

General Service Association of ABA
Board Meeting
June 21, 2021 at 6:00 pm MDT/8:00 pm EDT

PRESENT:

Board:

Amy G – President
Tammie N
Judy B
Kheri T-M

Guests:

Dawn A (Retreat Committee Chair)
Judy K (Inventory Committee Chair)
Leslie H (GSR Representative)
Alison E (Public Information Chair)

Regrets:

Tara

1. Meeting called to order at 6:08 p.m. MDT by Amy G with Serenity Prayer.
2. Confirmed 1/3 quorum but did not confirm 2/3 quorum regarding expenditures over \$500.00, with 4 of 7 Directors in attendance.
3. Reviewed and adopted June 21, 2021 agenda – no additions or deletions.

MOTION

by Judy B and seconded by Kheri T-M

MSC

4. Reviewed and adopted May 17, 2021 minutes.

MOTION

by Judy B and seconded by Kheri T-M

MSC

5. **By-law Review** – Amy G

(24) “The Secretary shall be the custodian of the seal of the Society, the register of members, the minutes of the meetings, and all books, papers, records, correspondence, contracts, and other documents belonging to the Society”.

Currently the secretary takes the meeting minutes and put them on the GSA drive that she has access to. She also updates the motions log. It makes more sense to have the Operations Manager keep all the paperwork at this time.

We need to review and update the by-laws to meet our needs better, especially to make the minimum number of Directors smaller as we have been chronically short on directors.

Discussion

Kheri T-M suggested changing it to a minimum of 5 Directors.

Amy and Tara will do more research on how to change by-laws and to see if we could lower the number of Directors to 5.

Amy advised to change by-laws we need to do at an AGM or by special resolution as special meeting called by the board.

6. Board of Director Nominations/Elections

We are still looking for more Directors.
All Committees can use more support.

Amy suggested contacting David F (former President) to see if he'd be willing to become a Director again, but wondered how the members would feel about this especially seeing as he would be a non-ABA member Director? It was suggested that maybe David could be a guest at 1 meeting for him to see how much the Board has changed from when he was President.

Leslie H will promote/reach out to the fellowship about the urgency in needing Directors and inquire on how they feel about the non-member Director to member Director ratio.

Amy stated she hasn't heard from Myra (Director) in 3 months and inquired if Board needs to take any action. Board will wait on this as **Leslie H will try reaching out to Myra.**

7. REPORTS:

President's report - see attached

We need to spread the word that funds are down.

Treasurer's report – see attached

We have had a deficit for last 2 months
As of end of May 2021 our reserve was \$6,851.67

We are in the process of cancelling the phone to reduce operating costs – should happen within the next 2 weeks - it will be set up that when someone calls the disconnected number an email will be sent to the office with the message they left converted into a typed email.

Office Manager's report – see attached

Donations are very low
Book sales have dropped off – we still have 200 books in stock

Do we want to go to “print on demand” for the 2nd edition of the book yet?

NOT YET – will wait to sell what we have in stock before offering “print on demand”.

JUNE 3, 2021 RATIFICATION

The Executive Committee detailed the bulk price of the book as follows:

- To order 1 book = \$17.00
- To order 10-29 books = \$16.00 per book
- To order 30+ books = \$15.00 per book

MOTION

by Tammie N and seconded by Judy B

“To ratify the Executive Committees June 3, 2021 decision regarding bulk pricing of our book”

MSC

MOTION

by Judy B and seconded by Kheri T-M

“To accept Executive Reports”

MSC

8. Self-Support Committee – see report

We are finished with the Virtual Skill Share FunDraiser Workshops.

Surrender Workshop is coming up on June 27, 2021 – we did it by donation and not by specific pricing to see if this will get more participation and higher donations.

WE WILL BE RECORDING THE SURRENDER WORKSHOP.

We are working on coming up with other workshops to be held after the Virtual Retreat in September 2021 --- workshops such as the traditions, meal support, sponsorship, service etc. We are in the process of putting out a flyer (to be put on the website) requesting the fellowship’s input in letting us know what type of workshops they are interested in.

