

*A.R.T.S. Anonymous Inc.*  
*Conference Reports*  
*2012*

## MINUTES OF THE 2012 WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE

February 11, 2012  
12 noon – 3 p.m.  
New York City and by Conference Call

*Minutes were modified at the 2014 conference.*

### PARTICIPANTS (present):

#### Trustees

Frank Lagerstedt  
Eva A.  
Margi Briggs-Lofton  
David P.  
Ed S.  
Don T.

#### Founder

Abigail B.

#### WSMRs

\*Anna (London)  
\*Dave (Oregon)  
David S. (NYC)  
\*Debbie (Montana)  
\*Debbie (Bronx, NY)  
\*Denise R.  
\*Jennie (Missouri)  
\*John L. (Connecticut)  
\*Liz R. (California)  
\*Marie (NYC)  
\*Rima  
Val G. (NYC)  
Victoria S. (NYC)

#### Non-Voting Members

\*Jacob (London)

#### Office

Garry N.

*\*Indicates phone participant*

1. The meeting convened at 12:10 p.m. and opened with the Serenity Prayer.
2. A.R.T.S. Chairperson Frank Lagerstedt opened the meeting and welcomed all participants to the A.R.T.S.'s first-ever phone-in Conference, and thanked everyone for their support of the program.
3. All attendees introduced themselves and gave a brief report on the status of their meeting:

David S.: Saturday Artists' Way, NYC. In existence since 1995, 54 people on email list with an average of 4-10 attendees per meeting. The meeting passes a second basket for WSO and is in good health.

Val G.: Friday Plan Meeting, NYC. In existence for 12 years, with attendance of 8-10 people per meeting. Passes second basket for WSO.

Victoria S.: Monday Night Phone Meeting. In existence for a few years, with 5-12 participants per meeting. Follows the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition and makes 5 Alive announcements.

Anna, London Meeting. In existence for 14 months, with 25 members and attendance of 15 per meeting. The meeting shares and does readings, and does not yet pass a second basket.

John L.: Monday Step Phone Meeting. In existence for 7 months and does Step study with the founder. Currently not passing second basket.

Marie: Tuesday Phone Meeting. Has 4-10 participants per meeting. Format is a 20-minute meditation, then sharing and the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition.

Debbie: Saturday 10 A.M. Meeting. In existence for seven years.

Dave: Thursday Night Oregon Meeting. The meeting began in the early 1990s and has attendance of 4 -15 people, usually about 8 per meeting. Format is Traits/Tools, Steps/Traditions and ArtShares. It passes a second basket.

Jenny: Springfield, Missouri Meeting. In existence since 2003. The meeting usually has 4-11 participants but lately has been in survival mode. It does not currently pass the second basket.

4. The Minutes of the previous Conference were not available, so approval was waived.

5. Frank stated that the Trustee Reports were included in the information that was emailed to all WSMRs and asked the trustees simply to add any additional comments that they would like to make as they introduced themselves. The Trustees and their positions are listed below.

Frank Lagerstedt, Chairperson (non-A.R.T.S. Trustee)  
Eva A., Trustee, Special Events  
Margi Briggs-Lofton, Acting Corporate Secretary and non-A.R.T.S. Trustee  
David P., Trustee and Treasurer  
Ed S., Conference Trustee  
Don T., Worldwide Fellowship Liaison

#### Treasurer's Report – David P.

David recapped the financial reports that had been distributed (attached hereto), which show an operating deficit of \$2,868 for fiscal year 2011. A.R.T.S. has been operating at a deficit for several years, which is becoming larger as expenses increase and income does not grow accordingly. In order to meet its operating costs, A.R.T.S. has had to borrow from its reserve fund, and the total cash position at the end of 2011 is \$XXXX.

David stressed that A.R.T.S. depends heavily on personal donations from a small group of individuals and that to be self-supporting we need to increase contributions from individual members and meeting donations.

Conference participants reviewed the operating budget and questioned various expense items, which were discussed. There was a suggestion that the Trustees find ways to reduce costs, including items such as transportation to the Convention. It was explained that the Trustees do not spend any A.R.T.S. money on themselves but that at times it is necessary to rent a car to transport all the boxes and equipment needed for the Convention from NYC to Ocean Grove. Every effort is made to keep costs as low as possible and still keep A.R.T.S. functional. A.R.T.S. is fortunate to have a very low rent, especially for New York City, but many expenses are fixed and beyond our control: insurance, Convention rentals, phone and internet connections, etc. Dave stated that he has been in private business for years and sees nothing out of line in the A.R.T.S. budget.

There was also some discussion about the use of PayPal as a means for phone meetings to contribute via the A.R.T.S. website. We have had some trouble getting PayPal functional but expect that to be worked out soon. Further discussion about how to raise money to offset the deficit and literature cost and distribution were deferred to the new business section of the agenda.

