



ICSAA
Secular AA

4 March 2023 **Secular AA Board MINUTES** 2 PM ET/11 AM PT

Minutes prepared by Margarita A, and approved by the Board on April 15, 2023.

Meeting ID: 879 3132 5789

Passcode: 799497

Minutes prepared by Margarita, Secular AA Secretary

Call to Order by the Chairman at 2:02 pm Eastern Standard / 11:02 am Pacific

Marty read AA Declaration of Unity:

This we owe to AA's future: To place our common welfare first: To keep our fellowship united.

For on AA Unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come.

Marty called role.

9 Board Members present and quorum confirmed.

Board Members

Marty B	Chair	Present
Megan C	Vice-Chair	Present
Margarita	Secretary	Present
Kurt R.	Treasurer	Present
Dale	Member at Large	Present
Jeb	Member at Large	Present
Michalina	Member at Large	Present
Sonny	Member at Large	Present
Tyler	Member at Large	ABSENT
Will.I.Am	Member at Large	Present
Mikey J	IT Chair	ABSENT
Alison P	Orlando ICSAA 2024 Committee Representative	Present
Joe C	Former Secular AA Board Member	Present

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



ICSAA

Secular AA 4 March 2023 **Secular AA Board MINUTES** 2 PM ET/11 AM PT

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 the 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 ___ Eastern time/ ___ AM Pacific.

1. **2pm ET/11am PT - April 15, 2023**
2. 2pm ET/11am PT - Jul 15, 2023
3. TBD 2pm ET/11am PT - ____, 2023
4. TBD 2pm ET/11am PT - ____, 2023

Officer Reports/Updates

Secretary (Margarita)

Agenda Item 1) Corrections/Approval of Jan 14 and Feb 4, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

APPROVED Unanimously

Treasurer (Kurt)

Agenda Item 2) Treasurer update:

Annual required State of Nevada filing done.

Kurt has access to Secular AA accounts and ability to write checks.

Almost done with 2022 taxes

We've made \$435.33, but filing taxes costs \$450.



ICSAA

Secular AA 4 March 2023 Secular AA Board MINUTES 2 PM ET/11 AM PT

Standing Committee Reports/Updates

Nominating Committee – Vice-Chair -Megan

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 - Megan

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.

Agenda Item 3) Presentation by Megan, discussion and Board vote:

Asheville's proposed venue's size is too small for the number of attendees and does not have recording ability.

Orlando has a well organized committee

Hybrid more feasible in Orlando with OMAGOD located there

Committee can provide decompression areas for introverts.

Committee is large and well organized.

Margarita moved to approve Orlando.

Kurt seconded the motion.

Sonny asks - What are other attractions for Orlando for attendees outside of the convention?

Megan listed an answer orally, and Margarita copied information from Orlando's bid document into the chat about outside attractions.

VOTE

Dale, Kurt, JEB, Micalina, Margarita, William ORLANDO APPROVED as location of ICSAA 2024.

Marty and Megan ABSTAINED.

Sonny OPPOSED.

Outreach (Open)

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.;



ICSAA

Secular AA

4 March 2023 **Secular AA Board MINUTES** 2 PM ET/11 AM PT

Acting as the Secular AA CPC, Institutions and PI committees (see AA Guidelines for CPC, Institutions and PI committees).

In-Reach (Kurt)

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 (open)

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 “helpline” 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)

Archives (Open)

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;



ICSAA

Secular AA 4 March 2023 **Secular AA Board MINUTES** 2 PM ET/11 AM PT

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

IT- Mikey J

Agenda Item 4) Website update **ABSENT**

OTHER BUSINESS:

Agenda Item 5) Need for ICSAA Monthly Storytime Speaker Meetings Committee

MARGARITA gave an update. ICSAA StoryTime is out of NYC tomorrow, California on April 2nd, South America in June and StoryTime needs Spanish/English translation.

MEGAN will stay on the Storytime Committee.

JOE C- The original purpose of monthly ICSAA Storytime was to fill the void of online secular recovery. Now there are hundreds of meetings around the world. It remains valuable as a communication link between the Board and the Secular AA community and serves to keep an archive of recordings of Secular AA Speakers. Joe is willing to help continue using Beyond Belief Toronto Zoom, and happy to edit and post recordings or can easily train someone else.

Will stated that we need more people on the StoryTime Committee than Megan and Joe. Margarita volunteered to continue seeking groups internationally to present and said she can do flyers but recommended Mikey.

Agenda Item 6) ICSAA 2023 Committee update by Committee Chair - JEB

(12:26) 11 committee members, two international members including Micalina from Poland and an Australian. JEB wants the contact info for Edgar from South America and is in search of Asian representation.

Tech support from Pittsburg

Committee and Secular AA Board have to address - one or two day conference?

Need GSOs from other parts of the world with Joe C's help to present a panel.

Megan recommended Mikey for the Site Committee Chair.

Bylaws

Agenda Item 7) Resignation/s

Marty and Megan offered their resignation from the Board effective at the conclusion of this meeting.



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4 March 2023 **Secular AA Board MINUTES** 2 PM ET/11 AM PT

Agenda Item 8) Nomination/s

Sonny asks- Is there a nominating committee?

(FYI per the Bylaws, the Vice Chair is the Chair of the Nominating Committee, but Megan is resigning.)

Marty explained that the Nomination Committee is only to recommend individuals to act as Board members and the Board members choose officers within the Board.

Kurt nominated William C as Chair of the Secular AA Board.

Will accepted under the condition that it be as "Acting" Chair for a period of 6 months at which point we would review as to whether he would want to stay on or whether it be on the Board elect a new Chair.

Kurt amended Will to be "Acting" Chair for 6 months.

VOTE Unanimous William C will serve as Secular AA Board ACTING CHAIR for review after 6 months.

Abstaining - Marty and Megan

Kurt nominated Sonny as Vice Chair.

Megan seconded.

Sonny said he was willing but is concerned about being new to the Board and that Bylaws are complicated.

VOTE

Approved unanimously.

Marty, Megan and Margarita abstained.

WILL nominated Kurt as Liaison for board with Orlando 2024

Kurt accepted.

VOTE Approved unanimously. Megan and Marty abstained

Meeting closed 3:11 pm ET

NEXT MEETING 2pm ET/11am PT - April 15, 2023