

A.R.T.S. Anonymous Inc.
Conference Reports
2000

A.R.T.S. Anonymous, Inc.
World Service Business Conference
Ocean Grove, NJ
May 18th & 19th, 2000

Conference Participants:

Sustaining Trustees

Thanasi A.	(Conference & Convention, Chair)
Jay M .	(Finance & Budget, A.R.T.S. Treasurer, Vice Chair)
Ed S.	(Policy & Procedures, A.R.T.S. Corporate Secretary)
Arthur M.	(Nominations)

Regional Trustees

Lou-Ann R.	(International)
Fred K.	(Eastern)
Linda C.	(Central)
Patti P.	(Western)

Trustee at Large

Tom R.	(Former President, Ocean Grove, NJ Chamber of Commerce)
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Trustee Emeritus

Abby Jo B.	(Literature, Public Information & A.R.T.S. Founder)
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Corporate Officer(s)

Kathy V.O.	(A.R.T.S. General Manager)
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District Outreach Leader(s)

Phyllis O.	(Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah)
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World Service Meeting Representatives

Claudia V.G.	(Colorado)
Mary O.	(Maryland)
Mary F.	(New Jersey)
Andy K.	(New York)
Arlene B.	(New York)
Diane C.	(New York)
Don T.	(New York)
Ed K.	(New York)
Marco U.	(New York)
Paul G.	(New York)

SESSION #1 - Thursday (1:45 pm)

Meeting called to order.

I. Conference Opening Serenity Prayer

II. Attendee Introductions

III. Conference Agenda

Action: Chair reviewed 2000 World Service Business Conference agenda and Conference unanimously approved it. Trustee slate will be voted on Friday morning. Lou-Ann will read portions of the AA Service Manual on Friday morning.

IV. 1999 Conference Minutes

Discussion: Pertained to approval of 1999 World Service Business Conference minutes. A concern was made regarding revisions to Motion #2 regarding three May 1999 letters authored by an attorney introduced by Marilyn H at the 1999 World Service Business Conference (WSBC). A debate ensued as to whether or not these letters should be made available upon request. It was suggested that a cover letter be included with them - three letters with a cover letter.

Motion #1 (Patti P.) (2nd): Someone from the Board draft a cover letter to be included with three May 1999 attorney letters introduced by Marilyn H. at the 1999 WSBC. These letters will not be released until letter is completed and approved by the Board at which time it will be included with the other three letters and all four letters will be made available upon request. **Amendment:** (Lou-Ann): Cover letter be stamped.

Vote on Motion #1: Yes 14, No 2, Abst. 0 - **Passed**

Minority opinion: Letters being made available are a continuation of bad feeling they caused. 1999 Minutes inaccurate in some places.

Point of Order (Di C.): 1999 Minutes inaccurate in some places. Is presence or lack of a Conference quorum of all meetings noted by the recording secretary?

Point of Information (Thanasi): There is not a quorum requirement for the meeting of the World Service Business Conference. It is not a meeting of the Board of Trustees where a quorum is required.

Motion #2 (Jay) (2nd): Approve 1999 WSBC minutes with revisions.

Vote on Motion #2: Yes 15, No 0, Abst. 2 - **Passed**

V. Annual Report Presentations

Note: Presentations were made by the World Service Board of Trustees and Officers of the Board based on their annual reports which are published in the A.R.T.S. 1999 Annual Report. The aforementioned report was included in the packet distributed to each of the conference participants along with the most current issue of the publication, "A.R.T.S. and Letters". Both publications are available upon request and if anyone is interested in obtaining copies please contact the World Service Office.

Point of Order (Di C.): Treasury report unacceptable and is not backed up by a professional audit. Request Marilyn H. letter to the Board dated May 13, 2000 be read to the conference concerning an \$800. check and the appearance of impropriety.

Discussion: Treasury reports are detailed, concise, well prepared and very acceptable. One can assume by their preparation that there is adequate documentation on file to support their findings. The Treasurer has been available to answer questions regarding them. A CPA audit would be inappropriate and costly for an organization as small as A.R.T.S. However, the organization could use credible outside help in auditing the books.

Action: Chair deferred the study of the issue taken in the Marilyn H. letter of 5/13/00 to Unfinished Business.

SESSION #2 - Thursday (3:25 pm)

V. Annual Report Presentations (continued)

Discussion: There was a dialogue which began with a demand for more WSMR participation in the Conference proceedings and interaction with World Service Trustees and Officers before the start of the Conference. Some WSMRs felt overwhelmed by the amount of information the World Service reports contained and felt unprepared to give adequate feed back. It was pointed out that a lot of work went into rebuilding the World Service core structure so that it could better serve the meetings and fellowship and open up more lines of communication through the Regional Trustees.

It was further stated that the World Service reports reflected the great effort that was and continues to be involved in strengthening and expanding A.R.T.S. so that it can more effectively achieve its mission - that of reaching out to still suffering artists, worldwide, with a program that will enable these artists to recover from their blocks and rediscover their creativity.

