

Minutes of ICSAA Secular AA Board Meeting

June 27, 2017

Call To Order at 1102 PDT by the Chair.

Roll Call

Sam E. – Chair
Martin D. – Vice Chair
Geri B. – Secretary
Joy R. – Treasurer (joined at about 11:55)
Courtney S. – IT / Web
Carol M. – Host Committee Chair – Toronto 2018
Thomas B. – Outreach
Patrick Y. – Mission / Vision
Nigel S. – Newsletter
Dianne P. - Emeritus Member (not present)

John S. – resigned due to simple lack of time and he sends his love and support of all the committee is doing.

Chair's opening comments

- Adherence to AA Concepts, Traditions, Roberts Rules, AA Service Manual and our Bylaws as applicable.
- 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 collective group conscious. Whenever possible work to be done in committee. Create opportunities to involve more of our full membership in service.
- Please review dates, and advise if there is a need to change any dates for meetings. We can try to accommodate changes 2017/18 board meeting times if needed.
 - 15 September – pre regional convention board dinner and tour of 2018 convention space in Toronto (6 pm Toronto EST time)
 - 17 September – post regional convention board meeting in Toronto (3-6 pm EST)
 - 9 January 2018 (2pm EST)
 - 10th April 2018 (2pm EST)
 - 23rd August 2018 (Toronto, early dinner)
 - 24th August 2018 informal open membership at large Q&A during ICSAA 2018
 - 25th August 2018 formal open membership at large voting business meeting during ICSAA 2018
 - 26th August 2018 (Toronto with New Board)
 - 17th November 2018 (Last board meeting of this board, pass off to new board) possible in person option in Las Vegas

Minutes of Previous Board meeting unanimously approved by all members present.

Old Business and Chair Reports/Updates

A. **Mission Statement** (presented by Pat)

Board discussed the presentation by Pat. Accepted unanimously as:

“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 Alcoholics Anonymous: The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.”

NOTE: Our understanding is that the term "A.A." (with the periods) is a legal term referring to A.A. General Service Office.

Vision Statement

Pat presented the first draft of 4 points composing our Vision Statement. After discussion it was agreed that Pat and Martin would take the input given at this meeting from the Board to incorporate into a second draft and send out in an email for further comment and input. We will then review again at the next Board meeting.

B. Corporate housekeeping

- Bylaws (Pat – Geri) - after discussion it was decided that Geri, Pat, Sam, and anyone else who can, will meet in Las Vegas (including a Zoom) at a date TBD in the near future.
- Board liability insurance (Carol - Sam)

Directors/Officers Liability (ICSAA - Toronto 2018) Nigel reported his research locally that there appears to be personal liability on part of officers. Rough estimate of \$750 - \$900 for officers, \$700 for General Liability; and will pursue getting quotes. Question on if Secular AA Inc. has its own insurance, that may cover the "subsidiary" ICSAA - Toronto. Sam expressed that the focus should be on premises liability for during the conference time. Carol, Nigel and Sam agreed to do additional research on their own, and bring to next meeting.

C. Treasure (Joy) \$2958.61 Balance.

D. IT (Courtney)

- John and Courtney Podcast: Question on whether to include a link on our website? What is our policy for public statements, such as podcasts?
- Deferred to next meeting.
- secularaa.net (Board Website)
- Secularaa.com (convention website)
- SecularAA.org (information, outreach and service website)

- Courtney reported that we are experiencing tremendous growth; eg last month we had individual views of 2643, 692 pages. Most visits on mobile. There are 397 meetings listed in 179 groups on SecularAA. Biggest referrers: AAgnostica, WAFTIAC websites.

There are 37 unique pages on the website, including resources for starting groups, scripts, information on our history, and more. There are also 2 regular online meetings which average 20 -25 attendees per meeting.

- Courtney noted future issues needing to be addressed: Expenses and additional personnel to maintain the site on an ongoing basis. Courtney agreed to put together an Expense Report and Budget to maintain ongoing.

- Sam asked all Board members to be on lookout for qualified personnel to get involved. Courtney mentioned there is one resource that is working with him now, but he also is pretty busy.

- Discussion on using the 7th Tradition to help support the website and server. Courtney will talk to John S., whose website Beyond Belief, technically host the meetings.

E. Conference guidelines

Martin is reviewing reference material from IYPAA and other sources, but has not yet consolidated. Any thoughts or comments welcome. Work continues.

F. 2018 Conference - Carol reported:

- Theme “Inclusion and Diversity”
- Marriott
 - i. Credit Application - we will wait for contact from Marriott. No need for follow up.
 - ii. Liability Insurance Rider
- Registration – process and form

Form draft sent out for general input. Courtney reported it looks like he will be able to format online version based on whatever data we want to collect and what the committee put together.

- Agreed to have each individual registra separately.

- Decided to send letters to the few people who paid ahead to clarify of an additional amount due, or offer refund.

- Agreed to remove the large bold disclaimer about travel to Canada.

- Decided to advertise the meals (Saturday Lunch and Sunday Breakfast) as part of the registration fee, but not "free", coffee at least for now. If we have enough registrations as we move into conference time, we can decide to provide the "free" coffee breaks as part of registration.

- Board decided to ask for Name and affiliation/city for Badge.

- Suggested expanded wording about staying at the hotel to include statement about "seventh tradition" support.

- Discussion on wording for paying using PayPal or check.

- Discussion on having a DONATION button on the website, and wording

All ideas will be incorporated into next Draft

- Drunk Junk (T-Shirts etc.) - Nigel

ICSAA Logo with dates. Still working on total logo. \$15 ahead and \$20 onsite.

Discussion on using online third party site to provide merchandise (shirts, cups).

Geri will investigate.

- Program Update - Carol gave general overview, stating decisions will not be made until first of the year. Still soliciting input.

- Recording Conference

Discussion on using traditional service for recording and selling CDs or Joe C has made a proposal to lead a team to do recordings locally and possibly sell CDs.

Carol will send info to everyone.

G. 2020 Conference Bid Committee (Joy)

- Discuss Secular AA involvement at 2020 Detroit International AA in July, while ICSAA would be in November. We want to be involved in the July International and Joy will contact the AA International Committee to get space for meet and possibly a place to hang.
- Discussed the date of our next ICSAA after 2018 - do we want 2020 at same time as International AA; maybe should be part of Bylaws? TBD

H. Outreach (Thomas) - Deferred to next meeting

I. Newsletter (Nigel)

First newsletter has been sent out. Second one is in process based on new content and will be developed for quarterly distribution. Current subscriptions 722. Include descriptions of Toronto and "things to do". Courtney can send content easily.

J. Registrar Position - decided we will not need this position as the information is on the website

K. Full Membership - participation/accountability – Identifying our Group Conscious (Sam, Courtney & Thomas)

Sam requested the Board review the issues below, and send any thoughts or comments.

The sub-committee will continue to work on: (also, these issues may be part of the Bylaws)

- Are we a group of AA groups or a group of AA members?
 - i. Regional representation?
 - ii. Organizational model: Intergroup, general service, free standing committee (like ICYPAA), or something else?

- Requirement for membership?
 - i. Self-determined (you are if you say you are)
- How do we take our group conscious?
 - i. At ICSAA for ICSAA business
 - ii. Online meeting
 - Live or forum; or
 - In person during ICSAA conferences
- Secular meaning for our purposes
 - i. No religious affiliation; or
 - ii. Non-religious

New Business

- A. Register for Toronto Regional Conference

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by the Chair at 1:11 pm PDT