

A.R.T.S. Anonymous Inc.
Conference Reports
1993

A.R.T.S. ANONYMOUS

Artists Recovering through the Twelve Steps

A.R.T.S. ANONYMOUS 1993 CONFERENCE
OCEAN GROVE, NEW JERSEY
THURSDAY MAY 20TH / FRIDAY MAY 21ST, 1993



THEME: LIVING TRADITION 1: RECOVERY / SERVICE / UNITY

CONFERENCE ATTENDEES:

TRUSTEES OF THE A.R.T.S. WORLD SERVICE BOARD

ABIGAIL B: A.R.T.S. FOUNDER / 1993 CONFERENCE CONVENTION PLANNER / NEW YORK STATE CONFERENCE DELEGATE / BY LAWS COMMITTEE SPOKESPERSON / LITERATURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER / TRUSTEE EMERITUS

ALICIA R: CHAIR / ACTING TREASURER / DIRECTOR OF LITERATURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE / FINANCIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

NANCY C: VICE CHAIR / INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE COORDINATOR / BY LAWS COMMITTEE MEMBER / CONFERENCE CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEMBER

BOB F: VICE CHAIR / RECORDING SECRETARY / BY LAWS COMMITTEE MEMBER / CONFERENCE CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEMBER

LESLIE S: A.R.T.S. WORLD MUSE DIRECTOR / LITERATURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER

TOM P: ASSOCIATE TRUSTEE / LITERATURE DISTRIBUTION

REGIONAL TRUSTEES:

JANE L: NORTHEAST REGION/REGIONAL TRUSTEE COORDINATOR

JOHN T: SOUTHEAST REGION

VARDA BM: SOUTHWEST REGION

PHYLLIS O: NORTHWEST REGION

MARILYN H: INTERNATIONAL

STATE CONFERENCE DELEGATES:

SUE G: NEW YORK STATE / CHAIR NYC INTERGROUP 1993 / BYLAWS COMMITTEE MEMBER

ABIGAIL B: NEW YORK STATE

PAUL C: MASSACHUSETTS STATE

WORLD SERVICE MEETING REPRESENTATIVES:

ROC C: RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

CAROL G: BOSTON, MASS.

MANNY S: SILVERSPRING, MARYLAND

BRUCE B: BERNARDSVILLE, NEW JERSY .

SIGNIFICANT COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

ANNETTE G: CONFERENCE / CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEMBER

GUESTS:

DESMOND T: EX TRUSTEE, ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WORLD SERVICE BOARD /
An A.A. GRAPEVINE DIRECTOR

THURSDAY MAY 20TH, 1993 12:42 PM

CONFERENCE OPENS WITH SERENITY PRAYER

PLANNING MEETING FOR MAY 20TH AFTERNOON AGENDA & EVENING TALK BY
EX A.A.

TRUSTEE, DESMOND T. / PLANNING FOR MAY 21ST AGENDA

Chair Alicia says Conference/Convention Planner, Abigail B., suggests we devote Thursday
afternoon to Treasury & the Regional Trustees / Friday for Tweleve Step Sponsorship & all else.

Discussion revolves around whether to use Robert's Rules of Order or another format. It is pointed
out that "It's in our (A.R.T.S.) By Laws to run the meetings according to Robert's Rules of Order.
The style the Chair chooses, pro con; which is not mandatory, etc., is up to her"

Varda: Points out that with the energy & people present she feels we should just trust a good flow.

Phyllis: Suggests we go around the table if the moment calls for clarification of everyones
participation & views as she has witnessed to be effective in A.A.'s service meetings.

Nancy C: Stresses the importance of timed agenda segments so as to cover all agenda items
successfully.

Jane L: Points to unity & the importance of maintaining that theme throughtout the Conference.

MOTION 1 - JANE L: I MOVE THAT WE SPEND 1 HR. ON TREASURY , 2 to 3 PM, &
DISCUSS

REGIONAL BUSINESS FROM 3:15 TO 6:15 PM. VARDA BM: SECONDED.

CONFERENCE VOTE - FOR: 11

MOTION PASSES

OPPOSED: 2

ABSTAINED: NONE

BREAK FOR LUNCH

A.R.T.S. ANONYMOUS

Artists Recovering through the Twelve Steps



*God, grant me the serenity
to accept the things
I cannot change, courage
to change the things
I can, and the wisdom
to know the difference?*

-Reinhold Niebuhr

THE TWELVE STEPS of A.R.T.S. Anonymous

1. We admitted we were powerless over our creativity—that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to artists, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

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THE TWELVE TRADITIONS of A.R.T.S. Anonymous

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.R.T.S. unity.
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for A.R.T.S. membership is a desire to identify and express our creativity.
4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.R.T.S. as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the artist who still suffers.
6. An A.R.T.S. 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.
7. Every A.R.T.S. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. A.R.T.S. should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
9. A.R.T.S., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. A.R.T.S. has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.R.T.S. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.



A.R.T.S. ANONYMOUS
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Approved by A.R.T.S. Literature Committee 4/23/86

The Twelve Concepts of World Service

1. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.R.T.S. World Services shall always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.
2. The World Service Conference of A.R.T.S. Anonymous has become for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.
3. To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.R.T.S. Anonymous--the Conference, the World Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives with traditional 'Right of Decision.'
4. At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional 'Right of Participation,' allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.
5. Throughout our structure, a traditional 'Right of Appeal' ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.
6. The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the World Service Board.
7. The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.R.T.S. purse for final effectiveness.
8. The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.
9. Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised the by founder, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.
10. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.
11. The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.
12. The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.R.T.S. Anonymous tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth and power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

CONFERENCE REOPENS: 2:00 PM

SAYING OF THE SERENITY PRAYER
READING OF THE TWELVE CONCEPTS
READING OF THE TWELVE STEPS
READING OF THE TWELVE TRADITIONS

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE A.R.T.S. WORLD SERVICE BOARD /
STATE CONFERENCE DELEGATES / WORLD SERVICE MEETING REPRESENTATIVES
/ &
SIGNIFICANT WORLD SERVICE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

INFORMAL MOTION: JOHN T. TO READ HIS RESENTMENTS POEM.

CONFERENCE VOTE: UNANIMOUS

JOHN T. READS HIS POEM, "OH PLEASE!"

READING OF TREASURE'S REPORT: ROBIN G / ALICIA R
READ BY ALICIA /ACTING TREASURER
LOCATED IN CONFERENCE MANAUEL

Alicia: "We are working very hard at being frugal in terms of (A.R.T.S. WSB) meeting location & (WSB meeting) tapes to the Regionals, etc.". She addresses funding of the Regionals / seed money for next year's 1994 Conference Convention / monthly meeting costs / potentially moving to quarterly meetings / average monthly costs to operate A.R.T.S. WSB, \$200 to \$250 / we are SOLVENT ! / due to computer snags we had to repagenate "THE NEW MEETING HANDBOOK" /

more about new literature pieces in LITERATURE DEVELOPMENT REPORT / cost now 4.4 cents

per pamphlet / the A.R.T.S. WORLD MUSE is a restricted account, solvent, & doing well / 1992 Convention Account will not appear in report as the account is being transfereed into Regional Account due to ebb & flow of Convention deposites & expenditures...did not want to complicate.

Conference: Point is made regarding money lying in accounts like Literature & why the money can't be taken out to be used for Regional Trustee expenses.

Alicia: Explains that \$400 to \$600 is needed to print literature so we must wait for these accounts to grow.

Abigail: "What we did is we set up the Regional Account so we wouldn't go broke. All Accounts are self sustaining. That's the most important thing! They have certain revenue sources which are earmarked for those Accounts & that we don't have to worry about whether or not we're going to have enough money to fund something because each Trustee that is in charge of that Account knows how that capital comes in & what it is earmarked for...& is the manager of that Account. That way we stay solvent. If we were ever to put all the money in one pot with everybody having a claim on it then we might end up one day where Leslie (A.R.T.S. WORLD MUSE DIRECTOR) won't have the money, or we won't have postage, or this or that...so we keep the Trustees managing one particular budget line & that budget has it's own income... With the Conference (Convention) being a fundraiser, which it has turned out to be ... it's always been a fundraiser but

never to the sums it recieved last year & this year...that money...in my opinion...seems appropriate to go to the Regional Trustees who did not have a source of income, yet...yet...& this is what this source of income coming off the Conference is really all about...the Regionals, it's about the Conference Delegates, it's about State Assembles, it's about building a service structure throughout the United States & to fund the service structure off the (WS) Board ... What better place than to have the Conference & the Convention be the fundraiser of that...so...

