

**Families Anonymous
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
May 18, 2024**

INTRODUCTION

1. Call to Order: 12:01 pm EDT, by Maria S, Chair

2. Roll Call: by Maria S

<u>Name</u>	<u>WSB Role</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Monthly Report</u>
Maria S	Chair	P	W
Chris Y	Vice Chair	P	W
Cindy C	Treasurer	P	W
Jan B	Secretary	P	W
Ann P	BMAL	P	W
Bob S	BMAL	E	W
Chris Z	BMAL	P	W
Guy B	BMAL	E	W
Helen L	BMAL	A	N
Jeff S	BMAL	P	W
Sarah T	BMAL	E	E
Cristina B	BMAL	A	N
Jeff F	BMAL	E	E

Attendance Key: P=Present, A=Absent, E=Excused, LOA=Leave of Absence

Monthly Report Key: W= Submitted by deadline, L=Submitted after deadline, N=No report submitted, E=Excused for extenuating circumstances, LOA = Leave of Absence

3. Acceptance of Published Agenda:

- Ann moved to accept the Agenda, Chris Y seconded, voted on and accepted.

4. Tradition One:

- Read by Maria: *“Our common welfare should come first; personal progress for the greatest number depends on unity.”*

5. Approval of April 2024 WSB Minutes: Jan

- Jan moved to accept the April WSB Minutes, Ann seconded, voted on and approved. Jan to distribute.

6. Chair's Report: Maria S

- There were no other comments or questions concerning the Chair’s Report.

7. Treasurer's Report: Cindy C

- Cindy provided the monthly financial reports for April 2024 as part of her monthly report.
- There were no other comments or questions concerning the Treasurer’s Report.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee

SC-1 Public Information
SC-2 WSO
SC-3 Literature
SC-4 Serenity Messenger Newsletter
SC-5 Bylaws, Parliamentary
SC-6 International Groups
SC-7 Budget Committee
SC-8 Sponsorship
SC-9 Group Outreach
SC-10 Financial Oversight
SC-11 Technology
SC-12 Long Range Planning

Chair

Jeff S
Maria S
Ann P
Robert S
Maria S (ad interim)
Helen L
Cindy C
Helen L
Chris Z
Chris Z
Chris Y
TBD

AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee

AH-1 Convention Liaison
AH-2 Intergroup Support & Development
AH-3 Document Review
AH-4 Education
AH-5 Literature Access Initiative

Chair

Cindy C
Jeff F
Ann P
Maria S
Maria S

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

TABLED ITEMS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review of the Dashboard (Cindy C)

- **Fellowship Growth:** 3 new groups started, 2 regular groups and the US Bereavement Meeting; 1 meeting closed.
- **Awareness & Outreach:**
- Momentum is building in Social Media - now posting daily in either Facebook or Instagram.
 - The vignette pilot is very well received, views keep going up on YouTube.
 - ISSUU: 9 new countries have added, 12 Spanish E-resources, so they are fully launched at this point.
- **Literature & Events:**
 - No new literature this past month.
 - We are still looking for a 2024 host for the convention, most likely will not be a convention this year.
 - The US Bereavement Support Meeting was launched on April 28, it had nice attendance.
 - The next education session is scheduled for the beginning of June (moved from May).
 - ABM will be Saturday, June 8th at 2:00 PM EST
- **Awareness & Outreach: Implementation, Results and New Ideas**

