

**Families Anonymous
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
November 17, 2018**

INTRODUCTION

1. Call to Order: 2:03 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	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:

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

4. Tradition One:

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

5. Approval of October 2018 WSB Minutes:

- Bob moved to accept, Vince seconded, voted on and approved. Maria to distribute.

6. Chair's Report:

- Barbara had reported that the following four groups expressed interest in hosting next year's convention:
 1. Roswell, GA (just outside of Atlanta)
 2. Long Island, NY
 3. A group in downtown Chicago, IL
 4. Dallas / Fort Worth, Tx

Alan asked about the procedure for determining who would be selected.

- Barbara indicated that when ready, the groups will submit a bid. The bids will be reviewed by the WSB, and the site chosen.
 - Barbara indicated that the GA and NY groups seem to be more advanced in their process.
 - ▶ Donna added that as of yet, no one is stepping up to lead the effort in NY. Her suggestion would be to let the GA group do it this year, and the NY group could do it the following year.
 - Because there will be no WSB meeting in December, the bid review process will be done by email.
 - Barbara will be away December 21 through January 5. Maria volunteered to serve as her backup and will be copied on the bids so that they can be distributed to the board in Barbara's absence.
- 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.
- There were no comments or questions.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee

SC-1 Public Information

SC-2 WSO

SC-3 Literature

Chair

Alan B

Maria S

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 is compiling a huge list of radio stations for public service announcements. He is also putting together a list of TV talk stations, which is smaller.
 - He will send a list of possible meeting dates to his Committee.
 - Barbara mentioned that Helen is doing similar work in Greece, reaching out to radio and TV stations there. Barbara suggested that Alan contact Helen and share what he is doing (i.e., any scripts he has prepared, etc.)
- **SC-2 WSO:** George asked about the plans for holiday gifts to the WSO. Maria reported that we will be doing the same as last year: \$100 Amazon gift certificates to Nicole and Angel; \$25 Amazon gift certificates to Peggy (Angel's assistant) and the maintenance person. These have already been included in this year's budget.
- **SC-4 Twelve Step Rag Newsletter:**
 - Bob sent to the Rag editors (Lily and Elizabeth) the "History of FA" provided by Donna. The editors will look into preparing an article with some of that information.
 - Bob will follow up with the editors to let them know that the Rag should be published every 2 months.
- **SC-7 Budget Committee:** David reported that he will start work on this over the holidays.
- **SC-9 Group Outreach:**
 - Donna prepared a Thanksgiving Letter and Nicole added some graphics. It will go out in an email blast this Tuesday. The message is about Thanks (gratitude) and Giving (request for members to consider donations to the WSO).
 - Donna was approached by the Elkhorn Wisconsin group who wanted to place an ad on Facebook (FB) to share information about their meeting, including their group email contact and phone number. Because the ad is intended for a local, narrow audience (ie., those in their community looking for support groups, family help), the price was minimal. They felt they would be able to

maintain anonymity if no input was allowed on the page (i.e., no comments permitted). Donna told them that it would be against current policy, but she would inform the Board of their request and see if the Board was willing to reconsider their position. The Board had a discussion about this and the following input was provided:

- ▶ Alan expressed concern that there would be an electronic trail of individuals who access the site.
- ▶ Marc searched Facebook and found 3 pages using “Families Anonymous” in their names. He took screenshots and sent them to the Board.
- ▶ The Board acknowledged that there are two separate issues:
 - 1) Creating an FB page under “Families Anonymous”
 - 2) Placing an ad on FB
- ▶ Marc mentioned that we would need to protect individuals who would not know how their information might be used / seen, particularly those less familiar with technology. He indicated that the three groups currently on FB have a link to our FA webpage. When you click on it, there’s a trail of cookies that track you.
- ▶ George added that social media, by definition, is a non-anonymous situation. Although the page could be created in an anonymous fashion, we can’t control what others might do.
- ▶ Marc indicated that FB owns the info on their sites.
- ▶ Donna asked what happens when someone clicks on an ad on FB. Marc indicated that an ad can be “liked” and you can then see who “liked” it. If comments are allowed, you can see who provided them. You can also see who controls the ad. Marc felt that we should do a deeper dive to see the implications.
- ▶ Hank believes that we don’t need a new policy. We’ve already provided tools for creating an ad (as you would for a flyer, etc.). They have the ability to place ads where they choose.
- ▶ Ann mentioned that this is covered in the “*Twelve Traditions in Action.*”
- ▶ Ann felt there is a difference between placing a flyer in the library or in a free newspaper as opposed to paying for an ad somewhere. We don’t advertise; we give out promotional information.
- ▶ Hank mentioned that a previous Board tried a trial FB page and determined it wasn’t worth the risk. They did it as a nonprofit company page that was informational only. However, there’s a comment section that they couldn’t turn off; it caused your identity to be exposed. Since we couldn’t control the commentary page, they decided to forego it.
- ▶ George mentioned that “*PPG-05 FA Social Media and Internet Policy*” can be found on the FA webpage and recommended that Board members familiarize themselves with it. It says “no” to FB.

