

Families Anonymous
Annual Business Meeting
May 30, 2015, Livingston, NJ

Preliminary Minutes

1. **Call to order:** 2:19 pm EDT, by George R, World Service Board (WSB) Chair.
2. **Tradition 1:** Read by George R, WSB Chair: *“Our common welfare should come first; personal progress for the greatest number depends on unity”*.
3. **Introduction of Parliamentarian:** Marc M (group 1789) WSB Parliamentarian was present to address any procedural issues as necessary.
4. **Credentials Committee Report - Barbara S (group 1345) Credentials Committee Chair**
 - As of April 1st, 137 groups have registered.
 - A quorum, more than 14 (i.e., 10%) has been met to transact business.
 - 40 votes were received by mail / e-mail, and 12 are present.
5. **Old Business**
 - **Approval of 2014 ABM Minutes:** Marc M (group 1789) moved to approve; Howard P (group 1301) seconded; voted on and approved.
 - **Approval of Fiscal 2014 Final Financial Report:** Hank H (group 1844) moved to approve; seconded by Howard P (group 1301), voted on and approved.
6. **New Business**
 - **Treasurer's Report (Preliminary FY 2015) – George R, WSB Chair on behalf of Lisa K, WSB Treasurer**
 - ➔ Overall revenues, which are primarily from literature sales and contributions, are down ~\$1K compared to last year. Literature sales are up slightly (~\$2K); contributions from fellowship are down 15% (~\$4.3K). Some possible reasons for the decrease in revenues and suggestions for improvement were discussed. George R indicated that these would be further looked at by the WSB.
 - ➔ PayPal was added as a payment option this year, with the hope that it would further support recurring donations.
 - ➔ George R acknowledged the great work done by the Literature Committee and asked that we get the word out to our groups.
 - ➔ Overall expenses are at ~\$88K. Payroll expenses were down ~\$5K due to the vacancy in our Data Management Coordinator position for half the fiscal year.
 - ➔ Net income was ~\$4K.

- **Volunteers Needed (3) for 2016 Nominating Committee - George R, WSB Chair**
 - This activity would require 45 minutes to 1 hour of time per volunteer between now and next May.
 - Contact WSO or WSB Chair if interested.
 - Susan S (group 252, Summit NJ) volunteered from the floor to be on the 2016 Nominating Committee.
- **Bid for 2016 Convention – George R, WSB Chair**
 - There is no bid yet for the 2016 convention.
 - George R encouraged everyone to go back to their groups and discuss the possibility of hosting next year's convention.

7. Nominating Committee Report – Barbara S (group 1345) Credentials Committee Chair

- **Nominees for Board Officers:**

Mark M (Group 1789) moved to accept the following nominations, seconded by Howard P (Group 1301).

 - Chair: Hank H, Group 1844, Mequon, WI
 - Vice-Chair: Barbara S, Group 1345, Cherry Hill, NJ
 - Treasurer: David M, Group 337, Chattanooga, TN
 - Secretary: Maria S, Group 976, Colts Neck, NJ
- **Nominees for Board Members at Large:**
 - Barry Z, Group 1820, Westmont, IL
 - Dona F, Group 1345, Cherry Hill, NJ
 - Helen L, Group 1985, Lutraci Korinth, Greece
 - Nancy W, Group 1844, Mequon, WI
 - Namrata N, Group 1815, Bangalore Karnataka, India
- **Nominee from the floor for Board Member at Large:**
 - Mark M (Group 1789) moved to nominate Joy R, Group 252, Summit NJ, for Board Member at Large; seconded by David M (Group 337).

8. Election of Board Members and Vote on Logo Motion – George R, WSB Chair
George R asked those present with a blue ballot who have not yet voted by mail / e-mail, to submit their votes to Barbara S.

9. State of the Fellowship Report – George R, WSB Chair

- **FA - “A Worldwide Fellowship”**
 - Total number of Groups: 203 in US and 208 International
 - Number of Intergroups: 3 in US and 4 International
 - Number of National Service Boards: 5 International
 - FA Groups meet in 32 of the 50 US States; in 13 countries; on 5 continents; in 3 “Virtual Groups” (E-Meeting / Meetings Without Walls).
- **World Service Board (WSB)**
 - Seventeen members served during the Board year 2014 / 2015,

- including 14 from the US, 1 from the UK and 2 from India.
- George R thanked the following 6 Board Members, retiring today, for their service to the fellowship: Alice Q, Chris D, Eric H, Linda F, Lisa K, and Marc M.
- George R also welcomed Helen L, the first Board Member from Greece, and all the other new Board Members.
- **2014 / 2015 Events of Interest**
 - **New Groups**
 - Twenty-five new FA Groups were registered in the last 12 months, including a new International Intergroup (Northern Greece Intergroup #4026).
 - The first FA Group in Alaska (Group # 1998) was registered in February 2015.
 - Two new groups were formed in Russia, bringing the total in that country to 5.
 - A second Group in Australia was started in Cheltenham, Victoria.
 - **World Service Office (WSO) Staff**
 - Nicole G began working as the new WSO Data Management Coordinator on May 21, 2015.
 - In addition to other duties, she will be maintaining the Groups Master List and processing all Group registrations. She can be contacted via phone at the WSO or via email at dmc@familiesanonymous.org.
 - **FA Website**
 - PayPal has been added as an additional option for literature purchases and donations, including recurring donations.
 - Website improvements are being done on an on-going basis.
 - **The Twelve Step Rag Newsletter**
 - Beginning with the January / February 2015 issue, the Rag is available electronically only. George R asked that we encourage our Groups to access it online.
 - Because it is now electronic, we are no longer constrained by page counts, printing costs, etc.
 - George encouraged contributions and indicated they should be sent to Lisa W, the Rag Editor, at rageditor12@gmail.com.
 - **Literature**
 - The eBook version of the Spanish edition of "*Today a Better Way*" was released. It is available for the Apple iPad / iPod / iPhone as well as the Amazon Kindle and Barnes & Noble Nook.
 - The Literature Committee is currently finalizing a major update to the "*Twelve Traditions in Action*".
 - A request was made from the floor by Shlomo H (Group 252) that the Literature Committee consider providing more material to support siblings.
 - **2014 / 2015 World Service Summary**
 - Costs are rising, and our donations and literature sales are declining.

George R asked for support in reducing this trend.

- FA is not growing in terms of the total number of groups. The WSB is working hard to grow the fellowship, but requires the support of all members.
- Each and every member of FA needs to “spread the word” to increase attendance at existing group meetings and to encourage the formation of FA groups worldwide.
- The World Service Organization's primary objective has always been, and remains, to offer the miracle of FA recovery to all whose lives are negatively impacted by the disease of addiction.

10. Election Results – Barbara S (group 1345) Credentials Committee Chair

- Out of 42 ballots cast, 37 voted “yes” to approve the new logo; 5 voted “no”.
- The election of all WSB Officers and Members at Large were unanimously approved.

11. Adjournment:

- George invited the new WSB Chair, Hank H (group 1844) to address the group. Hank re-introduced the new slate of officers, and encouraged all members to actively support the fellowship by providing their input and spreading the word.
- Motion to adjourn was made by John S (group 641); seconded by Barbara S (group 1345). Meeting adjourned at 3:03 pm EDT.