- E-Resources Presence on ISSUU has increased to 29 countries from 15 over the past 3 months, almost doubled.
- The Bereavement Meeting has a WhatsApp group for support between meetings.
- Consider setting up a sibling support group.
- Consider preparing for the International Overdose Awareness Day in August.
- Board members should continue to share and raise awareness.
- **Social Media Highlights:**
 - Cindy shared a FaceBook post on What I Can Control & What I Cannot Control which really resonated with people.
 - An Instagram post was also shared with the positive comment it received from an FA member.
 - Also shared a new initiative: Your Story Matters on FaceBook and Instagram where FA members' stories get shared in short version.
- **Financial Results, Fiscal Year 2023-2024:**
 - Through graphics, Cindy reviewed the year end financials.
 - The cash balance trend for the past 5 years shows that our cash reserves are declining.
 - The profit (loss) trend over the past 10 years has been concerning, especially where the majority of the loss incurred in FY 2019-20 occurred in advance of the pandemic. It was noted that the trend is showing some improvement of late.
 - FA revenue sources are Donations (56%), Literature Sales (34%), Rent and Interest on CDs.
 - Operating Expenses are Payroll (57% of budget), then Rent & Utilities (19% of budget), and the remaining expenses include shipping of literature sales, technology, eStore fees (for credit card literature sales/donations), insurance, supplies and maintenance for the World Service Office, professional fees, and licenses and non-profit organization registration fees.
 - The good news is that we have a gross margin of 88%. Revenue improvement could allow Families Anonymous to cover all operating expenses.
 - It is not feasible long-term to continue drawing from the cash reserves.
 - Actual vs Budget: Revenue was above budget and expenses were below budget this past year.

- Revenue: Donations: +\$7,100 over budget, Literature sales: +\$7,700 over budget, Interest on CDs: +\$2,100 over budget.
- Expenses: Payroll & PR Taxes: \$4,700 under budget, Rent & Utilities: \$1,700 under budget, offset by Supplies & Maintenance \$1,400 over budget.

Discussion: Jeff S stated that as the social media posts are gaining traction, he and Cindy are very carefully adding a few donation-ask posts as well. Jan suggested that since social media is trying to bring in new members, many of them will not yet be FA members, so perhaps donations are not appropriate whereas literature sales would be, since anyone can buy our literature. Maria noted that with the onset of regularly held virtual meetings, attendance at a physical meeting location is no longer the only indication of membership. FA membership and participation in a virtual environment likely includes interaction and support via social media and online meetings. She raised the question if a person who regularly views social media (Facebook, Instagram or YouTube) FA posts could likely be considered a member today. Cindy brought up the posts that address just this issue and showed how the spirit of the tradition is specifically addressed and honored within the social media donation post. Cindy also noted that social media posts have referenced FA literature in the past, and there is a new series of posts prepared, but not yet posted that feature *Letting Go, Letting Grow*. Chris Y wondered about asking the Fellowship for donated printers for the WSO and asked if we can send out the graphics of the Financials to the Fellowship. Maria suggested Cindy use the graphics in her ABM presentation and maybe also in an article in the Serenity Messenger. As for donations of printers, they are not needed right now, it is the ink that is expensive. Ann suggested we find out from Hewlett Packard if they have a discount for non-profits, Jeff found a site online, Cindy will look into it.

2. Motion to reinvest in Certificate of Deposit (Cindy):

The current \$25,000 CD matures on May 25th, 2024. The motion is to reinvest for another 2 months at the rate in effect on May 25, 2024 (maturity date). The current interest rate is 4.25% as of the date of this board meeting.

Cindy made motion, Jan seconded, voted on and approved unanimously.

3. Motion LC-1 (May 2024): The Literature Committee moves that the WSB offer #2016/#2016S *The Broken Vase/Eljarrón Dañado* only as a free download once the current inventory is depleted. (Ann):

This piece was initially created by the Miami group for their convention—it sold well at the time, but sales have stalled.

Ann made motion, Chris Y seconded, voted on and approved unanimously.

4. Update on ABM Meeting (June 8, 2:00 pm EST) - Proposed Agenda and presenters (Maria):

Maria shared the proposed agenda for the ABM and then the following presenters were designated:

PI: Jeff S

ED: Maria

SM: Bob

Tech: Chris Y (If there is something new to present after he reviews last year's presentation)

LC: Ann will prepare the presentation and present if she is able, if not, Jan will present.

LAI: Maria

GO: Chris Z will discuss with Maria and decide.

CLOSING

1. Announcements/items forgotten to mention:

Chris Y sees a growing trend to reference family support in addiction treatment facilities, but FA is not always mentioned as a family resource. FA members sometimes ask if it is ok to add FA as a resource, and it always is. Maria suggested that we can send out an e-mail blast as a reminder and she will ask Bob to write an article for the Serenity Messenger as well to let people know that it is good to get FA's name out there.

2. Adjournment:

Chris Y moved to adjourn, Jan seconded, voted on and approved. Adjourned at 1:04 pm ET.

3. Close with Serenity Prayer