

A.R.T.S. Anonymous Inc.
Conference Reports
1996

Opened with Serenity Prayer. Went around the room reading from the Wide Circle of ARTS pamphlet.

1:15 Marilyn opened the First Session with a brief description of protocol and agenda. The 12 Traditions (long form) were read from the 5/96 Draft version of the World Service Manual. Last year's minutes were pointed out in the Annual Report and a motion to pass as read was made and seconded. Discussion followed. Leonard felt the minutes were too brief. Jane explained that there was an expanded version of the minutes but that she accidentally left them behind. Carol felt that robust minutes were needed and should be made available to the delegates within a reasonable time from the conference date. Jill explained that a Report and Charter Committee should be put in place to handle the acquisition and disposition of the minutes. Leonard asked about the item in John's 95 report (page 23) about "an entirely new service structure." Note was made that in the 95 Conference Jill outlined the new service structure. Motion was made that the minutes be passed as read with an addendum stating that session is not reflected in which Jill presented the new Service Structure outline. Seconded and passed.

1:45 2-minute qualifications around the table. Leonard suggested adding members' locations to name tag information. Abby briefly reflected on the first conference.

Abby opened the meeting with a request for opinions on gender-neutrality in the ARTS steps and traditions. Carol wants to know from Des what the procedure is to change our literature to gender-neutral. There was some discussion about gender-neutrality of the Serenity Prayer and Steps/Traditions vs ARTS literature in general, but I didn't get it.

Marilyn explained the "Donated Expense" area in our expense report forms, that they enable documentation of members' personal contributions to ARTS in cases where reimbursement doesn't occur. Discussion followed. Without any action being taken, Abby indicated that the issue would be coming up again later in the conference.

Abby brought up the decision to use different colors for non-approved literature.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Abigail read her report from page 6 of the Annual Report. She explained the right of disapproval as the right to reject but not elect. Carol asked how to get Bylaws. Jill said they would be available in subsequent literature order forms. Carol wants to be sure that relevant conference information (e.g., how to get Bylaws) is disseminated as globally as possible. Abby said that Sherrie sends out order forms with all filled orders.

Jill said there was very little activity on the public information front. She said we are looking for a person to head a public information committee.

Jane reported that the first comprehensive meeting directory has been created. She said that we don't have an up-to-date list of meeting reps, but we should insure the availability of current meeting information. She also mentioned our presence on the WWW. Len moved that we get a web site that isn't attached to an individual. To be discussed later.

Jill likened Policy to guidelines. She read definitions of a Policy committee and said she would talk further about Policy later on. Abby raised the question of matching committees to Trustee functions.

Abby proudly displayed the WSO pictures and discussed the issue of rent and how the office got moved out of her house. Sherrie discussed basic office operations. She explained her handling of ARTS' finances and data entry. Also mentioned our association with Materials for the ARTS. Abby described Harry as landlord-/mensch,

Jill discussed literature. She used page 18 of the Annual Report for the bulk of her report, displayed the Creating ARTS Literature policy pamphlet, said in the past year she only got 2 new personal stories. She said our "Big Book" is the aggregate of our collective ES&H. Linda asked about "On Being the Perfect Artist." It is now incorporated in "When Your Work is Your Worth." Bob asked about how and when to implement the information in item 10. Fred asked if "Come to Believe" would con-

flict with AA title. Len said "no." Jill noted that Carol, Sue, Karlin plus the Trustees are the Literature Committee. Sherrie asked about how actual development costs are determined. Jill explained about donated time having value. John said thanks for the Brief Guide to ARTS Anonymous. Roc asked if pamphlet costs would progressively decline as income increases over time. Arthur asked about charging .50 and Abby explained reasons why it should be .75. Len said .75 price in LA is a hot issue. He said people are so upset that they've begun duplicating the literature. They want to know why is it so much. Marilyn said that donated time is money. Sherrie suggested perhaps a letter explaining our pricing policies. Carol wondered if LA knows about what happens at the conferences and perhaps they didn't know what was discussed last year on this issue. She said that because we don't have a Western Trustee perhaps that's why much of ARTS issues don't reach western membership. Roc said his group used to copy literature but stopped because buying it helped fund the program. He mentioned that AA's literature has supported some of its other operations. He said that rather than looking at what ARTS was doing wrong, they took a look at what they could do right, which was buy literature. Abby wondered about a letter from the delegates which would attach to the order forms which would explain how prices were arrived at and approved. John said his meeting is well-heeled but when lit prices went up the WSO contributions went down. Jill said that if we don't try to make meetings grow (which the lit would do) what good can we do elsewhere. Carol thinks a dialogue is necessary between the conference and the LA people. She said we have to find a way to include them even though they typically can't be here. Len said the general feeling in LA is trying to increase donations to WSO and Intergroup. He said having to buy 10 pieces plus postage is hard on his groups and that they frequently try to go through Intergroup to save money.