

A.R.T.S. Anonymous Inc.
Conference Reports
1998

**1998 ARTS CONFERENCE
OCEAN GROVE, NJ
MAY 14 & 15, 1998
(Thursday & Friday)**

MINUTES

In Attendance: **TRUSTEES:** Marilyn (Chair), Jane (Vice Chair), Bev (Central Region); **CORPORATE OFFICERS:** Ed S. (Secretary), Jay M. (Treasurer); **DOL:** Arthur; **WSMR's:** Pattie, Mary, Millie, Doris, Jacquiline, Don, Paul, Fred, Barb, Stan, Cheryl, Roc, and Lou-Ann; **FOUNDER:** Abigail B.

SESSION 1 [Thursday, May 14th, 2:00 - 3:30 pm]

Group opened with the Serenity Prayer. Marilyn called the 1998 ARTS Conference to order. Conference participants read the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts. Conference delegates (WSMR's and DOL's), World Service Board of Trustees and Corporate Officers introduced themselves. The conference participants reviewed the conference agenda.

Marilyn proposed that the 1997 ARTS Conference Minutes be read and approved at the last session of the conference. Discussion ensued. Group voted to begin discussion of said minutes at 9:00 am, Friday (Session 3).

Marilyn directed group discussion to the 1997 ARTS, Inc. Annual Report.

Treasurer's Report: presented by Jay M. with main points illustrated as follows:

- * Reported changes made to clarify transfers and donations so the actual balances are reflected accurately..
- * Reviewed how ARTS pays for operations.
- * Discussed comparison of 1996 and 1997 reports - little change, spent conservatively.
- * Presented change in Literature Form which includes a small print provision for \$.60 pricing per pamphlet (a discount designed to help smaller, struggling meetings).
- * Literature order forms can now be printed off of our web page.

SESSION 2 [Thursday, May 14th, 3:45 - 5:15 pm]

Treasurers Report (continued)

Concerns: (1) Paul wanted to know if it is common practice to have spontaneous fund raising to keep ARTS out of the "red" referring to the item of \$516.60 listed in the 1997 P&L. Jay M. answered that ARTS liabilities were larger than normal for that year and would give a more complete answer later; (2) Fred wanted to know if the Trustees' on-line fees were paid at ARTS expense. Jay answered no. (3) Abigail B. commented that the 1996/1997 Comparison Report showed that donations and literature income dropped considerably.

Central Region Report: prepared by Jill F. was read by Jane. The theme focused on the issue of service and how the organization was "drifting."

Abigail B. presented for group discussion the issue of allowing the use of "inspirational material from many sources" in meetings. Does this still fit the ARTS vision? Marilyn ruled this discussion be tabled for sessions 5 or 6.

Introduction of Kathy as the new World Service Office Manager was noted.

The function of conference committees (which now include Conference Charter, Finance & Budget, Literature, Public Information, and Outreach committees) was explained by Bev. She outlined general duties, responsibilities, degree of authority, how formed, etc. For the purpose of this conference, delegates of the conference committees were to set goals, exchange personal data and set future meeting agendas.

The Conference adjourned for the evening.

SESSION 3

[Friday, May 15th, 9:00 - 10:30 am]

Discussion: on topic of 1997 ARTS Conference Minutes. Abigail B. reported that they were difficult to assemble. The 1997 motions to the By-laws, which show what was and what the proposed changes would be, were later cut and pasted into the conference minutes.

Motion: Marilyn moved that ARTS have a lawyer to look at the current version of Article 2, Section 1 of the ARTS By-Laws which was (A) and was voted to change to (B). Vote: 14 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention. **Passed.**

Meeting broke up into study groups to discuss the Twelve Concepts and then reassembled. The 1997 ARTS Minutes were read to the group by Jane

Motion: Jane moved that the 1997 ARTS Conference Minutes be accepted as read with two corrections: (1) Des was no longer a Class A Trustee, (2) Name Frank should be changed to Fred. Vote: 16 yes, 0 no, 3 abstentions. **Passed.**

SESSION 4

[Friday, May 15th, 10:45 - 12:15 pm]

Meeting broke out into respective Conference Committees to report back at 12:05 pm.