9. Group Inventory – see report

The inventory was put into an 82 page report which Judy K condensed into a 16 page summary with the following being noted:

- i. 108 members responded;
- ii. ½ of respondents are less than 3 years sober and we lose most members after being sober for these 3 years
- iii. 76 of the 108 respondents are in North America (Canada included), most are in Southern USA and in the Western Provinces of Canada;
- iv. 1/3 never donate;
- v. 1/3 donate to home group only or at face-to-face meetings;
- vi. most only do service within their home group; and
- vii. 74 of 108 respondents stated that ABA brought value to their life.

The committee would like to offer the 82 page report to the membership as a PDF. If anyone has issues with downloading the report in PDF format they can contact Tammie N.

Tammie N and Judy K will work together to extract the feedback from the inventory to isolate the comments only and then send to each of the Standing Committees.

10. Standing Committee Reports

a. Literature and Outreach – see report

2nd edition of e-book is ready to go.

Can we sell book on LuLu and Amazon now? The Committee would like to offer book on Amazon for convenience and to avoid being ‘pirated’ again --- we are unable to set-up on Amazon as we would need to use someone’s personal SIN which would make them responsible for the income or we would have to register for a business number then we would need to charge GST.

NOT YET – will wait to sell what we have in stock before offering a Lulu download of the 2nd Edition in e-book.

****** Amy to clarify with Lou if need a Kindle app is required to download the e-book from Lulu ******

Meditation Book

Committee would like to change from a daily (needing 365 entries) meditation book to a weekly (needing 52 entries) meditation book as we don't have many entries at this point (Amy believes we have approximately 10-13 entries).

Amy to check with Lou to inquire about exactly how many meditation entries we have.

Judy K suggested the Self-Support Committee could look at doing a Meditation Workshop to help get mediations done.

It was suggested that the Retreat Committee could also take some time at a workshop to have members submit entries – Dawn to take back to the committee.

b. **Retreat and Conference Committee** - see report

Cost of 2020 virtual retreat was \$25.00 per person for the entire retreat making approximately \$2,100.00 for ABA.

Due to funds being down it was decided to raise the cost of the 2021 virtual retreat to \$30.00 per person for the entire retreat. Those who cannot afford this would be offered the option to donate what they can.

Next retreat committee meeting is July 4, 2021 at 12:00 pm MDT / 2:00 pm EDT

c. **Public Information Committee** – see report

Committee is creating a list of treatment centres / recovery homes and shelters to send books and literature to and is looking for the memberships help in emailing Alison (alison.ensworth@gmail.com) with suggestions on places.

Leslie H will mention this at next GSR meeting.

d. **GSO and Personnel Committee** – no report

Committee is meeting tonight (June 21, 2021)

e. **Website** – Tammie N

Working on a better way to list the meetings.

f. **GSR Committee** – see report

9 GSR's attended their last meeting.

Committee discussed where current service positions are listed and that they would like more information such as to what is needed/expected from the individual taking on a position, any sobriety requirements, time commitments and what the position entails.

Tammie N advised she is working on formatting the website for easier use and for each committee to have a link to specific service opportunities for that committee.

Committee discussed having a Service Workshop to promote service within ABA and are looking for individuals who do service to speak at workshop --- Amy G and Judy K offered their help --- Judy K also suggested Self-Support Committee work with GSR Committee on the workshop.

Some groups are wanting to buy tokens but certain months are not available to them. Amy stated that the office hasn't ordered more tokens as they weren't selling and are looking at doing away with them --- the GSR committee is still discussing this and will come back to the board with a more precise recommendation.

11. NEW BUSINESS

The Public Information Committee is looking for an annual budget of \$300.00 to distribute literature --- at one point the committee had an annual budget of \$200.00

ORIGINAL MOTION

by Amy G and seconded by Tammie N

“To approve and annual budget of \$300.00 at cost for the Public Information Committee to distribute literature.”

Discussion on how difficult it will be to calculate the \$300.00 at cost.

AMENDED MOTION

by Amy G and seconded by Tammie N

“To approve and annual budget of \$300.00 at retail prices for the Public Information Committee to distribute literature.”

AMSC

Judy K stated committee is being careful with where literature is sent; they are targeting specific people and centres and not doing mass mail outs

12. Date of next meeting is July 19, 2021 at 6:00 pm MDT/8:00 pm EDT.

13. Judy B motioned to adjourn.

MSC

Meeting adjourned by Amy at 7:37 pm MDT/9:37 pm EDT with the 3rd Step Prayer