

Families Anonymous
Preliminary (version 1) Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting
June 8, 2019, Atlanta, Georgia

I. Call to order:

- Call to order made at 1:50 pm EDT, by Barbara S (Group 1345) World Service Board (WSB) Chair.

II. Welcome: Barbara S:

- Barbara welcomed the Board members, Delegates, and all the attendees.

III. Report from the Credentials Committee Chair - Maria S (Group 2056):

- A copy of the Credentials Committee Chair's Report is included as Appendix 1.
- As of May 15, 213 groups have met the deadline to re-register their groups and be eligible for voting.
- A quorum, more than 21 (i.e., 10%) has been met to transact business.
- A quorum, more than 32 (i.e., 15%) has been met for election of officers and board members at large.
- 29 votes were received by email; 15 votes were collected by mailed-in ballots; 2 groups appointed the Credentials Chair as proxy; 12 delegates are present to vote. Total voting number is 58.

IV. Old Business

- **Approval of 2018 ABM Minutes:** Donna D (Group 278) moved to approve; Alan B (Group 1345) seconded; voted on and approved.
- **Approval of Final FY2018 Financial Report:**
 - John S, incoming Treasurer (Group 1522) presented on behalf of David M, outgoing Treasurer (Group 337).
 - Compared to the prior 12 month period (FY2017), there was a decrease in revenues of \$12,079 (10.6%), and an increase in expenses of \$1,453 (1.5%) for FY2018.
 - George R (Group 1096), Chair of the Financial Oversight Committee had indicated that the financial information had been reviewed and recommended approval of the Final FY2018 Financial Reports (year ended April 30, 2018).
 - Motion to accept the FY2018 Financial Reports was made by Alan B, seconded by Anita B (Group 1191), voted on and approved.
 - John S indicated that the reports would be posted on the website in keeping with transparency.
 - Jon S (Group 641) asked about the decrease in revenue reported. John S clarified that it was a comparison (year to year) and reflected a decrease primarily in literature sales and group donations.

V. New Business

- **Treasurer's Report (FY 2019) - John S**
- John S presented the tentative fiscal year financial report covering the period May 1, 2018 to April 30, 2019.
 - Revenue was \$3,000 lower than budget.
 - Expenses were \$1,450 higher than budget.
 - We are at ~ break even; fiscal year tentatively shows a net loss of \$257.

- **Call for 2020 Convention Bid**
 - There was no bid made.
- **FA Website Update**
 - Hank H (Group 1844) reported that the current website is being refreshed and has not yet been completed.
 - George R is taking the lead to bring the website up to date, both content and e-store. He will report shortly to the membership via email.
- **Public Information: Alan B**
 - During today's luncheon, Alan spoke about his committee's plan to put together a "roster" of FA people who are willing to be guests on radio talk shows. Attendees were encouraged to contact him by email or phone if there is a talk radio station which they would like him to contact.
 - He also discussed the idea of having people on this roster do interviews in radio markets other than their own, to further protect anonymity. Interviewees would be provided with the contact / other information for the meetings local to that radio market.
 - He provided some basic do's and don'ts regarding what to say, including a disclaimer stating that they are just relaying their experience, and are not speaking on behalf of the Fellowship.
 - Alan also spoke about and gave out a sample of a bulletin board flyer that members can post.
 - Alan talked about a renewed urgency to grow FA in light of the number of people who could benefit from our program.

VI. Report of the Nominating Committee- Maria S, Credentials Committee Chair

- **Nominees on Ballot for Officers for 2019/2020 term:**
 - Chair - Barbara S (Group 1345)
 - Vice Chair - Maria S (Group 2056)
 - Recording Secretary - Christy R (Group 641)
 - Treasurer - John S (Group 1522)
- **Nominees on Ballot for Board Members at Large for the 2019/2020 term:**
 - Hank H (Group 1844); formerly Vice-Chair
 - George R (Group 1096); renewal of term
 - Odalys A (Group 134); renewal of term
 - Vince M (Group 1963); renewal of term
 - Helen L (Group 1985); renewal of term
 - Marcia C (Group 494); new to the Board
- **Nominations from the Floor for Board Members at Large for the 2019/2020 term:**
 - Tom J (Group 1651) made a motion to nominate the following two individuals for the position of Board Member at Large: Alan B (Group 1345) and Bob S (Group 2056). Both of these individuals had joined the Board during the prior year, after last year's convention. The motion was seconded by Dale H (Group 171).

VII. 2018 / 2019 State of the Fellowship Report - Barbara S

- **Our Present Statistics**
 - In this fiscal year, FA maintained 416 groups. There were 193 US groups and 180 International groups. Note: Because of issues with the database for Mexico (it has been down), there is a discrepancy in these numbers.
 - Within the last 12 months, 19 new groups have been formed.
 - The number of groups that have closed this year is 14.
- **World Service Board (WSB)**

