

**Families Anonymous  
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors  
July 20, 2019**

**INTRODUCTION**

- 1. Call to Order:** 2:03 EDT, by Barbara, Chair
- 2. Roll Call:** by Maria on behalf of Christy, Secretary

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

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:**

- Maria moved to accept the Agenda, Donna seconded, voted on and accepted.

**4. Tradition One:**

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

**5. Approval of June 2019 WSB Minutes:**

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

**6. Chair's Report:**

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

**7. Treasurer's Report:**

- John provided the financial reports as part of his monthly report. These were forwarded to the Board by Barbara.
- He spoke with Chase Bank about the reimbursement of four years’ worth of assessed payroll fees. Of \$480 charged, he has received \$200 back so far.
- The current checking account balance is \$13,877.74. The savings account balance is \$139,193.51.
- There has been no contribution from the convention thus far.
- A \$1,600 payment was made to MaxxPotential (MaxxP).
- There were no other comments or questions.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

<b><u>Committee</u></b>	<b><u>Chair</u></b>
SC-1 Public Information	Alan B
SC-2 WSO	Maria S
SC-3 Literature	Ann P
SC-4 Twelve Step Rag Newsletter	Bob S
SC-5 Bylaws, Parliamentary	George R
SC-6 International Groups	Vince M
SC-7 Budget Committee	John S
SC-8 Sponsorship	Helen L
SC-9 Group Outreach	Donna D
SC-10 Financial Oversight	George R
SC-11 Technology	Hank H

- **SC-1 Public Information:**
  - Alan received the email from Donna; he will follow up with her to go through it.
  - Alan sent an email to the Committee members about having a meeting. He is eager to hear everyone's suggestions.
- **SC-4 Twelve Step Rag Newsletter:**
  - The May/June Rag is late, but is now ready to go. It was sent to Barbara and Bob for their review. Bob expects the Rag to be back on track with the next issue.
  - Ann indicated in her monthly report that the LC needs more information before submitting additional material. The LC doesn't know what will be included in the Rag until it is published. Also, the LC had been submitting articles to the editor which appeared to get lost. Now that Bob is copied on articles submitted by the LC, it is felt that this situation will improve.
  - Ann asked that Elizabeth update the publication schedule, including the submission dates. Bob will follow up with Elizabeth to implement this.
  - Barbara suggested that Elizabeth include Ann P (as Chair of the LC) on the initial review of the Rag. Currently it just goes to Bob and Barbara. Bob will follow up on this.
  - Bob asked that if anyone has any ideas for additional content, especially feature articles and poems, please submit them.
  - Ann reported that people are not seeing the Rag being printed out and brought to group meetings. She suggested that having two versions of the Rag, one with just text (i.e., a printable version) and one including the graphics on the screen. Bob indicated that Elizabeth needs software to do this. He had asked Elizabeth to look into this and get back to him.
  - Jeff shared that his group builds a sense of community and keeps members engaged by sending out emails with a schedule, such as who is leading, who is bringing snacks, etc., along with a meditation. It would be easy to attach the Rag (as a link or pdf) to those emails. He suggested that this is something we can recommend to other groups.
    - ▶ Donna indicated that this process is already in place. Nicole sends an email blast with the link to the Rag. Hank indicated that Nicole uses the "big list" for distribution of the Rag; the group secretaries are a subset of that list.
    - ▶ Ann indicated that some groups do not have the email addresses of their members. Her group is just now starting to collect them.
    - ▶ Barbara felt that we need to remind group secretaries to distribute the link to their members and/or inform their members that a new Rag is available. George's experience is that some group secretaries do not follow through, despite recommendations.

- Barbara suggested that in the next Rag issue we inform people that they can be sent a link to the Rag if they sign up to receive FA emails. George added that we need to be accurate in describing what they are signing up for (ie., it's not a copy of the Rag, but a link to it). Hank recommended we direct them to the FA website to subscribe for FA emails / information.
- **SC-6 International Groups:**
  - Helen is chairing this group during Vince's LOA.
  - Ann will take translation requests for now.
- **SC-8 Sponsorship:**
  - Helen reported that they are planning a one-page notification to group secretaries. She will follow up with Marc and with Vince (when he returns from his LOA).
- **SC-11 Technology:**
  - Hank has made some email changes for new members.
  - He has been working with George on answers to MaxxP's questions.
  - He will work with Donna on the use of software for the phone meetings.

## **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:**
  - Donna had followed up with her group in Long Island, NY. They were not in favor of using a hotel in NJ if they were to host the convention.
  - Donna suggested emailing all the attendees from this year's convention to see if any would be interested in having their home group host.
    - Jeff will follow up with Greg and Cindy to see if he can get the email addresses.
- **AH-6 Revenue Growth Task Force:**
  - Bob reported that the new trifold, "Supporting Your Fellowship" has been revised per the suggestions received. It is ready to be distributed once approved.
    - Donna suggested making it a free download.

