

Families Anonymous
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
June 15, 2024

INTRODUCTION

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

2. Roll Call: by Jan B

<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
Greg C	BMAL	P	E
Bob S	BMAL	P	W
Chris Z	BMAL	P	W
Guy B	BMAL	P	W
Helen L	BMAL	A	N
Lori H	BMAL	P	E
Cristina B	BMAL	A	N

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:

- Maria moved to accept the Agenda, Cindy 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 May 2024 WSB Minutes: Jan

- Jan moved to accept the May WSB Minutes, Bob S 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 May 2024 as part of her monthly report.
- There were no other comments or questions concerning the Treasurer's Report.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>
SC-1 Public Information	TBD
SC-2 WSO	Maria S
SC-3 Literature	Maria S
SC-4 Serenity Messenger Newsletter	Robert S
SC-5 Bylaws, Parliamentary	Maria S (ad interim)
SC-6 International Groups	Helen L
SC-7 Budget Committee	Cindy C
SC-8 Sponsorship	Helen L
SC-9 Group Outreach	Chris Z
SC-10 Financial Oversight	Chris Z
SC-11 Technology	Chris Y
SC-12 Long Range Planning	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
TBD
TBD
Maria S
Maria S

- There were no other comments or questions regarding the committee reports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

TABLED ITEMS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review of the Dashboard (Cindy C)

- **Fellowship Growth:** 3 new groups started in May, all in Greece, 2 starter kits were requested, in Colorado and S. Carolina; 6 meetings closed (3 in Greece, 1 in Japan and 2 in the US). Chris Y asked if anyone other than Helen knew the story behind the groups starting and stopping in Greece.
- **Awareness & Outreach:**
 - Momentum continues building in Social Media - posting alternately in Facebook and Instagram. Facebook this month: 1813 people reached, 575 engagements, 970 followers and 14 posts. Instagram: 99 reached, 32 engagements, 116 followers and 15 posts.
 - The vignette pilot continues to be well received, views keep going up on YouTube, it had 591 views this month. The next 2 video projects were announced via a mass email and an announcement will go out in the summer edition of the Serenity Messenger.
 - ISSUU: Brazil was added.
- **Literature and Events**
 - No new literature this past month.
 - The Chicagoland Intergroup is holding a 2024 convention in November, and announced that they will host the 2025 In-person Convention for all of the Fellowship as well.

- The US Bereavement Support Meeting was launched on April 28, its attendance is growing, really meeting the need of that population.
- The education session held June 1st on Setting Boundaries was very well attended (58 attendees) and the recording of the session has been loaded on to the website already.
- ABM, held last Saturday, June 8th, was less well attended, 12 attendees, only 3 of whom were not WSB members.
- **Social Media Highlights:**
 - Cindy shared the top 5 Facebook posts by engagements numbers: Hope Instead of Expectations, Progress Not Perfection, Designing and Maintaining Boundaries, Focus on What You Can Control, and It Works If You Work It, Keep Coming Back.
 - And the top 5 Instagram posts: Lila's Story, You Are Not Alone, Recovery Resources, and 2 more You Are Not Alone Posts in the series.
 - Cindy shared some of the wonderful Facebook and Instagram comments people have left on social media and loved how people have responded to each others' comments.
 - FA Member Story Initiatives: Instagram Carousel, Lila's Story had highest engagement of all May 2024 posts. Looking for more stories to post. And the 2 new video projects have already received 2 responses from the mass email as well as a group expressed interest at the ABM.
- **WSB and Committees - Draft Version**
 - There are 3 committees that need chairs.
 - Maria is doing more than her fair share, so please consider taking some off of her plate.
 - Lori is interested in Sponsorship but not sure she can take on the chair role, will talk with Maria.
 - Greg will take on the Long Range Planning Committee and is also interested in being on the Group Outreach Committee as he sees them as connected and would like to look into why groups get started, etc.

