



Board Meeting of SECULAR AA

23 October 2021 / 2:00 PM EASTERN STANDARD / 11:00 AM PACIFIC

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84872072756?pwd=Mk9aczQ3SndQUEJJMHRyLoJxK3c1UT09>

Meeting ID: 848 7207 2756

Passcode: 12&12

[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 - 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 - not present

Joe C. – Outreach Committee Chair - present

John S. – Archives Committee Chair - present

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. ~~December 4th~~ December 3rd, 2021
2. March 5th, 2022
3. June 4th, 2022
4. September 17th, 2022
5. October 22nd, 2022 (last standard board meeting with focus on last minute stuff for ICSAA the following week)
6. October 27th 2022 (evening before ICSAA)
7. October 30th, 2022 (Welcome new board, explanation of positions, smooth transition)
8. January 7th, 2023 (1st meeting of new board)

Chair’s statement of suggested priorities through ICSAA 2022 (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 2022
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 2023/24
 - b. qualified and willing candidates for the board
5. Continuing to be fiscally prudent and accountable to our membership

IT [General discussion on possible changes, upgrades to Secular AA website](#)

- 1) Website
 - a. Possibility of migrating AA Beyond Belief stories to Secular AA website and adding "Contribute" button (instead of Donate); John will follow up.
 - b. John asked for support and help in getting focused and help to make some changes.
 - c. Reminder to put info about the upcoming December conference on the website. John and Joe will follow up with Gregg
 - d. See further discussion under "Old Business" below.
- 2) Coffee Shop - not discussed
- 3) Online Meetings - Joe reminded about the monthly Secular Speaker Meeting, Sunday November 7th, 11 am Pacific
- 4) Conference Registration - not discussed

Secretary (Geri)

- 1) Board Meeting Minutes from 8/28/2021 approved unanimously

Treasurer (Joy) - no report

[Standing Committee Reports/Updates](#)

[ICSAA \(Gregg\)](#)

- 1) ICSAA 2021 - Since Gregg is not present, the discussion was limited. Joe has a possible speaker (David Best). He will communicate with Gregg. Final date may depend on which day a speaker is available (December 11 or 12). We may look to some of same facilitators from the last virtual conference to help with workshops.
- 2) ICSAA guidelines (Marty/Carol/Gregg/Geri) - not discussed
- 3) Create a draft ICSAA 2021 budget - not discussed
- 4) John S. stated we need to look into the benefits offered to Non- profit organizations by Google for advertising. He will follow up.

[Nominating Committee – Vice-Chair \(Marty\)](#) - Not Discussed

[Site Selection Committee – Vice-Chair \(Marty\)](#) - Not Discussed

Joe C. stated there appeared to be one or two groups interested to presenting a proposal for a future in-person event.

[Outreach \(Joe\)](#) - Not Discussed

[In-Reach](#) - Not Discussed

[Fellowship](#) - Not Discussed

[Archives \(John\)](#) - see previous discussion under IT

Old Business

- Integrating Beyond Belief –Moving content to Secular AA

John explained that it will be a straightforward process to move the accumulated stories by AA members to the Secular AA site. He will be working on that process as he has the time and energy. It was suggested that there would be help available after the virtual ICSAA conference.

- Participating in the UK 50th Anniversary celebration in Leeds in June, 2022

Cyril reported that the request for Secular AA to participate in the event was rejected. Discussion to look into possible ways to have an unofficial presence at the event, to be continued.

New Business - none discussed