



ICSAA

Secular AA 15 July 2023 **Secular AA Board MINUTES** 11 AM ET/8 AM PT

Meeting ID: 883 7839 0755 Passcode: Rule62

MINUTES PROVIDED BY MARGARITA - BOARD APPROVED OCT 14, 2023

Call to Order by the Chairman at 11:02 am Eastern Standard / 8:02 am Pacific

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 Quartely Meeting (Quorum met at 11:20 AM ET when Sonny arrived)

Board Members since Oct 2022 Except *

Will.I.Am	Acting Chair	PRESENT
“Sonny” Sherman	Vice-Chair	20 MIN LATE
Margarita A	Secretary	PRESENT
Kurt R.	Treasurer	PRESENT
Dale K	Member at Large	PRESENT
“Jeb” James	Member at Large/ICSAA 2023 Chair	ABSENT
Michalina	Member at Large	RESIGNED
Tyler A	Member at Large	REMOVED
Jeff S*	Member at Large (*April 2023)	PRESENT
Kelli M*	Member at Large (*April 2023)	ABSENT
Lisa P*	Member at Large (*April 2023)	PRESENT
Mikey J	IT Committee Chair	PRESENT
Alison P*	ICSAA Orlando 2024 Committee Chair	PRESENT
Joe C*	Advisor to Acting Chair (*April 2023)	ABSENT

Secretary (Margarita) Agenda Item 1) VOTE (Took place after quorum was met.) to Approve ‘MINUTES Secular AA Board Meeting 2023_4_15’ and ‘MINUTES Secular AA Board Meeting 2023_06_03’ ~ SEE DOCUMENTS
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Agenda Item 2) VOTE (Took place after quorum was met.) to remove Tyler from Secular AA Board as he is not responding to messages by email, text, and What’s App for 7 months and his continued absence affects quorum and our ability to get things done as a Board. See Bylaw 6.6.4 “...has been absent at two consecutive Board meetings (or has exhibited a pattern of absences from Board meetings) without garnering acquiescence of the Board Chairperson (or in the case of the absence of the Board Chairperson acquiescence of the Vice-Chair)”

Move to remove Tyler from Board by Mikey.
Seconded by Jeff
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Treasurer (Kurt) Agenda Item 3) UPDATE 2023 Second Quarter
KURT SHARED AND SUBMITTED DOCUMENTS NOW POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE BY I.T.

Standing Committee Reports/Updates

Nominating Committee – Vice-Chair

Nominating Committee shall present a slate of qualified nominees for board at the Membership Meeting prior to the election (paraphrased). Needs at least one additional director on the committee per the bylaws.



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Site Selection Committee – Vice-Chair

The Site Selection Committee shall solicit and coordinate bids for next ICSAA with a goal of having at least three viable bids. Needs at least one additional director on the committee per the bylaws.

Outreach (Open)

The purpose of the Outreach Committee is to assure that Secular AA is practicing the principle in AA's responsibility pledge "When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that: I am responsible". More specifically, to inform still suffering alcoholics that enduring recovery from alcoholism can be had in AA by agnostic, atheist, and non-religious people. The Outreach Committee is to undertake this goal by means of:

Interacting and cooperating with established CPC (Cooperation with Professional Community), Institutions (Corrections and Treatment), PI (Public Information) committees and similar entities within AA.;

Acting as the Secular AA CPC, Institutions and PI committees (see AA Guidelines for CPC, Institutions and PI committees).

In-Reach (Kurt/Jeff) Agenda Item 4) UPDATE

Kurt requested Jeff S to now chair this committee.

Will requested Kurt pass contacts obtained from Sam to Jeff. Will added Carolyn Walsh's info, A.A. Trustee who spoke at Secular Roundup in Langley, BC on July 8, 2023, as great contact regarding arranging a "Hospitality Suite" for Secular AA at the 2025 A.A. Convention in Vancouver. At the Roundup she encouraged us to get our voice heard by sending GSRs from secular groups to Central Office and District and Area meetings.

Purpose - The primary purpose of the In-Reach Committee is to assure that others in AA are aware of our secular AA experience, which is that "enduring recovery from alcoholism can be found by agnostic, atheist, and non-religious people, within AA". The secondary purpose of the In-Reach Committee is to promote our ICSAA, regional secular AA events, and website resources to AA members at large.

Liaising - The In-Reach Committee shall strive to achieve these goals by liaising within AA with: AA members, AA groups, AA Intergroups, AA General Service Districts and Areas, the AA General Service Office, AA World Services, AA international General Service Offices and AA events such as round-ups, conventions, forums, etc.

