



ICSAA  
Secular AA

# Minutes of Board Meeting of SECULAR AA

3 April 2021 / 2:00 PM EASTERN STANDARD / 11:00 AM PACIFIC  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86026065030?pwd=ZG5pcGpdlZnNjYyVtT3h4VmJVTVJsZz09>

Meeting ID: 860 2606 5030 Password: 017230

[Call to Order](#) by the Chairman at 2:03 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  
Joy R. – Treasurer – absent  
Sam E. – Chair - Present

### 2019-2022 Board Members

Gregg O. – ICSAA 2020-Washington DC, Host Committee Chair - Present  
Joe C. – Outreach Committee Chair - Present  
John S. – Archives Committee Chair - absent

### 2020 Board Members

Marty B. – Vice Chair - Present  
Cyril – Board Member at large - Present

### IT Committee

Vacant

## 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.
- Back to Basics and Keeping it Simple

Upcoming board meeting times (to be confirmed), Saturday’s 2pm Eastern time/ 11:00 AM Pacific.

1. July 24<sup>th</sup>
2. October 23<sup>rd</sup>
3. December 4<sup>th</sup> (ICSAA 2021 wrap up and transition to newly elected board).

Chair’s statement of suggested priorities through ICSAA 2021 (restated and updated from 2019 board meeting in which chair originally presented these thoughts)-

1. Put on a great gathering of Secular AA in DC 2021
2. Continue the great work that has been done maintain our online presence.
3. Build our fellowship within AA, most specifically being visible for other secularly minded AA members who are feeling unique and apart from AA because of their secular perspective. Carrying the message that they are not alone.
4. Assure the sustainability of our work by garnering:
  - a. bids for ICSAA 2022/23
  - b. qualified and willing candidates for the board
5. Continuing to be fiscally prudent and accountable to our membership

IT - No Report

- 1) Website
  - a. adding "Contribute" button
- 2) Coffee Shop
- 3) Online Meetings
- 4) Conference Registration

Secretary (Geri)

- 1) Minutes of the last Board Meeting having been distributed prior to the meeting, motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer (Joy) - not present

Quarterly Financial Statements

- 1) Secular AA Annual Budget
- 2) ICSAA registration money

The treasurer not being present, motion was made to approve the financial statements conditionally, subject to more information from the treasurer at a later date. Motion seconded and approved unanimously.

[Standing Committee Reports/Updates](#)

ICSAA (Gregg)

- 1) ICSAA 2021 - Gregg reported that he is in communication with the hotel and the main speakers and is tentatively moving forward with plans for a December conference.
- 2) ICSAA guidelines (Marty/Carol/Gregg/Geri) - Discussion using the Guidelines as published by GSO as a starting point for Secular AA guidelines. Link to Guidelines [here](#). To be reviewed and discussed at next Board Meeting.
- 3) Create a draft ICSAA 2021 budget.
  - a. Sam scheduled to build spreadsheet to determine break even points for



2018 Conference  
registrations and hc  
ICSAA 2021

Sam reported he has not yet worked on the budget.

**Nominating Committee – Vice-Chair (Marty)** - Marty asked for help since he is new and has limited acquaintances within current Secular AA. Suggestion to include an announcement about seeking sites for future Secular Conferences and a description of the Secular Board at the upcoming June European conference and at any other Secular meetings.

*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.*

**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.*

**Outreach (Joe)** - Joe reported a townhall meeting recently about the Big Book in which people asked about having references and information for professionals about Secular AA. He will contact GSO Professional Community Liason if there are gatherings to which we could send a representative.

*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 - No report**

*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 - No Report

*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) Voice call answering service number +1-323-693-1633 - Sam reported the system is working as intended. The system "piggy-backs" on his office system. There is no added cost to him.

## Archives (John) - No Report

*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)

Old Business - None at this time

New Business

ICSAA European Convention - June 19th - 20th

Cyril reported that from a "rocky" start, he feels the planning has stabilized. There will be 2 rooms, each with capacity of 500 people. One of the active groups from Ireland, Tús Nua (Irish for New Beginnings), has helped to organize the Conference and will be using their own Zoom rooms. They are reaching out to groups which may not have been participating in AA, for example Black & Minority Ethnic, LGBT Groups, and more. Jeffrey Munn, author of Staying Sober Without God is the main speaker.

Joe suggested we up the capacity of ICSAA room to 500 for 1 month to support the Conference. Next planning meeting is Saturday 4/10/2021. The Conference website has a link to SecularAA website.

Sam asked that ICSAA Board have a slot. Cyril and Carol will work on getting one or two slots. Further clarification will be handled at planning meeting on Saturday 4/10/2021.

Cyril requested some extra support to learn more about ICSAA, its history, as well as general ongoing support. Carol volunteered.

Joe requested we increase our podcast capacity. Per request from Sam, Joe will forward information to ICSAA Board members via email for discussion and approval.

LATE NOTE:: After close of meeting, discussion and vote to increasing podcast capacity to \$18/month per email thread among Board members, passed unanimously.

Special informal ICSAA Board Meeting to handle loose ends related to ICSAA European Conference and ICSAA website for DC Conference, set for June 5th, 11 am PDT

Brief discussion on what we are doing regarding a new IT person. Cyril will follow up with the name(s) currently suggested and get back to us.

Sam suggested we use the 3rd party registration system that PRASSA uses, for the DC Conference, to keep it simple. He will get the information, and ask John S. to add to the website.

Sam reviewed the upcoming ICSAA Board meeting dates of July 24th, October 23rd, December 4th.

New Business (continued)

Integrating Beyond Belief - Moving content to Secular AA --

Discussion postponed to next full Board Meeting