

A.R.T.S. Anonymous Inc.
Conference Reports
2006

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A.R.T.S. Anonymous envisions a world where each individual's creativity is cherished as innate, unique and divinely inspired. Sharing our gifts evokes the best within us and is vital to a world of joy, abundance and love.

2006 World Service Conference Ocean Grove, New Jersey May 22nd, 2006

PARTICIPANTS (present):

Trustees

Frank Lagerstedt, Chair, T@L
Eva A. – Special Events, ST
David P – Finance/Treasury, ST
Don T – Eastern Region, RT

WSMRs

Dawn D – NJ
Mary F – NJ
Craig R – NY (Sat)
Ed S – NY (Tue)
Sherrie L – NY (Mon)
Gineen C – W.MA

Consultants

Shari E – West Coast

Committees

Bill W – Literature

MEETING CONVENED: 10:00 AM

INTRODUCTIONS (highlights of comments made)

- [Sherrie L – NY(Mon)] Attendance dropped to about 10 from about 15-20 participants. Core group busy doing other things.
- [Craig R – NY (Sat)] Group is testing reading Step Books one Saturday per month. All other Saturdays "The Artist's Way" by Julia Cameron is used as the reading text. Have diverse range of participants attending.
- [Gineen C – W.MA] Have "Hearts and Lions" service sign-up sheet with no requirements for service. Have had format difficulties: (a) Vision meeting once a month; (b) Step work once a month. Getting complaints with regard to the work books.
- [Don T., Eastern Region, RT] Astoria, Queens meeting is on hiatus.

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APPROVE AGENDA:

Motion 1: (Ed S.) (2nd) Accept 2006 Conference agenda as amended:

- Discussion on split of conference and convention (Sherrie L.) added to new business.

Vote on Motion 1: (Yes – 8) (No – 0) (Abst. – 0) **Passed**

APPROVE MINUTES (last conference)

Motion 2: (Ed S.) (2nd) Accept 2005 Conference minutes as amended:

- Committee of the Whole – second sentence changed to, “A discussion was had that showed strong feelings on both sides of the issue. No official vote was taken.
- Other Issues – first sentence changed to, “Shari – we could have a PRG (Pressure Relief Group) for the ARTS organization for members who are stuck and living small.”

Vote on Motion 2: (Yes – 6) (No – 0) (Abst. – 2) **Passed**

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

- Board Chairperson [Frank Lagerstedt, Chair, T@L]

Would like trustee reports to be informal with Q&A. Conventions are magical but don't translate into the growth of meetings or service. This year people stepped up for service at events.

- Finance and Budget [David P, Finance/Treasury, ST]

Average income for the organization in all quarters income in 2005 was \$2,000. This figure was largely supported by two donations of \$2,000 each. Income is not supported by the membership. Prudent reserve is questionable. General operations supported by membership. General financial status same as 2005. Convention was the largest income.

- Special Events [Eva A, Special Events, ST]

2005 Convention balance sheet: income = \$7,863.; expenses = \$3,668; profit = \$4,195. Seventy five (75) people attended the 2006 Convention –

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same as last year while the cost of space increased 100%. Conference registration fee of \$25, which was not implemented this year, will be reinstated next year. **Halloween Party balance sheet:** income = \$872.; expenses = \$663.; profit = \$229. Special Events account is separate from the WSO Office, which is funded by literature sales and meeting donations.

Informal standing committees were set up with people stepping up for service. [Mary F and Ed S were acknowledged for helping with the 2006 Conference.]. Introduction of two such standing committees made: Conference Special Events (Mary F, Ed S) and Book / Literature (Bill W, Craig, David P, Shari E).

Other events: (a) retreats are not happening; (b) internationally, Germany has taken an initiative to set up "round up meetings" by merging existing online meetings – consider English translation.

- Website Status [Frank Lagerstedt for Carol H., Corporate Secretary, SL]

Tech-related updates make up most of the "To Do's" at Board meetings, which go to Carol H. Bill W has been available to help with enabling search engines to pick up ARTS. Carol organized the conference call meeting. Recommend appointing a website committee.

- Eastern Region [Don T., Eastern Region, RT]

Inquiries mostly from the internet. Some come from the Office and some from phone calls. Most contacts don't materialize into anything. Have been taking all inquiries from all regions. Would like others to fill the vacant Regional Trustee positions covering the Western Region and International Region.

- Fundraising, Outreach & Year-end Appeals [Eva A for Margi Briggs-Lofton, T@L]

Margi has extensive experience with non-profit organizations.

- Literature [Frank Lagerstedt. & Literature Committee – Bill W, Craig R, David P,]

[& Shari E]

Frank introduced the members of the Literature Committee. The committee reported that some literature needed updating and that focus was dedicated to the "Book" project headed by Abigail B. It is anticipated that the project will take between one and two years to complete

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- World Service Office [Frank Lagerstedt for Gary N, Office Manager, WSO]

New donated computer arrived. Computer is now able to go online and the WSO has an email address. Transition from old to new computer has been difficult.

