

WAIA Board Meeting Minutes May 11, 2021

Called to Order at 8:02pm; Adjourned ~9:30pm

Meeting remained open after adjourning for outreach to new representatives

Announcements & Calls for Service to take back to your groups:

1. WAIA now accepts contributions via PayPal, Venmo and ACH! See: <https://aa-dc.org/contribute-online>
2. Helpchat volunteers trainings are happening, email helpchat@aa-dc.org to be part of it. Helpchat is a live chat service on the aa-dc.org website where visitors to the website can ask questions.
3. Please email help@aa-dc.org to update your online meeting information as necessary.
4. WAIA office has curbside pickup 10-2pm M, Tu, Wed, Fri, 10-7 on Thursdays.
5. Email finance@aa-dc.org to participate in an ad hoc committee regarding new initiatives

Announce Upcoming Committee Needs, Events & Meetings (all AAs welcome):

- **Technology Committee:** Standing meeting the 4th Sunday at 9:30 pm: Hangouts Meet: meet.google.com/moo-vvtu-sdm; Join by phone +1 240-903-4132 PIN: 414 591 395#
- **Grapevine committee** meets the first Monday of every month from 7-8pm. Please connect your group's grapevine rep with Alaina Grapevine@area13aa.org.
- **New Initiatives Committee:** meets the fourth Wednesday of every month at 6pm. The link can be found at aa-dc.org/new-initiatives
- **Public Information Committee:** will meet next on Monday, June 7 from 5-6pm. Link below in report.

Opening Remarks

The meeting began with the Serenity Prayer and reading the AA Preamble. The Executive Committee was introduced (Chair Sean C, Vice Chair Spahr H, Treasurer Will R, Secretary Jackie M, Office Manager Luella T, At-large members Cassandra S, Daniel R, Karen O). New representatives introduced themselves and were directed to the Outreach Committee Chair (Susanna).

- Approval of last month's minutes:

There was a motion to approve the April Board meeting minutes. This motion was seconded. A typographical error was corrected and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business

- Group Inventory - Daniel R.

The group inventory survey is available and will be placed in the chat for reps to complete. The survey is designed to have one completion per group, so alternate representatives should confer with the group representative.

Question- is there a deadline for completion?

Answer- Our goal would be over the next month or two.

Question- are results being shared?

Answer- There is no specific plan to distribute the results, but it is hopeful that once we receive feedback there will be clear actionable items. We can make the raw data available to representatives if needed or desired.

Question- is this an inventory of what we think of WAIA?

Answer- it's an inventory of WAIA from your perspective as a board member. You can take it back to your group if you want input from the group. It consists of 30 questions and they all have to be completed in one session.

Question- will this be placed on the website so board members who aren't here can get to it?

Answer- This will not be placed on the website but it will go out in the email containing the draft May board minutes so board members will have access with the link when it goes out.

- Ad Hoc committee for New Initiatives - Michael

The New Initiatives committee updated the language on the WAIA website to highlight how we want to use our resources to fulfill our primary purpose and mitigate messaging about excess funds, as it has caused confusion in AA groups in the area. The committee has received 14 proposals. They have asked some for more information including asking proposals to be linked to a specific committee for execution. The next steps are submitting proposals to ExComm along with the New Initiative Committee's recommendations.

Question- when is the deadline for proposals?

Answer- May 26 is the deadline to submit proposals to the committee for review.

Question- in a couple of AA meetings, we are still hearing the narrative that WAIA doesn't need money. Have we seen a decrease in contributions?

Answer- please correct inaccurate announcements such as these as you hear them. Contributions are down as a result of this messaging. WAIA will have ongoing expenses and it is important that groups don't stop contributing.

The next meeting will be May 26 at 6pm

New Business

- Public Service Announcements (Carrie G., Public Information Committee)

As a reminder of the past work of this committee, Kerry O had done the Public Information (PI) committee last year but has relocated across the country. Back in 2020 the ad hoc committee had done work to clear and deploy public service announcements (PSAs). They had a \$2,500 budget and honed in on which PSAs would be most successful. Messaging that targeted "partying" playlists was less successful than messages targeting certain zip codes.

