

What's the Difference?

A Primer on Service Entities Related to Women in SAA

You may have heard about the recently formed SAA **Women's Intergroup (WIG)**. You may have wondered if it replaces the **Women's Outreach Committee (WOC)**, which has been in existence since 2003. Answer: No, it does not. But then, why do we need both? If I'm interested in supporting women in the SAA fellowship, which one should I join? Can I join both? Where do I find out more? We hope that the basic explanation and handy chart below will be helpful in answering these questions and many more.

The bottom line: There are **two distinct service entities** that support women's full participation in the SAA fellowship. Both are open only to SAA members with no gender requirement. **Members can join either or both.**

The essential difference between them is that the WOC is a committee of the International Service Organization (ISO) of SAA Board of Trustees, formed by the ISO Board, and therefore part of the ISO of SAA corporation. In contrast, the WIG is an autonomous intergroup. Here is a brief description of each.

The **Women's Outreach Committee** was suggested in 2003 by a woman member of the ISO Board of Trustees and formed as a Board committee. Their primary purpose is to support the woman sex addict who still suffers. Their scope is four-fold: to reach out to all women who desire to stop addictive sexual behavior; to assist these women in connecting with other SAA women; to provide a safe place for women to reach out to other women for support and sponsorship; and to give women a voice in the SAA fellowship.

Some of their continuing activities are to:

- write the "Dear Grace" column in *The Outer Circle*
- maintain the Women's Outreach List (sometimes known as "the Grace list")
- coordinate the Women's Outreach Room at each ISO convention.
- serve as content expert for the women's pages on the ISO website.
- facilitate sharing of experience, strength, and hope with other ISO committees, such as the Fellowship Internal Standing Committee of the Board
- coordinate ways for the ISO to hear women's voices, such as panel discussions and workshops at each ISO convention, and the continuing series of teleconferences on "Women in the Fellowship: What's working; what's not working."

Past activities have also included writing pamphlets for women in SAA. We have the WOC to thank for the pamphlets: *A Special Welcome to the Woman Newcomer* and *Safe and Sober Meetings*. The WOC also sponsored five women-only retreats in the years 2011 – 2017. (Note: hosting women-only retreats is a function the WOC recently transferred to the new women's intergroup.)

The **SAA Women's Intergroup** was formed when six SAA members met in April 2018, having received encouragement from the WOC. They immediately registered their intergroup with the ISO and announced its formation. Their primary purpose is to support the woman sex addict who still suffers. They anticipate their primary activities will be to lead or assist in developing, funding, and encouraging retreats, workshops, and other events; activities and initiatives, as well as supporting individual women members at these events or through these initiatives. In doing so, the intergroup may partner with the ISO (especially the WOC) and various other groups, intergroups, committees, and areas.

The WIG is related to the ISO only as a registered intergroup.

Here is the information above in handy chart form.

	Women's Outreach Committee	SAA Women's Intergroup
Formed? When? By Whom?	May 2003 The ISO Board of Trustees	April 2018 Six individual SAA members
Autonomous?	No, part of the ISO of SAA corporation and reporting to the ISO Board of Trustees	Yes. Responsible directly to the members and member groups who join the Intergroup.
Who can serve?	Any SAA member	Any SAA member
Primary Purpose?	To support the woman sex addict who still suffers.	To support the woman sex addict who still suffers and the woman sex addict who continues with her journey of recovery.
When do they meet?	Monthly on the second Saturday at 10:00 a.m. CST	Monthly on the fourth Thursday at 8:00 PM CST
Contact for more info?	womensoutreach@saa-recovery.org ISO of SAA, Inc. PO Box 70949 Houston, TX 77270	saawomensig@gmail.com

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