

WAIA Executive Committee Minutes

November 2, 2021

2021 Officers	At-Large Members
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Chair: Sean C.● Vice Chair: Spahr H● Treasurer: Will R● Secretary: Jackie M● Office Manager: Luella T	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Cassandra S● Kelly W● Daniel R● Jeanine● Karen O

Attendees: Luella, Sean C, Jackie M, Karen O, Jeanine, Kelly W, Cassandra, Daniel R

Standing Agenda Notes:

- Chair's opening remarks.
- Quarterly financial report (February, May, August, November only)

The Finance report will try to be ready by Friday, 05NOV. It is not ready tonight because the times/dates of ExComm changed, but no issues or major changes were reported.

- Annual budget presentation (presented in October, approval in November)

The annual budget is to be reviewed and approved at the November board. There have been some updates to Zoom we are working through to facilitate polls in Zoom, to poll as needed for voting on the budget. Cassandra will set up a voting form for the budget next week, and send it to Sam, so we can have it ready. We should have a self-attestation on the form for voting members.

- Elections (December)

Elections are coming up in December, so get names to David H (Elections Chair) by 30NOV to be on the ballots. Question: Have we explained the process enough to board members, to make sure we're getting candidates for the elections? Answer: We will give an announcement/explanation at the meeting.

A member noted that we should take time to explain what being an Excomm member is, the time commitment, the election process, etc. Karen can read from the Bylaws. Karen will also reach out to David H (Elections Chair) to ask him to prepare something. The secretary will directly reach out to David to solicit his report for the agenda.

Kelly can share her experience of joining the ExComm and what that process was like. There is confusion about whether you can be a rep and be on ExComm. It was stated that you can continue to be an Excomm member for 1 year unaffiliated to a group (i.e. if the position rotates). The Rules Committee Chair will review the Bylaws with regards to how it would work if a rep rotates out. The Chair did clarify again that you could stay on for a year unaffiliated and finish your term. We will check the bylaws about who can run.

Someone suggested trying to sync up all groups with new reps/elections, to avoid this. It was generally agreed that we can't control what groups do. There needs to be a strong Outreach person, reaching new members to let them know what's going on. This is AA, we have a different leadership style than anywhere else.

David should clarify that it is a one year position as well, and term limits. The announcement should include:

- *Amount of time/duration of term
- *You can be a rep or alternate rep
- *the responsibilities of the position

- *Review and approval of last month's minutes*

Last month's minutes were reviewed and approved. Jeanine was found to not have access to the minutes on the drive so will follow up with the Tech committee after.

Old Business:

- Group Inventory (Daniel R)

No updates on Group Inventory. The announcement was not made at last month's meeting. Daniel will make the announcement at next week's board meeting and present a call for action, to get people to join the committee.

- Record of decisions (Karen O/Cassandra R)

No updates

- Increase to bonuses for Clo'via and Luella

In the last meeting we agreed to increase the salary unanimously, but we did not discuss the bonuses. It is not clear how much bonuses were last year. Cassandra will see if she can find it. Sean asked Luella and Cassandra to have that information available by next week. It was clarified that it should not be brought to the board, it is an executive committee action. Cassandra and Luella will follow up with that information for the December ExComm meeting, so we can approve the bonuses and deliver them this year.

- Ad-hoc Committee on Parliamentary Procedures (Karen O)

No updates

New Business:

- Gratitude Month Update

Luella said last week we mailed out about 95 gratitude boxes to in-person meetings and ~125 letters to meetings that were meeting online. Any groups that had contributed since the beginning of 2020, we checked if they were in-person or online. There are more meetings in-person or online but we only were able to send to the ones we had addresses for, on file.

Luella sent an email to treasurers who had email addresses but no physical addresses, from ~2019 to present, ~239 sent out, along with the New Reporter noting Gratitude Month.

Question: Is there suggested language for announcements in Zoom meetings? Luella said there's a link on aa-dc.org, and a Gratitude page (aa-dc.org/gratitude).