MOTION 2 - ABIGAIL: I MAKE A MOTION THAT THE OCEAN GROVE CONFERENCE / CONVENTION ACCOUNT BECOME A RESTRICTED ACCOUNT TO FUND THE REGIONAL TRUSTEE BOARD RELATED EXPENSES. NANCY C: SECONDED

Tabled till Convention discussion or Regional section of the Conference.

Discussion: A new Treasurer needed / possibility of hiring outside accountant / Varda, Paul, & Phyllis discuss computer options / possibility of obtaining computers from companies who help non-profits with older models for free / etc.

MOTION 3 - BOB F: REGARDING TREASURY: THAT THE TRUSTEES IN N.Y.C. KEEP SIGNATORY RIGHTS & THAT WE HIRE THE APPROPRIATE BOOKKEEPER AT A REASONABLE PRICE TO BE PAID OUT OF GENERAL OPERATION & THAT WE INVESTIGATE COMPUTER OPERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS BY VARDA, PAUL, & PHYLLIS, ETC.. PAUL: SECONDED

MORE DISCUSSION: Varda asks for a very fast looking into of computers & would prefer to see our money go to a computer / Phyllis says her 386 chip computer she bought for \$3,000 is now worth \$400 so there is potential to get a powerful computer for A.R.T.S. in a reasonable fashion. She is against hiring anyone for this position...her local A.A. District Office doesn't hire a bookkeeper which makes more money than A.R.T.S.... Literature Distribution is more complex to her than Treasury / Nancy suggests the possibility of a library's computer / Abigail asks that the motion be tabled to look into computer programs since she has a laptop...& that it would be wise to pursue this course first.../ Carol expresses concern & proposes the following motion.

MOTION 4 - CAROL G: THAT THE WORLD SERVICE BOARD LOOK INTO COMPUTER OWNERSHIP & COMPUTER RELATED & BOOKKEEPING ASSISTANCE & A REPORT ENSUE. JOHN T: SECONDED

CONFERENCE VOTE - FOR: UNANIMOUS MOTION PASSES

Alicia: Says, with humor, she will lympe along as Acting Treasurer for now...making everyone very happy!

REGIONAL TRUSTEE REPORTS & DISCUSSION: 3:30 PM ALL REPORTS IN CONFERENCE MANAUERL

NORTHWEST / PHYLLIS O: The most important function this year for her was reaching out to the new member wanting to start a meeting. She asks that anyone wanting to reach her mail a 19 cent

post card...although she enjoyed getting to know people on the Board she really disliked her monthly telephone bill of \$12 or so & felt the money could be better spent on stamps to seed new A.R.T.S. meetings.

SOUTHEAST / JOHN T: Felt, on the contrary, phone calls are better for him than a mailing. The outreach creates better responses & outcome than mailings. My phone bills are sometimes not as much as my mailings. I do a lot of my phoning after hours. I think the telephone call is very important. On a recent call to North Carolina I spoke with a man who didn't want to be connected to the nationals (W.S.B.). "We want to do our own thing"...and by the time I got through with the conversation & telling him what we could do for with the literature, etc...they changed their tune...person to person contact is essential...followups by phone after a mailing have been a tremendous help for me in my own growth to be a Trustee...Whenever I generate a piece of mail it takes me hours...We have to put out the seed & I think the follow up call is important...I'd like to see us go quarterly...due to the time factor in correspondence & motions back & forth & preparing our bills...This would be much more feasible.

SOUTHWEST / VARDA BM: I assumed there would be a much more updated Directory She reported on the status of New Mexico & Utah meetings...Groups seem to have issues with personal dynamics & control issues. We need to deal with this more directly...not only is it happening on the main Board but it's happening in groups in isolated areas where they have no sense of contact with the Board...her Santa Fe group want to have a relationship with the W.S.B..."We just want to do our art...we don't need to know what World Service does for us"...the ideas of how to build the service network is very tricky...it's hard for me to deal with the work of being a Trustee & yet not overwhelming my own boundaries & getting overloaded with work...I think that's true of everyone here...when we loose people others have to take on too much work...the spiritual health of the program is important to keep the practical health of the program solid...a major portion of my energy as a Trustee from a far went into dealing with that & I ended up not putting so much energy into doing Regional things. Being on the phone talking about this stuff...She goes on to speak of defining our boundaries as Trustees & the World Service Board & somehow addressing the needs of artists..

NORTHEAST / JANE L:"The major part of my work was as Trustee coordinator of tapes & motions". Jane felt the follow up telephone calling that John T spoke of revelent...She asked for the Board to give some guidance & indication of how much money is available because a lot of her work is going to have to be done by telephone..."It has to be a combination...it will partly take my determination to sit down & do it ... & also knowing there is budget" ... Citing a time when an A.R.T.S. member who called her in great distress after having an A.R.T.S. meeting that ended..."We talked for about 15 minutes & this is someone I would like to keep in contact with". "And because I am in an area where there are no meetings ... and someone said it may take three years (to create meetings) ... but I don't want to sit around isolated ... doing whatever I can, putting things into newspapers to try to get members to come in... I need ideas from other Trustees and other people to get these people to come in...An idea from Phyllis... I become a center, maybe a clearing house, or something, for people who don't have meetings, for these single members who are dotted over various parts of the country who don't have any contact... now the idea of a newsletter... this is all possible ... but this will need some funding... this is an idea ... this is another way of trying to keep contact with people.

INTERNATIONAL / MARILYN H: I followed up with all the people outside the country who requested information about A.R.T.S....regarding telephone calls ... when I spoke with Vancouver ... he was quite apologetic ... sorry in fact that he didn't register his meeting , saying he meant to get in touch. (the Trustees shared a good laugh about this) Marilyn felt the telephoning was important and spoke of the articles about A.R.T.S. she had written... she spoke of contact with people in Europe ... "I'm hopeful for a couple of meetings in Europe" ... "So people who come through take literature and said ' God, this is what I need,' and we don't see them again... I mean the material is still working in their lives, but I've come to the conclusion that if I put my recovery first... telling people what A.R.T.S. means to me spiritually, etc., and then getting them to the business and getting them registered". She continues to speak of a hopeful in Switzerland and others in various countries.. like Canada ... averaging 7 minutes a call ... etc.

Alicia / Chair: Asks for 15 minutes of questions of the Regionals and then asks to move into what the Regionals want to prioritize for the coming year.

MOTION 5 - ABIGAIL: I MAKE A MOTION TO REELECT ALL REGIONAL TRUSTEES FOR THE NEXT YEAR. SUE G: SECONDED

CONFERENCE VOTE - FOR: UNANIMOUS MOTION PASSES

DISCUSSION: Revolves around quarterly World Service Board meetings.

Varda: Called the question to a vote to expedite the meeting's discussion since the consensus was unanimous.

MOTION 6 - ABIGAIL: THAT THE A.R.T.S. WORLD SERVICE BOARD MOVE TO QUARTERLY MEETINGS. JOHN T: SECONDED

CONFERENCE VOTE - FOR: UNANIMOUS MOTION PASSES

Annette: I think there is a problem in holding people in A.R.T.S. Fellowship & it's usually because of the Twelve Steps & people not having a background that something should be added to this program to suggest that people who participate in A.R.T.S. Anonymous should perhaps attend a step meeting in another stronger Fellowship & just get more of an understanding of what the program is about through a more committed program where people have been in program longer & worked the program & had found recovery & a way of life ... I think that even in A.A., in the beginning, they sent people to Church ... which is ... an old institution. Perhaps it's just that people need more to support them to get them to this place where they can understand why they are here & staying here.

John T: Talks about guidelines being set up for Trustee qualifications & the fact that all programs have different ways to go about their recovery.

Alicia: Asks for a circle discussion for clarification regarding Regional topics of concerns so that we can keep focused on important key issues.

Leslie: I think we should focus in on Regional issues: How to cultivate contact, more interest, & issues of budgets.

John: Says it was a long time before he got names & addresses (from the W.S. Board). He feels they should move quickly on supplying these, especially those of the Hot Line contact.

Roc: New to process / fear of being treated less than / was concerned about cross talk / looked forward to having fun.

Sue: "If the Regionals have things they want to discuss that's fine...If not, let's go on to other important issues...Let's not just try to fill up time.

Nancy: Stresses importance of getting information to those who want to know about A.R.T.S. & meetings to the Regional Trustees & possibly developing Regional Hotlines.

