

President's Report

AGM 2021

March 15, 2021

General

It was a busy year and things were made more challenging with the arrival of COVID. Because of COVID, all our live meetings changed to Zoom meetings. We also had an online retreat instead of a live one in June.

We decided early in the year to start selling the e-book version of our book. The e-book is being sold in both Kobo and Kindle formats from our website. We have sold over 100 copies in the past year.

We also discovered that someone was illegally selling hard copies of our book on Amazon. Much time and energy were spent on this issue and the person responsible finally discontinued selling it.

We went with a new server for our website, which greatly improved things, especially for people accessing it from a cell phone.

We also went to a "shopping cart" system for selling our books. This has saved the Operations Manager a lot of time in figuring out shipping prices and the like for purchasers. We also started to use Stripe as a system to collect payments and donations, which is more efficient.

We continued to use Freisens to sell our book and ordered a printing of 100 1st Edition books in August. In September, we began accepting preorders for the 2nd edition of the book. We set the price at \$25 per copy when purchased singly. In October, a member donated the printing of 160 2nd Edition books to the GSA. These books are being sold via preorders and some were allocated to those who can't afford to purchase a book, while others were allocated to send to treatment centers. A further 20 books have been donated to the GSA from the same printing. In January of 2021 we decided to order 200 2nd Edition books from Freisens. We also agreed to trial ordering books as print-on-demand from Lulu.

Currently there has been an unexpected delay in getting the pre-ordered books out to people, due to the fact that we are changing banks. Our sincere apologies to everyone who has had to wait for their 2nd Edition.

Board Membership

We have been chronically short of Directors since the last AGM. In June we welcomed Inna to the board. In the fall we had two directors resign. In February we welcomed a new Director Tara T. For this year's AGM, we have one Director (Caren) who will not be continuing to a second term. Thanks so much to her

and to Alison and Julie (who resigned earlier in the year) for all the time and energy you three brought to this board in service to ABA.

We have 3 continuing directors at this AGM: Kheri, who is Vice-President and GSO and Personnel Chair, Tammie, who is the Treasurer and Chair of the Website Committee and is Co-Chair of the Inventory Committee, and Myra, Director.

We have on the slate 3 people who need to be re-nominated for their 2nd terms: Myself, as President, as well as the following two Directors: June, Judy B

We have two Directors who were voted in since the last AGM and will need to be officially nominated in today (Inna and Tara). We also need to entertain nominations for Secretary.

We are welcoming any nominations for new Directors. If the person is in ABA, the requirement is one year of sobriety.

Finances

At the last AGM, we voted in a new Treasurer Tammie N, who has diligently assisted us in improving our systems. We gradually build up our account balance, leading us to issue a letter to the Fellowship in December, stating that things were going well financially. In February we set our prudent reserve at 3-months operating expenses. We are in the process of changing banks from TD to Scotia Bank so that we can make use of a debit/visa card assigned to the GSA.

In February we set a limit of \$10,000 for memorial donations and increased the annual donation limit to \$5,000.

Committees

In May we dissolved the Consultative Committee as we had no one to chair it for some time. The GSR Committee is continuing its role of informing the board of the Fellowship's direction and its role of communicating important information from the board to the Fellowship.

We also struck a new committee to work on improving the website. That committee has been quite small and needs more support. We hope to get the website more streamlined this year since we recently welcomed a new member with some expertise in this area.

The Literature Committee has continued to work hard on getting the 2nd Edition out and to explore options of print-on-demand.

The meeting support Committee was suspended in June for lack of a Chair and in February we decided to terminate that committee. We have put the names of two board members who are willing to assist with meeting issues on the website for people to access.

In July we created an ad hoc committee to address issues of sexual harassment brought to the board's attention. This committee was later named the Safety Committee. They drew up a Safety Statement for meetings and groups to use to promote appropriate behaviour and to assist groups in addressing inappropriate behaviour. This committee also addressed a number of questions posed to the board

about sexual harassment in meetings and in between meetings. The response to these questions were provided in February. This committee has now been made dormant.

Upcoming Year

I would like us to continue to explore selling our book via print-on-demand. It would greatly ease our responsibility in terms of storing and distributing books. It would also allow for greater ease in getting the 2nd edition to people wishing to purchase it around the world, whether that be individuals or organizations.

I would also like us to explore the idea of adopting the 12 concepts. These would, I believe, assist us in being of service in a more effective way.

I would like us to get back to working on the meditation book. I know that the Literature Committee is looking into this idea.

Finally, I would like us to continue to serve the Fellowship with compassion and a listening ear. I know I speak for the current Directors when I say that we wish to do our best to keep this program alive for those suffering from eating disorders.

I am willing to stand for President for a 2nd term. It has been a pleasure and a great opportunity for growth serving in that capacity for the last two years.

Respectfully submitted by Amy G.