#### Literature Report - Abigail B.

Founder Abigail B. stated that literature is progressing well and that an A.R.T.S. "Big Book" is in the works. A question was raised about the current literature approval status, as there are several pieces of literature that have not yet been Conference approved as required in the by-laws. This was discussed and it was explained that the process by which literature is approved by the membership has not been working: there is not enough membership participation in the process and therefore the process is extremely slow and unproductive. The Board decided two years ago that it was important to keep producing literature for the membership, and that lack of Conference approval should not prohibit the creation and distribution of literature – but this new literature is not presented as Conference approved, in keeping with the By-Laws. We welcome member involvement and comments, but people have to do the work and stay involved for this to happen. This is something the Board will discuss in more detail at a future meeting.

#### Office Manager Report - Garry N.

A.R.T.S. Office Manager Garry N. spoke briefly about his work and asked all participants to make sure that he has updated contact information for their meetings.

#### 6. Comments, Questions, Answers and Motions

One participant was upset that her phone meeting had not received information about the Conference. Information was sent by email to all the contacts on the A.R.T.S. list. A.R.T.S. apologized for any confusion and made sure that all participants have the correct email contact for our office manager: [artsofficemanager@yahoo.com](mailto:artsofficemanager@yahoo.com). We will check the website as well to make sure that all contact information is clear and easily visible.

Concerns were also expressed about the fact that there is no phone meeting format posted on the website. The Board will do this.

It was also suggested that Board members participate in the phone meetings. The idea of holding a separate business meeting for the phone meetings (an intergroup or phone bridge meeting) was raised, and merits further discussion. Denise R. volunteered to lead the phone bridge meeting and also to connect A.R.T.S. to Outreach for Disabled Artists.

## 7. New Business

### a. How to raise more money to offset operating deficit?

There were many suggestions on how to approach this, which are listed below. It was agreed that attracting more members is a good way to increase contributions, so outreach ideas are included as well.

- holding fund drives, with very specific income goals, to increase awareness of our needs: provide clear information
- WSMRs need to actively let meeting participants know that they need to partner with A.R.T.S. to sustain the program
- stressing that each person has to contribute a little more to erase the deficit – possibly set “suggested” donation levels to give members a clearer sense of our need, while still allowing people to give what they can
- frame giving more money to A.R.T.S. in terms of recovery – even if someone is successful and has “graduated” from the program, they should still contribute – some form of artist tithing
- have a regular get-together at a member’s home to do an “Art Day” where members work on their art together
- create outreach packets
- create a page on the website for meetings to share ideas, photos and progress
- increase use of sponsorship in A.R.T.S.
- hold talent shows to increase interest
- meetings should hold a mini-A.R.T.S. day in conjunction with the Convention, so that people who can’t go to Ocean Grove can connect. This can be a fundraising activity for A.R.T.S.
- to keep meetings connected and communication strong, this type of phone meeting should take place on a quarterly basis

### b. Literature

The cost of literature was raised, both in terms of purchase price and mailing price. It was explained that A.R.T.S. really does not make a profit on literature, as in addition to printing and mailing costs, we have to pay for the office manager's time involved. We discussed putting all the literature online, and the Board explained that it is looking into this, although it won't happen immediately. We will also explore Amazon.com's "How to Publish" program, as suggested.

One member asked why the Traits and Tools that were downloaded from the website were not the same as the ones that their meeting had been using for years. Abigail explained that the Tools were changed and approved at the Conference four years ago, and that the Traits, which are only minimally revised, are for approval.

The high cost of overseas postage was raised. International meetings asked if they could purchase one set of literature and then copy that and distribute the copies to their membership, to save money. Abigail said that would be possible if they would pay A.R.T.S. \$5 per copy. Other U.S.-based groups asked if they could do the same thing. The Board will discuss this in the coming months and evaluate the feasibility of this approach, along with the option of putting the literature online. Once a decision is reached, it will inform all meetings.

8. The Slate of Trustees was presented for a vote. Frank explained that there are two trustees who are not in the program, and that while the rest of the trustees are A.R.T.S. members, they do not represent any specific meeting on the Board. The Board members on the slate (attached) briefly described their role on the Board.

A motion was made to approve the slate as presented, and was approved unanimously with one abstention.

9. Check-Out

Participants expressed their appreciation of A.R.T.S. and that it was very meaningful to have this phone conference where so many people from meetings around the world could participate. Enthusiasm for holding these conference calls on a more frequent basis was reiterated.

10. Closing

Frank thanked all participants for their participation in the conference. It is much appreciated and he hopes that A.R.T.S. will thrive as a result of everyone's efforts in the coming year.

Serenity Prayer

Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.