



## Secular AA General Membership Meeting MINUTES

6 October 2024 ~2PM ET/11AM PT (Service #726985)

Meeting ID: 864 4075 0033

Passcode: 121212

Minutes prepared by Margarita, Secretary of the Board of Secular AA

Call to Order - by Chair Will.I.Am at 2:07 PM ET and introduced Board Members present and listed accomplishments made by this Board since January 2023: Rebuilding of the aasecular.org website, amending our bylaws to reflect new virtual platforms and previous board recommendations, presentation of our popular monthly Global Speaker Tour meetings with simultaneous translation (Spanish<>English), Virtual ICSAA 2023, ICSAA Orlando 2024, generated a regular newsletter with an email list of 1,039, recordings of all those events posted on our BuzzSprout account with over 28,000 downloads since 2020. Will.I.Am gave special mention to Alison P and her committee in Orlando for the very successful conference 2 weeks ago and for organizing conference planning records to guide future conference planners.

### AA Declaration of Unity:

“This we owe to AA’s future: To place our common welfare first: To keep our fellowship united. For on AA Unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come.”

### Attending General Membership Meeting

Total attendance varied around approximately 90 participants including Board Members & General Membership. The Quorum threshold of 40 members was surpassed.

#### Board Members (Start Date)

Will.I.Am	Chair (01/2023)	PRESENT
Jeff S	Vice-Chair (06/2023)	PRESENT
Margarita A	Secretary (01/2023)	PRESENT
Kurt R.	Treasurer (07/2022)	PRESENT
Dale K	Member at Large (01/2023)	ABSENT (Hurricane)
“JEB” James	Virtual ICSAA 2023 Committee Chair (01/2023)	PRESENT
Lisa P	Member at Large (06/2023)	PRESENT
“Sonny” Sherman	Member at Large (01/2023)	ABSENT
VACANCY		
VACANCY		
Mikey J	Technology Coordinator (01/2023)	PRESENT
Alison P	ICSAA Orlando 2024 Committee Chair (03/2023)	PRESENT
Joe C	Advisor to Acting Chair (Nonmember)	PRESENT

### Agenda Items

**Agenda Item 1) Treasurer- Kurt R Reporting:** FINANCIAL UPDATE Post ICSAA Orlando 2024

Good news that we currently have \$19,000 together in the ICSAA and the Secular AA General Fund. ICSAA 2023 generated \$2000 and ICSAA Orlando may have generated about \$3000 to be used to reduce costs of future conferences.

**Agenda Item 2) Secretary - Margarita Reporting:** RATIFY BYLAWS that were approved by the Board of Secular AA in April 2023 and are accessible here:

[https://www.aasecular.org/files/ugd/c732f8\\_b4e5c963a01b4c748a8644f08a4988de.pdf](https://www.aasecular.org/files/ugd/c732f8_b4e5c963a01b4c748a8644f08a4988de.pdf)

Accompanying pdf, “Secular AA Bylaws - to Ratify Oct 6 2024” shows the amendments in red for added wording and in blue for wording that has been removed throughout the document.

Margarita summarized that amendments were made to accommodate new virtual platforms and previous board recommendations and moved to ratify amended Bylaws she had previously made available to membership via the newsletter. JEB Seconded; Discussion: Valerie asked how to access the bylaws. William explained how to access them on our website. Ratified by substantial



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unanimity as of 63/89. Abstentions and no votes were not recorded due to technical problems with Zoom.

**Agenda Item 3) Nominating Committee – Vice-Chair Jeff S Reporting:** ELECT 2 new Secular AA Board Directors for Jan 2025- Dec 2028 terms.

Jeff S presented nominees, Tracy C from Cleveland and Mary C from Savannah and their service histories, then moved to approve their appointment to the Board for the term of Jan 2025-Dec 2028. Joe C seconded. William added how active both were in the ICSAA conferences and Tracy's involvement in Higher Palooza. Nancy B asked if one needs to be a Board Member to participate on committees. William answered, no and that we need lots of volunteers and we will be describing service opportunities later in the agenda. Approved by a substantial majority. Abstentions and no votes were not recorded due to technical problems with Zoom.

