

**General Service Association of ABA
Board Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2022 at 2:00 pm EST**

PRESENT:

Board:

Amy G – President
Tammie N – Director
Kheri T-M - Director
David F - Director

Guests:

Dawn A – Member/Minute Taker
Caren J - Self Support Committee
Alison E - Public Information Committee
Ayre – GSR Chair

Shelby - Member
Victoria - Member
Bonnie - Member

Regrets:

Judy B, Kristina W

Absent:

June S, Myra R, Tara T

1. Meeting called to order at 2:06 p.m. EST 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 9 Directors in attendance.
3. Reviewed and adopted February 20, 2022 Agenda.

MOTION

by Tammie N and seconded by David F

MSC

4. Reviewed and adopted November 21, 2021 and January 16, 2022 Minutes

MOTION

by David F and seconded by Tammie N

MSC

5. **By-law Review** – Amy G

(30) Persons who are not members of the Board of Directors may be asked to serve on a specific committee. The Chairperson of every committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors.

Pursuant to by-law 30, Tiffany, the member voted Chair of the Retreat and Conference Committee, will need to come to the AGM to be appointed as Chair by the Board. **(Dawn to contact Tiffany).**

ACTION REQUIRED BY DAWN

6. **Board of Director Nominations/Elections**

The Board is in need of a Secretary and Directors. All Committees also need support.

7. REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - see full report

Directors must email Amy G where they are in their term, if their term is up, and if they wish to serve another term.

Each Committee Chair will need to write a report for the AGM, on what transpired throughout the year and what the Committee's plans are going forward. This report needs to be completed and forwarded to the Office two (2) weeks prior to the AGM

ACTION REQUIRED BY ALL DIRECTORS

ACTION REQUIRED BY ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRS

TREASURER'S REPORT - see full report

Profit/Loss Report for December 2021 is now up on the ABA website.

Quickbooks is up to date.

We had a profit of \$94.51 for January 2022 and are above our prudent reserve

OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT – see full report

As the Treasurer is reporting on Quickbooks, the Operations Manager does not need to include this in the report too. **(Amy to discuss with Shahin)**

We are in the process of changing ABA's mailing address.

- the current PO Box address has been renewed until March 2022
- we will forward the mail from the old address to the new address for 1 month
- **Tammie N** to check to see if the new address and phone number have been changed on the website
- the current PO Box address is at the end of the Preamble for Meetings in the ABA text; Shahin to speak with the Literature Committee about this
(Amy to discuss with Shahin)

ACTION REQUIRED BY AMY G

ACTION REQUIRED BY TAMMIE N

MOTION

by Kheri T-M and seconded by David F

“To accept Executive Reports”

MSC

8. Hebrew Translation Update - Victoria

- they are currently translating chapter 12 of the ABA Text
- they have possibly found a new place to print the Book that should save money; they have not used them yet though

Amy inquired if they thought about charging more to sell the current translated (unapproved) book?

- no, but Victoria will take that back to the group

Dawn inquired if their group has discussed working with the Self-Support Committee to raise funds that would go specifically toward the translation?

- Victoria will check with Orr

David inquired if they have a timeline to fully complete the translation?

- Victoria will check with the group to see if they do

9. Standing Committee Reports

a. **Literature and Outreach** – see full report

Amazon has the ABA text for sale again on their website

- Patrick, who is a lawyer and a member's husband, suggested a 'good-will' email be sent to GA Publishing asking them to stop selling our Book again; this was approved by the Executive Committee and was sent with no response from them to date
- Patrick advised that if GA Publishing did not respond to the email he would send a cease and desist letter to them (pro bono). The Board wants to proceed with the letter; **Amy** will send a copy of the letter to the Board if it's completed before the next meeting, otherwise the Executive Committee will review and approve it
- Is putting the book on Amazon a possibility to stop the issue of others selling it there?. The issue with getting the ABA book on Amazon is that ABA needs a tax file number which we currently do not have
- Most other fellowships have their book available on Amazon and on other big online sellers.
- once the initial set up is done, Amazon gets a "cut" of the profit and the rest goes to ABA
- Lou is working on getting the ABA book set up for "Extended Distribution" using the company Publicious in Australia
 - i. prices are (in AUD which is equivalent to the CAD):
 - "Print on Demand" (paper book) - \$799 + GST (each title) = \$880
 - Ebook - \$499 + GST (each title) = \$550
 - Combined \$1199 + GST = \$1,320

The Board does not have quorum for expenditures of over \$500 to vote on this; the Board will stay after the AGM to further discuss this issue.

Tammie inquired what the benefits are going through Publicious versus Amazon and getting a tax number? **Tammie will email Lou to get this information**

ACTION REQUIRED BY TAMMIE N

Meditation Book Update

- our target is to have a “weekly meditation book” rather than a “daily meditation book” as originally planned
- we currently have a total of over 25 entries that can be used for the book
- a flyer was sent out to encourage all sober members to have a go!

12 Concepts Update

- Kheri T-M and Judy B have finalized the proposed ABA Concepts and these have been reviewed by the Literature Committee.

