



ICSAA

Secular AA 14 October 2023 **Secular AA Board MINUTES** 2PM ET/11AM PT

Meeting ID: 870 1464 7389

Passcode: Rule62

Minutes prepared by Margarita. [Approved by Board on Jan 13, 2024](#)

Call to Order by the Chairman - Will.I.Am at 2:02 PM ET

AA Declaration of Unity:

“This we owe to AA’s future: To place our common welfare first: To keep our fellowship united. For on AA Unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come.”

Attending Quarterly Meeting Quorum met 7/9

Board Members

Will.I.Am	Acting Chair	PRESENT
“Sonny” Sherman	Vice-Chair	PRESENT
Margarita A	Secretary	PRESENT
Kurt R.	Treasurer	PRESENT
Dale K	Member at Large	PRESENT
“Jeb” James	Member at Large/Virtual ICSAA 2023 Chair	PRESENT
Jeff S	Member at Large	PRESENT
Kelli M	Member at Large	ABSENT
Lisa P	Member at Large	ABSENT
Mikey J	Technology Coordinator	PRESENT
Alison P	ICSAA Orlando 2024 Committee Chair	PRESENT
Joe C	Advisor to Acting Chair	PRESENT

**Officers Reports/Updates**

Secretary - Margarita (Bylaw 7.1.4) **Agenda Item 1) VOTE** to Approve ‘MINUTES Secular AA Board Meeting 2023\_7\_15’ ~ SEE DOCUMENT [Mikey moved to approve. Dale seconded. Approved unanimously.](#)

Treasurer - Kurt (Bylaw 7.1.5) **Agenda Item 2) UPDATE 2023 Third Quarter - 3 docs attached** [Jeff moved to approve. Sonny seconded. Passed unanimously.](#)

**Standing Committee Reports/Updates**

Nominating Committee – Vice-Chair Sonny (Bylaw 8.2.1) (NO REPORT)

Site Selection Committee – Vice-Chair Sonny (Bylaw 8.2.2) (NO REPORT)

Outreach (Open)(Bylaw 8.2.3) (NO REPORT)

In-Reach - Jeff S (Bylaw 8.2.4) **Agenda Item 3) UPDATE** We’re working on welcoming ways to introduce ourselves; succeeding at attracting new members; investigating how to reach out to individuals in Traditional A.A. program especially those in service. Suggested a Friendship Board type page on our website.

Connected with Carolyn Barns Walsh who is an A.A. GS trustee in the Vancouver area. She gave us contact, Patrick Claymore, to Vancouver 2025 to make arrangements for a Secular AA Hospitality Suite and perhaps a panel.

Fellowship Margarita (Bylaw 8.2.5) **Agenda Item 4) UPDATE** we have Nov and Dec booked for the Global Secular Speaker Tour monthly speaker meetings: Nov, Freethinkers Living Sober-Cottonwood, AZ and Dec, Friends of Secular AA; OA, NA, Al Anon, CoDA and we have a free Spanish/English simultaneous translator.



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Carolyn GK compiled 230 emails for secular recovery groups out of the Worldwide Secular Meetings Calendar listings. Margarita used the list to notify all of the opening of registration to ICSAA Orlando 2024 and will forward the list to Jeff S and Alison P.

UPDATE by Dale K - researched the viability of Secular AA providing secular chips - Even the least expensive bronze coin with the saying, "We will comprehend the word serenity and we will know peace." and our website address on the back is still very expensive. (DETAILS: Each mold \$50, per year plus one time etch expense of \$150 for all, and minimum press 500 coins, laser token = \$8, so 500 coins=\$4000 with a variety of numbers resulting in each coin costing \$8.40 compared to \$1.25 each from A.A.)

Conclusion - we'll look into posting links to secular minded chips provided by other sources on our website instead of being a source of coins ourselves.

Archives (Open)(Bylaw 8.2.6) (NO REPORT)

IT- Mikey J (Bylaw 8.2.7) Agenda Item 5) UPDATE ICSAA Orlando 2024 will be updating that page with a brochure/flyer on the website soon.

Virtual ICSAA 2023 Committee - JEB (Bylaw 8.2.9) Agenda Item 6) UPDATE Committee meeting next Saturday to evaluate the Oct 7&8 conference. Recommends the Board and Orlando committee attend. There will be a final report after that/those meeting/s.

Preliminary details as follows:

650 attendees, kept record of each session attendance

Edgar tremendous blessing

Income from Eventbrite exceeded expenses.

Virtual = substitute for in person/ we needed to find a way to encourage donations - thanks to Kurt (Kurt corrected that Eventbrite was Mikey's idea and Tony executed it.)

