



Board Meeting of SECULAR AA

18 APRIL 2020 / 2:00 PM EASTERN STANDARD / 11:00 AM PACIFIC
<https://zoom.us/j/91830863314>

Call to Order by the Chairman at 2:00 pm Eastern Standard / 11:00 AM Pacific

Roll Call by the Chairman (Quorum 2/3 = 7 not including Technology Coordinator)

2017-2020 Board Members

Carol M. – ICSAA 2018-Toronto, Host Committee Chair - present

Geri B. – Secretary - present (5 minute late arrival)

Joy R. – Treasurer - not present

Sam E. – Chair - present

2019-2022 Board Members

Angela B. – In-Reach Committee Chair - present

Gregg O. – ICSAA 2020-Washington DC, Host Committee Chair - present

Joe C. – Outreach Committee Chair - present

John S. – Archives Committee Chair - present

2020 Board Members

Cathy M. – Fellowship Chair - present

Marty B. – Vice Chair - present

IT Committee

Courtney S. – Technology Coordinator - present

Officer Reports/Updates

Chair

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 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 chair with any suggested amendments.
 - Committee process
 - Status reports at board meetings
 - Board functions as oversight and holds committees responsible to the collective group conscious.
 - Work to be done in committees not at board meetings.
 - Committee chairs should involve non-board member Secular AA Members in committee work.
 - Agenda - be prepared to table new topics if needed.
- 1) Upcoming board meeting times (to be confirmed), Saturday’s 2pm Eastern time.
 - a. July 11th, 2020 (new date)

Secretary (Geri)

- 1) Approval of last Board Meeting Minutes - The minutes were sent two days ago for review, but most members did not receive them.
- 2) Minutes will be circulated via email after the board meeting for approval via email.

Treasurer (Joy) - Not present. Joy sent reports.

Angela requested general information on our financial situation. Courtney shared Bank Statements and the Financial Statements, showing increase in contributions. Question asked if we contribute to General Service AA. Sam reported we have been contributing \$100 per year for

past years. Sam also clarified that the Conference money is kept separate from funds donated to Secular AA.

SEE APPENDIX 1

Standing Committee Reports/Updates

ICSAA (Gregg)

1) ICSAA 2020 - discuss postponement -

Gregg - presented his opinion on the possibility of postponing the conference for one year. The hotel has agreed to hold the room rates for similar dates in 2021.

Motion by Courtney to postpone the conference 2020 to 2021, seconded by Joe.

Discussion on the complications and issues involved if we postpone.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to refund all registrations, with ICSAA bearing the expense of already paid Paypal fees, meaning registrants will receive their full registration, including any extra donations made. Motion by Joe, second by John.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on what date in 2021 to hold the conference, including consideration of dates in the spring. Consensus reached of the dates October 29, 30, 31, 2021, which the hotel has agreed to hold for us, at the same rate.

Discussion on how to handle the effect the change of the conference dates has on the terms of Board members, since there is no provision in the Bylaws for the extension of Board terms under extraordinary circumstances, such as the current Covid pandemic. Discussion on possibly having a virtual membership meeting, with voting done via email.

Motion that, under the circumstances of the current Covid pandemic, the current board terms be extended for one year, since the conference at which the membership meeting where votes take place has been postponed one year, to 2021. In addition, the Board will form an adhoc committee to determine the details of how to have the membership ratify this Board decision.

Motion by Gregg, second by Marty. Motion passed unanimously.

Sam, Gregg, Marty, Carol volunteered for the adhoc committee.

2) ICSAA guidelines (Marty/Carol/Gregg/Geri)

Discussion on organizing the committee meeting in the near future. Carol will spearhead organizing the committee.

3) Create a draft ICSAA 2020 budget.

Sam noted we still want to come up with a formal budget for ICSAA, separate from Secular AA.

Nominating Committee – Vice-Chair (Marty)

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.

1) No Discussion

Site Selection Committee – Vice-Chair (Marty)

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.

- 1) There currently are no formal bids, but several cities have inquired and are working on a bid.
- 2) Discussion on the need to decide if the conference following the 2021 conference be 2022 or 2023.

Motion that we permanently change our conference to be every other year, on the odd year, i.e. 2023, 2025 etc., and that this change be submitted to the membership for ratification during the October 2020 voting.

Motion by Joe, second by Courtney. Motion passed unanimously. Motion to be part of the ratification at the TBD membership meeting.

Outreach (Joe)

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).

The pandemic and the now generalized use of zoom, has expanded the scope of the outreach committee. Joe is looking for ideas for how to use the Zoom platform to reach out more broadly. Looking for volunteer to expand the committee to be able to take advantage of new possibilities passing on information for referrals to AA. Joe notes that the professionals know what they need and it is the committee's responsibility to assist local professionals.

Volunteers needed to take advantage of the new opportunities.

- 1) What is Secular AA pamphlet - currently in process with various components completed, and could be ready if needed. Is there a need for a physical pamphlet.

Angela reported requests from local organizations for information.

Marty noted correction facilities do not have access to online, so physical pamphlets are needed.

- 2) Beth's Sec AA court booklet - no information

SEE APPENDIX 2

In-Reach (Angela)

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.

- 1) Most of the inreach activities, which were focused on the Detroit Conference, are now cancelled because of the pandemic.
- 2) Angela has been helping local groups with starting Zoom meetings.

Fellowship (Cathy)

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 "help line" 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)

- 1) Especially interested in the newsletter.
- 2) Voice call answering service number +1-323-693-1633
Discussion on if there is a need for voice mail number.

SEE APPENDIX 3

Archives (John)

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

- 1) No report today.

IT (Courtney)

- 1) secularaa.net (Board website)

- 2) Secularaa.com (Conference website)
- 3) SecularAA.org (information, outreach and service website)
- 4) Coffee Shop
- 5) Online Meetings
- 6) Handling extra use of internet

SEE APPENDIX 4

Old Business

New Business

- 1) New part of website needs volunteers for 24 hr coverage of "hot line" type calls.
- 2) Question by Sam of a post, which Court will look at if it breaks our guidelines.
- 3) Question from Cathy about letters to european CER
- 4) There have been problems with receiving emails with the SecularAA email address. Those will be discontinued, and the board personal emails will be used.

APPENDIX 1 - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



2019-12-31 Financials
Secular AA.pdf



2019 QTR4 P&L
Secular AA.pdf



2019 Secular AA Bank
Detail.pdf

APPENDIX 2 - OUTREACH REPORT



Outreach pamphlet
menu of quotes.docx



Secular AA Outreach
booklet.pdf

APPENDIX 3 - FELLOWSHIP REPORT



Fellowship
Report#1.pdf

APPENDIX 4 - IT REPORT



April 2020 BOD IT
Report.docx