

**Families Anonymous  
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors  
February 16, 2019**

**INTRODUCTION**

**1. Call to Order:** 2:04 EST, by Barbara, Chair

**2. Roll Call:** by Maria, Secretary

<u>Name</u>	<u>WSB Role</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Monthly Report</u>
Barbara S	Chair	P	W
Hank H	Vice Chair	P	L
David M	Treasurer	P	W
Maria S	Secretary	P	W
Alan B	BMAL	P	W
Ann P	BMAL	P	W
Bev B	BMAL	P	W
Bob S	BMAL	P	W
Donna D	BMAL	P	W
George R	BMAL	P	W
Helen L	BMAL	P	L
Marc B	BMAL	P	W
Odalys A	BMAL	A	N
Vince M	BMAL	P	W

Attendance Key: P=Present, A=Absent, E=Excused, LOA=Leave of Absence

Monthly Report Key: W= Submitted by deadline, L=Submitted after deadline,  
N=No report submitted, E=Excused for extenuating circumstances

**3. Acceptance of Published Agenda:**

- David moved to accept the Agenda, Helen seconded, voted on and accepted.

**4. Tradition One:**

- Read by Maria: *“Our common welfare should come first; personal progress for the greatest number depends on unity.”*

## 5. Approval of January 2019 WSB Minutes:

- Alan moved to accept, David seconded, voted on and approved. Maria to distribute.

## 6. Chair's Report:

- There were no comments or questions concerning the Chair's Report.

## 7. Treasurer's Report:

- David M provided the financial reports as part of his monthly report.
- **Motion:** David made a motion to transfer \$10K from the checking account to the savings account. He indicated that there is no charge to do up to six transfers in and out of savings. Three and a half years ago we moved \$20K from checking to savings. He feels comfortable moving the \$10K at this time. The motion was seconded by George, voted on, and approved.
- There were no other comments or questions.

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Committee

SC-1 Public Information  
SC-2 WSO  
SC-3 Literature  
SC-4 Twelve Step Rag Newsletter  
SC-5 Bylaws, Parliamentary  
SC-6 International Groups  
SC-7 Budget Committee  
SC-8 Sponsorship  
SC-9 Group Outreach  
SC-10 Financial Oversight  
SC-11 Technology

### Chair

Alan B  
Maria S  
Ann P  
Bob S  
George R  
Vince M  
David M  
Helen L  
Donna D  
George R  
Hank H

- **SC-1 Public Information:**
  - Alan reported that he did his first radio interview for FA with Stacey D. He had provided Board members with a link to the recording. He is looking for feedback (i.e., is there anything either he or the interviewee should have said,

or should not have said). His intent is to create a set of talking points to be used as a guide for future interviews.

- During the interview, Alan did not mention that he was also a member of FA. To maintain anonymity, the interviewer could say that they attended a meeting and did some research to learn about FA prior to the interview.
- Bev had provided Alan with feedback via email.
- Barbara indicated that we should mention that we are not qualified to speak about mental illness. Ann added that our focus is on addiction, substance abuse, and related behavioral problems. Donna mentioned that we were previously asked to change our initial concept for FA by the National Alliance for Mental Illness. We have no guarantee that our program works as it relates to mental illness.
- Alan suggested that everyone on the Board listen to the recording, if they have not yet done so.
- Alan asked that Board members let him know if they would be interested in being on the roster to participate in future interviews. Board members should also let him know if there is a specific geographic area they would like to avoid.
- **SC-4 Twelve Step Rag Newsletter:**
  - Bob reported that an issue will be coming out in March. A publication and submission schedule has been prepared and circulated.
  - Ann indicated that the Literature Committee (LC) was glad to see that a schedule had been developed. Ann also shared the following two concerns raised by the LC:
    - 1) There are several people on the LC who miss the old masthead. Might the board consider reinstating it?
    - 2) The LC pointed out the two competing options that come with having so many full-color photos and graphics. One is that the new format looks great when viewed on a computer screen. The other is that the new format discourages people from printing out the Rag (because of the cost of color toner cartridges), and especially from printing out multiple copies to take to their meetings. This may limit the number of people looking at it.
  - Some Board members like the old masthead, while others feel it looks somewhat old-fashioned. Barbara indicated that the Board is the decision-maker regarding the masthead. George reminded the Board that this was previously discussed and a decision was made to forego the old masthead.
  - Donna indicated that the Rag can be printed in gray-scale. Depending on your printer, this may help to avoid using color ink.

