



ICSAA
Secular AA

MINUTES OF MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS MEETING

26 August 2018

9:00 AM Eastern Standard
Toronto Marriott, Eaton Square

Call to order at 8:40 pm

Board Introductions

Sam E. – Chair
Martin D. – Vice Chair
Courtney S. – IT / Web
Carol M. – Host Committee Chair – Toronto 2018
Thomas B. – Outreach
Dianne P. - Emeritus Member
Geri B. – Secretary
Nigel S. – Newsletter

Chair's opening comments

- We are here because "We are responsible, when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible." We adhere to our Secular AA Bylaws and in accordance with the principles outlined in A.A.'s 12 Concepts for World Service, and the A.A. Service Manual and Roberts Rules of Order, as applicable.
- We use the committee process - Status reports at board meetings and set tasks to be done in committees. Board to function as oversight and hold committees responsible to the opportunities to involve more of our full membership in service.
- Quorum for the Membership Meeting - Provided there are at least 40 Members present, in person, at any properly announced meeting shall constitute a quorum
- Voting - All issues to be voted on shall be decided by a two thirds majority of Members present (in person) at the meeting in which the vote takes place. Notwithstanding the forgoing, Concept 5, the Right of Appeal, shall be employed, which will ensure that any minority opinion will have a second opportunity to present its views.
- Due to potential logistical time restrictions, or the complexity/newness of the issue at hand, after some discussion, the Board Chairperson may commit (transfer) such new business items to the Board for further discussion at the next Board Meeting.

Ratifications/Elections/Votes

A. Secular AA - housekeeping - motions for ratifications. The Chair announced that all votes would be done with a show of hands. If the results are not obvious, then a more formal method will be used.

- 1) Mission Statement - The Mission Statement was read by the Chair.

"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 particular form of religion or belief system and operates in accordance with the Third Tradition of the Alcoholics Anonymous Program: "the only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking".

Motion from the floor and seconded to accept the Statement. Discussion.

Motion from the floor, and seconded, to remove the word "particular" from the statement, because it is redundant and not necessary. Passed with unanimity. The minority declined to speak further.

Vote on the primary Motion to accept the Mission Statement called. Passed unanimously.

2) Vision Statement - distributed in paper form, and read by the Chair.

"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 A.A. remains an effective, relevant and inclusive program of recovery in an increasingly secular society. The foundation of Secular AA is grounded in the belief 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 A.A. meetings and fostering mutual support within a growing population of secularly-minded alcoholics."

Motion from the floor and seconded to accept the Vision Statement. Discussion.

Motion from the floor and seconded to change the word "the belief" to "our experience". No discussion. Vote called, passed unanimously.

Vote on the primary motion to accept the Vision Statement called. Passed unanimously.

3) Bylaws - see attached

Bylaws previously posted online, and paper copies available.

Motion and second to accept the Bylaws. Discussion.

Motion to amend the Bylaws to make the language non-gender specific, i.e., replacing he/she with they/them. Discussion. Vote called. Passed with unanimity. The minority requested that efforts be made to adhere to proper grammar when making the gender changes.

Vote called on the primary Motion. Passed with unanimity. The minority declined to speak further.

B. ICSAA 2020 Site Selection

- 1) Martin, Vice-Chair of the Board, and Chairman of the Site Selection Committee, gave a report on the bid from Maryland/Washington DC. Gregg O., from Maryland gave a brief description of the amenities, and suggested the date for the last week of October, 2010. Motion and second from the floor to accept the bid. Passed unanimously.

C. Board elections - Term 2019/2021

The Chairman explained several changes to the Board positions and terms, per the new Bylaws, that affect the voting:

- 1) there are three board positions that are not elected, the current Host City Chairman and the upcoming Host City Chairman, and the IT Chairman, which requires specialized skills;
- 2) Board terms are now 4 years. There are four current board members who have agreed to complete the last two years of the new four year terms;
- 3) the vote today will be for at-large directors, and the specific positions will be self selected by the board itself at the board meeting in November.

Martin, Vice-Chairman, who is head of the Nominating Committee, introduced the names of those who have volunteered.

Dave S.
John S.
Joe C.
Faye B.
Angela B.
Keith W.
Marty
Beth

Each position will be elected one at a time, with the aim of having each final elected candidate be elected with 2/3 of the total votes.

After one round, the top 4 are: (none with 2/3)

Joe C - 28
Angela B - 17
John S - 15
Faye - 12

Round two of voting: voting for one of 4 - 90 total votes

Joe has 60% of vote. Motion to accept the result as close enough to 2/3. Motion passed with unanimity. Minority declined to speak.

Round three of voting: voting for one of 7 (original list minus Joe) for position number 2

Angela, 41 of 90 votes. Next closest candidate has 16
Motion to accept the result as close enough to 2/3. Passed with unanimity. Minority declined to speak.

Round four of voting: (voting for one of the remaining 6) for position number 3

John S - 28

Faye - 29

others combined - 22 votes. 28 and 29 represents 3 times the amount of 3rd, 4th, or 5th candidate
Motion to accept the results as close enough to 2/3. Passed unanimously.

Announcements made in-between votes:

- Carol thanked everyone for their help. Attendance in Toronto is 268, compared to Santa Monica with 240, and Austin 430.
- Courtney gave an overview of the online meetings and their growth and importance.

New Business - Items briefly discussed or will be reconsidered at the next Board meeting:

- Chairman stated that the Board is interested in getting input from the membership about Regional Conferences, and anything else. Talk to any Board member.
- Discussion on if we want to have annual conference every year, every 5 or whatever.
- Chairman announced the intention of Secular AA to have a presence at the AA International conference. We have requested allocation of a hospitality suite from GSO, and we will plan for the project to be independently self supporting.
- Complaint from a member about Bylaws needing more work, i.e. no requirement to be sober.
- Request from a member for contact information of members.
- Statement from the floor in support of having meeting each 2 or 3 years

Meeting closed at 10:30 Eastern Time

Carol, Chairman of Toronto ICSAA 2018, reported attendance statistics

2014 - 240

2016 - 430

2018 - 268

Carol talked about the value of the post-conference surveys, and that there will be one after Toronto, and attendees should look for it. All input welcome.

Courtney, IT Chairman Report

456 meetings in 367 locations, 262 Secular AA groups, with 4 online Meetings

- Secular Saturday, and Sunday - international attendance

- Monday Night Women Only Meeting

- Manic Monday - International Meeting 6 am

Secular AA Coffee Shop, 900 members

Mailing List: 1000+