It was suggested having a workshop for the Board and GSRs on the Concepts where the Literature Committee can provide further explanation of some of the more complex Concepts. **Kheri will take this idea back to the Literature Committee.**

b. Public Information Committee – see full report

- they have 1 new member who provided 10 new UK facilities to their list of places to send books and pamphlets to
- Joan reached out to 9 new Canadian locations; Books and yellow pamphlets are being distributed to them in person, therefore, there are no shipping costs
- they are in need of more pamphlets, especially the yellow ones; their understanding is that the office is out of yellow pamphlets
- **Amy** will have Shahin audit how many pamphlets (all 3) that there is at the Office and provide a cost for ordering more
- ****** WE NEED TO MAKE SURE CORRECT ADDRESS IS ON THE NEW PAMPHLETS ******

MOTION

by Kheri T-M and seconded by Tammie N

“To spend no more than \$50.00 on ordering yellow pamphlets”

Discussion

David stated makes more sense to order more as it's not like they won't get used

AMENDED MOTION

“To spend a maximum of \$100.00 on ordering yellow pamphlets”

MSC

ACTION REQUIRED BY AMY G

c. Website Committee

- Tammie N is currently working on testing for solutions on making it easier to locate meetings, either in-person or virtual ones
- Meetings are currently found under location but want to streamline it to locate meetings by days which should make it more user friendly

d. Retreat and Conference Committee - no report

e. GSO and Personnel Committee – no report

f. **Safety Committee**

- we looked at a number of fellowships and what their guidelines are in dealing with individuals under 18 attending “adult” meetings
- currently London (UK) is running a young person’s meeting with some of its members being under 16
- South Africa is also running a meeting where some of its members are under 16
- we don’t want to say stop allowing these younger members to attend but would like to make the suggestions for meetings to use:

Members under the age of 18 should be accompanied by an adult to attend our meetings and their contact information is not to be published on any lists or in the chat; and

No one under the age of 16 should attend our meetings.

- Dawn had concerns as to what legal obligations and responsibilities, if any, does ABA have in allowing anyone under 18 attend our meetings as the book clearly states that the Program is not for the younger person
- Shelby brought up that AA has meetings specifically for the younger generation
- **it was suggested that the board check with previous Presidents to see if this matter was ever discussed in the past and what the results were; it was also suggested to contact Shahin to see if we have any historical information with regards to this issue (Amy to do both of these).**
- Amy advised that the committee **put these suggestions into a guideline** to be reviewed and possibly approved; Amy suggested they connect with the Literature Committee on how to write a guideline

ACTION REQUIRED BY THE COMMITTEE

g. By-Law Committee - see full report

- we have changed by-law #6 from reading:

“Membership in the Society at any given time shall consist of a minimum of twelve persons and a maximum of twenty.”

To read:

“Membership in the Society at any given time shall consist of a minimum of seven (7) persons and a maximum of twelve (12) persons.”

- The Board were in favour of the change
- **we will do up a Resolution for the change to ensure it gets sent out with the Notice of the AGM so that it can be voted on at the AGM**

ACTION REQUIRED BY THE COMMITTEE

h. Group Inventory - no report

i. GSR Committee – see full report

- there are no nominations for Vice Chair
- they have a new Secretary

- there were some questions about meetings reducing the GSR sobriety requirement from 6 months to 3 months and working the steps to become a GSR now. Ayre inquired if they can/should be accepting their votes? Amy stated she doesn't believe they can just 'waive' the sobriety requirements. **Amy and Ayre to look into this further**
- they have been announcing we are looking for Board Directors
- they have been announcing that we will be needing a new President in 2023
- they have discussed having sobriety anniversaries posted to the website
- in previous meetings there was some discussion about doing up a GSR pamphlet but cannot find any record of this. **Ayre will contact Leslie and Mikey to see if they have any information**
- there is concern as to why their meeting minutes are not being posted to the website; the last minutes posted are dated March 2020. **Tammie N will look into this - Ayre to follow up with her**

David F inquired on the GSR Committee's ability to connect and provide effective support to all of the membership?

The Office has a contact list for all meetings; this list to be given to the GSR Committee so they have access to more members. **Amy to ask Shahin to send list to Ayre**

ACTION REQUIRED BY AMY G

ACTION REQUIRED BY TAMMIE N

ACTION REQUIRED BY AYRE

j. Self-Support Committee - see full report

- the Committee has supported putting together the Service Workshop which is being held on Sunday February 27, 2022 from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm EST
- the next Meditation by Michelle is being held on Saturday March 5, 2022 from 11:30 am to 12:15 pm EST; Dawn to discuss with Michelle about having a 'theme' to each meditation as a means to possibly attract more members
- note that the above are by donation only therefore the amount being donated specifically for these events is not being tracked
- the Committee wants to create a monthly newsletter to further support communication between all levels of the Program that would include but not be limited to the following:
 - a. upcoming events such as workshops, retreats, meditations, board meetings and the Annual General Meeting
 - b. sobriety milestones and if the member is willing to share where and when they are celebrating
 - c. members sharing their recovery story about what ABA has meant to them
 - d. if members have a quote or paragraph from ABA approved literature that really spoke to them
 - e. is a group struggling and needs support; ask for it through the newsletter
 - f. posting if a member is willing to be a sponsor

The Board approved creating a newsletter and the information the Committee would like to include as listed above. The office has a contact list for all meetings; this list to be forwarded to Judy K so the SSC has more access to more members. **Amy to ask Shahin to send list to Judy K**

ACTION REQUIRED BY AMY G

10. Date of next Board Meeting
March 20, 2022 at 2:00 pm EST for approximately ½ an hour after the AGM
11. Date of AGM
March 20, 2022 at 2:00 pm EST
12. David F motioned to adjourn

MC

Meeting adjourned at 3:54 pm EST with the “WE” version of the Serenity Prayer