

**Families Anonymous
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
September 15, 2018**

INTRODUCTION

1. Call to Order: 2:09 EDT, 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	N
David M	Treasurer	P	W
Maria S	Secretary	P	W
Alan B	BMAL	E	W
Ann P	BMAL	P	W
Bev B	BMAL	P	L
Bob S	BMAL	P	W
Donna D	BMAL	E	W
George R	BMAL	P	L
Helen L	BMAL	P	L
Marc B	BMAL	P	W
Odalys A	BMAL	A	W
Susan S	BMAL	E	W
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:

- Barbara moved to accept the Agenda, Bob 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 August 2018 WSB Minutes:

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

6. Chair's Report:

- George asked if there was an update regarding Greece. Barbara held a couple of Skype conversations with Helen; she also received a letter from another individual. Barbara reported that she asked them to work it out, and to ensure that the elections were held by October.
- There were no other comments or questions concerning the Chair's Report.

7. Treasurer's Report:

- David M provided the financial reports as part of his monthly report.
- David reported that we are ahead of budget YTD by \$15K. There was a \$10K donation from the convention committee, and some large group and individual donations. David estimates that we will lose ~\$1K per month between now and fiscal year end unless we receive other large donations.
- For the month, we were below budget by \$1,100.
- 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:**
 - George reported that he met with Alan and Donna on Thursday.
 - Alan would like to do public service announcements on radio stations. He drafted some text and did a demo recording. George thought it was excellent.
 - Barbara asked that the PI email be linked to Alan; Hank will follow up. Hank will also double check that Alan and Bob have FA email accounts.
- **SC-2 WSO:** Maria reported that Bev C (who used to Chair the WSO Committee) recently provided her with samples of past annual performance reviews of the WSO staff. Maria will be looking for Board members who interact with WSO staff to serve as feedback sources.
- **SC-3 Literature:**
 - Ann sent Hank an email about the new Literature Catalogue, but it bounced back twice. Hank asked her to resend it.
 - The new Literature Catalogue, with the higher pricing, will go into effect a week from Monday. An email blast will be going out shortly.
- **SC-4 Twelve Step Rag Newsletter:** Barbara has received a copy of the new Rag. She'll forward it to Bob and to Nicole, who will send it out. Hank asked to be copied on it so that he can post it on the website.
- **SC-5 Bylaws, Parliamentary:** George did a quick update, for clarity, to the Telephone Policy and sent it to Maria. There is a question as to whether this policy is still needed as is, or whether it should be modified to support WSO staff. It will be discussed further under New Business.
- **SC-8 Sponsorship:** Helen will be sending out an invitation to Marc, Bev, and Vince for a meeting next week.
- **SC-10 Financial Oversight:** George has received the report for the 1Q of the fiscal year. He will send it out to the Board after he looks at it.
- **SC-11 Technology:**
 - Hank expects to have more to report next time. He has a meeting next Tuesday with the developer.
 - George asked Hank to reach out if help is needed. The online registration on the existing site is still not working. Per Hank, the forms will be reengaged with the new site, and should be working before the start of January.

AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>
AH-2 Convention Liaison	Susan S
AH-3 Intergroup Support & Development	Marc B
AH-4 Document Review	Ann P