Tony incredible tech support

Alison 8 time zone programs

Focus on carrying the message

Outdid ourselves promoting 2024 throughout the day

Wonderful job Will did outlining Board accomplishments in the Closing session

ICSAA Orlando 2024 Host Committee - Alison P (Bylaw 8.2.8) Agenda Item 7) UPDATE Ads useful in conference and sold 40 tickets, total tickets = 53 as of an hour ago

Give Butter donations brought about \$250

The committee is now working on a marketing campaign

Facebook group is established <https://www.facebook.com/groups/881587176639095>

Email address is established [ICSAAOrlando2024@gmail.com](mailto:ICSAAOrlando2024@gmail.com)

10 new volunteers out of conference

Zanner and Mary C volunteer to organize panels and Margarita to contact Jeffrey Munn



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**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Agenda Item 8)** Kurt shared his spreadsheet on Eventbrite and Give Butter revenue from ICSAA 2023 contributions and plans for allocation/distribution

Historically, conferences set up a separate account so Kurt set up an account but for any future ICSAA year - virtual or in person.

~\$2150 net income - What do we do with these funds? Will proposed ICSAA 2022 \$881.52 shortfall returned to general fund. We can also wipe out ICSAA 2024 debt to the general fund. Then net balance and ongoing Give butter and Eventbrite income to stay in ICSAA fund and to be used as we need them for booking in ICSAA 2024 (audio visual, etc)

SONNY - What choices does the board need to make?

KURT - Are you contemplating moving money now or later?

WILL Does the board think it's reasonable to pay back 2022 to the general fund of Secular AA now, later, at all?

KURT \$7000 payment due in March. So why move now? Recommended we donate \$881.52 to Orlando ICSAA. General fund is already prudent.

JEB we were never told last year that we needed to raise money. Assumption Secular AA would fund us. Don't penalize 2022 for not having directions to raise money.

WILL - that board was running on fumes with 6 years of service. We revamped the website and bylaws, and became solvent. Lucky to have Kurt on board and on top of ICSAA and general fund.

DECISION TABLED.

POINT OF INFORMATION from Margarita - March 2022 Board meeting approved \$1200 for translation for the year of 2022 towards ICSAA and the monthly speaker meetings. That more than covered the ICSAA 2022 expense which was almost all on translation.

**Agenda Item 9)** - Will- Room for at least one more board member. Sonny and Will to meet and discuss nominations. Need candidates with availability to avoid not making quorum.

**Agenda Item 10)** Schedule future quarterly meetings. Sonny moved to approve. JEB seconded. Approved unanimously.

**Upcoming board meeting times, Saturday's:**

- 1. TBD 2pm ET/11am PT - Jan 13, 2024**
- 2. TBD 2pm ET/11am PT - April 13, 2024**

Jeff motion to adjourn and JEB seconded. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned 3:15 PM ET.

Mission Statement

“Our mission is to assure suffering alcoholics that they can find sobriety in Alcoholics Anonymous without having to accept anyone else's beliefs or deny their own. Secular AA does not endorse or oppose any form of religion or belief system and operates in accordance with the Third Tradition of Alcoholics Anonymous: The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.”



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Vision Statement

“Secular AA recognizes and honors the immeasurable contributions that Alcoholics Anonymous has made to assist individuals to recover from alcoholism. We seek to ensure that AA remains an effective, relevant and inclusive program of recovery in an increasingly secular society. The foundation of Secular AA is grounded in our experience that anyone - regardless of their spiritual beliefs or lack thereof – can recover in the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. Secular AA exists to serve the community of secularly-minded alcoholics by supporting worldwide access to secularly formatted AA meetings and fostering mutual support within a growing population of secularly-minded alcoholics.”

Board Meeting Procedures

Parliamentary authority per Robert’s Rules of Order within the principles found in AA’s 12 Concepts for World Service, AA’s 12 Traditions, AA Service Manual and our Bylaws. Bylaws – should be considered a work in process, please provide the chair with any suggested amendments.

Committee process

- o Status reports at board meetings
- o Board functions as oversight and holds committees responsible to the collective group conscious.
- o Work to be done in committees not at board meetings.
- o Committee chairs should involve non-board member Secular AA Members in committee work.

Agenda - be prepared to table new topics if needed.

Back to Basics and Keeping it Simple

**LINK TO BYLAWS:**

[https://www.aasecular.org/files/ugd/c732f8\\_b4e5c963a01b4c748a8644f08a4988de.pdf](https://www.aasecular.org/files/ugd/c732f8_b4e5c963a01b4c748a8644f08a4988de.pdf)

**NEXT MEETING 2pm ET/11am PT - Jan 13, 2024**