

General Service Association of ABA Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
16 June 2024

1. Call to order/prayer and Tradition 2. (2 minutes)

Open at 12pm with Serenity Prayer.

2. Attendance (directors and visitors) - confirm quorum (1/3rd except 2/3rd regarding expenditures over \$500) (2 minutes) 1/3 = 4 people; 2/3 = 7 people.

Amy

Kathryn

Christina

Chantele

Alison

Torrey

Kelly

Keren

Jessa

Joan

Con

3. Review and adopt agenda for today's meeting (2 minutes)

Amy would like to add a motion the Literature Committee would like to make.

4. Primary Purpose review (2 minutes) -

STEP 12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to others suffering from eating disorders, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

TRADITION 5. Each group has but one primary purpose- to carry its message to anorexic and bulimic who still suffers.

5. *Board of Directors nominations and elections, if applicable. (10 minutes)- not applicable*

6. Officers Reports

- President's Report — Kathryn (4 minutes)

Primary purpose of ABA's solution. Hopefully we can look at ways that have been serving us, as well as those that have been not serving us. Are we tracking the growth of the fellowship? Amy says there are starter packages that the OM sends out, so tracking that would be a way of knowing a little more about growth.

Action: Kathryn to reach out to Kheri about tracking the group starter packages.

- Treasurer's Report — Kelly (5 minutes)

Dan and Christina (accountants) connected with Kelly! They can make any changes we want!

Clarification on report setter from Stripe/Paypal on how things need to be designated. Our May sale numbers look good, but mostly because of Retreat Sales. We want to separate that out of 'general sales' so that we can compare with the actual expenses of retreat in October.

Lulu Press sales have been changed in the reporting because those are books, but they are also ebooks. Donations are all mucked together as everything else, so its not quite clear. These things can be cleaned up. Financials from Feb 1st to 31st May comparing year over year (2024 vs. 2023) we're almost on par. We're in good shape, but Kelly wants to see categories defined better to see what people are actually buying, if these are ongoing donations, is it digital media, is it donations towards a workshop being presented, etc. **Better categorization is needed.**

Expenses in last year's financials, all of the money put into retreat 2024, prepaid expenses to compare in October.

In Feb \$478 expensed to UPS, seems high.

Action: Kelly to get clarity from Kheri on that.

Other than that, Kelly will continue cleaning things up. She's been doing so. Again, our accounting firm is happy to change reporting/make it work more for us, they just need direction.

Action: Kheri will send an updated report that she gets to Kelly, so that Kelly may help Kheri with organizing .

Signatory - letter... Kelly has made an appointment at her local Scotiabank.

Quickbooks Online - Kelly working to get all of our banking hooked up to it so that she may have more visibility faster. For the accounting firm too. They are only doing bookkeeping, the reporting they create is lovely, but they're really only doing bookkeeping (ie. we don't have to be concerned about anything going to the government, because nothing is going to the government. Its really all for our clarity).

Q: Kathryn - in Stripe, would it be possible to have different codes for 'donations', 'seventh tradition', 'workshop' etc. Kelly agrees that would make life SO much simpler. Currently it is just an order number, which isn't helpful at all. So codes showing up in the reporting, that would be so much easier.

Action: Kelly to reach out to Tammie and Kheri about Stripe and Paypal code payments.

Another action: Kelly to send out financial statements to everyone on the board and Kheri, our OM. Joan adds, financial statements should not be posted on the board until they are adopted by the board. Then they may be posted on the website for anyone to look at.

Action: Kheri to post our financial statements online once they are adopted by the board.

AGM financials need to be changed. Deposits Amy had made were showing as expenses, but they are prepaid expenses to compare in Oct. Doesn't change revenue, but reflects incorrectly on profitability. And translation was moved out and recategorized.

Action: Kelly to inquire with Christina (accountant) how she receives this information (ie. Elite Sportswear, how does she receive it? Could we label it such that it indicates what it means → Elite Sportswear / Medallions).

Motion to adopt the officers' reports. Amy and Con. Joan seconds. No opposition.

- Operations Manager's Report — Tammie (2 minutes)

Tammie sent her regrets today.

7. GSR Committee Report — (10 minutes)

8. Standing Committee reports – **QUESTIONS ONLY**

Action item: email committee reports to Joan. Amy can help Joan learn how to navigate the ABA website to view committee reports.

- Self-Support Committee — (5 minutes)

Jessa is present. GSR requested a button to convert the newsletter to PDF, and Tammie and Kheri made that happen. Has an impact on the newsletter. SSC grateful for this.

\$600 raised at the Unique Nature of ABA workshop. 33 registrants, with 30 attendees at the peak. 'Choose your donation amount' works! Last time, they only raised \$300 and 20 attendees came. Jessa's suggestion is to keep 'choose your amount' and see what happens. Generosity shows. Jessa is curious if some folks sent a very large a donation amount.

Action item: Kelly to go through Stripe and Paypal to get a donation breakdown to see if anyone donated a very large amount.

Every time we do a workshop people struggle to get in. Suggestion: people not forced to sign in, and instead of just attending as 'guest'. Looking for an easier way to engage. Con shares password protection is to minimize trolling. Given the sensitive nature of what is presented and shared at our gatherings, as well as the twelfth tradition, maybe could offer assistance to the minority who is struggling to get on, then we would be able to still respect our twelfth tradition

Clarification: it's signing into the ABA website to make a purchase.

Action item: Jessa to get in touch with Kheri to inquire if for workshops, folks can checkout and participate as 'guest'.

Audiobook - editing software, SSC member has offered to edit the Unique Nature of ABA workshop. This affects Kheri (taking off her workload). So SSC would like to know if they should ask the Board about this.

