



Minutes of Board Meeting of SECULAR AA

5 March 2022 / 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)

2017-2022 Board Members

Carol M. – ICSAA 2018-Toronto, Host Committee Chair - present

Geri B. – Secretary - present

Joy R. – Treasurer - present

Sam E. – Chair - present

2019-2022 Board Members

Gregg O. – ICSAA 2022-Washington DC, Host Committee Chair - present

Joe C. – Outreach Committee Chair - present

John S. – Archives Committee Chair - NOT present

2020-2022 Board Members

Marty B. – Vice Chair - not present (arrived at 11:30)

Cyril – Board Member at large - present

IT Committee

Vacant

Officer Reports/Updates

Chair briefly reviewed and asked attendees to review the Mission and Vision Statements and the 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

The Chair reminded everyone to review the current upcoming board meeting times (to be confirmed), to be held on Saturday’s 2pm Eastern time/ 11:00 AM Pacific.

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

The Chairman reminded everyone of our slogan KISS, and the 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

The Chairman asked for any information of interest in Bids for the 2024 ICSAA. Joe stated he had talked with Lori in Kent, Washington, with the Seattle Secular AA group, who expressed interest in getting more information and talking with Gregg. Joe will provide her with contact information. Gregg will attend the Zoom Monthly Secular Speaker meeting (this Sunday) hosted by Kansas City and will make an announcement about October 2022 ICSAA. Sam also mentioned that he and Geri are in the process of gathering information to make a Bid from Las Vegas for ICSAA 2024

Sam stated he believes we will be able to find people to be candidates for the Secular Board during the gathering in Washington DC.

Secretary (Geri)

Sam called for approval of last Board Meeting Minutes. Passed unanimously without discussion.

Sam stated that John Sheldon has resigned from the ICSAA board for personal reasons, and stated he is grateful for his past service to ICSAA and sad to see him move on. Joe asked about the ICSAA Website. He stated the feedback he receives from members is that the ICSAA organization is not as communicative with members as it could be. Not publishing the minutes as an example of our failure to communicate. He asked how easy the website is to update. Sam stated we actually do not know at this time. We are currently looking for someone to manage and update the website. Gregg is hoping to meet in person with John S. to learn how to update the website for the purposes of getting the DC ICSAA Conference properly listed on the website. Sam asked if we are using Ticket Leap company to manage the registration, and Gregg stated he believed they are still onboard. Joy has the information on money refunded or being held. Gregg stated he is in a position to re-start working on the conference details. He has kept in touch with the main speakers who are still available.

Treasurer (Joy) - Joy stated she has been receiving notices that the account in the bank in Las Vegas is charging a "returned statement fee" that she has not been able to get rectified. She is concerned there could be donation checks being returned. Sam stated he will get the issue corrected and fees refunded.

We currently have \$5663 in Paypal (there has been activity since the Virtual Event), and just received \$1000+ from Ireland secular AA. All minor fees we pay come out of this account. She

is working on the annual financials and she has paid \$678 to renew insurance, has filed Nevada Secretary of State paperwork. She paid the translator from the ICSAA Digital Conference with a personal check for convenience and will reimburse herself. She is working on the final numbers from the Digital Conference and will have that information soon.

- 1) Quarterly Financial Statements - working on
- 2) Secular AA Annual Budget - working on
- 3) ICSAA registration money - there were some requests to apply to next conference registrations to the next conference, which are being held.

Standing Committee Reports/Updates

ICSAA (Gregg)

- 1) ICSAA 2022 (Oct 28 - 30) - Gregg is turning up his attention to the conference
 - Same arrangements in place at the hotel
 - Checking regularly with speakers. Will be reconfirming with each
 - Gregg prefers not having zoom events in order to protect the minimal hotel room requirements.
 - Sam reminded the board that we have a goal to leave conference guidelines and suggested using the AA Conference Guidelines as the basis, and add a supplement document tailored to our conference.
(Marty/Carol/Gregg/Geri to help)
 - Joe suggested Gregg reach out to sponsors of the IWC (International Woman's Conference) to get feedback on their experience with hybrid. Geri will find a contact for Gregg.
- 2) Create a draft ICSAA 2022 budget. - tabled for now
- 3) Marketing - Brainstorm discussion and input of ideas, especially from Carol (previous Conference Chair)
- 4) Website registration/information - Gregg working on (see above discussion)

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.

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.

Outreach (Joe)

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).

Joe requested support for having translators in our monthly secular speaker meeting as well as at the DC conference. Feedback when having translators has been very positive, and important for the more multi-national fellowship we have.

Joe moved to have an annual budget of \$1000 to \$1200/year for multi-language translation services at the monthly speaker meeting. Passed unanimously.

Sam moved to have budget for multi-language translation services at the DC conference. Passed unanimously.

Joe reported some ongoing discussions about a digital european conference, with no concrete information at this time.

In-Reach

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

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)

Archives (John)

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”;

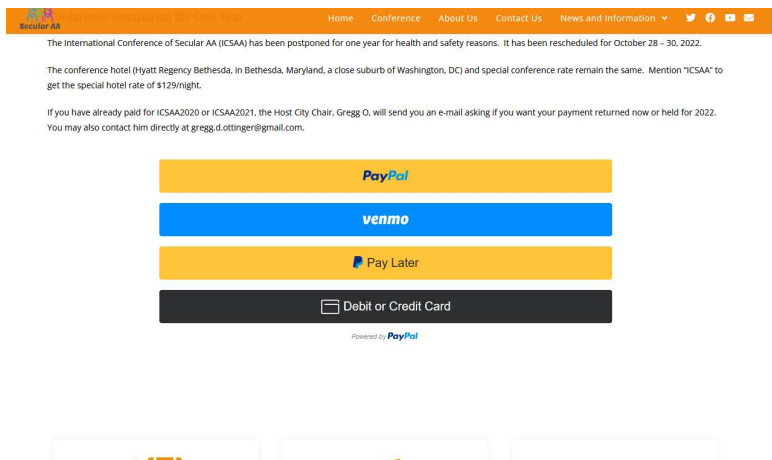
Maintain historical documents, as they become available, on the history of secularists in AA

1)

IT

1) Website aasecular.org see previous discussion at the beginning of the meeting

a. Adding "Contribute" button (Pay for what? This is weird)



- 2) Coffee Shop
- 3) Online Meetings
- 4) Conference Registration

Old Business

1. Integrating Beyond Belief – Moving content to/from Beyond Belief website to Secular AA - Need information and a plan. Gregg will contact John S. for in person meeting. See previous discussion.
2. Continued discussion on possibly changing our organizational structure
 - a. Discussions on Board Rotation since currently some members terms is scheduled to end. Cryl reported he will be resigning at the October conference because of other local commitments.
 - b. Meeting set for April 16th, 2 pm - for an isolated discussion on changing and/or updating the Bylaws. See link for attached separate document.

New Business



Motions to 2022
membership meeting
