



Board Meeting of SECULAR AA

11 July 2020 / 2:00 PM EASTERN STANDARD / 11:00 AM PACIFIC
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82414288041?pwd=anZHWmF4YTdwVnFTY3N5aXRvR3JmQT09>

Meeting ID: 824 1428 8041

Password: 044719

Called to Order by the Chairman at 2:02 pm Eastern Standard / 11:02 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- not present

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 - present

2020 Board Members

Marty B. – Vice Chair - present

IT Committee

Courtney S. – ~~Technology Coordinator~~ – Resigned via email to Board Friday, July 3, 2020 5:45 PM

Officer Reports/Updates

Chair - reminded the meeting members briefly of our Mission & Vision, and usual Board Meeting procedures

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, Saturday’s 2pm Eastern time/ 11:00 AM Pacific.

- ~~1. August 15th – August 8th~~
- ~~2. November 21st~~
- ~~3. March 6th~~
- ~~4. June 5th~~

October 3rd

The Chairman requested that the Board prioritize the discussion of the situation following the resignation of the IT Chairman

Discussion of Courtney's Resignation

The following documents the correspondence and interactions leading to the resignation, which represents the report from the Chairman to this point:



IT Transitioning
Statement 6 July 202

The Chair gave a report of recent interactions with John C, who offered to mediate discussions with the Chair and Courtney, and the results of that attempt, which was unsuccessful. All agreed the important goal is to keep the online meetings easily available to be found. Courtney was offered the opportunity to continue as webmaster for SecularAA.org and maintenance of the meetings, which he rejected. The Chair reported on the current state of the websites, SecularAA.org,com,net, which have been hijacked by Courtney. Board discussed that we now have AASecular.com to use.

Discussion on our current priorities, before we discuss the details of what we do moving forward.

Priorities discussed: Conference, meeting lists, name of the organization, (which the Chair stated was voted on by the membership at the Toronto conference, with the result being ICSAA), name of the public facing website (secularAA) which we've had for 3+ years; after extensive discussion, the consensus among the Board is that we should focus on the conference, but not give up on other functions, and table discussion of the name.

Discussed the CoffeeShop on Facebook, which John S has contact with original creator.

Discussed Facebook page ICSAA2020, and what we would like to have. Joe will research available FB names for the conference FB page. Content will be retrieved as available.

Discussed Online meetings - John S provided hosting for a few meetings; other meetings are still listed on Courtney's new Secular Recovery website, and we may list those on our new website. Discussed belief that each meeting should maintain their autonomy; there is rise of international meetings due to the pandemic. Need format to advertise for Townhall type event this year since we cannot have the conference. Discussed opening our Zoom account to host any meetings. John S. will manage the schedule. Email: secularAA@gmail.com. Do we need a statement that each meeting is autonomous.

Discussion on starting our PayPal for 7th Tradition contributions for our meetings. Membership is confused about where any contributions go, and it appears Courtney has not been upfront about no longer being part of SecularAA.

Discussion that we obtain an ecommerce portal (website?) which we can use for all contributions from meetings and a statement of what we use the money for.

John S. will build the website and circulate wording for suggestions, including statement about registration funds, which will stay in conference account until next conference, unless refund is

refunded. Can also be contributed to general SecularAA funds. Gregg will work with John S and will send an email to the current registrants.

Discussion of our PayPal account being disconnected by Courtney. Joy corrected.

Discussion of conference PayPal account which is controlled by Gregg O.

MOTION: (Joe C.) That an email be sent to the registratans of the DC Conference of cancelled conference by secularAA@gmail.com with options of a) holding money, b) refunding money in full, or c) contribute to SecularAA organization.

Seconded by Marty. Passed unanimously.

BREAK

Question about the minutes of the January meeting which were not received by Board members at the time of the April meeting. Geri stated they were sent out for email approval, but will research and let everyone know.

Joe moved to approve the April meeting minutes, Seconded by Marty. Approved unanimously.

Discussion: For now, start website AASecular to house our current materials

Secretary (Geri)

- 1) Approval of last Board Meeting Minutes - Minutes of April Board Meeting approved unanimously.
- 2) Geri will send email regarding the January minutes.

Treasurer (Joy) - Tabled until next meeting when Joy will be present.

- 1) Quarterly Financial Statements
- 2) Secular AA Annual Budget
- 3) ICSAA registration money



2020 QTR2 Secular AA Profit & Loss.pdf



2020 QTR2 Secular AA Contributions.pdf



2020 QTR2 Secular AA Balance Sheet.pdf

[Standing Committee Reports/Updates](#)

ICSAA (Gregg)

- 1) ICSAA 2020 discuss postponement. - Greg gave update on some speakers who may be available for 2021 and/or for a virtual day in 2020
- 2) ICSAA guidelines (Marty/Carol/Gregg/Geri) - working on with Carol/Geri
- 3) Create a draft ICSAA 2020 budget. - not done
- 4) Discuss offering/or polling members interest in/ a virtual 2020 ICSAA - May have some speakers who would be open to participating in a 2020 virtual event. Discussion on doing a free one day event, which we could use FB to host.

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END OF RECORDING

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.

Discussion that we need 2 more Board members

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.

Discussion - We should be encouraging submissions for 2023 and post encouragement on any sites we have. Note the initial bid does not have to have specific to hotels/rates, but should have general information per the Bid Form.

Outreach (Joe) - No Report Today

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 (~~Angela~~)-- 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 (~~Cathy~~)-- 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

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

New Business

We discussed holding a "virtual" mini-ICSAA, as a free webinar, 3-4 hours long, on Nov. 14, featuring some of the key speakers giving previews of their speeches. I agreed to contact some of them and see if they are available and willing to help with our "preview" or "teaser" on Nov. 14, 2020, with regard to ICSAA2021