Marilyn: Expresses concern as to the people attending the Conference...should they even be in the room & voting...She waits for an answer...

Abigail answers: According to The Twelve Concepts of World Service all Trustees, State Conference Delegates, & significant committee members like Annette G. do have the right to participate & vote & all those present are there appropriately.

Jane L. She agrees with Leslie ... We need to figure out our budget ... We need to know how much money is available so we know how much phone calling we can afford to do... We need help in how to make contacts & working on the Handbook requests. A suggestion has been made that the Regionals be sent the Handbooks so we can process the requests.

Varda: Feels we (in this meeting) are not using our time wisely at the moment...asks that we focus on specifics...asks for clarity in the relationship of the Regional Trustees with those in New York. How do we deal with the emotional, spiritual, & physical aspects of the Regional Trustees...& how

do the Regionals create Regional Accounts...the directing of people calling into the hotline to the Regionals.

Bob F: Addresses Annette's concerns regarding A.R.T.S. membership in relationship to Twelve Step work ... "Phyllis will be leading a meeting tomorrow in Twelve Step Sponsorship & these issues, at the recovery level, will be discussed ... In regards to cross talk ... this is a business meeting, not a regular Twelve Step meeting ... the nature of this meeting is to address each other's concerns ... Perhaps we need a policy statement to help clarify that yes, cross talk at a regular 12 Step meeting is inappropriate, but it is very appropriate in the context of a business meeting ... regarding Jane's idea for a central # ... Alanon has a central # (like our Hotline with people who answer / no one person does this alone / different volunteers contribute their time from their Central Office in N.Y.C.), A.A. farms things out ... at this point I feel we need to go from the Hot Line to Regional Trustees ... the Regions need to get developed ... if they have an isolated person they need to groom them, console them, get them to a meeting or show them how to start a meeting ... The budget seems to come over a period of time ... this year will have one kind of budget, next year another".

Paul: Felt the Regional Trustees need to address their issues themselves, speak for their concerns...perhaps in later meetings. "My understanding is that whenever two people meet to discuss recovery constitutes a meeting. I'm happy with the progress & process I see here".

Carol: "It's a concern to me that we have not voted in By Laws & they seem to me to be the basic underpinning. I feel the Regionals need to meet together with the entire Board, not separately...& I'd like for only voting members of the Conference to be present tomorrow & would like to discuss this".

Abigail: "The 10th Concept as it applies to A.R.T.S.... We define our jobs due to the fact we have no history. The Regional Trustees have experienced their job, now they are trying to define it. That may take another year. What I see happening here for the Regional Trustees is that one person will take a lead here & everybody else will say, 'That's good!', let's follow that path. What the budgets for the next year will be won't be decided until the Conference is netted out & the Conference is probably going to net out with a decent budget line for most of you. 'The New Meeting Handbook', which we charge \$9 for, is a funding for your outreach. The booklet, which probably costs about a dollar, is paying \$8 for phone calls support & postage support...so you are not without funds to do the work you need to do...My feeling is the Regional Trustees should really not look to a higher authority. There are only four Trustees out of New York. What higher authority is there other than yourselves to figure out how to do your job ... I think you are doing great! ... so keep on lyming along".
Laughter in the Conference!

Annette: "I'm upset because I don't think all the people who are here realize the amount of commitment that New York has to have to keep this fellowship together. It seems like N.Y. is the 'Heaven for Artists' & there's so much support & everybody is so together & they have all these meetings ... It's just not that way ... There's a very small group of people who are doing everything. I hear Varda because we have the same problems ... & if I am to become more involved in the business of A.R.T.S. I want to solve those problems & I think we just skipped right over it ... I've been in other Fellowships for many years & I've done a lot of service there & I'm not exactly uncommitted in my art or in my recovery & I feel that people here have to know, everyone has to know, that if you are sitting here ... you're not sitting here because you just showed up ... Have some ... respect! ... You all have to settle down & realize we all have a very hard job & we gotta wake up! ... Stop being in our disease ... cause it's not easy for any of us to be here ... I don't want to spend most of my time sitting at a table & then registering the people for the Convention. I want to walk to the beach ... I want to hang out ... I want to buy things ... I want to do nothing! ... you know ... (laughter in the Conference!) ... instead of sitting here!... OK ... Thank you ...".

Phyllis: Appreciates the go round of the full circle ... "I wasn't even aware of the diversity of opinions. Thank you for pointing out the undercurrents ... In terms of a higher authority ... There is only one higher authority in A.R.T.S. ... that's a loving God as he may express Himself from the group conscience ... I think the way the meeting is going is perfect ... It's absolutely the way A.R.T.S. works ... My sponsor once told me whoever is at the meeting is supposed to be there cause it's God's party ... so if they show up they show up ... I do think we do need to establish tomorrow because that did get confusing last year ... we had people standing ... I had a guy standing behind my back & it was driving me nuts! ... I didn't know what to do about it ... I mean if someone is going to be in this meeting they need to sit down ... they can't hover ... (a little laughter) ...So no hovering tomorrow! ...

Alicia / Chair: Thanks everyone for their patience & asks everyone to write down what they feel are the Regional priorities.

A BREAK IS TAKEN

UPON RETURNING: The Chair continues in response to the priorities suggested.

Alicia / Chair: Handbooks are produced in N.Y.C. & turns over the discussion to Abigail.

Abigail: Passes out paginated 'Handbook' to all Trustees ... suggests sending 20 copies to each Region ... giving you \$200 ... The request for the booklet is a \$10 credit line for the Regional Trustee who has sold that booklet ... There is a bunch of phone calls this will pay for, etc. ...

Jane: "Bookkeeping would be done in N.Y.C. or would the inquiries be sent to us & we send it out & we do all the followup?"

Abigail: It would come into N.Y. ... That \$10 credit then shows up on your balance sheet as money for telephone calls & outreach.

Jane: Suggests cutting out the middle man.

Phyllis: Points out A.A. sells literature discounted to the Regions & this would bypass what she calls " A.R.T.S. Log Jam".

Abigail: "The Regions don't pay the bills, the World Service Board does & there could be a bookkeeping problem with a complicated system of credits. The money needs to go to the World Service Treasury"..

Bob F: "No mention's been made of the developement of literature, especially the 'Handbook'. We need to make sure this money is available for this revision ... for this year anyhow ... possibly next year or in the future we can proceed the way A.A. does.

Nancy: "We can just put it on the order form".

MORE DISCUSSION: Jane, Sue, Abigail, Phyllis, Marilyn, Varda, Bob, & Alicia.

Roc: Asks for a brief explanation as to why "The New Meeting Haandbook" costs \$9 & where does all the money go...

Alicia: Explains a \$2 book fee to the Regional Trustees would not be enough to cover the costs we have citing this months bills for the 'Handbook' at app. \$160 & if layouts change & more money is needed ...

Annette: Suggests copyrighting to discourage zeroxing.

Phyllis: Agrees with havung the copyright & other aspects...

MORE DISCUSSION BRINGS US TO THE FOLLOWING MOTION ...

MOTION 7 - ABIGAIL: WE DELIVER 10 SETS OF 'THE NEW MEETING HANDBOOK' TO EACH REGIONAL TRUSTEE. BOB F: SECONDED

TABLED: For more discussion

MOTION 8 - ABIGAIL: MOTION ON EXPENCES BREAKDOWN OF THE 'MEETING HANDBOOK' / THE BOARD / & THE REGIOAL TRUSTEES.

TABLED UNTIL FURTHER INFO PROCESSED & FORMAT (BUDGET) WRITTEN OUT.

Abigail: "After expences for the 1993 Conference / Convention are assessed & seed money for the 1994 Conference / Convention is secured then the rest goes to the Regionals".

AFTER A BIT MORE DISCUSSION

Alicia / Chair sums up discussion: Asks everyone to look at 1/4, 3 months, instead of a whole year. "We have a tabled motion so we can view expences" She assigns Abigail to bring it up again. "We had very good discussion, our consciousness was raised in terms of what money we have, what's in the budget, what our limitations are ... & pretty much that you have the "Right of Decision" & what is your relationship to the Board ...".

POLICY DECISION:

Carol: Brings up issues of voting ... Asks that those not voting not attend".

MOTION 9 - AFTER MORE DISCUSSION THE FOLLOWING MOTION IS MADE, FIRST BY PHYLLIS; WHO WITHDRAWS THE MOTION; AND IS THEN REINSTATED BY MARILYN.

