



Minutes of the Board Meeting of SECULAR AA

5 OCTOBER 2019 / 2:00 PM EASTERN STANDARD / 11:00 AM PACIFIC

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 – not present
Geri B. – Secretary - present
Joy R. – Treasurer - present
Martin D. – Vice Chair of Board – not present
Sam E. – Chair - present

2019-2022 Board Members

Angela B. – In-Reach Committee Chair - present
Faye P. – Fellowship 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

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.”

- 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.
 - 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.
- 1) Agenda - be prepared to table new topics if needed.
 - 2) Bylaws – should be considered a work in process, please provide chair with any suggested amendments.
 - 3) Upcoming board meeting times (to be confirmed), Saturday’s 2pm Eastern time.
 - a. January 18th, 2020
 - b. April 18th, 2020
 - c. July 4th, 2020, Detroit
 - d. October 29th, ***Thursday evening*** at DC Hyatt (last full meeting of this board)
 - e. November 1st, ***Sunday at 2pm Eastern*** at DC Hyatt (orientation meeting with newly elected board members)
 - 4) Consider adopting this policy of priorities through ICSAA 2020
 1. *Put on a great gathering of Secular AA in DC 2020*
 2. *Participate in the AA International in Detroit including a Secular AA hospitality suite to:*
 - *Carry our message in our mission statement to conference attendees*

- *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. Let's carry the message that they are not alone.*
- 3. *Continue the great work we are doing (thanks Courtney) with our meeting lists and online meetings.*
- 4. *Assure the sustainability of our work by:*
 - *Garnering bids for ICSSA 2022*
 - *Garnering qualified and willing candidates to be nominated to the board for terms beginning 2023*
 - *Continuing to be fiscally prudent and accountable to our membership*

Here are some the things I think we should set aside, or de-prioritize for the time being, not forever but for now:

1. *Spending all the time trying to satisfy everyone who wants something from us. Remember we cannot help others if we are still drunk, our above priorities must come first or we will not be around to expand our work. I think we should respond to all additional requests, no matter how reasonable or important, by making a statement like this: "We are a relatively new organization served by a small number of volunteers, we are committed to our mission 'to assure suffering alcoholics that they can find sobriety in Alcoholics Anonymous without having to accept anyone else's beliefs or deny their own.' We have great ambitions with regards all the things we would do to realize our goals but, alas, our time is limited and it is probably best that we take our steps in order. As of now we don't have the capacity to take on additional tasks but we are most definitely open to the help of others."*
2. *Working on the bylaws. I'm currently thinking we should set aside plenty of time in DC 2020, in a side room, to discuss the bylaws and anything related to the organization of secular AA with all interested prior to the business meeting and the chair would welcome motions for amendment from that group or others at the business meeting.*
3. *The Board committee chairs should consider prioritizing the three items in Point 4 (Assure the sustainability of our work...) in the list above, and table the rest.*

Secretary (Geri)

- 1) No Quorum thus no Board Meeting Minutes from last scheduled meeting.

Treasurer (Joy)

- 1) Quarterly Financial Statements – See Appendix 1 attached
- 2) Discuss creating language to convey Secular AAs finances in an easily understandable manner to the Membership - tabled
- 3) Secular AA Annual Budget - – our bylaws require the board to establish a prudent reserve. After discussion, Motion to establish a Prudent Reserve for IT of \$1500 by John S seconded by Faye, passed unanimously. [NOTE: see New Business; motion revised]

- 4) Discussion on setting prudent reserve for Conferences. Gregg volunteered to research past conferences to make a recommendation by next Board Meeting. It was decided to hold a line item in the Budget for a prudent reserve, the amount to be determined at future meetings.

Standing Committee Reports/Updates

Nominating Committee – Vice-Chair (Martin)

- 1) Martin is not present. Sam requested all current Board Members look for new recruits to be possible Boards Members. Discussion that we previously had a form on the website for people to complete. Court will see that it is on the website.

Sam will follow-up with Martin to gather current documents regarding the nominating process and confirm Martin's involvement. Joy and John S volunteered to be on the committee.

Site Selection Committee

Needs at least one additional director on the committee per the bylaws.

Discussion that Las Vegas has exploratory committee, and there are other places that would be good locations. Angela and Gregg will approach the attendees at the Phoenix Regional coming up in November.

Comment that we might want to consider having the conference at a smaller city, and/or where it would do the most good to help Secular AA.

Discussion on supporting conferences in Australia and/or Europe. And, also we need to remind the whole fellowship that there is support for Regional Conferences.

The form for the 2022 ICSAA Bid is live on the website.

After 5 Minute Break - Minutes of Board meeting of April 27, 2019 approved. Motion by Joy, seconded by John S.

Outreach (Joe)

- 1) Goal of committee to reach out to professionals about Secular AA being an alternative to regular AA.

- 2) Created business card as part of informational decimation, which are being used already in several areas. PDF file is available. Joe asked for help in recruiting volunteers for the committee.
- 3) Angela said her group had found that bringing secular AA meetings into correctional facilities was coordinated through the religious services & asked if others have had similar experiences. Volunteered to work with Outreach.
- 4) Joe will talk to AA-PCP representative at Detroit International Conference about their experiences.
- 5) Joy shared her experience of going into facilities which, as the result of lawsuits, have to have alternative to AA
- 6) John S relayed request to have a way to verify attendance at online meetings. After discussion, the issue was tabled.