VI. Unfinished Business

Presentation: Kathy V.O., WSO General Manager, presented Board approved but not Conference approved literature to the 2000 WSBC for their review to be voted on later in the conference.

Topic: Clarity voting rules:

Discussion: Simple majority vs. 2/3 majority. Matter referred to Policy & Procedures Standing Committee and Conference Charter Committee.

Motion #3 (Paul) (2nd): Bulk of conference business will be decided by a simple majority vote. Any point can be raised by any member, of this conference only, where it would be decided by a special vote of either a 2/3 or 3/4 majority. The conference would decide by a simple majority whether to decide the point raised by this special vote.

Vote on Motion #3: Yes 12, No 5, Abst. 1 - **Passed**

Topic: Conference Approval of BY-LAW Changes:

Note: Motions #4 through #19 relate to BY-LAW changes that were Board approved in May 2000 and presented to the 2000 WSBC for their review and approval.

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Article IV, Board of Directors (Motion #4)

Section 2. OLD May 1996: Power: The Board of Trustees, subject to the laws of the State of New York, is expected to exercise the powers vested in it by law in a manner consistent with the principles of the A.R.T.S. Anonymous fellowship which, in turn, is to be guided by the Twelve Steps of A.R.T.S. Anonymous and the Twelve Concepts of A.R.T.S. Anonymous.

Section 2. NEW May 2000: Power: The Board of Trustees, subject to the laws of the State of New York, is expected to exercise the powers vested in it by law in a manner consistent with the principles of the A.R.T.S. Anonymous fellowship which, in turn, is to be guided by the Twelve Steps of A.R.T.S. Anonymous and the Twelve Concepts of **Alcoholics** Anonymous.

Motion #4 (Arthur M.) (2nd): Conference approve changes to Article IV (Board of Directors), Section 2 (Power) in the BY-LAWS of A.R.T.S. Anonymous [Changed "A.R.T.S." to "Alcoholics Anonymous".]

Vote on Motion #4: Yes 17, No 0, Abst. 1 - **Passed**

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Article IV, Board of Directors (Motion #5)

Section 4. OLD May 1996: Trustee-at-Large: Trustees-at-Large shall be persons who are not A.R.T.S. Anonymous group members but who have expressed a profound faith in the recovery program upon which A.R.T.S. Anonymous is founded.

Trustees-at-Large are Trustees whose nomination originates with, or with the consent of, the Board of Trustees and who are readily available to the **principal office of the** World Service Office located in New York City for consultation at that office and to attend special meetings of the Board of Trustees including those called on short notice.

Trustees-at-Large shall each serve a term of three years for a maximum of three terms. The total number of such Trustees shall be set by the Board of Trustees from time to time.

The Trustees-at-Large shall be elected each year at the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees and shall take office on the day following such meeting.

At each annual meeting of the Board of Trustees, a Nomination Committee **comprised of Trustees shall be appointed by the Board and** charged to submit prior to the next annual meeting nominations of Trustees-at-Large to replace those whose term will expire on the date of such next annual meeting. Each shall require the approval of both the World Service Business Conference and the Nominating Committee. Any nominee who does not receive such approval shall be withdrawn and replaced by another nominee.

Section 4. NEW May 2000: Trustee-at-Large: Trustees-at-Large shall be persons who are not A.R.T.S. Anonymous group members but who have expressed a profound faith in the recovery program upon which A.R.T.S. Anonymous is founded.

Trustees-at-Large are Trustees whose nomination originates with, or with the consent of, the Board of Trustees and who are readily available to the World Service Office located in New York City for consultation at that office and to attend special meetings of the Board of Trustees including those called on short notice.

Trustees-at-Large shall each serve a term of three years for a maximum of three terms. The total number of such Trustees shall be set by the Board of Trustees from time to time.

The Trustees-at-Large shall be elected each year at the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees and shall take office on the day following such meeting.

At each annual meeting of the Board of Trustees, a Nomination Committee is charged to submit prior to the next annual meeting nominations of Trustees-at-Large to replace those whose term will expire on the date of such next annual meeting. Each **nominee** shall require the approval of both the World Service Business Conference and the **Board of Trustees**. Any nominee who does not receive such approval shall be withdrawn and replaced by another nominee.

Motion #5 (Arthur M.) (2nd): Conference approve changes to Article IV (Board of Directors), Section 4 (Trustees-at-Large) in the BY-LAWS of A.R.T.S. Anonymous. [Paragraph 2, Line 2: "principle office of the" deleted. ... Paragraph 5, Lines 2-3: "comprised of Trustees shall be appointed by the Board and" deleted. ... Paragraph 5, Line 2: "is" inserted. Paragraph 5, Lines 4-5: "nominee ... the Board of Trustees" inserted]

Vote on Motion #5: Yes 13, No 0, Abst. 4 - **Passed**

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Point of Order (Di C.): Should be a discussion on each motion before voting.