**Agenda Item 4) ICSAA 2026 Site Selection Committee – Vice-Chair Jeff S Reporting:** VOTE to approve ICSAA 2026 Site.

Jeff explained how we publicized requests for bids starting 6 months ago and a number of cities including Chicago, Cleveland and Tulsa. Only Phoenix submitted a final bid. Gary S presented the bid for ICSAA Phoenix 2026 in early November and promoted the benefits of visiting the region, the strength of the people involved locally with active service histories, the number of venue options, the welcoming of the LGBTQIA+ population as delineated in the Phoenix bid which was made available via our newsletter. Jeff moved to approve Phoenix/AZ for ICSAA 2026 and Zanner seconded. Caren requested venues that were less institutional if possible and volunteered to help in the search. Substantial majority voted yes with 5 abstentions or nays.

**Agenda Item 5) VANCOUVER 2025:** RALLY VOLUNTEERS to join a planning committee to help prepare for our presence at the July 2025 A.A. Convention in Vancouver.

We have a Secular AA Hospitality Suite designated to us by the A.A. Central Office in New York. Membership volunteered before and during this meeting via email totalling 16 volunteers already.

Discussion: Request made for knowledge about DUI history and crossing into Canada and Joe C posted information into the chat about getting a waiver or pardon that William stated we would add to our website. Julea asked about expectations of volunteers. Jeff will be passing more information along. Sam E added that there will be roles even for volunteers who cannot make it to the conference in Vancouver. Will.I.Am stressed the opportunity for inreach.

**Agenda Item 6) VIRTUAL ICSAA 2025:** RALLY VOLUNTEERS to join a planning committee to organize a virtual conference for the fall of 2025.

Historically, we started holding virtual conferences in reaction to the pandemic canceling ICSAA DC 2020 and 2022 in December 2020, in 2021, 2022, and 2023. Session recordings are accessible on our Buzz Sprout account. JEB chaired 2023 and kept a treasure trove of information and is a resource in and of himself but we will need a new chair in the spirit of rotation of service. 8 volunteers immediately signed up via email and the Board will discuss how to start planning meetings when we convene on Oct. 19th.

**Agenda Item 7) Service Positions Available:** UPDATE/Q&A

- Vancouver 2025 Secular AA Hospitality Suite Planning Committee ~ After this meeting, we now have 16 volunteers on that committee.
- VIRTUAL ICSAA 2025 committee ~ 8 people volunteered via the email link provided.



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- Outreach Committee/Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)
- Archives Committee needs a volunteer/s to assemble resources for starting secularly formatted online and in-person A.A. meetings - [Rady volunteered via the email link provided in the meeting.](#)
- Global Speakers Tour volunteers needed to invite groups, make flyers, run meetings (security, chair, post in chat, simultaneous translation, edit recordings, etc.) [Zanner, Caren J, and Anne P volunteered via the email link provided in the meeting.](#)
- The IT Committee needs volunteers with UX expertise. [We received one or two recommendations via email.](#)

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM ET**

**NEXT Secular AA BOARD MEMBERS MEETING 2pm ET/11am PT Oct 19, 2024**

#### Mission Statement

“Our mission is to assure suffering alcoholics that they can find sobriety in Alcoholics Anonymous without having to accept anyone else’s beliefs or deny their own. Secular AA does not endorse or oppose any form of religion or belief system and operates in accordance with the Third Tradition of Alcoholics Anonymous: The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.”

#### Vision Statement

“Secular AA recognizes and honors the immeasurable contributions that Alcoholics Anonymous has made to assist individuals to recover from alcoholism. We seek to ensure that AA remains an effective, relevant and inclusive program of recovery in an increasingly secular society. The foundation of Secular AA is grounded in our experience that anyone - regardless of their spiritual beliefs or lack thereof – can recover in the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. Secular AA exists to serve the community of secularly-minded alcoholics by supporting worldwide access to secularly formatted AA meetings and fostering mutual support within a growing population of secularly-minded alcoholics.”

#### Board Meeting Procedures

Parliamentary authority per Robert’s Rules of Order within the principles found in AA’s 12 Concepts for World Service, AA’s 12 Traditions, AA Service Manual and our Bylaws. Bylaws – should be considered a work in process, please provide the chair with any suggested amendments.

#### Committee process

- Status reports at board meetings
- Board functions as oversight and holds committees responsible to the collective group conscious.
- Work to be done in committees not at board meetings.
- Committee chairs should involve non-board member Secular AA Members in committee work.

Agenda - be prepared to table new topics if needed.

Back to Basics and Keeping it Simple

### **LINK TO BYLAWS:**

[https://www.aasecular.org/files/ugd/c732f8\\_b4e5c963a01b4c748a8644f08a4988de.pdf](https://www.aasecular.org/files/ugd/c732f8_b4e5c963a01b4c748a8644f08a4988de.pdf)