

Families Anonymous
Annual Business Meeting
June 4, 2016, Miami, FLA

Preliminary Minutes

1. **Call to order – Introduction of Board Officers and Members Attending;
Introduction of Parliamentarian:**

- ⌚ Call to order made at 2:08 pm EDT, by Hank H (Group 1844), World Service Board (WSB) Chair.
- ⌚ Introduction of Board Officers:
 - ➔ Chair: Hank H, Group 1844
 - ➔ Vice-Chair: Barbara S, Group 1345
 - ➔ Treasurer: David M, Group 337
 - ➔ Secretary: Maria S, Group 976
- ⌚ Art L (Group 252) WSB Parliamentarian was present to address any procedural issues as necessary.

2. **Welcome - Tradition 1:**

- ⌚ Read by Hank H, WSB Chair: *“Our common welfare should come first; personal progress for the greatest number depends on unity”.*

3. **Report from the Credentials Committee Chair- Barbara S (group 1345):**

- ⌚ As of April 1st, 230 groups have registered. This represents an increase of over 100 groups compared to 2015.
- ⌚ A quorum, more than 23 (i.e., 10%) has been met to transact business.
- ⌚ A quorum, more than 35 (i.e., 15%) has been met for election of officers and board members at large.
- ⌚ 47 votes were received by mail / e-mail, and 12 delegates are present.

4. **Old Business**

- ⌚ **Approval of 2015 ABM Minutes:** Ruth F (Group 1345) moved to approve; Donna D (Group 279) seconded; voted on and approved.
- ⌚ **Approval of Fiscal 2015 Final Financial Report:** Barbara S (Group 1345) moved to approve; seconded by Mary H (Group 1844), voted on and approved.

5. **New Business**

- ⌚ **Treasurer's Report (FY 2016) – David M (Group 337), WSB Treasurer**
 - ➔ Total revenues were up 1.3% compared to last year. Net income was ~\$7K this year vs. ~\$4K last year. There was a major contribution from the NJ Convention.
 - ➔ Expenses were up 0.4%. An office computer was purchased, and payment was made to a vendor who maintained the group mailing list.
 - ➔ There was a question concerning rental income. David explained that it

was less this year because the office is shared with the Chicagoland Intergroup, and the maintenance fee was prorated among all tenants.

- ⌚ **Approval of Final FY 2016 Financial Report**
 - ➔ Motion to approve the final report was made by Tom (Group 1910); seconded by Mary H (Group 1844); voted on and unanimously approved.
- ⌚ **Call for Volunteers for 2017 Nominating Committee - Hank H, WSB Chair**
 - ➔ Susan S (Group 252) and Nancy W (Group 1844) volunteered from the floor to be on the 2017 Nominating Committee.
- ⌚ **Call for 2017 Convention Bid – Carla B (Group 746), Evansville, IN**
 - ➔ Group 746, Evansville, IN put in a bid to host the 2017 Convention.
 - ➔ Motion to approve bid was made by Barbara S (Group 1345), who indicated that the Evansville Group has satisfied the requirements. Seconded by Donna D (Group 279); voted on and unanimously approved.
 - ➔ Dates for the convention are to be determined. Once the venue contract has been approved by the WSB, an announcement about the convention will be sent out.

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

- ⌚ Nominees for Board Members at Large for the 2016/2017 term are:
 - ➔ Ann P, Group 1301; renewal of term
 - ➔ Bev B, Group 5001; renewal of term
 - ➔ Bev C, Group 1187; renewal of term
 - ➔ Donna D, Group 279; renewal of term
 - ➔ Susan S, Group 252; new
 - ➔ Sylvia S, Group 1346; new
 - ➔ Marc B, Group 288; new
- ⌚ There were no additional nominations from the floor.

7. **State of the Fellowship Report – Hank H, WSB Chair**

- ⌚ **FA - “A Worldwide Fellowship”**
 - ➔ Total number of Groups: 206 in US and 215 Internationally, for a total of 421 Groups.
 - ➔ Number of Intergroups: 2 in US and 4 Internationally.
 - ➔ Number of National Service Boards: 5 Internationally.
 - ➔ 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).
 - ➔ Two new groups recently added, plus an application from Costa Rica.
- ⌚ **World Service Board (WSB)**
 - ➔ Seventeen members served during the Board year 2015 / 2016, including 13 from the US, 1 from the UK, 1 from Greece, and 2 from India.
 - ➔ Hank H thanked Art L, a Board Member retiring today, for his service to the fellowship.
 - ➔ Hank also thanked the Board members who are staying on, and welcomed those who are joining.