MOTION 10 - MARILYN: THAT THE MEETING BE CLOSED TOMORROW TO ANYONE WHO IS NOT AN INVITED GUEST, LIKE DESMOND OR ANNETTE, OR A TRUSTEE OR A STATE CONFERENCE DELEGATE OR A WORLD SERVICE MEETING REPRESENTATIVE.

PAUL: SECONDED

CONFERENCE VOTE - FOR: 10

MOTION PASSES

OPPOSED: 3

ABSTAINED: 2

THE CONFERENCE IS INTRODUCED TO DESMOND, WHO HAS QUIETLY JOINED US. WE CLOSE THE FIRST DAY OF THE CONFERENCE WITH THE SERENITY PRAYER.

THURSDAY EVE: MAY 20TH, 1993 8:30 PM

DESMOND T., FORMER A.A. WORLD SERVICE TRUSTEE, SPEAKS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS & BILL W.'S HISTORY & HIS OWN SERVICE EXPERIENCE.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The revolutionairy experience is that he had to give it to somebody else to keep from drinking ... The compelling force behind recovery. In service, in giving it away ... only then does it grow ... Anonimity is the cornerstone, giving it away without recognition ... It's about passing it on ... You don't go out looking for rewards ... You give it away freely & walk away ... Money was a big issue ... Drinking blew Bill's chances for making money ... Bill was driven to create A.A. because he was powerless to stay sober without creating the service structure of Alcoholics Anonymous ... Trustees own the Corporation ... In A.A.: 14 A.A. Member Trustees / 7 Non Alcoholics / Chair & Treasurer are Non Alcoholic ... A director sits only as an overview of the Corporation ... The Trusstees carry the message of A.A.... There is no rush in A.A.... Sponsorship is the key in A.A.... This is the way the sprit works in life, those things that seem wrong may be the rightest things for you ... Gradually ... Gradually the Steps & Traditions evolved ... The action part flowed out of

recovery ... Talks of Interfacing with media ... Desmond was nominated as a Trustee in a straight ahead business deal.

They interviewed him for the division that published the "Big Book", the "12 Concepts of World Service", etc.... Talks of meetings with people from around the country to stave controversy & lots of fears ... " We wish you a long slow recovery" ... Regarding service Desmond says, "It was the agony I needed for recovery. Being smart didn't matter anymore. To listen ... be part of the process, is what is essential ... There is no rush in A.A."

WE CLOSE WITH THE SERENITY PRAYER

CONFERENCE OPENS SECOND DAY / MAY 21, 1993 / 9:35 AM

DISCUSSION: AGENDA FOR THE DAY / INFORMAL MOTION PASSED TO HAVE MEDITATION AND POEM READ BY VARDA / VARDA READS POEM AND LEADS MEDITATION

DISCUSSION: TO FINISH REGIONAL BUSINESS / CONCLUDES WITH THE FOLLOWING MOTION

MOTION 11 - ABIGAIL: AFTER THE 1993 CONVENTION PAYS ITS BILLS AND SEED ITS NEXT 1994 CONVENTION, THE BALANCE WILL GO INTO THE REGIONAL TRUSTEE ACCOUNT TO BE MANAGED BY THE REGIONAL TRUSTEES. JOHN T. SECONDED

CONGERENCE - FOR: 13

MOTION PASSES

OPPOSED: NONE

ABSTAINED: 2

END OF REGIONAL TRUSTEE BUSINESS

GENERAL SERVICE TRUSTEE BUSINESS: NEW YORK CITY WSB
ALL REPORTS IN CONFERENCE MANUAL

LESLIE S / TRUSTEE / A.R.T.S. WORLD MUSE DIRECTOR: Leslie speaks of moving toward quarterly editions of the Muse this year & of her fine committee / All reports, which include committee members in Conference Manual.

TOM P / ASSOCIATE TRUSTEE / LITERATURE DISTRIBUTION: Passes on reporting as he is only 3 weeks on the job. Tom was previously a WSB Trustee until his first term came to a close toward the end of 1992.

NANCY C / INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE COORDINATOR / BYLAWS COMMITTEE MEMBER / CONFERENCE CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEMBER: We are talking about a committee under me for archilves, etc.

BOB F / RECORDING SECRETARY / MEMBER OF BYLAWS COMMITTEE / CONFERENCE CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEMBER / REPORTS ON LITERATURE DISTRIBUTION AND HOTLINE: Thanks John T for creating new literature order form...& Abigail and Annette for making this year's Conference/Convention possible.

ALICIA / CHAIR / DIRECTOR OF LITERATURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE / ACTING TREASURER / FINANCIAL COMMITTEE CHAIR: A.R.T.S. is evolving service trustees ... they wax and wane ... speaks of moving to quarterly meetings and committee work ... Feels confident that the service structure is very strong.

ABIGAIL / A.R.T.S. FOUNDER / NEW YORK STATE CONFERENCE DELEGATE / BYLAWS COMMITTEE SPOKESPERSON / CONFERENCE CONVENTION PLANNER / LITERATURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER: As founder I put lots of time daily into A.R.T.S. This year was healthier than past years. There is quality input from the Literature Committee and the Bylaws Committee. The Bylaws were filed without a lawyer ever seeing them. We have 5 years now to clean them up. Desmond and Don suggested we follow AA's bylaws. And when I consulted AA's General Counsel he suggested we, by cleaning up our bylaws, could in turn help AA clean up theirs... very funny! (Conference laughter) We will have a document for you all to see this coming year... The Trustees are the ones who approve the document... If the Trustees are in agreement over the document, it goes to the Conference Delegates for the "Right of Disapproval" which is not approval but disapproval... If there is anything in that document that they do not like, they can say they do not like it... They do not have the right to tell us what they think the document should be like. They can't say, "We want a different document." The document belongs to the Trustees & this is a legality... After this Committee finished the task, and when the New Jersey people stepped out of the Convention... Annette stepped up and said, "I really want a Convention." And I said that no one in New York was going to step up for it... She tried to recruit someone else who had experience and they said no... And she took that leap forward in service that we all do and said, "OK, I'm not ready but I'll step up." And she has been learning all the various aspects of the Convention... We are very grateful for her commitment and for the fact that she is here today. And this is building Twelve Step World Service commitment... Regarding my input into service, I am still the engine... but until the day I stop being the engine I would like to hear the thank you's. It makes my work visible to acknowledge it. And it makes me feel that I'm not doing it completely without appreciation.

Alicia: Thanks Abigail.

Manny: Asks if it's possible to have a position of Trustee Emeritus for Abigail.

Bob F: According to ex-AA Trustees, Don and Desmond, at our February, 1993 W.S. Board Meeting, the only person who is ever ongoing in World Service is the Founder. The Trustees, once they finish their position, are said thank you to, with the exception of a Chair occasionally by a specific invitation. But the Founder's work, in essence, is ongoing... That's their gift, just like all of our art is our gift. I've had it commented to me, "Well, Abigail is the Founder, she's not a Trustee, why should she have a say?" Well, that doesn't go... I feel that her wisdom is important and the collective wisdom of the Board is important... In reality, she is Trustee Emeritus. She comes when the chips are down or up or whatever. When she's needed, she's there. She's been coming to the Board meetings and she picked up the reins of this Conference and Convention. I agree with Manny.

Varda: I'd like to make a motion.

MOTION 12 - VARD: AS FOUNDER AND TRUSTEE EMERITUS, ABIGAIL B., IS GIVEN A PERMANENT VOTE ON THE WORLD SERVICE BOARD. SECONDED BY MANNY AND MARILYN

CONFERENCE VOTE - FOR: 14

MOTION PASSES

OPPOSED: NONE
ABSTAINED: 2

DISCUSSION AFTER THE PASSING OF THE MOTION: Revolves around possible renewable terms on this motion & how the motion will appear in the By Laws.

Abigail: Says she will consult with our lawyers to determine what is appropriate in terms of our By Laws.

Phyllis: "Since Abigail is A.R.T.S. one & only Founder, it is only appropriate that this motion go into effect ... but also, after last year's problems during the 1992 Conference we establish a budget line for the ongoing work Abigail, as Founder, does so she never again has to suffer the mental anguish & inconveniences that people created for her by saying, "We're Trustees, our bills get paid. You're the Founder, you do this for free."

Abigail: Felt that putting a renewable time restriction on the motion would make her vulnerable to people who would use this to act out ... Act out on her as an authority figure ... a lightning rod for their disfunction.

John: Explains 'Emeritus' means 'For a Lifetime' ... "When you give a title like this you don't give it a time factor."