- ▶ Bob indicated that PPG-05 doesn't seem to specifically address ads on social media.
- ▶ Donna suggested that we reach out to those groups who have FB pages and inform them of our policy. She felt we still need to address whether or not groups can place an ad and provide some guidance on this (ie., if and how it can be done with anonymity, what they can display, etc.). Donna expressed concern with groups making up their own ads instead of using materials provided by the Literature Committee.
- ▶ Hank mentioned that AA allows and has a major presence on FB; NA has a partial presence; Al-Anon also has a presence.
- ▶ Barbara felt that we may need to look into updating our policy to keep up with the times.
- ▶ Bob indicated that the groups with pages on FB may be infringing on FA's intellectual property rights. Ann liked the suggestion of telling the groups about this. She would like to see the WSB having a presence on FB with our meeting directory posted there. It would preclude individual groups from having their own site.
- ▶ Alan mentioned that FB may allocate space to nonprofit groups; he will follow up on this.
- ▶ Marc indicated that going to FB and asking them to take down the sites would be too complicated.
- Following the discussion, the Board agreed to do the following and decide on next steps at the January meeting:
 - ▶ The Board will look at the FA group pages already posted on FB; those without FB accounts can look at the screen shots sent by Marc.
 - ▶ The Board will familiarize themselves with PPG-05 and PPG-06 (the policy on Intellectual Property).
 - ▶ Hank, on behalf of the Tech Committee, will prepare a response and send it to the three sites' contacts along with the policy.
 - ▶ Bob volunteered to help identify intellectual property violations from PPG-06.
 - ▶ Alan volunteered to follow up with the FA groups on FB to see what success they've had in bringing in new members.
 - ▶ Donna will respond back to the Elkhorn group, using the information that Hank is preparing.
- **SC-11 Technology:**
 - Hank reported that the new online forms for registration will be done by December 1. Groups will have the ability to register as of that date.
 - Hank has gotten two people from his local group to help out.
 - By December 15 we will see an updated draft of the website.

- Our provider, IPOWER, has been doing security scans and warned us of some activity on the website. Sites which use “anonymous” in their name tend to get attacked by hackers. IPOWER has a handle on security and is checking archival files for corruption. These issues will be addressed on our new site.
- Ann had informed Hank about someone who experienced difficulty when trying to order more than one copy of literature on our website. Angel confirmed that it has been a problem. Hank had followed up and believes it is not a systemic issue; he will keep an eye on it.

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 provided an update (see information under Chair’s Report, above).
- **AH-5 Long Range Planning:**
 - Marc has reached out via email with those who volunteered to join this Committee. He is now looking for a common time to meet.
- **AH-6 Revenue Growth Task Force:**
 - Bob reported that the revision of the “*Supporting Your Fellowship*” pamphlet is nearing completion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. New Website

- This was discussed under SC-11 Technology, above.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Seed Money for Convention

- In reviewing the Convention Policy for update, George and Barbara recommend increasing the seed money given to Convention Planning Committees.
- Ann made a motion to raise the seed money for the Convention Planning Committee from \$1K to \$2K. Motion seconded by Alan, voted on and approved.
- This will go into effect immediately, and be reflected in the next update of the Convention Policy.

2. Motion PPG-09 Telephone Policy, November 2018 (Maria S)

- **Motion:** Move that the WSB approve the updated version of PPG-09 *Telephone Policy*, revision dated November 17, 2018, along with the additional suggestions discussed and summarized below. (Note: the November 17 version includes the suggestions made by Ann.)
 - The third paragraph under “INTRODUCTION” will be modified to add “...and Group Contacts...” as follows:
 - ▶ *“Although this policy is intended for staff and volunteers at the WSO, it can serve as a guideline for other FA volunteers, such as Group Secretaries and Group Contacts, who often interact with individuals on the phone.”*
 - Section 4.1 will be modified as indicated below, to indicate that the personal information of callers and call takers will not be divulged without their permission:
 - ▶ *“Never give out telephone numbers, names or addresses of our call takers and callers without their permission. Simply state it is FA’s policy not to divulge this information.”*
- **Rationale:** This policy was due for an update; it was last revised on March 2014.
- **Feasibility:**
 - The policy was discussed at WSB meetings, and revisions reflect the decisions made at those meetings.
 - The updated policy was sent to Board Members for their review and feedback on November 1.
- **Implementation:**
 - Feedback provided by Board Members was considered and incorporated into the final document.
 - If approved by the WSB, a golden master will be provided to the WSO for filing, and a PDF will be provided for posting on our website.
- **Cost:** There are no incremental costs associated with preparation of this policy.
- Motion made by Maria, seconded by Bob, voted on and approved.

TABLED ITEMS: None

CLOSING

1. Announcements and Other Items: None.

2. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made by Donna seconded by Vince, voted on and passed (3:36 pm EDT).

3. Closed with the Serenity Prayer