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Article V, Meetings (Motion #6)

Section 5. OLD May 1996: Any member unable to attend any meeting of the Board shall give advance notice of his or her absence to the Board and indicate the reason for the absence.

Section 5. NEW May 2000: Absence: Any member unable to attend any meeting of the Board shall give advance notice of his or her absence to the Board and indicate the reason for the absence.

Motion #6 (Ed K.) (2nd): Conference approve changes to Article V (Meetings), Section 5 (Absence) in the BY-LAWS of A.R.T.S. Anonymous without discussion. [Line 1: Inserted "Absence:"]

Vote on Motion #6: Yes 18, No 0, Abst. 1 - **Passed**
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Article X, Finances (Motion #7)

Section 3. OLD May 1996: Annual Report: The Board of Trustees shall cause an annual report to be sent to each of the Trustees not later than **120** days after close of the Corporation's fiscal year. Such report shall contain in appropriate detail the following: ...

Section 3. NEW May 2000: Annual Report: The Board of Trustees shall cause an annual report to be sent to each of the Trustees not later than **60** days after close of the Corporation's fiscal year. Such report shall contain in appropriate detail the following: ...

Motion #7 (Ed K.) (2nd): Conference approve changes to Article X (Finances), Section 3 (Annual Report) in the BY-LAWS of A.R.T.S. Anonymous. [Annual Report now due 60 days after the closed of the Corporation's fiscal year - changed from 120 days.]

Vote on Motion #7: Yes 16, No 1, Abst. 2 - **Passed**
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Serenity Prayer

SESSION #3 & #4 - Friday (9:15 am - 12:45 pm)

Serenity Prayer

Action: WSMR's introduced themselves and gave a description of their meetings and how they are doing, etc.

Action: World Service Trustees and Officers introduced themselves and gave a description of what they do.

Topic: Conference Approval of BY-LAW Changes (continued)

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Motion #8 (Phyllis O.) (2nd): Conference approve all BY-LAW changes by 2/3 vote.

Vote on Motion #8: Yes 17, No 0, Abst. 1 - **Passed**
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Article IV, Board of Directors (Motion #9)

Section 6. OLD May 1996: Sustaining Trustees: Sustaining Trustees are persons employed by the World Service Office. The term of office of each Sustaining Trustee shall be for the same period as the person is employed by the World Service Office to fill his or her respective office.

Section 6. OLD May 1997: Sustaining Trustees: Sustaining Trustees are members chosen for **general service trusteeship** with the kind of business or professional acumen applicable to the needs of A.R.T.S. Anonymous, Inc., e.g., public relations, publishing, or administration.

Section 6. NEW May 2000: Sustaining Trustees: Sustaining Trustees are members chosen for the kind of business or professional acumen applicable to the needs of **the World Service Office of A.R.T.S. Anonymous, Inc., e.g., public relations, publishing, or administration. Each Sustaining Trustee heads up a standing committee (Nominations, Finance & Budget, Public Information, or other) whose function it is to assist the World Service Office in its operations.**

Motion #9 (Arthur M.) (2nd): Conference approve changes to Article IV (Board of Directors), Section 6 (Sustaining Trustees) in the BY-LAWS of A.R.T.S. Anonymous. [Lines 2: “general service trusteeship with” deleted. ... Lines 3-4: “the World Service Office of” inserted. ... Lines 5-8: “Each Sustaining Trustee heads up a standing committee (Nominations, Finance & Budget, Public Information, or other) whose function it is to assist the World Service Office in its operations.” inserted]

Vote on Motion #9: Yes 15, No 2, Abst. 2 - **Passed**

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Article IV, Board of Directors (Motion #10)

Section 8. OLD May 1996: Trustee Vacancy: Any vacancy in the office of a Trustee-at-Large or Regional and International Trustee which occurs in any year between annual meetings of the World Service Business Conference may be filled for the period until the next annual meeting of the World Service Business Conference by the Board of Trustees.

Section 8. NEW May 2000: Trustee Vacancy: Any vacancy in the office of a Trustee-at-Large, **Sustaining**, Regional and International Trustee which occurs in any year between annual meetings of the World Service Business Conference may be filled for the period until the next annual meeting of the World Service Business Conference by the Board of Trustees.

Motion #10 (Paul G.) (2nd): Conference approve changes to Article IV (Meetings), Section 8 (Trustee Vacancy) in the BY-LAWS of A.R.T.S. Anonymous. [Line 2: inserted “Sustaining,”]

Vote on Motion #10: Yes 18, 0 No, 1 Abst. - **Passed**

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Article IV, Board of Directors (Motion #11)

Section 9. OLD May 1996: Length of Service: The maximum length of time any Trustee-at-Large, Regional and International Trustee may service on the Board is three three-year terms which may be consecutive.

Section 9. NEW May 2000: Length of Service: The maximum length of time any Trustee-at-Large, **Sustaining**, Regional and International Trustee may **serve** on the Board is three three-year terms which may be consecutive.

