

Families Anonymous  
Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting  
June 9, 2018, Mount Laurel, New Jersey

**I. Call to order:**

- Call to order made at 2:42 pm EDT, by Barbara S (Group 1345) World Service Board (WSB) Chair.

**II. Welcome: Barbara S:**

- Barbara welcomed the Board members, Delegates, and all the attendees.

**III. Report from the Credentials Committee Chair - Maria S (Group 2056):**

- A copy of the Credentials Committee Chair's Report is included as Appendix 1.
- As of April 1st, 241 groups have met the deadline to re-register their groups and be eligible for voting.
- A quorum, more than 24 (i.e., 10%) has been met to transact business.
- A quorum, more than 36 (i.e., 15%) has been met for election of officers and board members at large.
- 40 votes were received by email; 22 votes were collected by mailed-in ballots; 10 groups appointed the Credentials Chair as proxy; 11 delegates are present to vote. Total voting number is 83.

**IV. Old Business**

- **Approval of 2017 ABM Minutes:** Donna D (Group 278) moved to approve; Tom J (Group 1651) seconded; voted on and approved.
- **Approval of Final FY2017 Financial Report:** FY2017 financials were still being finalized and are not available for approval at the time of this meeting. They will be submitted for approval at the 2019 ABM.

**V. New Business**

- **Treasurer's Report (FY 2018) - David M, Treasurer**
  - David presented the tentative fiscal year financial report covering the period May 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018.
  - The balance sheet assets are the literature inventory and the money in the bank (used to buy literature and pay bills). There is a small liability consisting of payroll and taxes.
  - We saw a fairly significant decrease in income.
    - Literature sales were down by \$8K
    - Group donations were down by \$3K
    - Individual donations were up by \$3.5 K
    - Convention donations were down by \$4.5K.
  - Expenses were up slightly, by \$1.2K due to:
    - Some increase in hours for two part-time office staff
    - New laptop computer to replace the old one
    - Improvements to our website.
  - Some of the increased expenses were partially offset by a reduction in depreciation and a one-time credit in rent payment.

- Our expenses are not very variable; we have more potential to make improvements in income.
- There followed a discussion with suggestions on how to improve income. Suggestions included:
  - Look to getting a higher return on the money in the bank; we should be able to earn 1.5% with little risk and adequate liquidity.
  - Get the word out on the great literature available; display literature at meetings.
  - Purchase literature using group money and give it out to group members.
  - List the group donations in each edition of the Rag to encourage others to donate.
  - Suggest members become “sustaining supporters” with continuous monthly donations. Hank H, Vice-Chair (Group 1844) described how this could be done using PayPal / credit card.
  - Hold a group “gratitude night”.
  - As part of a group conscience meeting, consider donating group funds to the WSO.
  - Grow the membership / encourage new groups to start:
    - Do public service broadcasts to raise awareness of FA.
    - Reach out to appropriate professionals and clergy in the area; provide them with our literature.
    - Participate in events dealing with addiction.
    - Post flyers on bulletin boards, in libraries, supermarkets, etc.
    - Print “business cards” with meeting location / times.
    - Ensure that the contact information in the meeting directory is kept up to date.
- **Call for 2019 Convention Bid**
  - There was no bid made.
- **FA Website Update**
  - Hank H reported that the new website is expected to be rolled out in a few months, following an announcement. It will have simpler navigation, better search capabilities, and a new E-store.

## **VI. Report of the Nominating Committee- Maria S, Credentials Committee Chair**

- **Nominees on Ballot for Board Members at Large for the 2018/2019 term:**
  - Ann P, Group 1301; renewal of term
  - Bev B, Group Group 5001; renewal of term
  - Donna D, Group 278; renewal of term
  - Marc B, Group 288; renewal of term
  - Susan S, Group 252; renewal of term
- **Nominations from the Floor for Board Members at Large:** None
- **Motion BL-01, on Ballot**
  - Motion to elevate the existing Internet / Website / eMail Ad Hoc Committee to a WSB Standing Committee and to rename it the Technology Committee.
  - The following sections in the By-Laws would be amended as follows:
    - Article VIII - STANDING COMMITTEES, Section 1, First Sentence: *“The following shall be Standing Committees of the WSB: Budget, Financial Oversight, Group Outreach, International Groups, Literature, Newsletter, Parliamentarian, Public Information, Sponsorship, **Technology**, and World Service Office.”*
    - The following section would be added: *“Section 10: The Technology Committee shall explore technologies for providing and improving communication with the public and with members of the fellowship using the Internet and internet-based strategies. It shall also be responsible for maintaining WSO computer sys-*