Conference Committee Reports (were read to the general meeting):

Literature Committee: Committee was in the process of reviewing three pamphlets which were Board Approved but not Conference Approved. Committee will need three months to study this literature before it sends its findings to the Board. To any meeting ordering literature, a letter will be included with their order stating which pamphlets are not yet "Conference approved," and the letter will seek the meetings' feedback regarding these pamphlets.

Conference Charter Committee: Committee agreed revisions would be goal oriented. Goal would be to have goals and committee members commit to service of one year. Dates of future meetings would be 8/15/98, 12/15/98, 3/15/99, and 4/15/99. Committee would record expenses. Committee would review Chapter 3 of the Charter which outlines how motions get addressed.

Public Information Committee: Mission statement was read, "To encourage a greater understanding of the fellowship of ARTS by communicating the message of recovery." Committee agreed to develop a long list of organizations that would probably like to know ARTS exists.

Public Information Committee (con't): The committee's goal is to get all these addresses one day. Meanwhile, a generic letter will be composed and sent out to eight organizations this year. Dates of future communications: 8/15/98, 12/15/98, 3/15/99, and 4/15/99.

Finance and Budget Committee: Committee agreed to focus on income/expense amounts 'out of the ordinary.' Committee formed a consensus that all literature pricing be reviewed by this committee before such matters be submitted to the Board, the Conference, or other delegates. Committee would study ideas of developing a condensed version of existing Treasury reports which would be more easily understood by local meeting participants i.e. abbreviated P&L.

Outreach Committee: Mission statement read. Improve the infrastructure of groups. Start up action groups to help small groups survive. Have meeting forms sent to WSO. Determine responsibilities of DOL's. Review and decide upon content of public service manuals.

Motion: Accept committee reports with copies given to Ed S. to be included in the 1998 ARTS Conference Minutes. **Passed.**

Meeting broke for lunch.

SESSION 5

[Friday, May 15th, 2:00 - 3:30 pm]

Marilyn proposed two issues for the meeting's consideration as matters of Group Conscience to be used as guidance for next year's conference, not as motions, and they were as follows: (1) Reforming certain aspects of the Convention Art Share; (2) The inclusion of inspirational material from outside sources in ARTS meetings. Questions and/or concerns generated by the discussion of both matters would also be entertained from each conference participant.

Reforming certain aspects of the Convention Art Share - points discussed: (A) issue of sharers sticking to the time limit of 5 minute shares, i.e. set-ups and inclusion of Thank You/Applause "stop" sign; (B) issue of performance v. share, i.e. slick v. non-polished; (C) issue of hiring an accompanist for performers, i.e. paid/non-paid and ARTS member/non-ARTS member.

Individual reactions: (Marilyn) opposed to ARTS paying money for an accompanist; (Lou-Ann) keep routines to strict 5 minute time limit; (Roc) performer bring in accompanist tape - MC responsibility to shut off abuse; (Cheryl) warn future participants of dynamics of visual v. performance shares; (Jane) make up Thank You/Applause sign and have paid accompanist; (Sam) opposed to paid accompanist - "share who they are;" (Barb) agrees with Roc; (Andy) better to have paid accompanist when venue lends itself to a performance; (Bev) set-up should not be included in the 5 minutes; (Fred) "stop" sign cue OK - 60 second warning - accompanist paid for by all those who use him/her; (Fay Jean) have difficulty with distinction with performance v. share - should be equal; (Paul) should pay accompanist i.e. not himself - timing OK last year; (Don) set-up time not counted in 5 minutes - chip in for time signs; (Jacqueline) Gift - Art of Psychotherapy - losing track of time part of creative process; (Doris) no money for accompanist - share process an expression of gratitude for the opportunity to share; (Arthur) good to have professional accompanist and have expense reimbursement; (Abigail) if share over one minute, participant not allowed to share next year - should limit individuals from paying for their own accompanist - about recovery not performance; (Jay) time limit, use trap door, not really - use non intrusive stop cues - state rules beforehand - pay for accompanist; (Patti) shares less than 5 minutes converse with shares more than 5 minutes - have stage manager set people up - spread out over two nights; (Millie) start on-time; (Ed) have concerns over tech set-up of slide shows.
Consensus: The majority of the meeting agreed ARTS should hire a non-ARTS member accompanist with cost split between ARTS and those performers who use his/her services for the 1999 ARTS Convention Art Share.