AH-5 Long Range Planning
AH-6 Revenue Growth Task Force

Marc B
Bob S

- **AH-2 Convention Liaison:**
 - Barbara reported that the new RAG has an article asking groups to consider hosting the convention.
 - An email blast also went out. George suggested using the broader email distribution, not just the one for group secretaries. Barbara will check with Nicole to see which was used, and resend to the larger group if needed.
- **AH-3 Intergroup Support & Development:**
 - Barbara mentioned that they are discussing with Southern Greece whether they want to remain an Intergroup (IG).
 - George indicated that if Greece wants to remain an IG they must submit by-laws to the board; Greece had not done so in the past. Their lack of a set of explicit by-laws has been a problem. The by-laws would specify things such as procedure for elections, number of board members, and rules by which the IG would operate. The WSO has samples of by-laws. Helen will look into this.
 - Helen mentioned that when they formed, they prepared a memorandum; it is in Greek. It explains why the organization was formed and how they are organized. The Northern Greece IG is unofficial and they are operating under the umbrella of Southern Greece. George indicated that the current structure is not in keeping with our policy; as they reorganize, it may be an opportunity to clean things up and create by-laws. He suggested that Marc, as Chair of AH-3 Intergroup Support & Development, help.
- **AH-4 Document Review:**
 - Ann mentioned that if we decide to move forward with the Telephone Policy, she has some changes to recommend.
 - Ann will be working on the Literature Committee Policy in the future.
- **AH-5 Long Range Planning:**
 - Barbara asked whether the activities of this committee were similar to those of AH-6 Revenue Growth Task Force. Bob S and George felt the remits of the two committees are different, with AH-6 being a subset of AH-5.
 - Barbara asked Marc if he needed committee members for this group. Ann suggested sending an email to the fellowship inviting them to join our committees, particularly Long Range Planning; this would also be a way to get people interested in joining the Board. Marc will follow up on this suggestion and put something together for the email. He will send it to Barbara first for review.
- **AH-6 Revenue Growth Task Force:**

- Bob reported that he is working on the Support Your Fellowship brochure, and will send it out to the committee members soon.
- He is also investigating the possibility of participating in [amazonsmile.com](https://www.amazon.com/amazonsmile).
 - David mentioned that he saw FA listed on his Amazon account and tried designating it.
 - Bob said that although FA is included in the not-for-profit list, in order to receive money, the entity needs to set up an account and register as a recipient.
 - David said he'll be glad to assist and provide information needed if we get to that point.
 - Bob is working on sending something out to the Task Force to review. There may be concerns around donor anonymity, and the indirect receipt of money from members via Amazon Smile.
 - Barbara indicated that provided it is initiated by members, it should be acceptable (like with United Way, and matching employer donations).
 - Ann mentioned that "FA134 Inc. in Miami" was also listed; it is our FA group in Miami.
 - Barbara asked about the significance of the Miami Group being incorporated.
 - David mentioned that new groups sometimes call him, because they are told that bank fees for checking accounts would be less if they're registered as a nonprofit. However, we don't give out our nonprofit number to the FA groups.
 - Bob volunteered to follow up with Odalys, a member of the Miami Group, to find out the reason they are incorporated.
 - George asked if you place an order on Amazon, and click on Smile, are you charged the additional amount for the donation, or does it come from Amazon. Bob indicated that Amazon has set up a foundation from which the money is paid out; the consumer is not charged.
 - Marc asked if the list consists of only 501(c)(3) nonprofit groups, or all types of nonprofit groups; in Ohio you don't have to be 501(c)(3) to be nonprofit. Bob indicated that you need to be an IRS 501(c)(3) to be listed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. MOTION LC-1 (September 2018)

- **Motion:** The Literature Committee moves that the WSB amend the “Literature Giveaways” section (on page 7) of *FA’s Convention Policy* (PPG-14) by adding the following text shown in red:

Literature Giveaways

The CPC of an FA world service convention or the CPC of a convention being held by a WSB-approved/WSO-registered intergroup in the United States may give away selected FA literature to convention attendees, such as by including it in the convention welcome packets. The CPC shall purchase this literature from the WSO. The special purchase price *for giveaway items only* shall be the WSO’s direct cost (i.e., the prorated printing/production cost plus the prorated vendor-to-WSO shipping charge) plus the charge for *shipping* the items from the WSO to the CPC. The CPC agrees that all these items shall be given away, shall not be sold, and cannot be returned to the WSO. (Note: The inclusion of WSB-approved/WSO-registered intergroups in this “Literature Giveaways” section shall pertain only to this section, and not to any other section, of the Convention Policy.)

