

**Families Anonymous
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
September 19, 2020**

INTRODUCTION

1. **Call to Order:** 2:07 EDT, by Barbara S, 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
Cindy C	Treasurer	P	W
Christy R	Secretary	E	E
Alan B	BMAL	E	E
Ann P	BMAL	P	W
Bob S	BMAL	P	W
Chris Y	BMAL	P	W
David M	BMAL	P	W
George R	BMAL	P	W
Helen L	BMAL	E	W
Jeff S	BMAL	P	W
Marc B	BMAL	E	W
Marcia C	BMAL	P	W
Mike B	BMAL	P	L
Odalys A	BMAL	E	E
Vince M	BMAL	E	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, Ann seconded, voted on and accepted.

4. Tradition One:

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

5. Approval of August WSB Minutes:

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

6. Chair's Report:

- Ann asked for clarification about the 2021 and 2022 conventions. Barbara indicated that a group was merely inquiring about 2022, and that Stacey D will be forwarding materials from the South Jersey convention to them. The contract for the 2021 convention in Louisville was never signed. However, the hotel indicated that they would accept the same contract that was previously negotiated. It is pending the availability of a COVID vaccine, since insurance would not cover cancellations due to COVID.
- There were no other comments or questions concerning the Chair’s Report.

7. Treasurer's Report:

- Cindy provided the financial reports as part of her monthly report.
- There were no comments or questions.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>
SC-1 Public Information	Jeff S
SC-2 WSO	Maria S
SC-3 Literature	Ann P
SC-4 Serenity Messenger Newsletter	Robert S
SC-5 Bylaws, Parliamentary	George R
SC-6 International Groups	Vince M
SC-7 Budget Committee	Cindy C
SC-8 Sponsorship	Helen L
SC-9 Group Outreach	Marcia C
SC-10 Financial Oversight	David M
SC-11 Technology	George R

- **SC-1 Public Information**
 - Jeff reported that there is a teleconference scheduled for this Monday to discuss PI opportunities to get the word out.
 - After discussion, the Board agreed that there was value in having both types of communications: The Serenity Messenger (SM) and Jeff’s proposed communication (JPC). These were not felt to be mutually exclusive.
 - Below is a summary of points made during the discussion.
 - ▶ Jeff indicated that how people consume news has changed. People want something more easily consumable.
 - ▶ All felt that there was value in communicating with the fellowship more frequently. The JPC would be an opportunity to keep FA top of mind.
 - ▶ George felt there was enough content available to send something out every 2 weeks. For example...
 - “Did you know you could attend Board Meetings.....”
 - “There’s a new group in
 - “A convention is being planned for 2021.....”
 - ▶ Our email blast capability could be used for the JPC. There are over 3,000 names on the list.
 - ▶ The SM is used as a creative outlet for members to share their stories, poetry, etc. Because Elizabeth (SM Editor) has had difficulty obtaining original content, there was concern that the JPC would siphon off material, making Elizabeth’s job more difficult. It was agreed that the SM would continue to publish creative pieces and articles. The JPC would keep content short / interesting.
 - ▶ Marcia suggested that something like Constant Contact could be used to help with communication.
 - ▶ Bob felt that these two modes of communication could be complimentary. For example, the SM could delve into more detail on items mentioned in the JPC.
 - ▶ Cindy cautioned about focusing too much on administrative issues, such as money matters; topics should focus on providing hope and help for the individual who is often in crisis.
 - ▶ To avoid confusion, the JPC should not be called a newsletter; name to be determined. Some suggestions: “WSB Update” or “WSB News”.
 - ▶ Mike indicated that a lot of informational sites say “See us on Facebook” or other social media outlets which contain the body / content. Messages act as a teaser or lure with a link to redirect them to a site with more information. People can then decide what they want to look at. The younger generation wants headlines, with 2 or 3 sources. He suggested we start using some of these other communication tools; they are not mutually exclusive and can be packaged effectively.

- Barbara shared that the WSB had previously discussed Facebook, which some groups were using. People were posting inappropriate things and there was no control over it. For example, someone may express an opinion that FA does not share. She asked if there was a platform where we could share information but not have people respond back with a post. If possible, responses / requests could be redirected to the PI Committee or GO Committee.
- Ann expressed concern in using Twitter unless we can stop the responses. Jeff felt it would not be an issue unless we also jump in and respond back. He indicated that other sites like Facebook are similar.
- Chris observed that people have different levels of experience in recovery; each needs something different. He suggested we need to work out who is the target audience, what is the appropriate content for them, and the platform for that.
- Ann indicated that PPG-05 “*FA Internet Policy*” addresses the use of social media. She suggested that everyone look at that. Barbara felt that we may need to revisit that policy. George said that our policy discourages the use of social media because of the issue of anonymity, and the possibility of garbage coming back in. He believes those reasons are still valid, but we can relook at the policy.
- Jeff asked that each WSB member send him directly up to 4 items they would like to see in the JPC; from there he could figure out links and social media platform. Barbara suggested that they also copy her and Bob in feedback to Jeff.
- Bob asked for the board to send him feedback on the 3 new standing features in the SM: “Word from the Board”, “Focus : Group”, “Money Matters”. He’d also like to know if there are others that they’d like to include.

AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>
AH-1 Convention Liaison	Barbara S
AH-2 Intergroup Support & Development	Marc B
AH-3 Document Review	Ann P
AH-4 Long Range Planning	Marc B
AH-5 Revenue Growth Task Force	Cindy C
AH-6 Virtual Meeting Format	Maria S

- Nothing additional was reported concerning the Ad-Hoc Committees.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. MOTION Parliamentarian-1, George R

- **Motion:** Move that the WSB approve the September 19 2020 updates to PPG-10, *Transparency and Governance Policy and Guidelines* and PPG-11, *Transparency Procedures*. These updates were previously distributed to the entire board for review, and all substantive issues were processed.
- **Rationale:** These PPGs has been reviewed/updated as part of their normal review cycle.
- **Implementation:** If approved, this policy will replace the previous version and will be posted on the FA website.
- **Cost:** There is no incremental cost associated with this motion.
- **Motion made by George, seconded by Ann, voted on and approved.**

TABLED ITEMS: None

CLOSING

1. Announcements and Other Items:

- Bob acknowledged the great work that Nicole has done on the new format of the Serenity Messenger. They have already received several compliments on the latest edition. Ann added that we are very lucky to have Angel and Nicole working at the WSO.
- George reported that there was an attempt to hack the FA website 2 weeks ago. Someone from France tried to sign in as an administrator. The firewall provided by MAXX Potential was successful in blocking it. Note: This was the 3rd malevolent attack on the website over the last few years.
- Cindy noted that recently, within a 3-minute period, someone had placed multiple orders for the same bookmark, 27 times; each time they had changed the credit card info (number and expiration date) by a few digits. Angel noticed this and reported it to Cindy. George indicated that this was something different from the hacking attempt from France. George indicated that MAXX Potential has backups of the database in the event we should ever have to take it down.
- Maria will assist Christy in catching up with the missing WSB minutes. The plan is to have them all posted on the website within the next couple of months.

2. Adjournment

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

3. Closed with the Serenity Prayer