The inclusion of inspirational materials from outside sources in ARTS meetings - points discussed: (A) problems with integrating non-12 step oriented material in meetings; (B) issue of whether ARTS literature now in existence is sufficient to do the job without outside sources.

Individual reactions: (Abigail) there are many sources of non-ARTS materials read in meetings in NYC; (Arthur) keep 12-Step material as focus with other non-ARTS materials as support; (Doris) distinguish ARTS materials from other materials - we should use our own stuff; (Jacqueline) groups should be strict about use of ARTS material - group survival; (Don) OK with non-ARTS material - should however transition to using own material; (Paul) adhere to Tradition #6 {An ARTS group ought never endorse, finance, or lend its name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.}

...Inspirational Materials from Outside Sources... Individual reactions [continued]; and Tradition #4 (Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or ARTS as a whole.) - OK with other, non-ARTS material; (Fay Jean) time for an ARTS 'Big Book' - meetings should have inclusiveness and be non-judgemental about other inspirational material - make greater use of ARTS literature; (Fred) agree with Paul - adhere to **Tradition #3 (The only requirement for ARTS membership is a desire to identify and express our creativity.)**. - are we splintering or should each group decide - having the ARTS meeting important; (Bev) need 'Big Book' - need more ARTS literature - mixed feelings about outside inspirational materials; (Andy) differentiate: pre-meeting prayers v. focus, 12-Step v. Non 12-Step, meetings v. workshops/collateral meetings; (Barb) where to draw the line for outside material; (Stan) opposed to 'rules' about 'program approved' activity - establish guidelines; (Jane) hesitant about unfamiliar material other than ARTS - use outside material without names of sources - keep focus on recovery; (Cheryl) keep structure of meeting as an ARTS meeting - suggest action groups for other material - enough ARTS material for the need; (Roc) good to have more than one avenue - should have 'Big Book' with pamphlets in it; (Lou-Ann) need 'Big Book' which should stress work within ARTS - outside ideas OK, should be based on Twelve Steps not personalities; (Marilyn) guidelines about self recovery - helpful not to use proper nouns - want meetings of inspiration, not names and personalities; (Ed) regarding ARTS/non-ARTS material, should keep focus to individual and group guidelines; (Millie) glad to be here; (Pattie) guidelines for other inspirational materials should reflect that recovery comes from many sources - spread the light - channel ARTS; (Jay) workshops v. meetings, issue of literature getting out there - use whatever works.

SESSION 6

[Friday, May 15th, 3:45 - 5:00 pm]

Marilyn called the meeting's attention to **1998 ARTS Convention service needs.**

Discussion: Bev announced that there were five to six meeting leader slots still open. Marilyn asked for meeting service in breaking down the cafeteria /conference meeting set-up. Jay reported he needed two part-time MC's, lighting person, stage manager, timekeeper, sound person, sign carrier and other smaller jobs were available to give away. Lou-Ann volunteered her back rubbing skills for fund raising purposes. Marilyn directed people doing fund raising to market themselves fairly. Jay presented the Convention Raffle where the first prize would be 50/50 split of proceeds, second prize a T-shirt and third prize a pin. Andy offered video services for sale for an art sharer who wanted to be taped.