- **Rationale:**
 - The Chicagoland Intergroup has asked if their convention planning committee (CPC) can purchase selected literature items at discounted prices to give away to people attending their convention on November 4, 2018.
 - The Chicagoland Intergroup is a WSB-approved/WSO-registered intergroup in existence for many years, and its conventions routinely draw even more attendees than do FA’s annual world service conventions.
 - The LC sees no rationale for denying the Chicagoland Intergroup’s request. However, in granting the request, the WSB must be cognizant of setting a precedent.
 - Thus, the LC recommends defining the entities to which this precedent shall apply in the future, i.e., WSB-approved/WSO-registered intergroups only.
 - The proposed amendment will not place a financial drain on the fellowship, since there are currently just two registered intergroups in the U.S.: Chicagoland and Northeast Ohio. (At one time, there were five.)
 - This policy does not pertain to CPCs (or their equivalents) in countries outside the U.S., since they make their own determinations with regard to selling or giving away literature.
- **Feasibility:**
 - The WSO already has a procedure for world service conventions that it can use for WSB-approved/WSO-registered intergroups.
- **Implementation:**
 - Upon WSB approval of this motion, the LC shall:

- follow up with the Chicagoland Intergroup, informing them of this change in policy and providing them with prices for the literature items they are considering ordering
 - inform the WSO of this change in policy
 - revise *FA's Convention Policy* (PPG-14) accordingly, and prepare it for FA's permanent archives and for uploading to the website.
- There was a brief discussion concerning the motion.
 - George asked what “selected” meant. Ann indicated it denotes whatever items are selected by the IG to be give-aways.
 - Bob asked whether you want to indicate that the LC has discretion to say “no” to certain items. Ann indicated that they haven’t done that for the World Service Conventions. She could bring it up to the LC, but would not personally be in favor of it. We could consider it for the future.
 - Hank believes the policy is adequate as amended by Ann.
 - George mentioned that the Convention Policy is due for review and update soon, and wanted to know if the new language could wait to be included in the Golden Master until the update. Ann agreed that it would be OK to wait; she will let Angel and Peggy know that the change was endorsed by the Board.
- **Motion made by Ann, seconded by Hank, voted on and approved.**

2. Discussion of PPG-09 Telephone Policy

- George had forwarded to Maria an updated version of this policy along with his comments , suggested changes, and some questions. Maria followed up with Angel at the WSO to determine the accuracy of the policy and how it should be modified.
- The policy currently refers to “a phone list...kept in the WSO next to the phone...The phone list contains current names, phone numbers and times of availability of FA volunteer members who are willing to answer Twelve Step calls”. Per Angel, there is no such phone list; she answers all calls to the 800 number during work hours. The Board began to discuss whether there would be a benefit in having volunteers to answer the phone for emergency-type calls, and whether the benefit would outweigh the effort to put it in place and maintain it.
 - Maria will follow up with Angel to determine how many of the calls she receives are either emergency calls, or questions about the Twelve Steps. Maria will then update the board.
- The policy also describes procedures to follow if you are receiving calls on behalf of FA. Maria felt this part could be helpful to the WSO staff and to the group Secretaries, whose phone numbers are provided in the meeting locations list on

our webpage. It may also benefit the members whose phone numbers are listed on Group lists provided to Group meeting attendees.

- Helen described the situation in Greece. They have one main number, manned by 3 to 4 volunteers 24 hours a day. When the phone rings, the call is transferred to the first volunteer; if unanswered, it then goes to the second volunteer, etc. Each volunteer has a list of groups and can provide information about FA. Greece has found this to be beneficial.
- Marc indicated that the Northeastern Ohio IG has a central number that the IG supports.
- It was agreed that decisions regarding policy revisions would be made at the next meeting after Maria spoke to Angel and got more details on the types of calls received at the WSO (i.e., how many are business-related, vs. emergency calls or Twelve Step calls). If most of the calls are business-related, it may be too complicated to implement a volunteer system unless a separate line is used. Even then, business related matters would need to be referred back to the WSO. Barbara will add this topic under “Old Business” at our next meeting.

TABLED ITEMS: None

CLOSING

1. Announcements and Other Items: None

2. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made by George, seconded by Marc, voted on and passed (3:17 pm EDT).

3. Closed with the Serenity Prayer