Motion #11 (Jay M.) (2nd): Conference approve changes to Article IV (Board of Trustees), Section 9 (Length of Service) in the BY-LAWS of A.R.T.S. Anonymous. [Line 2-3: insert “Sustaining” and Corporate Secretary correct two typos - “service” to “serve”]

Vote on Motion #11: Yes 16, No 1, Abst. 1 - **Passed**

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Minority opinion: Opposition to term limits.
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Article IV, Board of Directors (Motion #12)
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Section 8. OLD May 1996: Trustee Vacancy: Any vacancy in the office of a Trustee-at-Large or Regional and International Trustee which occurs in any year between annual meetings of the World Service Business Conference may be filled for the period until the next annual meeting of the World Service Business Conference by the Board of Trustees.

Section 8. NEW May 2000: Trustee Vacancy: Any vacancy in the office of a Trustee-at-Large, Sustaining, or Regional, and International Trustee which occurs in any year between annual meetings of the World Service Business Conference may be filled for the period until the next annual meeting of the World Service Business Conference by the Board of Trustees.

Section 8. NEW May 2000: Trustee Vacancy: Any vacancy in the office of a Trustee-at-Large, Sustaining, Regional, or International Trustee which occurs in any year between annual meetings of the World Service Business Conference may be filled for the period until the next annual meeting of the World Service Business Conference by the Board of Trustees.

Motion #12 (Arthur M.) (2nd): Conference approve revisions of changes in Motion #10 to Article IV (Board of Directors), Section 8 (Trustee Vacancies) of the BY-LAWS of A.R.T.S.
Anonymous. [Line 2: delete "or" before "Regional" ; insert comma after "Regional"; replace "and" after the comma after "Regional" with "or".]

Vote on Motion #12: Yes 19, No 0, Abst. 1 - **Passed**
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Article IV, Board of Directors (Motion #13 & #14)
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Section 17. OLD May 1996: Resignation: Any Trustee may resign effective upon giving written notice to the Chairperson of the Board, the Secretary, or the Board of Trustees of the Corporation, unless the notice specifies a later time for the effectiveness of such resignation, in which case such resignation shall be effective at the time specified. Unless such resignation specifies otherwise, its acceptance by the corporation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

If the resignation of a Trustee states that it is to be effective at a future time, a successor may be elected at any time to take office when the resignation becomes effective.

Section 17. NEW May 2000: Resignation: Any Trustee may resign effective upon giving written notice to the Chairperson of the Board, the Secretary, or the Board of Trustees of the Corporation, unless the notice specifies a later time for the effectiveness of such resignation, in which case such resignation shall be effective at the time specified. Unless such resignation specifies otherwise, its acceptance by the corporation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

If the resignation of a Trustee states that it is to be effective at a future time, a successor may be elected at any time to take office when the resignation becomes effective.

Resignation and Reinstatement: Any resignation from the Board of Trustees will be followed by a 14-day grace period within which time the resignation may be rescinded. To ensure proper documentation, all resignations must be filed in hard copy with a signature, and addressed to the Chairperson of the Board, c/o the World Service Office, with copies sent by the World Service Office to all other Trustee. Vacancies shall be filled within 30 days after the end of the grace period.

Motion #13 (Arthur M.) (2nd): Conference approve changes to Article IV (Board of Directors), Section 17 (Resignation) in the BY-LAWS of A.R.T.S. Anonymous. [Paragraph 3: resignation and reinstatement procedure was added.]

Discussion:

- (a) This provision as written allows the Board to be vulnerable to abuse when a Board member resigns and rescinds multiple times.
- (b) The Board needs the option to remove that person if the behavior persists. Resignation should be a final decision, one time only, and not taken lightly. Accepting the commitment to serve as a Trustee should be considered seriously.
- (c) The resigned should have a two week grace period. The wording "Vacancies shall be filled within 30 days" should be changed to "Vacancies shall be filled as soon as possible".
- (d) The resigned should help find his or her replacement.
- (e) The resigned should give proper notice i.e. written resignation letter.
- (f) There was a good reason for this resignation and reinstatement procedure to be put in place although the language could be improved. This BY-LAW change came about because of an assertion made by the Board, at the time of the 1999 WSBC, that the BY-LAWS had no language where a Board member could not be reinstated. Given this reasoning this BY-LAW change is needed.
- (g) A forum should be created so that a Board member considering resignation can resolve their issues with the Board.
- (h) The Board should consider the reinstatement on an individual basis to be determined by the circumstances involved and the behavior of the resigned.
- (I) Make resigning and unresigning a one time deal. Shorten cooling off period from 14 days to 7 days or 72 hours

Motion #13 Withdrawn (Arthur M.): (BY-LAW change referred to in Motion #13 referred to the Board for further study.)

Motion #14 (Jay M.) (2nd): Conference refer changes to Article IV (Board of Directors), Section 17 (Resignation) back to the P&P Standing Committee to be rewritten and be presented to the Board for their approval. The then Board approved change to Article IV (Board of Directors), Section 17 (Resignation) will voted on by the 2001 WSBC.

