

General Service Association of ABA Board of Directors Meeting  
Sunday 22 May 2022

Minutes, Christina W

In Attendance:

Amy G, President\*  
David F, Treasurer  
Christina W, Secretary\*  
June S, Director  
Arye, Guest\*  
Dawn, Guest\*  
Victoria G, Guest\*  
Maria S, Director\*  
Alison, Guest\*  
Judy K, Guest\*

Regrets:

Shelby, Director\*  
Joan J, Director\*  
Kheri T-M, Vice President\*  
Judy B, Director\*

(\* asterisk denotes members of ABA)

1. Called to order by Amy G with Me version of Serenity Prayer
2. See above list of those in attendance, only 5 Directors present, we do not meet  $\frac{2}{3}$  Quorum (7)
3. Today's Agenda adopted, Christina W, June S, MSC
4. Reviewed and adopted April's Minutes, David F, Maria S, MSC
5. Bylaw Review #32 read by Amy  
The fiscal year end of the society in each year shall be January 31
6. No new board nominations or elections  
All committees need help. Literature needs someone with computer skills, let Amy or Lou know.
7. Reports:

**Presidents Report**, Amy G, see full report posted on website

Recommenations by the Safety Committee in regard to their guideline around younger people  
Extended distribution and selling Amazon directly as opposed to extended distributions  
Review hours situation for Operations Manager

**Treasurer's Report**, David Fitzgerald, see full reported posted on website

It is all pretty self explanatory, wants to acknowledge Tammi has been a big help with continued support through this transition.

Can we spread the word that donations could be higher, perhaps in the newsletter.

**Operations Manager's Report**, Amy, see full report posted on website

A new laptop was purchased at \$818, \$18 over agreed amount. MS Office has been purchased at an annual rate of \$80 which allows for annual updates to the program.

Acceptance of Officer's Reports Christina W, Maria S, MSC

#### 8. Standing Committees Reports:

**GSR Committee**, Arye, see full report posted on website

Discussion on how to encourage members to contribute toward necessary costs, specifically at this point Office Managers pay and funds for the Hebrew translation. Perhaps if groups were aware of how much is actually needed it would help. David will put together something to go into the monthly newsletter in this regard. Dawn made us aware that the deadline for entries to newsletter is the 4th of each month.

There was discussion on concerns about having reduced quorum from 15 to 6 members and whether this means less will of the fellowship? And does reducing sobriety requirements to encourage more GSRs equate to codependance or people pleasing? It was suggested slme questions be drawn up about what the barriers are to voting in GSRs for groups and Arye would like to see this added to the newsletter.

**Self Support Committee**, Dawn, see full report posted on website

There will be a sponsorships workshop 5 June 2022 online by donation.

There will be a special meeting 26 June 2022 to raise funds for Hebrew translation.

There will be a workshop on meal support and relapse tentatively August 2022.

**Literature and Outreach Committee**, Amy, see full report posted on website

The address has been changed on both Ebooks and physical books, very grateful to Lou for her financial contributions toward this in addition to her time.

The meditation book has 22 aproved entries and 10 more entries are being reviewed totalling 32 entries. The goal is 52 entries, one for each week of the year.

Direct distribution would involve more than \$500. It would be \$880 just to do paperback. We need more information from Tammi so we will table this until June Board meeting.

Someone with computer skills is needed on this committee.

Are we ready to move forward on adopting The Concepts? The workshop was really good, Judy B did a great job. Due to low number of Board members present we will table this to the June Board meeting.

**Hebrew Translation Committee, Victoria**

On chapter 14 now, no set deadline but doing their best to move forward.

26 June 2022 there will be a meeting to fundraise for costs of Hebrew translation with Judy B and Self Support Committee.

It is believed there may be \$394 earmarked for translations, David will look into this with Tammi. The total costs for translation is \$10,000 shekels (perhaps this is \$3200 usd), some of this has already been paid, one third for sure but maybe more. Victoria will get financial specifics to David so that we may look at how we can help support this.

**Retreat and Conference Committee, Dawn, see full report posted on website**

Tiffany has stepped down as Chair of this Committee so Dawn is now back to being Chair.

There are some new people on the Committee.

The Retreat will run 9 through 11 September 2022 through Zoom at a cost of \$30 per person, but all are encouraged to attend and if the \$30 is a hardship a donation will be accepted.

Recovery Is Possible is the theme for this upcoming Retreat.

Also the Retreat is an event so not exclusive to members. People may go on the website to register.

It was suggested that we have an ABAnon speaker, or a family member of an ABA member speak. This has been very meaningful at past Retreats.

A new ABAnon meeting has started up.

**Public Information Committee, Alison, see full report posted on website**

Excited to be making progress with distributions through treatment centres and facilities, and looking into having ebooks in the databases of libraries. Thankful to Joan for her input. And we are always looking for more members.

**GSO and Personnel Committee, Amy, see full report posted on website**

Discussion of Office Managers pay and hours needed as the definitive dates on the decided temporary increase are coming to an end (April 11 and through the end of May 2022).

Perhaps the Executive Committee needs to look at extending this date? Are there any preparatory thoughts on this?

We cannot expect Shahin to keep topping it up with volunteer hours. The aforementioned dates were a temporary solution and we need to look at a sustainable resolution. Can we look at what an achievable number is to pay Shahin. Example, in order to get X task completed we need X dollars at X cost breakdown. With this more specific information we could add this to the monthly newsletter.

**Website Committee, Tammy away**

**Bylaw Committee, David**

Meetings delayed due to juggling schedules but definitely on track to complete this year.

**Safety Committee, Amy, see full report posted on website**

Feedback was given to the Committee as requested and this is the result, “ABA is a non medical, non therapeutic fellowship and as such it is appropriate only for those aged 16 and older. We are a self help, entirely non professional fellowship and believe children and teens need unique help and support that we do not offer. Individuals from 16 to 18 years of age are encouraged to bring a trusted adult with them to their first few meetings. This adult need not be a parent or guardian but someone they trust who can help them learn and navigate early recovery. Groups are encouraged to leave underage members off their contact lists. Underage members may contact other members but adult members need not have access to underage members contact information. Groups are encouraged to adopt these guidelines and implement them, announcing them at meetings in order to protect our youngest and most vulnerable members.”

Some were uncomfortable with some key words “non therapeutic” and “self help”

Suggestion for wording to use instead of “self help group” being “mutual aid society”.

It was also suggested that there be a more all encompassing change to one line from “This adult need not be a parent or guardian” to “This adult may or may not be a parent or guardian”.

We will give this feedback to the Safety Committee and ask them to resubmit.

9. The next Board Meeting will be held on Zoom the third Sunday of the month, 19 June 2022 12pm MST/2pm EST
10. Amy led us in ending the meeting with the We version of the Serenity Prayer
11. Motion to adjourn, June S