- Bob felt that the word “Rag” has negative connotations. “Rag” is defined as a newspaper of low quality, to make fun of someone, to rebuke someone, or a ragtime tune. He would prefer to see a change in the name.
  - ▶ George believes that the term “Rag” was used because of the dancing men masthead. He felt that the masthead doesn’t fit in with the new look and feel of the newsletter.
  - ▶ Alan suggested that we table the discussion until next month and that in the meantime, Board Members can provide suggestions for a new name.
  - ▶ Bob asked whether there was value in asking the general membership for suggestions. Donna and Alan felt that it would be too complicated to do so. Barbara suggested we could reach out to our own groups and bring back those suggestions we felt worth considering.
- Ann and Bob suggested that the Rag webpage have the following:
  1. a way to subscribe to the Rag
  2. Information on how to submit articles for the Rag.
  - ▶ Hank indicated that he can add a link for the above two items on the Rag webpage. There is currently a spot on the FA homepage to subscribe for FA news, which includes the Rag. Hank, George and Donna felt it would not be advisable to set up a third email list for those interested in just receiving the Rag.
  - ▶ Ann mentioned that the email blast announcing new issues of the Rag contains just a link to the Rag on the website, not an attachment with the Rag. An internet connection is needed to access it. Ann is concerned that some older people are not computer literate and may have trouble accessing it.
  - ▶ Hank indicated that in the past they had tried attaching it as a pdf. Some people called the WSO and complained that when they clicked on the attachment, it wasn’t there. Their browser was putting it in a download folder and they didn’t see it. Hank feels that providing the link has been effective for most people.
  - ▶ Hank proposed making a suggestion that the groups send a group email with the Rag as an attachment.
  - ▶ Barbara suggested adding information about the Rag to the meeting format, to make sure everyone is aware of it and where to find it.
  - ▶ Hank indicated that we can add links to the Rag on other pages of the website, giving people more chances to find it.
  - ▶ Ann suggested moving the “subscribe button” to a more visible spot on the webpage.
  - ▶ George indicated that we need to be clear that if you “subscribe”, you are subscribing to not only the Rag, but other emails; it should be honestly worded.

- ▶ Bob asked why it would be cumbersome to set up an email list for just the Rag. George indicated it would be more work for Nicole to manage 3 lists. Marc proposed revisiting this off-line with input from the Board. He suggested we could have a check-box to opt in for the Rag, and a separate check-box to opt in for other FA news.
- ▶ David indicated there might be an additional small charge by the company that does maintenance of our mass-mailing list; currently we pay \$24.50 per month. Hank clarified that Nicole actually manages the list; the fee is based on the size of the lists and possibly the frequency of emails.
- ▶ Hank suggested that we could look into the printability of the Rag; currently there are a lot of pages with a lot of white space. For future consideration, he suggested providing a “printable format” option so that it can be easily shared and printed.
- ▶ Barbara mentioned that since we plan to keep on a 2-month schedule, we can limit the number of pages for each issue.
- ▶ Alan suggested having a separate dedicated site, such as "12StepRag.net". You would not have to worry about negotiating around a big site. Donna felt this might result in an expense for the WSO. Marc indicated you could go with a subdomain at no added expense; it would just need to be created. Before doing so, we would need to agree on a final name. It was agreed to table this until our next meeting.
- Bob asked the Board if there were any suggestions for regular features; these would help in ensuring more content. Currently, “Spotlight on Literature” is a regular feature. He suggested the following as possibilities:
  - ▶ Feature on Revenue (where money is coming from and how it is being spent)
  - ▶ Group Outreach
  - ▶ Update from the Board
  - ▶ E-meeting highlight
 Suggestions should be forwarded to Bob for consideration. He’ll share them with the Board once the concepts become more concrete.
- **SC-7 Budget Committee:**
  - David had asked if anyone was interested in helping prepare next year’s budget, and no one has yet responded. In the meantime, he’ll prepare something and will send it to the Board for review.
  - David had contacted Denis from the Financial Oversight Committee to see if he was interested in serving as Treasurer for the next fiscal year, but he hasn’t heard back yet.
  - If anyone on the Board knows of anyone with accounting experience who would be interested in serving as Treasurer, please let David know. Barbara asked the Board to go back to their groups and ask if anyone is interested.