Discussion: Amy opens discussion and shares that she has the same editing software. Kathryn thinks this is a great idea. It saves money and provides service to fellows. Joan reminds us that when these files are filed, they form part of the ABA literature. As such, its important to edit them correctly. So we don't have a newcomer doing it. Someone with little sobriety might not know what is important in carrying the message, because once it's finished, it is part of our literature. And the Literature Committee requires 2 years of sobriety to serve. We have to make sure the person is capable of doing it, in line with ABA principles.

Action: Amy to do the editing.

Kathryn brings up that 2 years in a fellowship that is quite small is hard. So maybe having Jessa or Amy overseeing, listen to the final product, cutting that out

Amy doesn't agree. Once its out, its out. With literature, what we're communicating out there, its pretty important. How much editing is actually required. Taking out gaps. But still making sure its a nice polished product. Amy

Kathryn argues its more technical editing, less about altering words, etc. Amy says its both. Con adds that the person editing, will need to have the experience, know what the dos and don'ts are, the experience, and intuition to cut and paste.

Action: determine whether or not to keep a 15 minute break out of the workshop. Could be some training involved for this person once they have more sobriety.

Action: Consult AA policies with sobriety and literature. Connecting with a HP for guidance, but curious to see what precedent set in older fellowships. Joan shares that the literature committee at the AA conference need to have a minimum of 10 or 15 years of sobriety. There is grassroot service work to help newcomers stay sober. But the literature sobriety requirement is to safeguard ABA as a whole. Tradition 4, each group is autonomous, except in matters affecting ABA as a whole.

- Literature and Outreach Committee — (5 minutes)

Amy present. Working on a process for translation. Also working on South Africa's request of printing the books themselves. Audiobook and podcast being worked on.

One motion: \$595 set aside for the Polish translation. The 'FAQ', 'Do You Have an Eating Disorder?' and 'Compulsive Eater' pamphlets have all been made. Now they would like to translate the 'Sobriety is Surrender, What Does *that* Mean?' It costs \$200. The Literature Committee would like to have that \$200 be sent to the Polish group.

Amy makes a motion that \$200 be transferred to the Polish group to translate this fourth pamphlet. Kathryn seconds. Con comments: as long as it doesn't contravene our bylaws about financial decisions. All board members present vote in favour of the motion. Zero opposition.

Discussion: Concepts empowers Committees to move forward with their own discretion, because coming to the Board to ask permission slows things down greatly. As this has already been discussed at the Board level. Kelly says that based on the discussions we've already had, this would reduce the bottleneck of getting things done. Agreement in place would have to be in place so that it would be a motion. An agreement in place so that Kheri can work off of it. Precedence we would have to take for this to work.

Joan motions to authorize the Literature Committee to disburse funds that have already been allocated to them by the Board for specific purposes. Amy seconds. All in attendance vote for. Zero opposition.

Meditation book update: finishing last bits, cover, etc. Being worked on. Getting very close. All of the meditations have been edited, and have just finished getting the writers to approve their final edits. Just have to wrap up who is going to print it.

- Retreat and Conference Committee — (5 minutes)

Amy and Torrey. Report stands.

- Public Information Committee — (2 minutes)

Alison present. Moving forward with projects, maybe taking a hiatus in the summer.

- GSO and Personnel Committee — (5 minutes)

Tammie sends her regrets.

- Website Committee — (3 minutes)

Tammie sends her regrets.

- *Bylaw Committee — on pause*
- *Safety Committee — on pause*
- *Group Inventory Committee — on pause*

9. New Business:

N/A

Jessa has a question: has anyone been on the website lately and tried to look up a meeting? The times are out of order, its not sequential numerically. It doesn't seem to be picking up the URLs. The 'local times' are not correct...

Action: Kathryn to have a chat with Kheri about meeting time zones/local time displays as well as what does 'expired' mean with meetings. About what the 'clock' is, what the 'local time' is, what the disparity is, what is shown according to the URL depending on the country where the user is logging in from. It is listed according to the host in ET. [AI-ANON](#) and [SLAA](#) website has the meetings listed and then you can click on 'My Time Zone' and then it converts everything. You can choose the Time Zone you are in. Make it easy and simple for our newcomers. Would incorporating 'Time Zone button' be possible? The reset button won't be easy to catch for newcomers.

And keep this monitored. Someone should have oversight. This has been going on for years. The GSR committee should have this oversight, suggests Con. The Website Committee is responsible for what is *on there*, the technical details, but the GSR should be the one checking. We put a proposal that the GSR committee has oversight over the accuracy of meeting information. Its the group's responsibility to update this to the office. But the GSR could monitor and oversee.

Suggestion: The Board reviewed these meeting times: technical content and accuracy and the other is actual meeting information and accuracy. The GSR Committee has oversight to check this information twice a year, but when they find discrepancies, they should contact the meeting and office.

Action: Kathryn to chat with Louisa, Chair of the GSR about this suggestion. Kathryn may attend a GSR meeting AND get in touch with Kheri about the technical glitches re: meeting times on the website. Changing button name from 'Reset' to 'Time Zone Conversion'.

Table voting on AGM financials in September at **our next meeting, Sept 15th.**

Break for summer. Executive committee can still meet during the summer if needed.

10. Old Business:

N/A

11. TO BE DISCUSSED AT A LATER STAGE

1. Cost of workshop and retreat audio downloads. A lot of work goes into editing the audio. How shall we determine the cost of the downloads moving forward. Suggestion to keep the pricing structure for the workshops and retreat audio downloads the same as how it was prior to the website upgrade, i.e. for free with the option to donate. The literature committee also supports keeping this structure as it was.

Joan motions to adjourn.

Serenity Prayer 1:58pm ET.

Next Board meeting, Sept 15th, 2024 at 12pm ET.