- Ann suggested it could also be an insert in each literature order that is shipped out. She will order copies through the LC so that Angel has a supply in the office.
  - Ann will follow up with Angel to see how many orders she ships out in a year.
- John volunteered to join this Task Force. Barbara will be sending out an updated Committee Roster.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **1. Website and Tiger Team.**

- MaxxP will likely finish ahead of schedule, within the next 2 to 3 weeks.
- George will then ask the entire Board to check out the site and note any issues they see. If MaxxP has responsibility for them, he will ask them to take care of it before the end of the project.
- George has already provided the Board with an email on how they can access the new site in the development environment.
- George received additional information from MaxxP about allowing new users to create a user account. We will table the discussion on this until this information has been shared and reviewed by the Board.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. Shlomo's Photography License (Bob S).**

- Bob has drafted a license agreement which would allow us to use Shlomo's photographs in the Rag. He distributed it to the entire Board for review, and incorporated their suggestions.
- Barbara asked to expand the license agreement to allow us to use his photographs in our literature as well. Bob will follow up with Shlomo about this and then revise the license agreement accordingly.

### **2. Motion - Revenue Growth Task Force: Adoption of "Supporting Your Fellowship" Brochure (Bob S)**

- **Motion:** Move that the WSB approve "*Supporting Your Fellowship*" as a new FA publication. A draft of this trifold has been circulated to the WSB and revised to reflect any comments, and a copy was attached to the email along with Bob S's Board Report.
- **Rationale:** The Fellowship needs to raise more money to meet ongoing expenses. This proposed new trifold developed by the Revenue Subcommittee outlines all the ways individual FA members and groups can contribute. We're hopeful that

this publication will stimulate more giving by laying out in concise, clear terms how it can be done.

- **Implementation**: If approved by the WSB, Bob will work with George to ensure that the new website in fact has the functionality referenced in this publication. He will also work with Ann and the Literature Committee, as necessary, to ensure that this publication is properly announced to the Fellowship.
- **Cost**: Apart from costs associated with making copies, there are no costs associated with approving this trifold as a new FA publication.
- **Motion made by Bob, seconded by George, voted on and approved.**
- Bob thanked George and Ann for their help with this.
- It was agreed to do an announcement in the Rag about this new publication.

## **TABLED ITEMS:**

### **1. Anonymity As Used for PI**

- Jeff feels that your own anonymity is an individual choice. He asked if anyone has seen the short film, “Anonymous People”. The recovery community grew when people stepped out and spoke about their recovery. He and others in his home group have reached out to their community and shared their stories of recovery. This has resulted in benefits to their group and contributed to its growth.
- Barbara reminded the group that you can say you go to FA, but can’t say that you’re representing FA or speak for FA.
- George recommends that everyone read the material sent out by Ann (“*The Twelve Traditions in Action*”, Traditions 10, 11 and 12). The material is clear regarding anonymity and the concept of attraction rather than promotion.

### **2. Brainstorming Ideas from Convention**

- **“List the individual groups within our National Service Boards (NSBs) and Intergroups (IGs)”**.
  - We don’t force the NSBs to provide detailed lists of groups. The NSBs have a listing of groups on their website.
  - Our International Policy says that each International IG and NSB needs to send us the number of active groups they have. Nicole sends reminders out. This info is usually shared at the ABM.
  - Nicole has a group count list which is updated quarterly.
    - Donna will distribute to the Board an email sent by Nicole with the 2018 count. The total number of groups registered with WSO by 12/31/18 was 266.

- **“Board Chair’s report of what he/she wants for this year” and “Then Board Chair’s year-end report of what’s been accomplished”.**
  - The Board could consider setting goals for the year. During the Board meetings, progress toward those goals would be reported, and then assessed at year end.
  - Barbara asked that Board members send their suggestions to her about potential goals (for the Board in general, and for their Committees).
- **“Make a mission statement = Tradition 5 + Step 12” and “Publish our mission statement as part of the Rag.”**
  - George said that we have a “reason for our existence” in our founding documents which could be considered a mission statement. George will distribute these documents to the Board. Barbara suggested that we consider updating it and sharing relevant information with the fellowship.
- **“At a future convention, have a keynote speaker talk about how to grow the fellowship”.**
  - Donna’s presentation at the last convention, was very good: “Tips for Keeping FA Groups Healthy & Growing.” The Board members who attended felt it should be repeated at each convention. Donna agreed to offer up her service and volunteered to do it again. Donna reminded us, however, that the WSB are servants of the fellowship, and we need to be cautious in making recommendations for convention programs.
- **“Asking all NSB or Foreign Intergroups for a Liaison to the WSB.”**
  - Barbara would invite these groups to provide a Liaison to the WSB. The interface could be through the International Committee. Liaisons would also be offered the opportunity to join the Board.
  - A criteria for a Board Member is being able to speak **and write in** English.
  - Our International Policy says that NSB’s need to provide a quarterly report. However, George doesn’t believe that we ever get them.
  - George felt that Barbara could try, but is not hopeful that she will receive any positive responses.

## **CLOSING**

**1. Announcements and Other Items:** None

**2. Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn was made by Jeff seconded by Bob, voted on and passed (3:30 pm EDT).

**3. Closed with the Serenity Prayer**