- General Comments

Conference and convention mailings should go out earlier.

Need for a convention preparation committee.

Vendors' uncertainty was the cause of some of the delays in the convention preparation.

Motion 3: (Eva A.) (2nd) Move to break at 12 Noon then re-adjourn at 12:30 PM for lunch.

Vote on Motion 3: (Yes – 7) (No – 0) (Abst. – 0) **Passed**

LUNCH BREAK: 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

OLD BUSINESS:

- None Reported

NEW BUSINESS:

- Separation of Conference and Convention [Sherrie L, NY (Mon)]

Sherrie L introduced a letter to the Conference and lead the discussion on why the conference and convention should be separated. Among the suggestions and comments were the following:

The conference become a weekend event with lots of time for business (breaking out in small groups) and plan fun activities around business meeting. Even spread it out over a week.

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Burn-out is a factor when the two events are joined. Different time allows for more focus.

Attract more people – International reps when held in NYC. Meaning of conference is for people from “outside.”

Have conference in the summer, in a different city, different country, i.e. Germany.

Don T was the first trustee to split the conference and convention. Too much work when together. If split, a mailing should be sent to the fellowship so they can confirm.

Affordability a factor when split; although less time taken from jobs.

Fellowship should not be surveyed. This small group that showed up should decide. Organization decisions not driven by polls.

Form committee to find strategies for attracting more delegates to the conference in the following ways: (a) special collections for delegate scholarships like in DA; (b) have more socializing at business meeting with small break out groups; (c) make business meetings more interesting by finding pro-bono keynote speakers that get people excited in membership growth (d) research what works for other 12 Step programs; (e) use polling as an outreach tool; (f) more meetings equals more delegates; (g) create more possibilities for service; (h) voice equals service at conventions – for those who show up.

Display “report card” on 2006 Conference on ARTS website.

Plan year to year with regard to coupling or separating the conference and convention.

Motion 4: (Gineen C) (2nd) Group is unanimous on de-linking the conference and convention and are hereby separated. The next conference will be held in New York City for 2007.

Vote on Motion 4: (Yes – 8) (No – 0) (Abst. – 0) **Passed**

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- Group Writing Exercises [Prepared by Margi B.-L. and facilitated by Eva A]

- I Three things about ARTS you love.
- II Three issues for ARTS to address next.
- III Find three uses for a \$10,000. donation to ARTS.
- IV List what an individual and group can do to increase attendance and support from the membership for the organization.

(Results of the writing exercises were read by some participants while others passed.)

- Resources: How to Increase Value [Frank Lagerstedt, Chair, T@L]

What is ARTS worth to you? How can the impact ARTS has had on your life be given a value, i.e. dollars or service given? What is the balance?

Answers recorded were the following:

(a) small monthly tithing of \$5.00 or \$10.00; (b) actualize the concept of organization being run by the membership with its responsibilities; (c) tier system of reward for giving; (d) dispel money taboo myth; (e) inspiration needed; (f) attention to abundance thinking – change culture of poverty; (g) have literature which shows how the organization functions and where the money goes; (h) give until it hurts; (i) money and pain should not be connected; (j) individuals and reps go back to the group to raise consciousness of the value of ARTS;

- Book Project & Literature Changes [Bill W, Craig R, David P, Shari E]

Craig R made presentation and display model of how the Book will look like (red cover) and a draft table of contents. The goal of the literature committee is to have a first draft of the Book ready for delegate / board approval by the next conference. A give and take discussion followed with the main points and comments as follows.

(a) sell book on www.lulu.com and publish on demand; (b) spread by word of mouth; (c) issues to think about; (d) create new stories; (e) clearly define Avoidant Phobic Syndrome; (f) collaborative editing process encouraged; (g) make price affordable; (h) table of contents gives good sense of what the completed work will be; (i) views will differ which is okay – committee invites concerns and will rise above disagreements; (j) Book committee need new personal stories; (k) approval procedure needed at a certain point; (l) first

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draft will be ready by 2007 with deadlines for copies to the board and delegates; (m) key pamphlets – guts of the program – should be articulated; (n) get something on the “shelves.” (n) have inclusive review process that is manageable – keep it simple.

- How to Attract Successful Artists [Ed S, NY (Tue)]

Full attention to this topic was tabled for another time although there was a brief discussion with the highlights as follows:

(a) have more free downloads of literature describing the program; (b) put ad / public service message on radio and TV – with artists who struggled in the past with now recognizable voices; (c) “endorsement:” (d) celebrity “sensationalism” inspires.

Motion 5: (Ed S.) (2nd) Accept Slate of Trustees as presented on the hand-outs issued to the 2006 Conference participants.

Vote on Motion 5: (Yes – 4) (No – 0) (Abst. – 0) **Passed**

CLOSING STATEMENTS (highlights of comments made)

- Did a lot.
- Still much to do.
- Amazing weekend.
- Conference formed a core.

SERENITY PRAYER

MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:00 PM

Recorders: Ed S. (General Meeting)
Mary F. (Motions)

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