Question- Kerry O had suggested a \$6,000 budget, using \$500/month to circulate specific messages discussing online messages happening now. Would this be the place to vote on that? Answer- the board already approved that budget. The PI committee chair does not need additional approval at this time, and can move forward with spending the budget on these PSAs.

Question- which zip codes were targeted? Answer- all zip codes in Area 13.

Question- did we choose spotify because it allowed verbal messages, as opposed to social media messaging, Pandora, etc. ? Answer- This will be discussed at the next committee meeting, as it pre-dates the current chair's knowledge.

The next PI committee meeting is scheduled for June 7:

Topic: WAIA PSA Meeting

Time: Jun 7, 2021 05:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89707899313>

- Reopening Committee (David.h@aa-dc.org):

The Reopening Committee met with the Executive Committee and is putting forward the following request before the Board for consideration:

Reopening Request [text in blue was submitted in writing by Reopening Committee]

Because of the increasing influx of requests for in-person meetings. The reopening committee believes we should be able to better delineate and find in-person, hybrid, or online meetings.

Today, in order to find an in-person meeting, someone must filter all meetings and manually go through the list of temporary closed meetings to find a meeting that is not closed and not online.

The reopening committee would like to make the following changes:

- Tag meetings as either Online, In-person, or Hybrid
- Set the default filter to all meetings except those currently designated as "Temporarily Closed"

We believe it should be easier to filter the various types of meetings to aid newcomers that seek in-person meetings. While the number of meetings operating in-person or in a hybrid format remains low, the office receives many requests everyday for in-person listings. Changing the filtering would increase the ability of users to find the type of meeting they are looking for.

Pros

- People want to find in person meetings and it is difficult to do so
- Shows people how few meetings are actually meeting in person

Cons

- It changes the user experience and we've trained people looking for meeting by clicking the "All" meetings
- It further makes the "temporarily closed" meetings appear as "de-listed"
- Telephone only meetings are currently listed as online. This continues that confusion

The Technology Committee chair indicated that this is contrary to Tech Committee recommendations. To do this as described would involve significant changes to the back end. This also would not show in the meeting guide app available through A.A. World Services. The Tech Chair suggested that as a potential alternate solution, meetings currently listed as “temporarily closed” be moved to “draft” mode so they will no longer display when people search the Where and When.

Question- what is the motion? Answer- To allow the reopening committee to explore implementation of earmarking meetings, making it easier to sort. Whether draft status, additional tags, etc., can't be determined yet, but we want to change the way that we filter meetings so that online, in-person, or hybrid filter to top, and consider hiding temporarily closed meetings.

The Reopening Committee chair typed the motion in the chat and reiterated that we are not specifically recommending to remove the temporarily closed meetings.

Motion as written in the chat: The proposal is to functionally make changes to the website to tag, or categorize, meetings as Online, In-person, or Hybrid. Meetings with one of those tags would be filtered as the default filter.

It was again noted that custom tags aren't supported in AA World Services' Meeting Guide app.

Question- is this technically possible to do? Answer- it is possible but from a logic standpoint, it is not advised. It was pointed out that this was not recommended only by the technology committee, which is comprised of the Chair.

There was a motion to table the discussion. Con- we wouldn't be tabling it for more information, we're tabling it just in the interest of time, but people are having a hard time finding meetings, there's a lot of confusion, and there are lots of calls to the NightWatch about meeting confusion that are tying up calls for help, so it would be best for alcoholics in the area in need of these services if we decide this now.

The Technology Committee chair gave a demonstration of adding tags, and showed the option of removing temporarily closed meetings. The Reopening Committee chair reiterated the addition of adding filters, not delisting meetings.

A Board member suggested we should table the question, because of the differences in opinions between the Technology Committee chair and Reopening Committee chair. Board members may not be able to resolve the different perspectives. Another suggestion was that the real issue is, is it okay or not okay to de-list meetings. With regards to the technology piece there isn't a debate. The real question for the board to decide is taking meetings offline or not.

The motion was changed to: “The motion is to delist and hide meeting that are temporary closed” in order to allow the Board to debate the central issue.