Vote on Motion #14 Yes 19, No 0, Abst. 1 - **Passed**

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Article V, Meetings (Motion #15 & #16)

Section 1. OLD May 1996 Place and Time of Meetings: **The Board shall meet up to four times a year, but no less than once a year immediately following the World Service Business Conference. The time and place for holding regular meetings shall be fixed by the Board.**

The annual meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be held on the final day of the World Service Convention/Conference in May of each year at such place as is designated by the Board of Trustees, except when special circumstances warrant a change of date of the World Service Convention and Business Conference.

Two other regular meetings of the Board of Trustees may be held each year at a time and place designated by the Chairperson.

In addition, there will be a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees in May of each year, before the Conference, on a date to be determined by the Board of Trustees.

Section 1. NEW May 2000 Place and Time of Meetings: The Board shall meet immediately prior to the annual Conference and again immediately after the close of the annual Convention. Other meetings may be scheduled as needed. The exact dates, times and places of these meetings shall be determined by the Chairperson.

Motion #15 (Jay M.) (2nd): Conference approve changes to Article V (Meetings), Section 1 (Time and Place of Meetings) in the BY-LAWS of A.R.T.S. Anonymous.

Discussion:

- (a) Suggest this go back to the P&P Standing Committee for more clarity as per number of meetings and determination of time and place.
- (b) Language is too vague i.e. what if there is no annual conference for the Board to meet at? How many times should the Board meet in a year?

Motion #15 Withdrawn (Jay M.): Change to BY-LAW not approved by the Conference.

Motion #16 (Jay M.) (2nd): That BY-LAW change to Article V (Meetings), Section 1 (Time and Place of Meetings) go back to the P&P Standing Committee for reconsideration and revision then subsequent review by the Board and sent again to the Conference for their approval.

Vote on Motion #16: Yes 19, No 0, Abst. 1 - **Passed**

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Article VI, Officers (Motion #17)

Section 4. OLD May 1996 Chairperson: The Board of Trustees shall elect a Chairperson of the Board to preside over meetings of the Board, and shall elect a Vice Chairperson to serve in his or her absence. The Chairperson of the Board shall be the chief executive officer of the Corporation and shall, subject to the direction and control of the Board, generally supervise the affairs of the Corporation. The Chairperson shall perform all duties incident to his or her office and such other duties as are provided for in these BY-LAWS or as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Trustees. The Chairperson shall service as ex-officio member, without vote, of all committees.

Section 4. NEW May 2000 Chairperson: The Board of Trustees shall elect a Chairperson of the Board to preside over meetings of the Board, and shall elect a Vice Chairperson to serve in his or her absence. The Chairperson of the Board shall be the chief executive officer of the Corporation and shall, subject to the direction and control of the Board, generally supervise the affairs of the Corporation. The Chairperson shall perform all duties incident to his or her office and such other duties as are provided for in these BY-LAWS or as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Trustees. The Chairperson shall service as ex-officio member, with (see Article VII, Section 4) vote, of all committees.

Motion #17 (Arthur M.) (2nd): Conference approve changes to Article VI (Officers), Section 4 (Chairperson) in the BY-LAWS of A.R.T.S. Anonymous [Change “without” to “with” on line 11 with the insertion afterward of “(see Article VII, Section 4)”. Correct typo on line 11: change “service” to “serve”. Correct typo on line 12: change “of” to “on”.]

Discussion: Does the Chair of the Board vote on committees? The answer is yes as indicated the BY-LAWS Article VII (Committees), Section 4 (Other Committees) which states, “... The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Treasurer (if a Trustee) shall be ex officio members of all such committees, entitled to voice and vote. ...”.

Vote on Motion #17: Yes 12, No 2, Abst. 5 - **Recalled**

Discussion:

- (a) Clarification of how the Chairperson votes on standing committees is already stated in BY-LAW Article VII (Committees), Section 4 (Other Committees).
- (b) The committees act in advisory capacity to the Board. They do not make decisions.

Recall Vote on Motion #17: Yes 19, No 0, Abst. 1 - **Passed**

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Article IX, Miscellaneous (Motion #18 & #19)

Section 1. OLD May 1996 Powers: The Board of Trustees may appoint from time to time any number of persons as advisors of the Corporation to act either **singly** or as a committee or committees. Each advisor shall hold office at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees, and shall have only the authority or obligations as the Board of Trustees may from time to time determine.

Section 1. NEW May 2000 Powers: The Board of Trustees may appoint from time to time any number of persons as advisors of the Corporation to act either **separately** or as **advisors to** a committee or committees. Each advisor shall hold office at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees, and shall have only the authority or obligations as the Board of Trustees may from time to time determine.

Motion #18 (Jay M.) (2nd): Conference approve changes to Article IX (Miscellaneous), Section 1 (Powers) in the BY-LAWS of A.R.T.S. Anonymous.

Motion #18 Withdrawn (Jay M.)

