

Families Anonymous
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
March 20, 2021

INTRODUCTION

1. Call to Order: 2:03 EDT, by Barbara S, Chair

2. Roll Call: by Maria

<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
TBD	Secretary	NA	NA
Alan B	BMAL	LOA	LOA
Ann P	BMAL	P	W
Bob S	BMAL	P	W
Chris Y	BMAL	P	W
David M	BMAL	P	W
George R	BMAL	A	L
Helen L	BMAL	A	N
Jeff S	BMAL	P	W
Marc B	BMAL	LOA	LOA
Marcia C	BMAL	P	W
Mike B	BMAL	P	N
Odalys A	BMAL	LOA	LOA

Barbara asked for volunteers to help Maria with minutes until a replacement for Christy is found.

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, LOA = Leave of Absence

3. Acceptance of Published Agenda:

- Bob moved to accept the Agenda, David 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 February 2021 WSB Minutes:

- Marcia moved to accept the February WSB Minutes, David 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:

- Cindy provided the January financial reports as part of her monthly report.
- The trend is the same as the prior month: revenue is down primarily due to decreased literature sales.
- We have received a \$10K loan from the paycheck protection program. It is forgivable if spent on payroll, rent and utilities; Cindy plans to apply for forgiveness in April.
- Even with the loan, we will end the year with a loss.

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	Helen L
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 has started his research on potential Social Media (SM) initiatives. He created a business, non-profit Facebook (FB) page (Families Anonymous Official) and a Twitter account (Families Anon). Jeff feels that in today's world it would be important to use SM platforms to get our message out; it is a way to reach large numbers of people.
 - Ann to send Jeff the correct FA logo for use on the sites; he will replace them.
 - He looked at other "anonymous" groups on SM and found that Overeaters Anonymous (OA) was the most active.
 - They have over 13K followers and 12K "likes."
 - In their "about" section, they posted information addressing concerns about anonymity and the 12 traditions; Jeff shared this with the Board. Bob felt that the language they used was good.
 - There is no cost to creating these pages. However, you can pay to further promote your site and get its message viewed by more people.
 - As an experiment, OA budgeted \$200 to promote their page; they got 300 hits in a short period of time.
 - There was a discussion on what constitutes promotion. For example, it is an acceptable practice for members to spend money to print / purchase FA brochures/posters and leave them at recovery sites/public venues.
 - OA will now start Instagram and Meetup pages.
 - Bob asked Jeff to see what Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous is doing with SM; Jeff agreed to follow up.
 - Some potential information for a SM page: daily meditation, links to the Serenity Messenger, WSB updates, meeting finder, and convention information. People who wish to share their stories can do so, using their first name.
 - The AIAnon site has links to live videos.
 - When looking at these SM sites, some board members were concerned about other links on the pages and the potential to violate our tradition of non-affiliation. Jeff acknowledged that any SM site will require some policing and deleting of items. However, each person will see something different when they open the page. Links may be placed there by individuals or by the application. People who regularly use SM platforms do not associate the ads with the page itself.
 - One suggestion: place a disclaimer on the site, stating that links / posts do not denote affiliation with FA. Jeff will come up with wording for "pinning a post" at the top of the page, which would include this wording. Another possibility is to fold the wording into an "About" page.

- Jeff explained the difference between “friending” and “liking” and how it impacts your feed, and sharing with your social network.
 - The pros and cons of allowing comments were discussed. The concern was that by posting comments, you may lose your anonymity. However, a huge benefit of SM is allowing people to connect and share their stories; it could result in good threads. If comments were to be sent to a central person (i.e. Jeff) for posting, it would be much less effective / meaningful.
 - The administrator would be able to delete inappropriate comments.
 - Those who regularly use SM are aware that comments are an individual’s viewpoint and not necessarily the viewpoint of the site sponsor.
 - It was suggested that as with our meetings, users can “take what they find helpful and leave the rest.” However, at our meetings, we set the stage with basic readings and rules for sharing. Some people “sharing” via our SM platform may not be familiar with FA practices and traditions.
 - Cindy indicated that they used a FB page for the Atlanta convention. It went well; there were no negative comments.
 - Board members felt having a presence on SM was worth pursuing further.
 - Marcia indicated that groups have reached out to Group Outreach for guidance in SM; it would be helpful to have a policy and guidance on this. Barbara agreed.
- **SC-4 Serenity Messenger Newsletter:**
 - Barbara recognized the great work of the newsletter team. Bob indicated that everyone is working well together; it’s a real team effort.
 - **SC-9 Group Outreach:**
 - Marcia reported that Donna D will be conducting a virtual 12 Step Workshop over twelve sessions starting in April, and asked if Nicole could send out an email blast to the membership about this. Barbara agreed; she also suggested someone write up a small blurb and we could post it on our website and eventually SM.
 - **SC-10 Financial Oversight:**
 - David asked if anyone would be interested in chairing the Financial Oversight Committee, since this is his last year on the board. They should reach out to him so that they can start being debriefed.
 - There were no other updates from the Committee Chairs.

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

- Other than the information provided in the monthly Board Reports, there were no additional updates from the Ad-Hoc Committee Chairs.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Annual Business Meeting, June 12, 2021

- Barbara will ask Mike to see if there are any technological improvements we should consider.
- Barbara will look into the notes function in GoToMeeting.
- Chris and Maria volunteered to help Barbara with the meeting.

2. Virtual Committee

- There was no discussion on this.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. WSB Members on Leave of Absence (LOA):

- There are currently 3 members on LOA: Alan, Odalys, and Marc.
- **Motion:** A motion was made to extend the LOAs as follows:
 - To end of current term for Alan (June 2021)
 - To end of current term for Odalys (June 2021)
 - Six additional months for Marc (end of term is June 2022).
- Motion made by Ann, seconded by Bob, voted on and approved.

TABLED ITEMS: None

CLOSING

1. Announcements and Other Items:

- Chris asked if our GoToMeeting account allows voice to text transcription of meetings. Barbara will follow up and see if our service level supports that function without any additional cost.
 - Marcia said there are free transcription services. Chris was aware of Otter which is Zoom specific.
 - Chris will investigate other potential applications if our GoToMeeting account doesn't support it.

2. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made by David, seconded by Marcia, voted on and passed (3:10 pm EDT).

3. Closed with the Serenity Prayer