Question about time frame. David said meet, figure out how to do it, implement it. By May 31.

Con- don't want to de-list, remove information. There's a way to make these findable without removing information, and WAIA is the one who made the decision to move to “temporarily closed” anyway.

Con- ditto and also for con, multiple meetings are listed as temporarily closed but they're not, they're on zoom, before this would happen meetings would need a chance to get the information and update accurately.

Con- we need to allow reps to bring back to the groups that meetings might be delisted. The AA community has not been given a chance to know this is happening. People won't look at a separate list, we would need to give the community the information that it might be upcoming.

Con- another meeting said they're still listed as temporarily closed even though the meeting is open, so the listing is not accurate and this may remove meetings which are actually open

Point of order- we have more than three cons.

Pro- do we leave "in person" tag forever? Adds a new type of AA meeting to do tag

Pro- we want groups to positively tell us when they are re-opened. There are a lot of groups that will not come back, we need a way of getting those off because leaving those in any format is not helping the next alcoholic

The motion was tabled until the next meeting.

- Calls for Service

The registrar will be rotating out of their position. The current registrar described the registrar's duties including maintaining google documents. Message Jeff for more information (registrar@aa-dc.org), and we will start a call for service next month.

Submit new business to executivecommittee@aa-dc.org

Committee Reports

Pre-submitted Committee reports:

- Treasurer and Finance Committee:

Treasurer Report* for the May 11, 2021 WAIA Board Meeting [Will R., Treasurer treasurer@aa-dc.org]:

Profit and Loss comparison-net income	Balance Sheet Comparison-total liabilities & equity	April
April 2020 \$1,966.06	2020	193,271.75
April 2021 -\$7,386.45	April 2021	206,263.12

*[Click here](#) for the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss statements for April. All reports listed at <https://aa-dc.org/finance>

Contributions

Groups	\$6,521.10
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Individuals	\$950.00
Total April 2021 Contributions	\$7,471.10

- **Finance: finance@aa-dc.org**

Finance Committee Report for May 11, 2021. [Cassandra S., Finance Chair finance@aa-dc.org]

April 2021 Snapshot: Full [2021 Actuals](#) available online

	Apr Actuals	Apr Budget	YTD Actuals	2021 Budget	% Total Budget
Revenue	\$1,073	\$4,682	\$4,990.42	\$69,806.00	7.15%
Cost of Goods	-\$4,858	-\$3,282	-\$6,027.28	-\$39,384.00	15.30%
Contributions	\$7,471	\$10,650	\$48,322.27	\$138,000.00	35.02%
Gala	\$0	\$0	\$0.00	\$12,800.00	
Gross Income	\$3,687	\$12,051	\$47,285.41	\$181,222.00	26.09%
Expenses	-\$11,073	-\$14,285	-\$50,254.66	-\$181,222.00	27.73%
Net Income*	-\$7,386	-\$2,235	-\$2,969.25		

- April expenses exceeded revenue by \$7,386 and we have a balance now of -\$2,969 for the year.

- *Regarding the negative net income, the board should note that the \$16k in additional funding from WAIA savings has not yet been transferred to the checking account as approved in 2020 for anticipated 2021 shortfalls.

Cassandra says this is not uncommon for this time of year, may make bigger push at end of year if necessary

- Office manager's Report:

April Calls – 221

- 12 for help. This includes people getting 12th step calls and those oldtimers and newcomers who just need to talk for a short time**
- 37 WAIA Business**
- 29 Literature & Chip Orders (questions answered & orders filled for curbside pickup or shipping)**
- 139 Meeting Information: Some of the meeting info calls were asking for passwords**
- 1 Public Information**
 - 3 Alanon (Third Party)**
 - 0 No meeting at location**
- 25 Curbside pickup/walk-ins to the office**

We still have curbside pick-up hours at 10A-2P, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and 10A-7P on Thursdays. When we're not in the office, we continue to have volunteers answer phones from home 7-10 PM weekdays and 10AM -10 PM weekends.

The new Meeting in a Pocket booklets are on sale for \$1.00 a piece. Call the office at 202-966-9115 or email orders@aa-dc.org to place an order

Remember the new Visual History of AA is also on sale now for \$11.00

The June New Reporter will go out by the end of next week.