2. Debrief and Follow-up from Annual Business Meeting (Also part of the Dashboard)

First of all, a big thank you to Maria for all the time and talent she put in to the ABM this year. Maria said it takes a village, but that what worries her the most was that we barely met the quorum needed as there was so little interest from the groups in voting, and only 3 non-board members attended.

Guy suggested that maybe just the title puts people off and maybe we could have something after the ABM that would interest them.

Greg agreed, suggested a re-branding that might spark interest.

Jan reminded everyone that even when we had ABMs at in-person conventions, very few non-board members attended.

Maria suggested that in our next round of calls to secretaries, that we ask about the lack of interest in the ABM and in voting (i.e., how could we make it more convenient for them).

Lori stated that she did not know until last week's ABM that non-board members could attend. Need somehow to publicize and emphasize that the ABM is for everyone.

Chris Y suggested looking at ways to re-brand and repackage for next year.

Cindy suggested that next year we find ways to make voting easier. We also need to understand that the WSB is not a high priority for folks who are in distress; we need to meet them where they are. Also, a Saturday afternoon in June is not a great time to try to attract people to come to a business meeting.

Chris Y thought secretaries might be more available / amenable to attending.

Guy said that in the UK, some secretaries are available, meaning not in a stressful home environment, some are not as available.

Maria offered her experience as a retiree who had time to give back to the fellowship as a format to reach out to other retirees to get help with committee work.

Bob agreed that we can put out targeted messages throughout the year reaching out to people with time and head space to give back.

Jan suggested since next year we will have an in-person convention, we need to consider this in our planning for an in-person re-branded, re-packaged ABM at the convention.

Cindy said it depends when they schedule the convention, since the ABM has to be at a certain time given the By-laws, but we can certainly market the WSB and the committees at the convention.

Maria asked that whoever wants to work on this re-branding, re-packaging of the ABM, please let her know.

3. Motion LC-1 (May 2024): The Literature Committee moves that the WSB approve *Humility: An Essential Key to Our Recovery* (#1038)

The LC approved Cindy's edits to the last lines and so the motion included them.

Maria made the motion, Jan seconded, voted on and approved unanimously.

4. PACE Method Talks Clubs - Opportunity to be a pilot partner

Maria was contacted by someone from PACE Method who are setting up Talk Clubs and wanted to know if FA would be interested in being a Pilot Partner which would mean that we would get to participate in these groups for free. This is out of the box thinking. You create a community of up to 10 people, do a little share, then someone goes into the hotseat and gets asked a bunch of questions about their share and then there is a discussion. Ideas Maria had were to form a club on boundaries and someone might go into the hotseat to get more support or direction. Sees it as a tool. Or to have the board form a club to discuss a board issue more in-depth.

Chris Y asked if PACE is an established method or if it is new, and also shared that at a recovery meeting they used the Fishbowl and this reminded him of that. The Fishbowl can be helpful but also intimidating.

Bob asked what they add, and Maria answered a moderator and the format. Maria would want to try it out first before recommending it to FA.

Cindy was not clear after looking at the material, how it works. Answer: FA would have our own Talk Club. If we can bring in new members, do outreach and awareness through these clubs, then it seems good, but Cindy is not sure we could have that ulterior motive.

Bob said that if it is only FA members having a big cross-talk festival, he doesn't see how we could do outreach. Maria said these are unanswered questions.

Greg shares Bob's skepticism but is willing to try it out, as is Chris Z.

Guy said said we may find that it is not compatible with our values but it is worth trying and he is also willing to put himself forward.

Maria asked that everyone who had not yet read the info, read it and let her know if they are interested in testing it out.

CLOSING

1. Announcements/items forgotten to mention:

Bob asked that any announcements for the summer edition of the Serenity Messenger get to him within the next week, since the edition will be coming out in 2 weeks, and the next opportunity will not be until the Fall.

2. Adjournment:

Cindy moved to adjourn, Chris Y seconded, voted on and approved. Adjourned at 1:03 pm ET.

3. Close with Serenity Prayer