

A.R.T.S. Anonymous Inc.
Conference Reports
2005

ARTS Anonymous 2005 WS Conference Minutes

A meeting of the World Service Conference Delegates of A.R.T.S. Anonymous was held on Monday, May 23, 2005 at 10:45 a.m. in the Manchester Inn, Ocean Grove, NJ.

In Attendance:

<p>WSMRs -WORLD SERVICE MEETING REPRESENTATIVES Craig - Wed NYC Gretchen - PA Dawn M. - NJ Susan N. Sat NY Garry N. - Mon NY Gineen - MA</p>	<p>A.R.T.S. BOARD OF TRUSTIEES/DIRECTORS Frank Lagerstedt: Chairperson, Trustee At Large* Eva A.: Special Events, Sustaining Trustee David P.: Finance & Treasurer, Sustaining Trustee Carol H.: Corporate Secretary, Sustaining Trustee Don T.: Eastern Region, Regional Trustee Margi Briggs-Lofton.: Trustee At Large*</p>	<p>TRUSTEE EMERITUS Abigail B.</p> <p>CONSULTANT Shari E.- Western Region Liaison</p>
<p>* Trustee-At-Large are non-A.R.T.S. member Trustees chosen for their business experience. They are referred to by their full name. Only A.R.T.S. members can be Sustaining Trustees or Regional Trustees, and their last names are respected with a mention of their first letter. Sustaining Trustees manage A.R.T.S. headquarter operations and are chosen because they live within commuting distance to the NYC office and Board meetings. Regional Trustees are the first contact for meeting concerns; they help new meetings get started, and answering meeting concerns that do not relate to the A.R.T.S. office. Regional Trustees can be located anywhere in the world as long as they can be on conference call when the Board of Trustees meets.</p>		

10:00 AM

Chairperson Frank Lagerstedt led the meeting.
 Corporate Secretary Carol H. took the minutes.

Meeting Called to order.

Each WSMR in attendance checked in describing the health of their home meeting.

MOTION 1

To approve the conference agenda as presented
 VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION 2

To accept the minutes for the 2004 WS Conference as presented
 VOTE: 8 -Yea 2 - Abstain

Serenity prayer

ARTS Anonymous 2005 WS Conference Minutes

Chairperson's Opening Remarks

Frank L. made general remarks as to some of the accomplishments and improvements of the past year. He highlighted the Website as more professional and user friendly. as well as having the A.R.T.S. phone line in the office and the office having internet access, all of which will allow us to communicate more easily. He went on to state, that for a time we were turning a corner, now we have turned the corner and we can move ahead. He looks forward to the next year with hope.

Trustee Reports

David P - Finance & Treasurer Report

David P. discussed the 2004 financial statements. Most of the A.R.T.S. income comes from personal donations and special events not from meeting contributions

Literature Expenses were \$2014.16 for 2004 and Literature Revenue was nearly the same.

Comparative P&L - David P. pointed out that there was a decrease in literature sales and meeting donations. There was an increase in special events revenue. Overall profit was identical last year to this year.

The Year-End Appeal for 2003 brought in \$1,829; however this year as of Jan 31, 2004, the Year End Appeal brought in \$5,240, for an increase of \$4,190. Most of the money is coming in from personal donations. Loss of several large donors would negatively impact the organization. The organization should have a broader base of support. Frank added that meeting contributions should cover basic office expenses. Dependency on a few people donations is not healthy.

There is a possible decrease in the number of A.R.T.S. meetings - Garry mentioned it might be a good idea to take an inventory on how many meetings there are. Abigail said that the meeting registration form also asks how many people come to the meeting. David pointed out that we began this year, 2005, with \$6,463. Abigail suggested trying to track meeting donations. That we need a detailed report about how much money the meetings contribute.

Eva A. - Special Events

Eva discussed the success of the 20th Birthday Party and Halloween Celebration in NYC.

She reported that for the 2004 Convention there were 90 people at convention, with 1/3 of them newcomers. This year there are over 90-95 attendees and a good many are newcomers.

Abigail B. -Literature Report

Abigail reported on how the writing of the books was going and said that A.R.T.S. needs a new Trustee to take responsibility for our general literature. Abigail explained the approval process for literature, noting that some A.R.T.S. literature was written a long time ago and needs to be revised. Our general literature needs refreshing. Frank explained process of literature approval that was put together to stay democratic and inclusive with the fellowship. We need to be guided by the 12 Traditions/Concepts.

ARTS Anonymous 2005 WS Conference Minutes

Abigail reported on the International Translations - Germany sent request to use translation in book. Frank brought up 2 issues:

1. Do the translations reflect what we mean (verb tense)
2. Who sells the translations? (French, German, Italian)

A general discussion of the process that DA uses to create and approve literature was conducted. DA literature committee writes literature; then it is submitted to the WSMRs and who bring their comments to the Business Conference. All literature is read before the Conference and then voted on: to approve or not approve. Eva clarified that as to what happened when we revised the Basic Pamphlet.