Bob F./ Nancy / Manny / & Paul agree: No time factors.

Paul: Feels the motion is justifiable due to the enormous amount of work Abigail has done as Founder.

Leslie: Likes saying both Founder & Trustee Emeritus ... & sees reaffirming this every year as a way of explaining to those who aren't aware of A.R.T.S. history the importance of Abigail's involment on the World Service Board level.

Phyllis: Points out Supreme Court Justices are appointed for life & as Founder Abigail deserves that distinction.

MOTION 12 IS PASSED WITHOUT THE TIME FACTOR RESTRICTION.

BREAK

CONFERENCE RESUMES WITH DISCUSSION ON BUDGET:

MOTION 13 - PAUL: THAT A BUDGET LINE BE CREATED FOR THE POSITION OF FOUNDER, ABIGAIL B.. PHYLLIS: SECONDED

CONFERENCE VOTE - FOR: 16 MOTION PASSES
OPPOSED: NONE
ABSTAINED: 1

ANNETTE'S CONFERENCE / CONVENTION REPORT:

Initial mailing...125 sent...Helped along by Abigail...Placed an add for 5 days in a New Jersey paper, Ocean Grove area...very inexpensive...Talks of how the Committee worked...Obtained

insurance...she was insurance liasson...Lots of anxiety...A joy working with Committee members...Keeping track of deposits...Lots of correspondence with the Hotels & many people coming to the Convention...Talks of having lots of Convention meeting time...She tells of having been to lots of Conventions & tried to make this the best...Speaks of the computer time necessary to prepare flyers & registration forms, etc..

DISCUSSION GRAVITATES TOWARD THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE & THE NEED FOR THE BOARD TO HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMMITTEE'S RELATION TO THE BOARD & HOW PRACTICALLY TO CREATE THE BUDGETS FOR REGIONAL TRUSTEES.

John: Expresses concern. Communication is important! I have called people on the Board & they have not returned my calls ... The Financial Committee should not have undo authority over the Board.

Alicia: Says she is sorry for the impression that the Financial Committee is over the W.S. Board. "It is not" ... Talks of New York State Law ... we need receipts for proper records as well as accuracy in payments.

Varda: Speaks to spiritual awareness & speaks of the essence of her 1992 Conference Motion to create a Financial Committee that would help the Treasurer ... "(The Financial Committee) need not be a source of power, a bone of contention." ...

John: "This was our first year as Regional Trustees. We've been defining our jobs." Regarding the creation of proper budgets for the Regionals.

AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION & A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO ABIGAIL'S MOTION BY CAROL, THE FOLLOWING MOTION IS VOTED ON.

MOTION 14 - ABIGAIL: THERE SHOULD BE A POLICY & JOB DESCRIPTION PREPARED FOR THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE. PAUL: SECONDED

CONFERENCE VOTE - FOR: UNANIMOUS MOTION PASSES

CONFERENCE DELEGATES SECTION:

Varda: Reads letter from her meeting in Santa Fe (See letter in this text):

COMMENTS:

Bob F: "The Traits are being looked at by the Literature Committee & must be program wide to be changed." He feels no restrictions on sharing can be mandated in (A.R.T.S.) a Twelve Step Program as people in recovery usually have to work thru life & family of origin issues before they can get sober & get to their art.

Carol: Says her Boston group has placed certain restrictions on sharing following the Alanon format but there is no restrictions on personal problems or other things that might be included under the Traits. "Someone should write a letter to this even if it is to express their experience, strength, & hope ... I think that someone who has gone to all the trouble of writing a letter should get an answer back ... Things that worked for us are 5 minute time shares & then onto the next (person) & no crosstalk & these are the Attitudes & as far as outside literature goes...I think in

their share people should discuss anything they want to ... I hope we would have some kind of response back."

Roc: I used to think in A.A. where you can't talk about this or you can't talk about that, but by listening to what people have to say I realized that everyone has something different going on in their head & their personal history whereby they arrived at their relationship with their disease or they recover...& that it's not for me to censure anybody. The most democratic thing I find in the meeting structure, especially in A.R.T.S.- the Tool - 'the Democracy of the Clock'. Your five minutes is your five minutes ... If i can't get the aaaffirmation I need from that group I need to start my own group...but that group consciousness itself is an evolving process ... It's above & beyond me as an individual member ... So if I just let the meeting be within the structure that's set up by the 12 Steps & 12 Traditions, & that important 'Watch', that it will solve itself.

John T: "I know that if you don't take care of what's inside you're not going to create your art...& I know the things that I have gone thru ... for my art...& I've had to talk about it & I happen to agree with you they set their own through the group consciousness but they also ... there are times when there (are other kinds of problems) all kinds of personal problems. I found the A.R.T.S. meetings much more loving...much more giving ... That's what's helped me."

Sue G: "I've found, & it's taken me a while, the approach of only taking your art to a meeting is very technical & excludes the spiritual & to me excludes the person ... & is definately not in line...consumate with the 12 Steps of spiritualizing...& if they want a technical meeting they can form an Action Group for this...or start another A.R.T.S. meeting ... As far as the language is concerned I can identify with that ... sometimes I feel it reenforces the negatives ... Last year, at the Conference, John from Washington had rewritten the Traits putting them in past tence ... that's gone to the Literature Committee."

Marilyn: "I'd like to see the Literature Committee begin addressing this type of question ... many groups, I am sure, have these types of questions."

Bruce: "I hear the person writing this letter saying the meeting is not functional...This is a difficult question...This is a Program of Recovery ... When I came here I came from A.A...I was familiar with the 12 Steps & 100% into the Traits & the Tools ... & it's been my experience...my personal experience...there is a lot of dysfunctionism perpetuated in the meetings I go to ... & frankly in my group group I've got younger people in this group very functional & they want to address serious questions ...want to be real honest." He speaks of a meeting he started & lead where people got so far off the beam of their A.R.T.S. recovery that people came to him saying, "This isn't about art...this isn't about creativity even." He talks of Bill W.'s writing called 'Problems of an Alcoholic' during the 60s addressing the drug problem ... "I think its an issue ... I think a lot of this stems with recovery & accountability."

Nancy: "We, as a New York based group, sometimes don't understand the problems out someplace where there is only one or two meetings, not a lot of different types of (A.R.T.S.) meetings ... Perhaps you could get the names of other self help groups & bring them to meetings there ... If there are other issues & people are not focusing on their art perhaps there are others (meetings) or start other types of meetings in the area where people can go & address those issues...more like an A.A. meeting, an Alanon meeting, or a D.A. meeting, or something like that. Meetings can be made so those issues are addressed ... I know I go to an Alanon meeting I talk on my Alanon problems...If I go to an A.R.T.S. meeting I try to focus on my art ... It doesn't always work that way & it's all interconnected but I try to at least focus on my problems ... I don't go to a

D.A. meeting & talk about my Alanon issues or my codependency. So it's my suggestion they start different kinds of meetings in the area so those issues can be addressed."

Annette: "This has been the most interesting issue since I've been sitting at this table ... (Laughter in the Conference) ... & I have a lot of compassion about what Varda shared...I've personally broken all the rules about what people share about at meetings & yet I agree with Bruce ... like being in A.A. ... Being focused on the alcohol saved my life ... Having to not get to issues that would get me off the beam & having to focus on why I'm here to remember ... & to seek outside for the other issues was empowering to me."

Paul: "In some of the Alanon meetings I go to they say, 'Only Alanon is spoken here.', which addresses a different issue which is, 'What is A.R.T.S. speak?' Maybe that needs to be dealt with at another time & maybe in the basic literature." He goes on to talk of a meeting he had to watch die because it wasn't addressing his needs & how he had to create a new meeting because he could not speak to this issue even though he wanted to ... "That's in Higher Power's hands...I know I wasn't able to address that issue, I don't know if anyone else can ... It's something we can think about."

Phyllis: "In our meeting we've had borderline personality type people ... They don't know what A.R.T.S. is...They don't know what the 12 Steps are...& they come to one or two meetings & they ramble on & on & on ... & it's up to the Chairperson to raise their hand & interrupt the meeting & keep the focus on the creative process ... I think that's an issue that needs to be dealt with on a group level & in A.A. whenever a letter like that would come to the Board asking us to solve their problems the Board would send a letter back saying, 'It's your problem.' but here's what's worked in other groups & individually ... We can go to Varda & give her our opinions & as a Trustee she can write a letter to her meeting ... Maybe, the thing is a personality issue because I'm hearing someone saying, 'I'm gonna take my coffee pot & start another meeting.' & that person should take their coffee pot & start another meeting ... Just focus on the principles & do a lot of praying for the individuals involved because they are hurting & they're in a lot of pain & they want to talk about it ... They need the group's prayer. They don't need the group's censure."