Motion #19 (Arthur M.) (2nd): Changes to Article IX (Miscellaneous), Section 1 (Powers) back to the P&P Standing Committee for reconsider and revision then subsequent review by the Board and the Conference.

Vote on Motion # 19: Yes 18, No 0, Abst. 1 - **Passed**

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VII. Presentation: Slate of Trustees for 2000 - 2001

Action: Arthur M. passed out to the Conference written bio information on everyone included on the Slate of World Service Trustees (pursuant to the suggestion made by Trustee Lou-Ann R.).

VIII. New Business

Topic: Board approved literature pending Conference approval.

Motion #20 (Patti P.) (2nd): 2000 World Service Business Conference approve all Board approved but not Conference approved literature.

Discussion:

- (a) Need time to read over said literature then vote them at 2001 Conference.
- (b) Literature has been circulated for three to six years and has been used during that time. Said literature has had good word of mouth during this time. Need not wait another year.
- (c) Said literature sent out with no objection from the former Board.
- ... (d) What is meant by and what is the process which would make literature "Conference Approved". Would like a demonstration of this be shown.
- (e).. Said Board approved literature should not be voted by the Conference until the participants have fully read and comprehended it.
- (f) Now a Literature Standing Committee in place to send changes to.
- (g) Said literature was offered for review last night so there was some time to read it.
- (h) Conference participants change every year so difficulty in giving Conference seal of approval

Point of Information (Abigail B.): Conference can approve of literature which can be revoked at another Conference.

Vote on Motion #20: Yes 16, No 2, Abst. 1 - **Passed**

Topic: 5/13/00 Marilyn H. letter to the Board regarding

VI Unfinished Business (revisited)

Action: (Di C): read the Marilyn H. 5/13/00 letter to the Conference that made an allegation that the A.R.T.S. Treasurer mishandled funds amounting to \$800.

Point of Information (Kathy V.O.): Upper left-hand corner of the envelope that enclosed the 5/13/00 letter from Marilyn H. (resigned former Trustee since November 1999) was stamped with the A.R.T.S. PO address not personally from Marilyn H.

Action: (Jay M.) handed out to the Conference the transaction report pertaining to the \$800. check referred to in Marilyn H letter and Thanasi read Jay's response to that letter which explained that he, Jay, earlier gave A.R.T.S. an \$800. to cover the hotel costs of the 1998 Conference and Convention while incoming checks had a chance to clear which would cover the expense. Jay reimbursed himself when it was apparent A.R.T.S. had the funds available.

Discussion:

- (a) This letter by implication accused Jay of stealing. No reason for letter to be sent out and inflammatory in nature.
- (b) The constant influx of accusations since 1999 Conference by Marilyn H., which were proved to be unsubstantiated at that conference, have unfairly cast a shadow upon people who have done the most to serve A.R.T.S.

Lunch: (12:45 - 2:00 pm)

(Note: Five individual Conference participants gathered for a working lunch to discuss support for WSMRs, DOLs and Trustees and made a presentation of their findings and recommendations during the New Business portion of the Conference.)

SESSION #5 & #6 - Friday (2:00 pm - 5:00 pm)

VI. Unfinished Business (continued)

Concerns (Fred K.):

- (a) Reference was to the 1999 World Service Business Conference minutes, Motion #9 (Table discussion on Items 2, 3 and 4 of Old Business until the 2000 World Service Business Conference) Ed couldn't reply this concern since he didn't have that agenda handy therefore it was dropped by Fred K. The Items that were to be discussed in Motion #9 were the following:
 - Item 2: Use of the term "fellowship" instead of "groups" in the BY-LAWS.
 - Item 3: Quarterly Reports
 - Item 4: Nominations Committee
- (b) Support re-establishing the Conference Charter Committee to complete the Conference Charter modeling it after the AA Conference Charter in the AA Service Manual to become an A.R.T.S. document.
- (c) 1/7/00 letter sent out to "Dear A.R.T.S. Member:" referring to a platform to be available at the 2000 Conference.

Titles of six Conference 2000 Approved pamphlets (Kathy V.O.): The titles were read to the Conference for the record and are as follows:

- * A Brief Guide to A.R.T.S.
- * Creative Procesz
- * Process vs. Product
- * The Wide Circle of A.R.T.S.
- * Art & Our Spiritual Awakening
- * From Envy to Appreciation
- * Step Sponsorship in A.R.T.S.
- * Thoughts on the Fourth Step
- * When Your Work Is Your Worth
- * How A.R.T.S. Began by Abigail B.
- * Step One: A Letter from Our Founder
- * Personal Stories: Volume 1 (A.R.T.S. members' recovery stories)
- * A.R.T.S. World Muse 1983-93 (collection of A.R.T.S. newsletters)
- * How to Keep Small Meetings Alive (a 1995 Conference transcript)

Proposal (Abigail B.) Create a BY-LAW giving WSMRs a time limit of two years to give or not give approve of Board approved literature already in circulation to the fellowship. If said literature not voted on or if no complaints are filed in that time, it will automatically become Conference approved. That approval can be revoked at a later conference.