- **SC-9 Group Outreach:** Donna informed Hank and Ann that she received two different emails indicating that someone tried to download #5012 *My Part in the FA Group*, but it came up as a blank page. Hank indicated that he will look into this.
- **SC-10 Financial Oversight Committee:** George expects to receive the 3rd quarterly report shortly.
- **SC-11 Technology:**
  - Hank reported that great progress has been made on getting the web updates prepared.
  - He received good input from the subcommittee. He has ~55 changes to make. These should be done by 2/21.
  - The e-store is being tested and should be ready shortly.
  - As soon as the the testing is ready to go, he will notify the Board.

## **AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

<b><u>Committee</u></b>	<b><u>Chair</u></b>
AH-2 Convention Liaison	Barbara S
AH-3 Intergroup Support & Development	Marc B
AH-4 Document Review	Ann P
AH-5 Long Range Planning	Marc B
AH-6 Revenue Growth Task Force	Bob S

- **AH-2 Convention Liaison:** Barbara asked Board members to get their registrations in for the June 7 Convention in Atlanta.
- **AH-5 Long Range Planning:** Marc has gotten some responses back with ideas and comments from committee members. He will be calling a meeting shortly. Barbara asked Board Members to keep in mind that the e-mail blast is a good way to reach out to the membership and get input.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **1. Website, Group Reregistration Form**

- Barbara asked if the registration form is available on line. Hank indicated no; there are instructions for them to email Nicole.

- Donna suggested that we keep the existing registration deadline; if we extend it, it will only allow for more delays.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. MOTION LC-1 (February 2019):**

- **Motion:** The Literature Committee moves that the WSB approve the attached revision of PPG-13 *Literature Committee Operating Procedures*.
- **Rationale:** This procedural manual was due for revision.
- **Feasibility:** The WSB has had an opportunity to review and make comments on a draft of this revision. Suggestions offered by board members have been incorporated into this final revision. The final PDF is attached to this motion for your consideration.
- **Implementation:** The Literature Committee will provide a golden master to the WSO and ask the website manager to upload this document to the website.
- Motion made by Ann, seconded by George, voted on and approved.

### **2. MOTION International Group (February 2019):**

- **Motion:** Move that the Board approve Spain's request to translate #1019 *The Twelve Step Workbook* and #1006 *The Fourth Step Workbook* into Spanish.
- Motion made by Vince, seconded by Bob, voted on and approved.

### **3. MOTION International Group (February 2019):**

- **Motion:** Move that the Board approve the request to translate into Italian #6004 *Do You Need FA?* and #8004 *Starting a New FA Group*.
- Motion made by Vince, seconded by David, voted on and approved.

**TABLED ITEMS:** None

## **CLOSING**

### **1. Announcements and Other Items:**

- George mentioned that during his time on the Board, he has never seen the Board turn down any motion requesting permission to translate . It's routine business. He asked that we consider just having the IG approve any requests which have

been reviewed and OK'ed by the LC. Barbara asked if the requirement for full Board approval is in the bylaws. George indicated that he will take a look and bring up his proposal another time.

- On behalf of Stacy D's family, Alan thanked the fellowship for their outpouring of love and support.

## **2. Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn was made by Donna seconded by Bob, voted on and passed (3:07 pm EST).

## **3. Closed with the Serenity Prayer**