*tems; supporting and maintaining the FA website; supporting and advising WSB members in the use of technology; and supporting and maintaining FA's internal and bulk email systems."*

- **Motion T-11, on Ballot**

- The WSB moves that the FA membership approve updating the wording of Tradition 11 to include modern modes of communication.
- Current wording: *"Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, films, and TV. We need guard with special care the anonymity of our members as well as those of other recovery programs."*
- Proposed updated wording: *"Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, film, TV, and **any other public or private media**. We need guard with special care the anonymity of our members as well as those of other recovery programs."*
- If the membership approves the updated wording, the FA Literature Committee will change the Tradition 11 wording in any publication in which it appears and will do so at the time that publication is next reprinted.

## **VII. State of the Fellowship Report - Barbara S**

- **FA - "A Worldwide Fellowship"**

- In this fiscal year, FA maintained 191 groups in the US and 225 groups internationally, for a total of 416 groups.
- Within the last 12 months, 21 new groups have been formed, up from 12 from the previous year.
- The number of groups that have closed this year is 37.
- The registration of groups this year was greatly improved, despite internet glitches. The number of groups that remain unregistered at this time is less than 20. This number is much lower than the past several years.

- **World Service Board (WSB)**

- The WSB had 14 members during the board year 2017/2018, including 11 from the US, 1 from the UK, 1 from Greece, and 1 from Australia.
- Barbara feels that we are blessed with a hardworking and dedicated Board.
- Barbara thanked Sylvia S for her service, who will be retiring from the Board today. Sylvia was also our Liaison to the 12 Step Rag.
- Barbara also thanked the WSB members who agreed to serve another term.

- **World Service Office (WSO) Staff**

- Angel and Nicole run a tight ship at the WSO. They continue to do a wonderful, efficient job.
- Like everywhere else, the WSO's expenses have gone up, and our donations have gone down.
- Donations made by individuals and by the groups are critical to FA's survival. Please encourage your groups to send donations to the WSO as often as possible. This will enable us to keep FA strong and to continue to grow.

- **The Twelve Step Rag Newsletter**

- Lisa W, who was our editor for many years, retired from this position.
- Our search for a new editor resulted in two highly qualified editors who are sharing the duties.
- We have gotten off to a slow start, but our 1st edition had a fresh, new and colorful look. Adjustments will take some time, but we are getting there.

- **2016/ 2017 World Service Summary**

- It is time for FA to step “Out of the Darkness”. The members of FA need their anonymity, not FA itself. We cannot grow if we can’t get our name out there.
- A perfect example of how to do this is the Intergroup in Winnipeg, Canada. They made an all-out campaign of spreading the word. They reached out to the community, taking literature to professionals all over the area. They posted FA Literature where they could.
- Like Winnipeg, we need to get inventive, and get out there and stop being “the best kept secret in town”.

#### **VIII. Election Results Report - Maria S, Credentials Committee Chair**

- There were 72 votes tallied before; there were 11 delegates in the room who voted.
- Out of 83 ballots cast:
  - 81 voted “yes” to approve the slate of Board Members at Large; 2 of the ballots received did not indicate a preference for or against.
  - 81 voted “yes to approve Motion BL-01; 2 of the ballots received did not specify a preference.
  - 81 voted “yes” to approve Motion T-11; 1 voted “no”; 1 of the ballots received did not specify a preference.
- As a result of the election, the slate of Board Members, Motion BL-01 and Motion T-11 are all approved.

#### **IX. Adjournment:**

- Barbara S thanked everyone for their attendance.
- Motion to adjourn was made by Tom J (Group 1651); seconded by Alan B (Group 1345), voted on, and approved. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm EDT.

## Appendix 1

### 1st Credentials Committee Chair's report For ABM June 9, 2018

As of April 1, 2018 there were 241 groups that have met the deadline to re-register their groups and be eligible for voting at the 2018 Families Anonymous Annual Business Meeting.

As the Credentials Committee Chair, I collected:

40 FAvote emails  
22 Mailed-in Ballots  
10 Proxies for the Credentials Committee Chair to vote

-----  
72 collected votes

+ There are 11 Delegates in the room bringing the total to 83 votes.

According to the FA By-Laws :

24 votes needed to meet the quorum to do Business (10%) at the ABM

36 votes needed to meet the quorum to make the election of Officers and WSB Members valid (15%).

I hereby Certify that all quorums are met for the 2018 Annual Business Meeting.

Maria S.  
2018 Credentials Committee Chair