Varda: "I would like to request that somebody else write a letter to the group. For one thing, I am a lightning rod for this situation ... The group has been alive for 5 or 6 years now & there's been a lot of evolution of people in it, but the current core group, in the past year particularly ... I've been through a lot of personal pain, but it's not just me, so I kinda symbolize that the 12 step group is open to all discussion ... I understand that there maybe too much disfunctionality being expressed & people need to get onto their recovery ... That's exactly how people do feel about it ... but since I'm on one end of the spectrum even though I'm a Trustee, I'm being ostracized personally or I'm in a bad position personally as one to speak to this. I'd rather have someone else address it because I want it to come from a place besides me ... The thing that is being read most that is not 12 Step is from a book called 'Many Roads, One Journey', which is written by a 12 Step person, but she, in her viewpoint, goes beyond the 12 Steps ... She has what she calls '16 Steps for Discovery & Empowerment' & people like that a great deal & so other people should see this work because I think this is very interesting ... If anyone else is willing to directly respond to this or I've heard suggestions about a committee to address this & if so, let's get this nailed down."

Roc: "I would like to personally respond to this letter ... Groups can talk to each other."

Abigail: "There is a need on the Board & we don't have anybody to fill it. We defined it several years ago, 'Policy' ... This is Policy ... & what we need is a writer & we need somebody to tackle it & it won't be perfect the first time out. If we had a point man on the Board who could coordinate a

dialouge with Richmond & maybe with Varda's group that the Board could feed into that point person & develope & I would like to see if Marilyn would step up to this particular one time job & see what happens."

Marilyn: "For this one?"

Abigail: "Yeah, for this one."

Marylin: "I have a feeling this one would be too hard ... "

Conference: Laughter!!!

Marilyn: "I could do this this one ... "

Varda: "This means a policy overview person ... Someone to come to for policy questions?"

Abigail: "We're not defining the whole job ... She's talking about handling this one & coordinating a response effort between Bernardsville & Richmond & would help you out (Varda) & something the Board could feed into ... all of us could feed into to help her ... (Marilyn) will take on the responsibility..."

AT THIS POINT THE TAPE ENDED & THE CONFERENCE BROKE FOR LUNCH
PLEASE NOTE: TAPE MIKE WAS UNFORTUNATELY NOT PUT ON WHEN WE CAME
BACK FROM LUNCH. THE FIRST APP. HOUR & 1/2 OF THE AFTERNOON SESSION IS
TRANSSCRIBED FROM THE RECORDING SECRETARY'S WRITTEN NOTES.

CONFERENCE RESUMES: 2:00 PM / MAY 21ST, 1993

VARDA LEADS US IN PRAYER & MEDITATION

WORLD SERVICE MEETING REPRESENTATIVES:

CAROL G / BOSTON, MASS: Speaks to problem of people doing service ...

VARDA: Chimes in with Carol ... Getting people to do service is always a problem ... & asks Carol to make a written report. (Carol G. handed out a report to the Conference members shortly thereafter)

DISCUSSION LEADS NANCY C. TO MAKING THE FOLLOWING MOTION:

NANCY C: MOTION: THAT NO FORMER TRUSTEE BE ALLOWED INTO THE
CONFERENCE. BOB F: SECONDED (NOTE: SEE DISCUSSION PRIOR TO MOTION 10 /
THIS MOTION IS TABLED & AT THE SAME TIME HONORED AS THE ESSENCE OF
MOTION 10)

DISCUSSION:

Bob F: Explains the A.A. position on the matter of former trustees being allowed to participate or look on in meetings or Conferences as explained by Desmond & Don, both former A.A. Member Trustees, at the February 1993 A.R.T.S. W.S. Board Meeting.

Desmond: (Now sitting in the Conference as an invited guest) Once again explains the the A.A. position of saying 'Thank You' to the Trustees leaving the Board and that their service in this capacity is considered finished with the exception of the Founder, who's work is ongoing.

STEP SPONSORSHIP:

Bob F: Speaks of A.R.T.S. introduction to the International Step Group via Phyllis from Bolder & Abigail's involvement in this Step process. Talks of the Saturday Convention meeting Phyllis will lead on this particular Step process along with the help of Freeport John & Karen, members of the Long Island Step Support Group, who happen to be artists as well.

Abigail: (A.R.T.S. Founder in addressing A.R.T.S. history) "When A.R.T.S. started there was no recovery so no one wanted the next person to tell him what to do. There was never a question that one day there would be sponsors ... It would be another Tool in addition to our others ... Not in place of ... It would read 'STEP SPONSORSHIP' ... 'ART BUDDIES' would always remain ...

Jane: Says the Buddy System is very important to my art & wonders if Sponsors will over shadow Art Buddies although Steps for program recovery are important.

Marilyn: Chimes in with Jane's sentiment & also feels it's time to explain how to work the Steps in A.R.T.S..

John T: Spoke of how important the 4th Step is. / Bruce: Talks of how important Step work is & the need for tremendous personal growth. / Paul: Is for it & reminds him of the 'Alanon Blue Book'.

Nancy: Agrees ... New comers need to be nurtured ... like Alanon, one year & you can be a sponsor. We need a motion, keeping it simple, about endorsing Sponsorship & the Tools that help you do the Steps ... along the way.

Roc: Yes ... Make the 12 Steps available to everyone ...

Desmond: Didn't at first want a Sponsor but to keep from drinking he had to listen & get a Sponsor. A qualitative decision ... He explains it may be a little uncomfortable at first to ask ...

Bob F: Talks of Manhattan's Tuesday night A.R.T.S Step meeting & feels there will be no conflict in having both Art Buddies & Step Sponsors as A.R.T.S Tools ... After a Friendly Amendment by Abigail is accepted, Bob makes the following motion.

MOTION 15 - BOB F: THAT WE (A.R.T.S.) AS A PROGRAM TAKE ON STEP SPONSORING AS A TOOL. VARDA: SECONDED

CONFERENCE VOTE: FOR: 15

MOTION PASSES

OPPOSED: NONE

ABSTAINED: 1

CONFERENCE BREAKS

CONFERENCE RESUMES

LITERATURE REPORT: (Refer also to Conference Manual Report)

Alicia: Calls on Abigail to explain the current status.

Abigail: Explains that although little work was done on the 12 X 12 this past year ... quite unexpectedly & with great pleasure both she & Phyllis realized that we now actually have 4 Chapters of A.R.T.S. 12 X 12, after uncovering the text of the letter Abigail wrote on Step One. The pieces that constitute our Big Book at present are: 1) How It Began, 2) Step One: A Letter, 3) Beginners Ask, 4) How It Works (Two articles by Marilyn H. & Jan P.) Consideration is now being given to putting these out separately.

AFTER A BRIEF DISCUSSION REGARDING THE 'A.R.T.S. TALENTS' JANE MAKES THE FOLLOWING MOTION.

MOTION 16 - JANE: I MOVE THAT THE 12 TALENTS BE ACCEPTED AS A PIECE OF OFFICIAL A.R.T.S. LITERATURE. VARDA: SECONDED

CONFERENCE VOTE - FOR:13
 OPPOSED:2
 ABSTAINED: 1

MINORITY VOICE:

Annette: Questions 'family' line as it may not apply realistically to everyone. Some of us may have irrevocable family issues.

Abigail: Agrees with Annette.

Bob F: Also has trouble with the 'family' line & talks of the comments & changes he submitted to the Literature Development Committee in regards to the line mentioning 'money' also ... "mentioning money in this way may make some of us feel uncomfortable, especially newcomers" & other points he feels keeps the Talents from being program wide, although he feels the essence of the text is wonderful and with these revisions would be acceptable.

Roc: A.A. only says, "Do not be discouraged", not how it is going to be.

Manny: Agrees with Bob. "I don't want to have to feel I have to make money."

Varda: "OK as is ... already on sale ... add provisio ... "

FURTHER DISCUSSION: Conference majority chimes in with changing the vote.

CONFERENCE CONCENSUS: A MAJORITY OF 12 DEFEATES MOTION 16.