🕒 **2015 / 2016 Events of Interest**

➔ **World Service Office (WSO) Staff**

- 🕒 Nicole and Angel continue to do an excellent job in the office, supporting the fellowship.

➔ **FA Website**

- 🕒 FA website has been operating in its current form for just under two years.
- 🕒 Money has been budgeted for improvements and to increase our web traffic, in the hopes of drawing more people who are in need of help.

➔ **The Twelve Step Rag Newsletter**

- 🕒 Since the January / February 2015 issue, the Rag is available electronically only.
- 🕒 Group Secretaries have reported a wider distribution.
- 🕒 Hank encouraged contributions (ideas, articles, insights) and indicated they should be sent to the Rag Editor, at RagEditor12@gmail.com.

➔ **Literature**

- 🕒 The Literature Committee did another fantastic job this year.
- 🕒 Numerous updates have been made to the Literature.
- 🕒 There is a new electronic version of TABW, as well as new releases in the Spanish version.
- 🕒 Our literature is underutilized, and Hank encourages our members to purchase it. One suggestion: purchase it and provide it to treatment centers, professionals, and counselors who find it helpful as well. There is a large opportunity for us to grow groups through referrals from the professional community.

➔ **2015 / 2016 World Service Summary**

- 🕒 Our greatest challenge is to get the word out that FA exists: "We are the greatest story never told." There is currently a worldwide epidemic with opiates.
- 🕒 Hank suggested tapping into our Group Outreach Committee; they can help facilitate people who want to start a group, or strengthen an existing group.
- 🕒 Comments / questions from the floor:
 - FA 's tradition of attraction, rather than promotion, can make it challenging to increase membership. Hank agreed that the WSB would take on the challenge of finding more effective ways to reach out nationally in keeping with our traditions.
 - Susan S (Group 252) reported that her group consistently gets newcomers, but in 7 out of 10 times, they don't come back. They are struggling to find out why. Donna D (Group 279) indicated that Group Outreach has ideas of how to keep newcomers coming back. One suggestion: establish a relationship early on. Have someone not only provide them with a newcomer package, but also exchange phone numbers, and follow up if they don't return.
 - It was suggested that an email be sent out to Group Secretaries to

remind them that resources are available from Group Outreach.

- ⌚ Although participation, contributions and literature sales are flat, as of today we are in good fiscal condition. However, it is incumbent on the WSB and Group Secretaries to attract new members and to find avenues for donations. To expand the fellowship, we must increase exposure to our literature, increase contributions, and find a way to reach more people. There are only four sign-ups for recurring donations. Hank asked the membership to raise awareness among their groups that these opportunities are available.
- ⌚ There is a need to find more ways to be viable long term.
- ⌚ We know that FA works. We can be anonymous, but must not be invisible in our communities. Hank asked that the membership return to our groups with renewed energy and FA's message of hope.

8. **Election Results – Barbara S (Group 1345) Credentials Committee Chair**

- ⌚ The election of all Board Members at Large was unanimously approved.

9. **Adjournment:**

- ⌚ Shlomo H (Group 252) thanked Hank and the WSB (former and current members) for their service.
- ⌚ Hank reminded the membership that the WSO is there to help, to connect people, and to collect suggestions.
- ⌚ Motion to adjourn was made by Susan S (Group 252); seconded by Donna D (Group 279), voted on, and approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm EDT.

Appendix I

1st Credentials Report 2016 ABM

As of April 1st 2016 there were 230 groups (up almost 100 from last year) that are eligible to vote for this ABM.

I certify that a Quorum of 10% has been reached to conduct business at this ABM.

A quorum of 15% of eligible votes are met. 47 votes were cast via mail or email. There 12 delegates here in this room. I so declare that this election of the World Service Board is valid and binding.

Yours in Service,
Barbara S
F A Credentials Chair 2016
Susan S. Credential Committee