Gretchen said in DA early days the literature process was very streamlined - 4 people wrote and approved it. David thought it was a great idea to have a literature committee to review old and new literature. Abigail's only concern was to have some input with the committee regarding the literature to be revised, based on her knowledge of the A.R.T.S. recovery process. Craig, Shari, Dawn, and Susan volunteered to be on the literature committee and work with Abigail.

Public Information – Trustee

No one currently occupies the position.

PR Relations and the Psychiatric Professional Community – Trustee

No one currently occupies the position.

Don T. – Eastern Region – Trustee

Don T. discussed the various aspects of his position including communicating with the meetings, providing support with fellowship questions, and answering members' concerns. He attends new meetings if they are within driving distance to provide stability and direction.

Western Region – Trustee

The position is presently vacant. Shari E. will take over the Western Region as a consultant to the Board with the goal of re-establishing contact with CA. Eva acknowledged the service that the former Western Region Trustee, Patti P. gave, who recently resigned, but who continues to do the work until the Board finds someone to fill the position.

MOTION 3

Break for Lunch

VOTE: Unanimous

ARTS Anonymous 2005 WS Conference Minutes

1:30 PM Meeting Resumed

WSO office Report – Garry N.

Garry N. discussed his main victory – installation of the A.R.T.S. hotline into the A.R.T.S. office with internet access. Next year goals include the development of a database of members and improving it. Other goals include the tracking of the number of meetings more thoroughly. Board is grateful for Garry's service.

New Business

MOTION 4

To accept slate of Trustees for 2005 as presented

VOTE: 7 – YEA

MOTION 5

To accept vision and mission as presented

VOTE: 11 – YEA

Committee of the whole

Frank L. began the discussion by outlining a Board proposal to separate the Conference and Convention. A discussion ensued with most of the room not in favor of separation, citing extra traveling costs and investment of time. There is a convenience to having both together, and the pleasure of the convention sets the tone for the conference. The consensus was not to separate the two.

Topic: Outreach Discussion

Frank L. began discussion topic – How do we provide a supportive structure for new meetings? The delegates engaged in a general discussion of the topic including, extending a hand of friendship and invite new people to come and fellowship. All meetings should designate a greeter. Attraction not promotion should be a guiding principle. Suggestion that we post various meeting formats on the web. Additionally, have two meetings become “sister” meetings to each other. Have an ARTS version of the AA a packet of material that goes to newcomers right away. We should have a way to keep people without meetings engaged through the efforts of the office. Suggest a bill board on the web. Have extra copies of the pamphlet “how to start a meeting” on meeting tables.

The discussion turned to the creation of actionable items from the proceeding discussion.

Pamphlet “How to get a meeting started” on the internet

Garry - Create a new piece of literature, a pamphlet on how to run a meeting

Gretchen – finds having a long meeting format clearly spelled makes the process of running a meeting very simple, and it helps the newcomer who is just starting a meeting find their way through

Offer some free literature on our website – most 12 step websites have some free lit.

ARTS Anonymous 2005 WS Conference Minutes

Craig suggested we create a definition of what ARTS is – so it could be used in discussions with prospective new members.

Dawn – have newcomer’s packet.

Abigail – a lot of the meetings buy the Basic pamphlet and give it out to the new comers.

David – newcomer packets should be on the website for people to download for free.

Topic: Online Meeting Discussion

How do we start an online meeting for the people who do not have a meeting?

Carol – supports having internet meetings as well as conference call meetings

Don – we would have to have rules and guidelines that A.R.T.S. sets, and a meeting format so it would project what we want it to project. For an online meetings – we would need a long time A.R.T.S. member who has good recovery to monitor and support it.

Gineen – has experience with using conference call – but the down side is that it is a burden and a service that no one wants to do.

Eva – whether its conference call or online meeting, we don’t need to monitor it but we could support it.

Abigail – Regarding meeting disturbances, AA has a pamphlet about how to handle meeting troublemakers – group members need to protect the common welfare of the group and make sure it is safe for every one to share. How would that work with meetings on line?

Frank said it would be good to pilot the program with someone from ARTS who has the long-term recovery and could help to get meetings started.

Other Issues

Shari – we could have a PRG (Pressure Relief Group) for ARTS members who are stuck and living small. Abigail – the Wednesday P.L.A.N. meeting in NYC has a commitment sheet where members must articulate their vision and create an action plan. The DA definition for a Pressure Relief Group is : 2 solvent people, male and female, get together outside the meeting and they go over all your issues. You show up with your agenda – pressures – they give you feedback – then you decide what actions you’re going to do. At the next PRG meeting you report on the actions you took and how they went. PRGs are about “what we can do now.”

How do we get members more involved with our literature? says that books are what sell – Maybe we could put our pamphlets into a book, put together our own Artist’s Way.

Summary

Frank said that we moved things forward and accomplished a lot in a short time. Hopes we can all work together more closely throughout the coming year.

Closed with gratitude and a vision by each attendee.

4:52 Meeting Adjourned