- The WSB has 16 members during the board year 2019 - 2020. Thirteen are from the US, 1 from the UK, 1 from Greece, and 1 from Australia.
- Families Anonymous cannot exist without the World Service Board of Directors. Barbara feels we are truly blessed with a hardworking and dedicated Board.
 - Hank H, our current Vice Chair, heads up our Technical Committee and keeps our present website up to date and working.
 - David M will be retiring after serving as WSB Treasurer for 4 years. He also served as a Board Member at Large prior to that. Barbara thanked him for all his hard work and all the support and guidance he has provided her.
 - John S will be the incoming Treasurer.
 - Maria S will be trading her post as Recording Secretary to become our new Vice Chair. Maria is also responsible for the World Service Office.
 - Christy R will be stepping in as our new Recording Secretary.
 - Elizabeth S is the editor of The 12 Step Rag. Together with Bob S (who is the WSB Liaison to the Rag), they have developed a much tighter schedule with delivery reliability, without losing quality. In order to maintain the timeliness, Elizabeth is asking the Fellowship for some volunteers for editing and also for design layout help. Barbara asked attendees to go back to their groups and ask for volunteers, and also encourage group members to submit articles.
 - Bob S also serves as Chair of our Revenue Task Force.
 - George R was the WSB Chair when Barbara first started on the Board. He is now heading up the new website Tiger Team along with Hank H and Marc B. This team is tasked with getting the new website up and running. George is also Chair of our Financial Oversight Committee, working alongside Dennis R and Howard P. In addition, George serves as the WSB Parliamentarian, ensuring that we adhere to our bylaws.
 - Barbara highlighted the wonderful work done by the Literature Committee, led by Ann P. Together with Juley S, JoAnne M, Eric H, and Sylvia S, they are responsible for keeping all our FA literature timely and introducing new pieces. Other than contributions from the fellowship members and Groups, FA literature is the second major source of income for FA.
 - Donna D has done a great job leading our Group Outreach Committee with the help of Jon S. If anyone is having a problem in their group, they can email Donna and Jon at GO@familiesanonymous.org for advice.
 - Alan B heads up our Public Information Committee. He has been working hard to set up radio spots, interviewing members of our fellowship around the country, ever mindful of our 12 traditions.
 - Vince M, together with Helen L, Bev B, and Odalys A make up our International Groups Committee.
 - Marcia C will be joining the Board as a Board Member at Large.
- **World Service Office (WSO) Staff**
 - Angel and Nicole continue to run a tight ship at the WSO. They continue to do a wonderful, efficient job.
- **World Service Summary**
 - Like everyone else, our World Service Organization's expenses have gone up, but our donations have gone down. This year there will be a larger than usual expense, bringing our new website on line. This will be a better, more user friendly website. Thankfully, the creation of this website is a one time but much needed expense.
 - The donations made by individuals and by the groups are critical to FA's survival. Please encourage your groups to send donations to the WSO as often as possible. Another easy way to donate is to go onto the FA website and click on "Donate" at the bottom of the home screen. There is a check box to make your donation a monthly recurring one. Even a small gift of \$10 a month goes a long way to help us

keep FA strong, to continue our growth and to get our message out to the people who need us. Please help us give the gift of help to others that have been given to you.

- **Closing Remarks**

- As was said last year, it is time for Families Anonymous to step “Out of the Darkness.” The members of FA need their anonymity, **not** FA itself. We cannot grow if no one knows we are here. As the blight of addiction grows, so must we. We need to get inventive and get our name out there. We need to stop being the best kept secret in town.
- Barbara also thanked this year’s Delegates for their service to FA today.
- She also thanked everyone who is attending the meeting for their input and attention.

- **Comments From the Floor**

- Jon S (Group 641) thanked the Board for their service. He suggested that attendees share with their groups the great job that the Board has done to support the Fellowship.
- Jon also asked that if you enjoyed this convention to please consider volunteering to host an upcoming convention and inform the Board.

VIII. Election Results Report - Maria S, Credentials Committee Chair

- There were 44 votes tallied before; the Credentials Chair was asked to serve as proxy for two groups; there were 12 delegates in the room who voted today.
- Out of 58 ballots cast:
 - 55 voted “yes” to approve the following Officers: Barbara S as Chair and Christy R as Recording Secretary.
 - 56 voted “yes” to approve the following Officers; Maria S as Vice Chair and John S as Treasurer.
 - 57 voted “yes” to approve the following Board Members at Large: Odalys A, Vince M, and Helen L.
 - 51 voted “yes” to approve the following Board Members at Large: George R, Hank H, Marcia C, Odalys A.
- As a result of the election, the slate of Officers and Board Members at Large, including those nominated today (Alan B and Bob S) are all approved.

IX. Adjournment:

- Barbara S thanked everyone for their attendance. She ended with the following: FA is the best kept secret and really shouldn't be as there is such a great need for FA in our current society at large; we must somehow keep our traditions and share the word about who we are for those who will benefit.
- Motion to adjourn was made by Bob S (Group 2056); seconded by Alan B (Group 1345), voted on, and approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm EDT, following recitation of the Serenity Prayer.

Appendix 1

1st Credentials Committee Chair's report For ABM June 8, 2019

As of May 15, 2019, 213 groups have met the deadline to re-register and were eligible for voting.

As the Credentials Committee Chair, I collected:

29 FAvote emails

15 Mailed-in Ballots

2 Proxies for the Credentials Committee Chair to vote

46 collected votes

+ There are 12 Delegates in the room bringing the total to 58 votes.

According to the FA By-Laws :

21 votes needed to meet the quorum to do Business (10%) at the ABM.

32 votes needed to meet the quorum to make the election of Officers and WSB Members valid (15%).

I hereby Certify that all quorums are met for the 2019 Annual Business Meeting.

Maria S.

2019 Credentials Committee Chair