Fellowship (Lisa P) Agenda Item 5) UPDATE by Lisa, Margarita and Will.IAm

Email account aasecularfellowship@gmail.com

The Board can support by adding to the Fellowship contact list database.

IT enhanced aasecular.org website conference page with expanded pull down to help promote a variety of events online and in-person regionally.

Lisa will meet by zoom with Margarita and Will.IAm on July 19, 2023 at 6 PM ET to discuss database and a Secular AA newsletter.

(Sonny arrived during this update at 11:20 am PT)



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The Fellowship Committee is tasked with supporting a fellowship of Secular AA Members to facilitate “sharing our experience, strength and hope” which shall include but not be limited to the following:

Maintaining a “helpline” to respond to inquiries from still suffering alcoholics;

Assist Secular AA members in establishing and promoting regional/local secular AA events, as well as maintaining a listing of such events available to the Members;

Maintaining a meeting directory of both physical and online Secular AA meetings;

Maintain a mechanism to host secularly formatted online AA meetings;

Liaise with other secularly-minded AA entities including websites that service the secularly-minded AA community.

Maintain communications between the Secular AA membership and the board (added at Nov 2018 Board Meeting)

Archives (Open)

The Archives Committee is tasked with organizing and providing access to our shared secular AA experience. The Archives Committee must insure that the dissemination of such information is always coupled with a statement conveying the following or a similar alternative as may be outlined in the Guidelines for the Committee: “Please be aware that Secular AA does not attest to the accuracy, relevancy, timeliness, or completeness of information obtained from others, including Members of Secular AA, members of AA, organizations calling themselves AA entities, or any other entity or person. We may share information with our Members just as it is provided to us, for the purposes of an open flow of information and ideas, without a critique or review. Therefore the act of Secular AA making the information available does not constitute an approval or endorsement by Secular AA of the information provided.”

The Archives Committee shall:

Make available information, such as sample formats, for Members wishing to start a secular AA meeting;

Maintain a listing of secularly-inclined AA literature as a resource for Members;

Maintain a listing of secularly-inclined AA resources such as websites and blogs as a resource for Members and assuring that any listing or link to such a resource is coupled with a statement of group autonomy, and non-endorsement, consistent with the principles in the Traditions;

Maintain a forum to archive Members’ personal and the secularly-minded group’s “experience, strength and hope”, and stories of “what it was like, what happened and what it is like now”;

Maintain historical documents, as they become available, on the history of secularists in AA

IT- (Mikey J) Agenda Item 6) UPDATE

Website is updated with the “Events” tab drop down menu for Speaker meetings, Regional events, virtual ICSAA 2023, and ICSAA Orlando 2024 options.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Agenda Item 7) UPDATE by Kurt and Mikey Eventbrite software will be used for ICSAA 2023 & 2024 registration on the aasecular.org website. Eventbrite allows multiple administrators with and without access to banking information and allows a way to make donations for scholarships and keeps track of activity records very well.



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Mikey and Margarita discussed the name of the monthly speaker meeting being changed from “Global Story Time” which sounds fictional to “Global Speaker Tour”.

Agenda Item 8) UPDATE Orlando ICSAA 2024 by Host City Chair - Alison P

Links to registration could go live in August. Kurt only needs a half hour to set it up.

Checking with the hotel on gun policy because the state of Florida allows carrying.

Agenda Item 9) UPDATE ICSAA 2023 Committee by Committee Chair - JEB **Absent** (Do we need to meet as a Board before October 7-8, 2023?)

Dale offered to help with the ICSAA Scholarship Committee.

Kurt- Virtual ICSAA 2023 will be free for registration through Eventbrite with ability to make 7th Tradition contributions towards ICSAA. One fund for all ICSAA.

Agenda Item 10) UPDATE Global Secular speaker meetings - Margarita

August 6 event out of Washington, Paris in September, and Canberra in October. Please recommend groups to feature for future months.

Agenda Item 11) Security Workshop in ICSAA - JEB **Absent** Tabled

Agenda Item 12) **VOTE** on schedule for future quarterly meetings.

Moved by Jeff. Seconded by Lisa. Approved unanimously.

NEXT MEETING 2pm ET/11am PT - October 14, 2023

SERVICE (“We needs”):

We continually need to reach out to secular groups to be featured in our monthly speaker meetings. Send suggestions and contacts to Margarita via secularaa@gmail.com.

Research a design for AA chips with secular themes and a way to produce and distribute them as a service of Secular AA. Mikey is in contact with One Day at a Time Mint (ODAT Mint) orders@aachip.shop, www.aachip.shop/

We continually need to reach out to secular groups to add to our Fellowship Contact List.

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.”

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



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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