Still have curbside pickup. DC is reopening soon. Will need volunteers when we get back in office. Nothing has been decided yet. New visual history of AA, AA Meeting in a Pocket

Question- does the office ship books? Answer- yes, email orders@aa-dc.org

Question- does it hurt the office is someone buys a book on Amazon instead of through the intergroup? Answer- yes, the office does make a small profit on book sales. Books are purchased wholesale for \$8.67/book but are sold for \$9.50

WAIA: 4530 Conn. Ave. NW Suite 111 WDC 20008

with a small charge for shipping, so it does benefit the office. Additionally, they are marked up on Amazon, currently selling for \$13.99 or \$21.95 depending on the size.

□ **Archives:** archives@aa-dc.org -

Our activity for the month of April 2021 included the following items:

1. Responded to an inquiry from Nancy K. whether our office had any photographs or digital images of Annie C. in our files. Annie C. was an early attendee in the New York AA, known as "Annie the Cop Fighter," and whose story was in the 2nd Edition of the AA Big Book (p. 514). We were unsuccessful in locating any images of Anne C. and suggested that Nancy K. contact the New York AA Archives to see if they may be able to help her on this request. .
2. Submitted proposals for surplus prudent reserves for one of the WAIA Archives Staff to travel to an Archives Workshop in San Antonio, Texas, and for the purchase of four new 5-drawer cabinets to replace four older 4-drawer and three 2-drawer cabinets at the WAIA offices. The new 5-drawer cabinets would be used to store WAIA archival materials. Our Committee coordinated with appropriate members of the WAIA Executive Committee and Luella Tabor for guidance regarding this proposal.
3. Got the Adobe Acrobat functioning again, enabling us to begin the process of scanning materials to the WAIA Archives on-line database.

□ **Sponsorship Conference:** SponsorConference@aa-dc.org

WAIA 3rd Annual Sponsorship Conference will be held on Saturday, September 25, 2021. It will be an all day event on zoom Mark your calendars.

We would like to share success stories both from the perspective of the sponsor and from the sponsee. i have attached a link to the AA General Service Conference approved pamphlet called, "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship." P-15 Questions & Answers on Sponsorship (aa.org)

Send us your best stories which may be included in our presentations.

Will R at sponscon@aa-dc.org

● **Ad Hoc Committee report for New Initiatives (report from Michael G)** **Please note this is the pre-submitted report written and submitted by the Chair of the committee- the previous minutes record the in-meeting discussion of the pre-submitted report**

- We changed our blurb to eliminate the part about excess funds and emphasize carrying the message.
- We received about 14 proposals and discussed them at our April 28 meeting. Most of the people who submitted proposals attended the meeting.
- After each proposal was discussed, we asked for more detail in the proposals including which committee should work with the submitter and a breakdown of expenses.

- We meet on May 26 to discuss the completed proposals. We will submit the proposals to Sean C. who will present them to the Executive Committee and the Board, along with the recommendations of the New Initiatives Committee.

- The proposals include:

- o Information to assist groups in hybrid meetings
- o New location for the WAIA office
- o Funds for the Sponsorship Conference
- o Literature to be loaned or distributed by the H&I Committee
- o Donation to GSO
- o Donation to WAGSA
- o Changing over to a VOIP communication system for WAIA
- o Customer relations management system for WAIA
- o Outreach event for SE, DC and PG, MD
- o Conference for People with disabilities
- o Money for Archives Committee for attendance at a conference

- Please share the link to the New Initiatives proposals in your meetings: <https://aa-dc.org/new-initiatives>

In-Meeting Committee Reports:

Corporate Committees:

- Office: office@aa-dc.org
- Rules (Bylaws): rules@aa-dc.org
- Technology: tech@aa-dc.org

The Technology Committee has had requests from groups who want assistance setting up hybrid meetings. The committee wants to send a survey about how involved we should be in assisting, should we be more passive or more direct. The committee will report back results of that survey at the next board meeting.