VIII. New Business (revisited)

Topic: Welcoming the Newcomer

Presentation (Thanasi): Proposed the concept of pressure relief groups or Dream Plan Group (DPG) modeled after Debtors Anonymous (DA) and Gamblers Anonymous (GA) that are already functioning at a Thursday NYC A.R.T.S. meeting and geared to the newcomer. A DPG is comprised of a male and a female facilitator, the person being helped and Higher Power. The purpose is to come up with an idealized plan then use with the DPG in actualizing it by first formulating an action plan. The eligibility requirement is for a prospective DPG sponsee attend a least six regular meetings of a participating A.R.T.S. group which demonstrates person's commitment. The DPG would meet once every one or two months to engage in spiritual brainstorming geared toward realizing the person being helped's dream. Thanasi and Marcus are already engaged in implementing this tool and will give their findings at a later date.

Discussion - Attracting Newcomers:

- (a) Use DA pressure relief group pamphlets.
- (b) Have meeting outreach person to maintain connection with the newcomer - no pressure.
- (c) Use a "we care book" and art buddy concept.
- (d) Utilize what is already in A.R.T.S. to offer to the newcomer, i.e. the Tools.
- (e) Newcomer complaint - 'clique' of regulars / veterans formed after the meeting adjourns.
- (f) Implement a program of sponsorship.
- (g) Qualifications important to the newcomer and they should be encouraged to qualify.
- (h) Welcome newcomers at the end of the meeting.
- (i) Have more free and/or discounted literature available. Large quantities of free literature would increase attendance at meetings and enable effective outreach.
- (j) Meeting list and Basic Pamphlet are already given out for free to newcomers.
- (k) Provide literature, workshops and other outreach geared to artist related professionals. This year a new pamphlet was circulated called "Therapists Guide to A.R.T.S."
- (l) "The Big Book" and "A.R.T.S. and Letters" will help orient the newcomer.
- (m) Provide the newcomer with A.R.T.S. member stories of recovery.

Topic: Support for the Professional Artist

Discussion:

- (a) Examples already in place i.e. NYC Wednesday P.L.A.N. W.I.T.H A.R.T.S. meeting and Thursday meeting with focus on being a professional artist with a definitive project being worked.
- (b) Potential future markets for A.R.T.S.: Seniors; Teens, Ex-patients of Psyche Wards, Artists with sensitive body chemistries, Blocked artists
- (b) Create specialized, focused A.R.T.S. groups i.e. Professional Artists of A.R.T.S.
- (c) Produce literature for these groups.
- (d) Find demographic groups that would be receptive i.e. mental hospitals, prisons, etc.
- (e) Develop professional artist criteria.
- (f) Follow restricted meeting format.
- (g) Replace word amateur with anorexic. Should not denigrate amateur when elevating the professional
- (h) Anorexic > Amateur > Professional.

Motion #21 (Phyllis O.) (2nd): In the Basic Pamphlet, Trait 7 immediately replace word amateur with word avoidance.

Discussion:

- ...(a)..Word anorexic refers to an eating disorder which should apply to a blocked artist.
- (b) Avoid using catch phrases like amateur syndrome, which have a dehumanizing effect and inaccurate images, and just state the problem plainly.
 - (c) This phrase will last a long time will need careful rewording.
 - (d) Fellowship should become involved in this change.
 - (e) Definition of the word amateur read from the dictionary - a lover of something passionately. The word should not be identified with a fear of commitment to becoming professional, i.e. earning a living from your art.
 - (f) This matter also should be referred to the Literature Committee.

Motion #21 Withdrawn

Motion #22 (Arthur M.) (2nd): Refer to the Fellowship for one year the change of the word amateur to the word avoidance in Trait 7 of the Basic Pamphlet and discuss using or not using the word syndrome. This issue will be voted on by the 2001 WSBC.

Discussion:

- (a) Question: why this particular literature is singled out for this change.
- (b) Answer: the word amateur is given a negative connotation of said pamphlet and is being compared being less than professional

Vote on Motion #22: Yes 18, No 1, Abst. 0 - **Passed**

Topic: Outreach to the Suffering Artist

Discussion:

- (a) Tape qualifications and make available for artists still suffering and reluctant to attend a meeting.
- (b) Form beginners meetings or reserve a segment for beginners at the regular meeting.
- (c) Have available an A.R.T.S. business card to hand out.
- (d) DOLs and meeting contacts need receive guidance from World Service in using the literature.
- (e) Suggest reserving fifth week of the month for groups to take inventory on what works and doesn't work with regard to outreach.
- (f) Utilize Step workbooks now being developed.
- (g) The organization needs to get ready for a massive influx of new members.
- (h) Send out our newsletter, "A.R.T.S. and Letters," to all meetings and use as an outreach tool.
- (i) A.R.T.S. organization get ready for increased numbers of new members;
- (j) Assemble a 'How To Start A Meeting' kit.
- (k) A.R.T.S. Anonymous web page and A.R.T.S. On-line together have great outreach potential - form link between the two.