Marilyn proposed to the group that they wrap-up the 1998 ARTS Conference by: (1) **voting on this years Slate of Trustees;** (2) **addressing issues and concerns for the coming year.**

Slate of Trustees: Jane (Registrar - Sustaining), Bev (Central Region), Marilyn (International Region), Jill (Sustaining), Jay (Treasurer/Acting-Sustaining).

Discussion: Lou-Ann suggested there be a back-up slate of trustees. Suggestions for trustees would have to be submitted to the Nominating Committee. Trustee Vacancies: Western Region and Eastern Region and Class A Trustee. Jay willing to stay on as Executive Director while still being the Treasurer/Acting Trustee (Kathy could be a future candidate for Executive Director). Marilyn gave history of the Board of Trustees to date and cautioned about nominating someone without proper screening - electing them too soon.

Paul moved
Motion: Marilyn moved to **accept/confirm Slate of Trustees;** Paul seconded; vote - 16 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions; **Passed.**

Discussion: Abigail stressed that quarterly reports be submitted by all trustees and officers of ARTS. Marilyn reported that quarterly reports would be submitted this year.

Issues and Concerns for the Coming Year - Individual responses: (*Fred*) propose e-mail address book be compiled - ARTS send thank you to Des and condolance to Jill (husband terminally ill) - encourage members to attend beginning of art share - ARTS pickup expenses of Trustees (later answered, yes, travel, lodging and registration); (*Andy*) noted ARTS revenue structure based solely on literature sales i.e. outreach and local group - propose working out selective mailing lists; (*Paul*) thought conferees should write down their concerns regarding Art Share and outside material for future disussion - suggested Board start discussions and form committees concerning the "Big Book";

(*Fay Jean*) expressed concern that the big Book not be done by two or three people. She urged everyone present to go back to their groups and generate ideas for the structure of the Big Book. "Let the group conscience be the guide." (*Doris*) "It seems to me that we've got an obvious for this task. We have a founder! (Obscured: possibly... who has a story...)" (*Marilyn*) "Yes, she's been working on it. (Indecipherable...) Abigail has given a great deal of time to developing a Step (...). Her story will be a large part, of course, of the Big Book. It's a big responsibility and I don't know that we can saddle her with it." (*Fay Jean*) "Sure we can!" (*Abigail*) "Yes, you can. (Indecipherable, possibly "I have a plan!")" Applause. (*Jane*) "Abigail, you started the program. We all want your input, but for the Big Book...we're still trying to figure out what ARTS is. I think it's important that the Big Book be written by a group. The input must come from a group." Male voice, interrupting, asked that Abigail speak. She did so, outlining her vision to have it devoted to the 12 Step process - would like to be editor who would collect contributions written by interested ARTS members, which would all appear in a newsletter with selected entries appearing in the "Big Book" (this project to take probably a minimum of 6 years to complete) - no motion was proposed;

(*Lou-Ann*) should receive Conference packet before the Conference assembles - propose a Conference retreat separate and in addition to the Conference commencing just before the Conference - suggest downloading Conference materials (packets) via e-mail; (*Abigail*) proposed Annual Report be ready for Conference with fee charged to WSMRs for ARTS downloading services; (*Fay Jean*) suggest general term of WSMRs be three years.

Motion: Jane proposed that any Conference Delegate on a committee may return for the next two years with full voting rights, whether or not they are WSMRs. Discussion ensued about voting capacity. However, the charter may already have this motion in it and should be reviewed. Motion Withdrawn.

Marilyn turned the chair over to Jane for the rest of the Conference.

Pro-Tem: Those serving on committees can return to the 1999 ARTS Conference with full voting rights, whether or not they are serving as WSMRs. **Vote:** 18 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention. **Passed.**

Group Conscience: (A) The dates for the 1999 ARTS Conference and Convention will be Wednesday through Sunday - May 19 - 23. (The Board meets on May 19. The Conference convenes on May 20.) (B) The ARTS Convention was GREAT!!! TERRIFIC!!! and EDUCATIONAL!!!

The 1998 A.R.T.S. Anonymous Conference adjourned.