Service committees:

- Accessibility (Daniel D.): Accessibility@aa-dc.org
- Cooperation with the Professional Community CPC@aa-dc.org - N/A
- Hospitals & Institutions (Eryn C.): HNI@aa-dc.org

We have opened two meetings a day, five days a week and Sunday mornings at Avery Rd, chaired by different meetings across the county. Avery Road's detox is opened in addition to their combined care. Meetings have been opened in some sober homes. H&I has submitted a proposal to the new initiatives ad hoc committee.

Email hni@aa-dc.org with any questions.

- Literature (Gavin P.): Literature@aa-dc.org - N/A

- Night watch (Jeanine J.): Nightwatch@aa-dc.org

WAIA: 4530 Conn. Ave. NW Suite 111 WDC 20008

There were 38 reported calls for the month of April. This number may be low because not all volunteers reported their call numbers.

Outreach (Susanna D.): Outreach@aa-dc.org

The Outreach Committee submitted a proposal with a \$6,000 budget to WAIA's New Initiatives committee to host an in-person party/picnic with live music, food, fellowship and speakers at a public outside location in Southeast DC or Prince George's County, to bolster awareness of WAIA in this part of our area. The party would be in-person, so would need to be timed after the area fully re-opens.

The Outreach Committee is in need of active members! Please join our next Committee meeting Tuesday, May 25 at 8pm or email the committee chair.

New representatives: please join us for 15 minutes after the Board meeting if you have any questions or want to get a brief orientation of how WAIA works or better understand what is expected of you.

Public Information (Carrie): pi@aa-dc.org

(See above under New Business)

Ad-hoc/event committees:

Gala (Liz L): gala@aa-dc.org - N/A

Sponsorship Conference (Will): SponsorConference@aa-dc.org - report listed above in pre-submitted committee reports section

Oldtimers (Suzanna D): oldtimers@aa-dc.org - No report

New reporter (Tony F.): Newreporter@aa-dc.org - N/A

New Initiatives Committee (Michael): Report given above in pre-submitted committee reports section and Old Business discussion

Re-opening Committee (David H): See above discussion in New Business section

Grapevine: Grapevine@area13aa.org - N/A

Northern Virginia Intergroup (NVI) Liaison (Ralph J.)- N/A

NVI board meeting last week and made a significant decision to reassert control of their meetings' data rather than delegate that to Area 71. This would now allow an easier transition to allow Northern Virginia meetings to be listed on the WAIA website again. Their objective is to get Northern Virginia meeting information back onto the WAIA website.

Registrar (Jeff M.): Registrar@aa-dc.org - 33 responses to the survey. Three are guests, 2 are non-voting alternates, 2 are alternates, and the rest are board representatives.

** Indicates committee is looking for a new Chairperson. All current Board of Directors (WAIA Reps), current and past officers of the Corporation, and past Executive Committee members are eligible to serve as a committee chair.

General Discussion:

Anniversaries Announced:

- Chrissy had 7 years on April 25
- Michael G had 44 years on April 27
- Cassandra R will have 3 years on May 12

Other Announcements:

- Mideast Group 65th Anniversary, Friday May 28th 8-9:30 pm. Zoom ID: 857 0430 2922; PW: 1937
- The Annual Women's Weekend Traditions Workshop will take place Saturday, June 12 from 8:30am-12:30pm.

Meeting ID: 843 1288 1478

Password: 493320

There is a great lineup of speakers. We look forward to seeing you there!

- A representative announced that Zoom now enables closed captioning at meetings

New representatives were invited to stay after the meeting for fellowship and orientation.

Appendix 1: Meetings in Attendance

- Read and Speak
- Neelsville Beginners
- There is a Solution
- Nightwatch
- Sunshine Group
- Bethesda Youth
- Potomac Oaks
- DCC Beginner Basics
- Men of Dupont
- Kensington Big Book Study
- Crapshooters
- Rockville Metro 11am Sunday
- On Awakening
- Cosmopolitan
- Laurel Recovery Group
- Midtown
- Into Action/Grace Church
- Takoma Park Women's Kid Friendly Big Book
- 6&7
- Chinatown Big Book
- Serenity
- Yacht Club
- Oasis Women's Big Book
- Spiritual Awakening