MOTION 17 - ABIGAIL: TO TAKE THE TALENTS & SEND THEM BACK TO THE LITERATURE DEVELOPEMENT COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION. SUE: SECONDED

CONFERENCE VOTE - FOR: 16 MOTION PASSES
 OPPOSED: 1
 ABSTAINED: NONE

Phyllis: Asks for a paragraph or cover letter of thanks to the writer as is the case in A.A.

AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION THE CONFERENCE DECIDES TO PROCEED TO MOTION 20 AS IS AND ALLOW THE LITERATURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE A COVER LETTER OF THANKS THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE RELEASE FORM DUE TO LEGALITIES.

MOTION 20 - ABIGAIL: I MAKE A MOTION WE VOTE TO ACCEPT THE LITERATURE RELEASE FORM AS IS. PAUL: SECONDED

CONFERENCE VOTE - FOR: 16 MOTION PASSES

OPPOSED: NONE

ABSTAINED: NONE

NOTE: CONFERENCE MEMBER OUT OF THE ROOM AT THE TIME OF THE VOTE.

REVIEW OF 1993 CONFERENCE / CONVENTION - UPDATE & WRAPUP:

Alicia proceeds & turns the discussion to Abigail.

Abigail: "Everything is going along fine and looks very successful. Paul is working on the meeting schedule for this weekend's Convention. I just negotiated our '\$21 Meal Special' at the Sampler Inn and we'll be able to have this for the 1994 Conference/Convention or something similar. Since this is a service sponsored Convention we want to have Trustees, State Conference Delegates, and World Service Meeting Representatives very visible so as to project the statement that stepping up to service is an honor ... in terms of being leaders of Convention meetings." She says that finances look good. "We are definitely churning a profit and will have more information in a short time." She explains the importance for next year's Conference /

Convention of formalizing a job description of what has to be done so that everything that is being done from the hip can be codified & handed over to somebody with a time schedule on it so that we don't always do our Conference/Convention in a 2 or 3 month cram period. "Now we are taking \$700 out of Convention proceeds to fund the next Convention. If we start planning it sooner than that, following Annette's suggestion, which was extremely successful, to put out a mailing to the old years Convention attendees and offer our best spots, our limited single rooms; our rooms with baths and try to get everybody to commit early then maybe we could use less seed money ... Instead of \$700, maybe we can get by on \$200 and build our funds throughout the year to run the next Convention ... That leaves more money for the Regionals." Abigail then asks the Committee members to speak.

Bob F: Suggests we learn from Abigail's knowledge of how to put together our Conference/Convention, her awareness of sequencing of organizational structure: of how things happen & when they need have to occur, plus her bookkeeping abilities ... He hopes that she will be part of the process to codify & others will help her. "I don't want it to happen next year that someone is put in charge who's never run (a 12 Step Conference / Convention) or who hasn't done enough service or whatever and then we just start the negativity all over again ... to minimize that ... to respect her awareness of the process and then follow her guidelines for next year ... Others can contribute and incorporate their ideas."

Next: Abigail asks Conference members to choose meetings to lead tomorrow & Sunday.

Phyllis: Recommends a motion to set the dates for next year's 1994 Conference/Convention.

Alicia: Asks Abigail to look for the proper dates.

Varda: Asks that next year's reports be one page and have more substance regarding "what needs to be addressed, changed, what's wrong, and what we need to grow ... not waste time on hearing peoples duties I already know." (Phyllis chimes in with Varda)

Paul: Feels the meeting went well & at the same time we need to follow time structures & have the kind of reports Varda speaks of.

Annette: Agrees and explains her committee was working under fear because there isn't enough support or genuine gratitude in the Fellowship basically ... There just isn't a lot of sweetness and harmony and people joyously being in recovery together ... but other than that, our team ... we had very successful meetings ... It was beautiful really! ...

AT THIS POINT TWO EX A.R.T.S. TRUSTEES WALK INTO THE CONFERENCE & SIT IN OBSERVANCE. THEY ARE ASKED TO LEAVE BY THE CHAIR AS PREDETERMINED BY THE PASSING OF MOTION 10 / THURSDAY MAY 20TH, 1993 & THE MOTION'S REINTERATION ON FRIDAY MAY 21ST OF THIS YEAR'S 1993 CONFERENCE. THE CHAIR ASKS FOR A MOMENT TO CATCH HER BREATH AS EXCLUDING FORMER A.R.T.S. TRUSTEES FROM THE MEETING WAS A DIFFICULT TASK FOR HER.

Alicia / Chair: Then asks Abigail for the proper dates for the 1994 Conference/Convention.

Abigail: Suggests the Conference be May 19th & 20th & the Convention be May 20, 21, & 22 of 1994.

Varda: Asks why not in the Fall? ... & requests whenever possible we use double sided zeroxing.

Abigail: Explains the Fall is hurricane season and A.R.T.S. has already tried with great difficulty having the Conference/Convention in the fall in the past. Dangerous weather problems plagued us! ... Abigail then makes the following motion:

MOTION 21 - ABIGAIL: THAT THE A.R.T.S. CONFERENCE BE MAY 19TH & 20TH AND THE A.R.T.S. CONVENTION BE MAY 20,21,& 22 OF 1994. ROC: SECONDED

CONFERENCE VOTE - FOR: UNANIMOUS MOTION PASSES

AS THE CONFERENCE COMES TO A CLOSE:

Alicia / Chair: Asks everyone to take one minute to wrap up what the Conference has been for them and make suggestions and to bring closure as we are accustom to in our meetings.

Sue G: Says this Conference she is more relaxed than last year's partly being do to "I have grown and I think the people who prepared the Conference this year put a lot of thought into it and I appreciate that we had breaks and I appreciated that there was a conscious effort to encourage people who volunteered to take good care of themselves ... For the length of a meeting like this, which is always difficult for me, it was much better than I found last year ... And I appreciate the flowers and I appreciate how smoothly things have gone and everybodies positive input."

Tom: Passes

Nancy: "I think it really went well ... Could have used a few more breaks ... The flowers were a great idea ... The bubbles kept my Spirits going ... The fact I was able to draw with crayons was a great brilliant idea ... A brief overview of what I saw ... We got a lot accomplished ... About

inquires in getting the Regional's more involved with 12 Step work & handing out 'The New Meeting Handbooks' ... Thanks everyone for being here."

Marilyn: "I felt that we did meet with more substance and I appreciate that and I think that we took some steps forward this year in how things operate." She moves on to say that she wants to share her Conference pictures she drew with everyone saying, "I don't get the opportunity to sit in one place for hours!" (Conference Laughter!)

Jane: Passes

Varda: " ... I think that we did do very well ... It's the nature of the beast that everyone is put thru the wringer ... The issues of where there's conflict in a group or how to deal with group dynamics ... I'm very much appreciative of the kind of response that is going to come to my Santa Fe group but I would like to have addressed ... that somehow, sooner or later, that that would be shaped into some kind of thing that will help to deal with group dynamics ... "

Bob F: "I'm very grateful for the outcome of this Conference ... I'm very grateful to all those people who chose to stay in service after a lot of controversy earlier in the year and I'm very grateful that we passed issues on 'Step Sponsorship', honoring the Founder, all the literature getting 'Conference Approved' ... A lot of work was done this year by committees and individuals ... I am truley grateful for that ... I think we are walking out on a new day."

Paul: "I really appreciate this ... the opportunity ... the drawing ... would have brought my drawing pad as well ... I get a good feeling about this and I walk away from this couple of days of meetings with the feeling that ... What I've gotten from doing service is that it's ok to do service ... I do appreciate the flowers and the opportunity to be here ... I don't like long meetings but I like the idea of being able to participate."

Carol: "Glad I made the effort to come here from Boston and be involved. I feel A.R.T.S. is a program with a vision and that this kind of work we do here today is implementing that vision and that whatever feeling comes out in people including me, we can't go forward without this kind of hard and tedious work ... We can't go forward ... We can't get the ideas translated to the grassroots of Boston or the other places if we can't have this flow of communication once a year. Then the committees don't get the energy and imput back ... and I look forward to Conferences where there are lots of Delegates ... and the stories you told of A.A. ... I'm really glad you were here (Desmond) ... And this will happen to us ... That we'll be in the 'Vangard' ... That's not because I want approval ... but because I'd like to have that many A.R.T.S. meetings to go to (in) different countries..."

Abigail: "I want to say thank you to you all for putting such marvelous energy out, for your dedication, for your committment, for your focus, for your high level of professionalism ... I know all of you now many years ... And I feel that you are family to me ... I feel love ... There isn't one of you that I don't have a sweetness for ... That is unique to you because of the experience that we have shared, you and I ... and that means a lot to me that you are here and committed to A.R.T.S.."