Question: How did it compare to last year's? We only sent one physical box last year to a group that requested it. The boxes have QR codes for people to contribute electronically. The letters include the same 3x5 cards we sent last year ("Can you spare the price of a drink" and the link and Venmo handle). We will present a call for action for all board members to spread the word to their groups.

Will looked at the bank statement today. He might give an announcement. Luella did not send emails to individuals who had contributed- usually we get from groups, so it was unclear whether it was appropriate to send to individuals. A thought was to email the individual, thank them for last year, share the information about Gratitude month, and ask them to share it, instead of directly soliciting contributions. Let people know contributions are down. An ExComm member expressed that it feels like we should rely on the groups and see how it goes. We can always do an email push if we don't think things are going well enough. It's 11/2, so maybe we can wait and see. We should keep the idea in our back pocket for the tail end of the month if we haven't seen it. We also have emails from people who have given meeting updates, etc. as well. We haven't done that kind of communication before. I'd rather not do that unless we have to.

We will share the language that is on the Gratitude Month page at the board meeting.

Pre-Submitted Reports:

N/A

General Discussion:

-WAIA Oldtimer's meeting is this Friday, 05NOV2021. The WAIA Chair will speak, as well as the H&I Chair. The meeting opens at 6:30pm.

-The WAGSA Gratitude Breakfast is 11/14 at 8:30am.

-There are a lot of events going on, 11/19-11/21 "Emotional Sobriety" in Rehobeth, Delaware. Footprints in the Winter Sand is happening 2/3-2/5. It's a conference out of Ocean City that was canceled last year.

-Karen O had 30 years on October 31, 2021. Karen is celebrating a week from Saturday (11/13) at Grace Into Action group, at 7am, as well as at Yacht Club, and in December. It is a hybrid meeting.

-Karen O brought up a splitting of meetings that is happening in hybrid meetings. Zoom components of groups are making decisions in separate group consciences from the in-person components. This problem is happening now in a lot of groups. Another member said there will be probably separation of groups. Karen asked if there was a way to put out some sort of message or minimize hard feelings. A member suggested communicating that it is happening in a lot of groups, so people don't take it as personally. Question about self-support, if a zoom group is using a zoom account that the in person account is paid for. She just wanted to throw it out there, as a thought/concern. A member said we don't want to overstep our mark, but maybe we can do what we did with previous meeting guidance and share what other meetings have done. The Chair said he thinks we should stay out of the controversy, and let groups handle it. The Big Book p.XVIII says "Our society then entered a fearsome and exciting adolescent period. The test that it faced was this: Could these large numbers of otherwise erstwhile alcoholics successfully meet and work together? Would there be quarrels over membership, leadership; and money? Would there be strivings for power and prestige? Would there be schisms which split AA apart? Soon AA was beset by these very problems on every side and in every group. But out of this frightening and at first disrupting experience the conviction grew that AAs had to hang together or die separately. We had to unify our fellowship or pass off the scene." (Forward to 2nd edition). There was a suggestion to put it in the New Reporter, get it out there and just remind people. We can also quote forward to 4th edition ("While our literature has preserved the integrity of the AA message, sweeping changes in society as a whole are reflected in new customs and practices within the Fellowship. Taking advantage of technological advances, for example, AA members with computers can participate in meetings online, sharing with fellow alcoholics across the country or around the world. In any meeting, anywhere, AA's share experience, strength and hope with each other, in order to stay sober and help other alcoholics. Modem to modem, face to face, AAs speak the language of the heart in all its power and simplicity." (XXIV).

It was a reminder that AA has been through this before. Everyone will have their own opinion. There is also a difference between a meeting and a group. A member suggested that we can remind people of their primary purpose. Newcomers will be put off by conflict and contention. Another issue in these discussions is there are a lot of people who are not local who are joining local zoom groups. Then, people who are members of home groups move away but then are still able to join their home group. We can include that in the agenda of the Board agenda this month as well. Jackie and Karen can assist Luella.

Motion to close. Unanimous decision to close. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 with Responsibility Statement.