or snail mail)

**World Service Conference Committees-**

Farhad, Becky, Kathleen, Elias, Linda, Juanita

- ❖ Conference Structure Committee -Co-Chairs: Kathleen and Juanita
- ❖ 2010 Conference Planning-Chair: Becky

**Finance Committee -Chair-open**

Linda, Becky,

**2009 WSC Financial Report:**

- Conference Center-----\$350 + \$60 gratuity
- Registration Fees and donations collected-----\$463
- Donation to WSO-----\$53

***2009 WS Conference concluded with an SIA meeting followed by a trip to the World Service Office.***