Desmond: "I want to thank you for letting me feel your sensitivity. I think there is a way you deal with things that is more intuitive than I am used to experiencing. And there is great energy in that for getting through a lot of stuff very fast. I am amazed at Alicia. You are a terrific leader of this group . . . Where you just tell people what to do and they do it . . . (the Conference breaks out in laughter) . . . I want to applaud you for that (continued Conference laughter)

'cause otherwise there'd be chaos. There is something that you've got here I sense, that I haven't sensed anywhere else . . . and just stay with it please because the energy that you've uncovered here can transform much of society . . . Don't give up! . . . Churchill gave a speech once at a college commencement and he stood up and said at the microphone, "Never give up . . ." and then he waited . . . everybody's kind of waiting for him to do something and then he said again . . . "Never give up!" And people kind of waiting, fidgetting in their seats, and finally got up to the microphone and said "Never give up!" And then he sat down .

Annette: "The times I thought I had given up because I'd given up trying to achieve material success that being in this Fellowship and going through the makings of what is going on now is showing me that I didn't give up. And neither did my Higher Power . . . I am grateful for this and most of all, I have gotten beyond the things that have kept me from being part of a group like this . . . many of my personal insecurities came up during this meeting and I feel intimate with a lot of people I felt separated from at the beginning of this meeting . . . I think that that is a real positive for me."

Bruce B.: "This has been a very positive experience for me. And I have been very wary about service. Now I am really turned on and really bogged at all this. And I offer myself to serving my program."

Phyllis: "It feels strange to be part of something that is as big as I perceive A.R.T.S. Anonymous to be, maybe not big in numbers but just big in concept, the concept of fulfilling one's creative potential. My favorite transversal psychologist, Maslow, stated that **whole thing** many years ago. When I found there was actually a psychologist who was focusing on the positive instead of dwelling in the negative, I was just really turned on. So, to find a 12-Step program that was dwelling in the positive solution, not that others don't, it's just that even in A.A. you have to move yourself up from stopping the drinking and then you've got life to live. And the Steps in A.A. are about living life and in A.R.T.S., it's about living life as a creative happy joyous great human being. And I love the Promises in A.A. And I love the Talents that my friend Patty wrote. Just as an aside, she wrote those when she was about three months in the program . . . that's the kind of energy that came through to write that."

Alicia: "Well, I want to thank everybody for behaving! (Swelling Conference laughter) You made my job easy because I went out on a limb a lot of times but I felt that it was safe to do that. I felt that I was entrusted, not in a co-dependent way, but in a way that makes sure that this was a safe environment for everybody to express their opinions, for us to make decisions and that forum is also part of our recovery and for me, I prayed last night that God would be present in the room and first thing when I got up I met Varda in the hall and she said, "I have a prayer for you, a meditation, and we started the afternoon in prayer and I think these things are very important, 'cause last year it was a very linear way of running the meeting and I freaked. And I know other people freaked. I didn't want to come back. And I said to Abigail, 'Unless there is more right brain, don't invite me.' I find that it was. I think that we learned from last year and have a lot of things to look forward to and energize ourselves going to work the 12th Step. "

Leslie: "I am just so touched by this. It's so interesting. You know, throughout the year we have these monthly World Board meetings and we have a tape recorder in the center that represents talking to all of you people that have now manifested in the flesh. (Conference laughter) It's such a pleasure to hear. I love hearing the Regional reports and hearing what the flesh and blood of the program is like out there. I tend to get blinkered and I also have to say that doing the service I just haven't been going to meetings. And I have to tell you, I am just so hungry to get back to my own personal recovery. The irony is I leave here so energized about service (Conference laughter). It's just an incredible paradox to this whole thing. Also, just an aside, I just want to say I am so touched by how this meeting has evolved from the sharing meeting that we had to this, to the map, to the drawing, and I hope these become staples of meetings of the future because they have meant a lot. Thanks."

Manny: "I have been extremely impressed with this meeting. I was at last year's and was also dreading this year's. (Conference laughter) This has been absolute delight, wonderful experience and I want to thank everybody that had anything to do with it. And I must compliment you (Alicia) on your handling as Chair. You never lost your temper . . . Congratulations!"

John T.: "I'd like to congratulate everyone and I thank everyone for this great, great Conference. The participation has been magic and allowing... the fact that we were allowed to speak and participate, I was energized coming in. I am more energized now. Thank you."

Roc: "Well, the thing is I noticed last night I was looking at everybody's faces . . . I seen you before, and that's just not possible (Conference laughter). Life's not that wierd. Obviously, I came in receptive and you all have made a good impression, made an impression on me that feels like everybody here is themselves, is distinct. I seek out distinct people . . . this has been a real distinct event for me. I like it when I step forward into something and it feels good. Thank you."

Alicia/Chair: ASKS THE CONFERENCE TO TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO PREVIEW TONIGHT'S EVENT--THE INTRODUCTION OF THE TRUSTEES, A BRIEF TALK BY EX-A.A. TRUSTEE, DESMOND, AND THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY A.R.T.S. FOUNDER, ABIGAIL.

CONFERENCE CLOSSES IN THE SERENITY PRAYER

RESPECTFULLY,



BOB F. RECORDING SECRETARY
TRUSTEE A.R.T.S. W.S. BOARD

Note: In the majority of cases, ellipsis marks were used for transcription purposes to indicate pauses in speech rather than omissions of text.

OH PLEASE!

O', Please! Let me KEEP my resentments!
Those odious companions of mine.
They've stuck by my side,
Crawled under my hide
Sat with me thru long, sleepless nights

O', Please! Let me KEEP my resentments!
Pet gremlins that knot my insides
Reside in that place
Taking up rent-free space
Where my heart and my soul should abide.

O', Please! Let me KEEP my resentments!
My breast swells with needs and desires.
I yearn for the Joys:
Trusted friends, balanced poise,
A loving mate and security.

O', Please! Let me HAVE my resentments!
Let me SAVOR familiar pain
Let them gnaw at my bones
Turn my heart into stone,
I can FIGHT! I can live without gain!

John A.T.

CONCERNS OF SANTA FE A.R.T.S

1. It is the concensus of the group that some "authorized" material, including the 12 steps, is not appropriate for all of us, and we read outside materials at our meetings that seem to speak to us in a more loving and supportive voice. We have not abandoned reading authorized materials, but rather supplement them.

2. Perhaps this is because, unlike other 12-step groups, A.R.T.S. members seem to stay with the group for long periods of time (3-4 years), and through the years many of us feel that we have outgrown some of the materials provided. For instance, many of us feel the "ARTS.Traits" are negative and we prefer not to read them at meetings. However, when new members are present, we try to read as much of the authorized material as possible, and we see that they receive copies.

3. There is no one in the group currently who wishes to take Varda's place as liaison to World Service. We all seem to feel the same: We don't have enough time or energy now to put into our art, and we don't want to spread ourselves any thinner than we already are. So, if Varda doesn't continue, we will be without a representative, which is okay with us.

4. We have had many group consciences around the issue of sticking to the creative process in our sharing, and the consensus has been very strong that members should bring their personal problems to other 12-step groups, and that our A.R.T.S. meetings should remain focused on our creative endeavors, keeping in mind that our creative lives and our personal lives are often intertwined. We strive to keep our meetings from turning into emotional "dumping grounds," and we feel that recurring relationship and family problems should be taken to other 12-step programs, of which there are many in Santa Fe. We have never refused to listen to a member in trouble, but we want our meetings to emphasize sharing our experience, strength and hope, with emphasis on the latter two.

5. We have experienced some dissent with several members who do not have the same view, and we have tried to deal with this difficult problem with compassion and fairness. We are attempting to continue to deal with it, although some members are talking about starting a second meeting, perhaps not affiliated with A.R.T.S., for people who want to keep the meetings focused on our creative processes. Or, perhaps the members who want to keep the meetings open for "anything goes" will start a second A.R.T.S. meeting for themselves and like-minded people.

6. We would be grateful for any guidance, feedback, etc., which might help us resolve this problem. We all value the group and each other, and are trying very hard to keep the group from splintering. Perhaps someone on the board could write us a letter addressing the above issues.

THE ABOVE POINTS REPRESENT THE MAJORITY VIEW OF SANTA FE A.R.T.S., AND ARE NOT MEANT TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL MEMBERS.

Stephanie G.

QUESTIONS:

Is there a new approved format for meetings?
Is there new wording for the 12 steps?