See Appendix 2 - "Business Cards describing Secular AA"

In-Reach (Angela)

- 1) Angela asked about status of the tri-fold literature. Sam will follow up to move along circulating the proto-type for comment or approval.
- 2) Alanon has contacted her regarding meetings.
- 3) Angela will be going to Regional Conference in Arizona and will be seeking volunteers for participation in Detroit activities (speaking, marathon meetings etc)
- 4) Also, Angela is coordinating volunteers in general for Detroit activities

Fellowship (Faye)

- 1) Will be reaching out to Courtney about communication issues and the IT platform.
- 2) Will work with Angela on coverage for 2020 Detroit AA International Hospitality Suite
- 3) Voice call answering service number +1-323-693-1633

Archives (John)

- 1) Will be focusing on archiving audio material from past conferences
- 2) Sam suggested we make materials available for a display at the Detroit Conference, and to Secular AA members via online resources. Courtney & John will coordinate putting links on Secular AA website.

IT (Courtney) – See report attached - **Appendix 3**

- 1) secularaa.net (Board website)
- 2) Secularaa.com (Conference website)
- 3) SecularAA.org (information, outreach and service website)
- 4) Coffee Shop
- 5) Online Meetings

ICSAA (Gregg)

- 1) Work on ICSAA 2020 moving along smoothly; many speaker/workshop slots filled. Registration up and running thanks to Courtney. Gregg asked that we encourage people to stay at the conference hotel which is very convenient and reasonably priced for DC. Courtney has also posted many links for “things to do” in the area.
- 2) Post 2018 ICSAA Survey (Gregg) – Useful information obtained
- 3) ICSAA guidelines (Martin/Carol/Gregg/Geri) - not addressed
- 4) ICSAA 2020 Flyer – almost ready; will be available for Phoenix regional Conference

Old Business

- A. "What is Secular AA" pamphlet (Martin and Joe) – already covered
- B. Group Representation - committee to look into options (Sam, John, Joe, Martin) – tabled for time being
- C. Discuss the concept that some contributions have come in earmarked for specific uses: Current contribution of \$3000 has been allocated as follows: \$1000 applied toward IT expenses.

Motion by John S. to amend previous motion to read set aside \$2000 as IT reserve. Seconded by Gregg S. Passed unanimously. . [NOTE: this changes the previous motion during this meeting to set aside \$1500]

NOTE for clarity, we have previously discussed that we will not accept earmarked contributions.

Motion by John S. to not accept earmarked contributions. Seconded by Joy. Passed unanimously

- D. We had previously discussed whether to approved Board minutes within one week of the Board meeting.
Discussion that the usual procedure is to approve minutes at the next board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:07 Pacific.

Appendix 1 - Treasurer's Reports

10:39 PM
07/16/19
Cash Basis

Secular AA, Inc.
Balance Sheet
As of June 30, 2019

	<u>Jun 30, 19</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
City National Bank Las Vegas	7,556.06
Total Checking/Savings	7,556.06
Total Current Assets	7,556.06
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>7,556.06</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
WAAFTIAAC Funds	6,744.29
Unrestricted Net Assets	4,408.12
Net Income	-3,596.35
Total Equity	7,556.06
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>7,556.06</u></u>

10:28 PM
07/16/19
Cash Basis

Secular AA, Inc.
Profit & Loss
January through June 2019

	<u>Jan - Jun 19</u>
Income	
Group Contributions	366.00
Individual Contributions	523.00
	<hr/>
Total Income	889.00
Expense	
Bank Charges	31.80
Contributions to AA GSO	100.00
ICSAA 2018 Expense	2,167.25
Organization Costs	50.00
Paypal Fees	24.18
Websites/IT Expenses	2,112.12
	<hr/>
Total Expense	4,485.35
Net Income	<u><u>-3,596.35</u></u>

Appendix 2 - Outreach Committee: Business Card describing Secular AA

Note: pdf or pub file available from Joe



SECULAR AA
ICSAA

AA “without a prayer” – Alcoholics Anonymous secular groups share a rational approach to the physical, mental and emotional aspects of alcoholism and the AA program.

Like LGBTQ+, women’s or young people’s groups, secular AA is part of AA as a whole (<https://aa.org>).

- ◆ Find hundreds of secular AA meetings: <https://secularaa.org>
- ◆ ICSAA: International Conference of Secular AA: <https://secularaa.com>
- ◆ Ask about secular aa in your community: outreach@secularaa.net

Secular AA for atheists, agnostics, freethinkers and everyone since 1975.

"The full individual liberty to practice any creed or principle or therapy whatever should be a first consideration for us all. Let us not, therefore, pressure anyone with our individual or ever our collective views. Let us instead accord each other the respect and love that is due every human."

A.A. Cofounder, Bill W. (Grapevine June 1965)

<https://secularaa.org>



SECULAR AA
ICSAA

IT Report October 5 2019

Secularaa.net (BOD Website)

Document File Upgrades

Events Calendar Updates

Secularaa.com (Conference Website)

All content points to ICSAA 2020

Conference Registration enabled and accepting reservations

Hotel Reservations enabled...Detailed Visitor info

ICSAA 2022 Bid Request Form

Secularaa.org (Main Outreach)

Online meetings 6 per week

Multiple (4) Newsletters to **1620** (Confirmed) Subscribers

- (Online Meetings-Arizona Conference-ICSAA Flyer-Website Upgrades)

Online Meetings

6 per week with 7th on the way

Coffeeshop

978 members- **4.8K Comments and posts last 28 days**

All Web Services

Moved all Hosting to Hostwinds Modern SSD Drives without Throttling. Severed all ties with GoDaddy.

Hostwinds operates in three data centers. Allowing disaster recovery options. If need be, clients can also geographically load balance traffic between locations.

Our facilities are SAS Type II, audited, Tier 4 Data centers.