Discussion: A.R.T.S. On-line:

- (a) It is a contemporary outreach area for A.R.T.S. that the organization should have.
- (a) A.R.T.S. On-line is not a structure like an A.R.T.S. meeting - Jay M. has complete control of content. Should A.R.T.S. be affiliated with A.R.T.S. On-line this given these facts?
- (b) Jay M. stated A.R.T.S. and A.R.T.S. On-line have unofficial links to each other and that A.R.T.S. On-line has a disclaimer that it is not in association with A.R.T.S. Anonymous. It is a collection of members who communicate by e-mail to each other. An e-mail from one goes to all.

Point of Information (Abigail B.): There are available free listings of all Twelve Step and other self-help programs. Computer link not needed.

Motion #23 (Jay M.) (2nd): A.R.T.S. Anonymous web page officially link with A.R.T.S. On-line with appropriate disclaimer.

Discussion:

- (a) Is the link consistent with A.R.T.S. Concepts, Traditions and Attitudes ???
- (b) There is a need for clarification and legal advice pertaining to the disclaimer.
- (c) A.R.T.S. related communications presented A.R.T.S. On-line monitored by Jay M. would also need Board approval.
- (d) link has outreach potential i.e. unofficial on-line A.R.T.S. meeting with potential risks to A.R.T.S.
- (e) Jay would monitor site but could not guarantee e-mail communications would not be used inappropriately according to A.R.T.S. principles. They can say what they want although Jay can block their transmission and or remove their registration to the site. Jay would not be responsible, however, as a Trustee monitor.
- (g) A lot of unknowns here. Should A.R.T.S. consult legal counsel regarding this matter of official links and address the need for regulation of e-mail content.

Vote on Motion #23: Yes 6, No 9, Abst. 4 - **Defeated**

Topic: Support for WSMR & Trustees

Action: Arthur handed out WSMR letter of appreciation and blank service applications to the Conference participants. Arthur pointed out that WSMRs are an important part of the World Service process.

Discussion: Fellowship and WSMR e-mail communication link to the World Service Board and World Service Office is now established via Jay M.'s e-mail address.

Presentation: Di C., spokesperson of the "Working Lunch" gathering held at the Ocean Pavilion Restaurant, gave the report of the five member group's discussion which, in summary, concerned the following:

- (a) A roster of full names and address of all Conference participants to be made available before the end of the 2000 Conference.
- (b) World Service Trustees and Officers be more supportive of and communicative with WSMRs, program-wide, keeping them equally informed of World Service activities as are WSMRs attending the Conference with reports issued to all WSMRs on a regular, timely basis.

- (c) Allow more WSMR involvement in the business of World Service, i.e. utilize the Conference Charter and all A.R.T.S. corporate manuals and handbooks.
- (d) Allow WSMRs access to all the directories, records, and archives of under the trusteeship of the World Service Board.
- (e) Corroborate the WSMR service description with that prepared and presented at the 1995 World Service Business Conference
- (f) Receive the Conference agenda before the Conference and have scheduled a pre-Conference gathering for WSMRs to communicate with each another.

Discussion:

- (a) The World Service already issues an annual report and the newsletter, "A.R.T.S. & Letters", and queries can be sent to the Board through the World Service Office.
- (b) The BY-LAWS and World Service manuals and handbooks can be purchased by WSMRs with these moneys supporting the cost of their reproduction and mailing.
- (c) An undertone of confrontation noted - WSMRs have the right to closely monitor the Board's activities - A.R.T.S. is a "bottom up" organization; (d) Orientation needed for new WSMRs.
- (e) Noted that most of the Board members were WSMRs themselves and are sensitive to WSMR issues.
- (f) Lots of work was done by the current Board since the last Conference to undo the damage done by the former Board, mainly the rebuilding of the service structure i.e. recruiting and training of new Board members and establishment of working Standing Committees.
- (g) Acknowledged was the need to improve communications between WSMRs and the World Service Board with a call for patience.
- (h) Noted was the importance of reestablishing a Conference Charter Committee (independent of the Board) which would finalize the wording of the Conference Charter.

IX. Closing

Motion #24 (Arthur M.) (2nd): Conference approve the Slate of Trustees, May 2000 to May 2001, presented as follows:

Sustaining Trustees

Thanasi A.	Conference & Convention	Chair
Jay M.	Budget & Finance	Vice Chair
Ed S.	Policy & Procedures	
Arthur M.	Nominations	

Regional Trustees

Fred K.	Eastern
Linda C.	Central
Patti P.	Western
Lou-Ann R.	International

Trustee(s) at Large

Tom R.

Trustee Emeritus

Abigail B.	Literature & Public Information
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Vote on Motion #24: Yes 18, No 0, Abst. 1 - **Passed**

Gratitude around the Table

Serenity Prayer

CONFERENCE 2000 ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted,

Ed S.
Corporate Secretary

Date: