

**Families Anonymous
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
October 20, 2018**

INTRODUCTION

1. Call to Order: 2:00 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	E	E
David M	Treasurer	P	W
Maria S	Secretary	P	W
Alan B	BMAL	P	L
Ann P	BMAL	E	W
Bev B	BMAL	P	L
Bob S	BMAL	P	W
Donna D	BMAL	P	W
George R	BMAL	P	W
Helen L	BMAL	P	W
Marc B	BMAL	P	W
Odalys A	BMAL	A	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

Barbara mentioned that Susan S will no longer be on the Board.

3. Acceptance of Published Agenda:

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

4. Tradition One:

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

5. Approval of August 2018 WSB Minutes:

- Helen moved to accept, Vince 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.
- There were no comments or questions.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>
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	David M
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 reported that the Committee will be having another meeting shortly.
 - They will be targeting public service announcements (PSA’s) on radio and TV, after the holidays. Alan is compiling a list of talk stations. He suggested that members may want to volunteer to appear outside of their own area to avoid concerns about anonymity. He asked the Board members to let him know if

they are interested and what their availability is (i.e., mornings, weekends, etc.)

- ▶ Barbara indicated that it is OK for someone to give up their own anonymity if they wish. The individual would need to indicate that although they are a member of FA, they do not represent FA.
- ▶ Bob suggested it would be useful to provide a bulleted list of things to say or not say. Alan agreed that this is a great idea; he will also put together some do's and don'ts for the volunteers.
- ▶ Vince asked whether PSA's could also be done in Australia. Alan said he will do some research and find out.
- **SC-3 Literature:**
 - Barbara mentioned that Spain had requested a translation. Vince reported that the translation of 5011 is being done and that he will follow up with Miguel to see if he has someone who can verify the translation.
 - ▶ George suggested that Odalys may be able to help. Vince indicated that she was copied on his email, to see if she could assist.
- **SC-4 Twelve Step Rag Newsletter:**
 - Bob indicated that he had followed up with David, Lily and Elizabeth about listing group donations in the next Rag.
 - ▶ David indicated that he will be responsible for providing the donations list to Lily and Elizabeth; he has asked them to send him the deadlines for doing so.
 - ▶ The list will include the group number and name, but not the donated amount.
 - ▶ It was previously agreed at a Board meeting that individual donations would not be included. If a very large individual donation is made, it could be listed at David's discretion if the donor agreed; the person's first name, last initial, and group would be provided, but not the amount.
 - ▶ In Memoriam donations will continue to be listed.
 - Donna observed that since our new editors started, the Rag has been coming out every three months instead of two. Donna suggested that they consider putting out a shorter Rag (the more recent ones have been fairly long) and going back to the two-month timeframe. She also feels Group Secretaries may be discouraged from printing out the Rag because of its length and the added expense of color pages.
 - ▶ Vince has also experienced that the secretaries no longer print out the RAG for their groups.
 - ▶ Barbara's impression is that Lily and Elizabeth are "catching up" and that their intention is for the RAG to come out every two months.

- ▶ George suggested that we let the secretaries know that they can print the RAG in black & white, even though it is in color. Bob suggested that a note to this effect be put in the Rag.
 - Bob will inform Lily and Elizabeth of this, and also let them know that the Rag could be shorter, and should be issued every two months.
- Donna suggested that we send out an email blast, encouraging people to sign up for their own email copy of the Rag.
 - ▶ George indicated that the Rag is accessible from the top of the FA home page.
 - ▶ Donna will follow up with Hank to see if it's possible for people to sign up specifically for just the Rag, instead of all FA news. George felt that this may be difficult to do based on how the email distribution list is set up.
 - ▶ Alan asked if there is a distribution list of just group secretaries. George indicated there is.
- **SC-8 Sponsorship:** Helen mentioned that she is planning to have a meeting with Vince shortly.
- **SC-9 Group Outreach:**
 - Donna mentioned that they are trying to make it easier for someone to start a new group. They would like to add a tab to the webpage, so that you don't have to go to the free download area to get the materials.
 - ▶ Alan asked if there is someone for them to call for help when starting a new group. Donna indicated it would be Jon; calls to the WSO are directed to him.
- **SC-10 Financial Oversight:** George mentioned that the last quarterly report was provided to the Board. The second quarter ended on September 30.
- **SC-11 Technology:** George asked Barbara to update the agenda to reflect the new name of SC-11.

AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>
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 indicated that since Susan is no longer on the Board, we need to identify a new Chair for this committee. Until another board member volunteers, she will fill that role. Maria volunteered to help her if needed until someone is identified.
- No group has yet volunteered to host next year's convention.
 - ▶ Per George, although a convention is not required in the Bylaws, we are required to have an Annual Business meeting. This could be done online. Our GoToMeeting subscription is for 25 people; we may need to ask them to open it up to 50.
 - ▶ Marc indicated that it is possible to do a live public Facebook feed.
 - ▶ Bob asked if there is a cutoff date for a group to volunteer, after which it would not be possible to hold the convention. Barbara indicated that her group didn't volunteer until this time last year and they were able to get everything done in time.
 - ▶ Alan asked if we have a list of really strong groups that might be able to do it. Barbara indicated that we do not have such a list.
 - ▶ Donna suggested emailing members who attended last year's convention and seeing if any of them are interested in doing it. She felt that those who've attended a convention in the past are more likely to volunteer to host one.
 - Barbara has a list of last year's attendees. She will send the list to Maria who will help her in reaching out to them.
 - Donna suggested that it be done via "bcc"; she can show Maria and Barbara how to do this.
 - ▶ George suggested we send out an urgent plea to all the membership via the email blast.
 - ▶ Board members supported reaching out to groups who have hosted conventions in the past to see if they would be willing to do it again. Barbara has a list of groups who have held conventions in the past.
 - ▶ Donna asked Marc if any of the Intergroups would be willing to host; Chicago has done it in the past. Marc did not feel we would get much traction from the effort.
 - ▶ George mentioned that the bulk emails to group secretaries also go to NSB Chairs.
 - ▶ Alan asked whether sites in Canada (eg, Toronto or Montreal) could be possibilities to host. George felt that was unlikely because there is no area in Canada that has a high enough density of groups.
 - ▶ George mentioned that the WSB could run a convention. Alan was afraid that we might be setting a precedent for the Board to do it.

- ▶ Donna mentioned that the E-meeting ran a great convention in Boston. Barbara indicated that they would like to do it in 2020, on their anniversary.
- ▶ Marc felt that an email would not be impactful enough. He suggested we consider holding a voice conference; we could sell the participants on hosting a convention and also ask them for ideas. George felt that a voice conference would not be well attended.
- ▶ George suggested that we divide up the lists of people to be contacted, and distribute it to board members who can make phone calls to them. The Board agreed to help with this. Barbara and Maria will review the lists (i.e., those who attended last year's convention, those who have hosted in the past) and then ask Board members to volunteer for calls.
- ▶ David mentioned that 2 to 10% of our income is from the convention. If we don't hold one next year it is likely to have a negative impact on our revenue.
- **AH-5 Long Range Planning:** Marc indicated that the email blast to the membership was effective in getting six volunteers to join his committee. He will be setting up a meeting soon.
- **AH-6 Revenue Growth Task Force:**
 - Bob had followed up with Odalys from the Miami Group to see why they had incorporated as a 501(c)(3).
 - ▶ John P from the Miami Group indicated that although it cost them \$450 to incorporate, it saved them from having to pay ~ \$5K in taxes for the convention. They pay \$38 each year to maintain their status and also file an annual tax return. The Miami Group would not be an obstacle should we decide to register with Amazon.smile.
 - Bob sent out a revised document to the members of this committee.
 - ▶ Under the section about making In Memoriam donations, George indicated that there used to be form on the last page of the Rag for this purpose. In its new format, the Rag doesn't lend itself to be printed. George suggested revisiting this to make sure it's easy to do.
 - Bob will go back to the Rag editors to reinstate the form and check with Hank to make sure that there is a way to make In Memoriam donations in the new web site under donations. Donna indicated that we need to make sure that there is a place to enter the person's name, in honor of whom the donation is made.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. PPG-09 Telephone Policy

- As followup to the last meeting, Maria reached out to Angel and obtained the following information:
 - Only a small percentage (~10%) of the calls coming into the WSO are business-related. Most of them are questions about FA meeting locations, questions from group secretaries, and other FA-related calls.
 - Angel is able to effectively answer most of these calls. She refers some of the calls to Donna for Group Outreach.
 - Since the out-of-office message for the 800 number was changed, there have been fewer emergency calls coming in. The 800 number message now specifies that we are not an emergency hotline, nor are we able to provide counseling to the caller or their loved one.
- Based on the above, and since Angel is doing a good job managing the calls, the Board did not feel it was necessary to set up a volunteer group to handle 12 Step calls. Maria will modify the section in PPG-09 that mentions the volunteer phone list and send it out to the Board for review.
- George mentioned that there are other PPG’s belonging to the WSO Chair.
 - Barbara suggested that George share the list of PPG ownership with the Board. George agreed to send the list out.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Motion on behalf of the Group Outreach (GO) Committee (October 2018)

- **Motion:** Motion on behalf of the GO Committee that the following 5 FA groups be “delisted” for failure to meet annual registration requirements of the FA by-laws:

2004	St. Matthews Anglican Church	Cheltenham		Victoria	Australia
2043	St. Paul's Episcopal Church	Montrose	Susquehanna	PA	USA
2050	Grace In Community Church	Alden	Erie	NY	USA
2052	Meetings on Hold	Toms River		NJ	USA
2053	The Old Dutch Church	Kingston	Ulster	NY	USA

- **Rationale:** The FA bylaws require that each active FA Group, Intergroup, and NSB register with the World Service Office on an annual basis prior to April 1 of each calendar year. The designated groups have failed to do so despite numerous phone and email reminders from the GO committee.
- **Implementation:** If this motion is approved, the designated groups will be considered “inactive” and designated as such in our Groups Master database. They

will additionally be removed from our online and hardcopy meeting directories and will no longer receive emailed copies of the Twelve Step Rag. They may be re-instated to active status upon receipt of a group re-registration.

- **Cost:** There is no cost to the fellowship for the implementation of this motion.
- Donna mentioned that the Group with meetings on hold (#2052 in Toms River, NJ) has been looking for a new meeting location for 18 months and has not responded to multiple communications from GO.
- Barbara indicated that she has never seen such a small list of delisted groups and complemented Donna and Jon on the good work that the GO Committee has been doing.
- Donna mentioned that Nicole was instrumental in dealing with the online registration issues.
- Donna had asked Odalys to call the group in Costa Rica which is not on the delisted group list.
- **Motion made by Donna, seconded by Vince, voted on and approved.**

TABLED ITEMS: None

CLOSING

1. Announcements and Other Items:

- Donna has a 30-page document on the 1971 to 1979 History of FA. She indicated that it is an interesting read.
 - Donna will forward a copy to the Board Members.
 - Barbara suggested that condensed sections may be appropriate for the Rag. Bob will follow up on this.

2. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made by Marc seconded by Donna, voted on and passed (3:20 pm EDT).

3. Closed with the Serenity Prayer