



A.R.T.S World Service Conference 2023 Report

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A Special Note of Gratitude to Donna D and Jay M and Marcie and Eddie Edd and all the Creative Cohorts who provided much welcomed and appreciated entertainment during our breaks!!!

Day One: Friday October 13, 2023

Facilitated by Matt B

Introductions

Groups Represented: Artists and Aging, Tuesday Steps 1-3, 8 am Daily Walk and Talk, Step Essay Discussion 1-12, Southeast London, APTC-Moscow, A.R.T.S. SF Bay Area, Sunday P.L.A.N., A.R.T.S. Recovery NYC, Culver City/LA, Paris, Boulder Monday A.R.T.S., Surrender to Creativity, Thursday Steps 1-2, Saturday Topic/Literature, Dublin A.R.T.S., Monday Beginners, Silver Spring A.R.T.S., Galway A.R.T.S.

Reviewed Guidelines for Delegate and Participant Etiquette (Appendix I)

Reviewed Voting Guidelines and Use of the Chat Feature

Reviewed the Agenda

Reviewed the Community Solving Method for Passing Motions (Appendix II)

Review of Quorum at the World Service Conference (Appendix III)

MOTION 1 Final Motion (After Crafting): Percentage to Pass a Motion

The Conference Planning Committee recommends the World Service Conference pass the following motion as presented: A motion passes if it is accepted by a simple majority of the total number of Voting Members present. If not accepted by the Board of Trustees, justification will be directly provided to the Conference in writing. Exceptions to the simple majority rule are listed throughout the Charter. The Trustees are obligated by the Concepts of Service to provide good stewardship of the Corporation.

Vote Count: In favor 22, Opposed 4, Abstentions 0. **Motion Passes? YES**
Minority Opinion heard.

MOTION 2 Final Motion (After Crafting): Concept 12 of the Twelve Concepts of Service

The Policies & Procedures Committee moves that Concept 12 of the Twelve Concepts of Service of A.R.T.S. be revised to be consistent with the General Warranties of the Conference, which is stated in Concept 12 as passed in 2022, but which did not get recorded accurately or were inadvertently omitted during the adoption process, as presented:

- a. No service entity ever becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power.
- b. ARTS service entities maintain an ample prudent reserve sufficient for their operations. Any additional funds will be available to carry out the primary purpose of the fellowship, 'to express our creative gifts and help others to achieve artistic freedom'.
- c. No member has unchecked authority over any other member.

d. All group conscience decisions are reached by discussion, vote, and consensus when possible.

e. No service entity action shall ever be personally punitive or incite public controversy.

f. ARTS service entities will always remain democratic in thought and action

Vote Count: In favor 22, Opposed 1, Abstentions 0. **Motion Passes? YES**
Minority Opinion heard.

MOTION 3 Final Motion (After Crafting): Literature Development/Approval Process

The Literature Committee and the Board of Trustees recommend approval by the 2023 World Service Conference the following updated and revised 2023 Literature Development/Approval Process, based on the 1995 Conference-Approved Literature Development Process, as presented:

2023 Literature Development/Approval Process

Introduction

The purpose of the A.R.T.S. Anonymous Conference Approved Literature Process is to create a body of A.R.T.S. Anonymous Literature that supports members’ creative potential. This process enables the A.R.T.S. Anonymous program to gain the right to publish material and/or to post specific pieces of literature for distribution and/or for sale.

A sequence of reviews, successfully conducted (as explained below), will carry a piece of A.R.T.S. Anonymous Literature from draft proposal to final approval by both the A.R.T.S. Board of Trustees and the A.R.T.S. World Service Conference, and thus gain the designation of A.R.T.S. Conference Approved Literature.

1. A concept for a piece of A.R.T.S. literature or a first draft of all or part of an A.R.T.S. literature manuscript can be submitted by any member, group or service entity of A.R.T.S. Anonymous.

All A.R.T.S. Literature seeks support through a collaborative literature development process. A.R.T.S. literature reflects the principles of unity, anonymity and being self-supporting through our own contributions. Therefore a member submitting a concept or draft of all or a part of an A.R.T.S. Literature manuscript is asked to sign a letter of agreement 1) releasing the manuscript to the “ownership” of A.R.T.S. Anonymous; and 2) willingness to recuse themselves from and defer to a committee’s group conscience decisions related to their work.

2. The Board of Trustees (BoT) Literature Committee considers the concept or manuscript in relation to overall literature development priorities and projects depending on resources, time and skills. After discussing already existing literature, feasibility, and time needed to develop the project, the submission is positioned among other literature development projects.

3. Manuscript Development: The Literature Committee will determine the appropriate way to develop the manuscript. This will include providing writing and/or editorial guidelines. The committee may hire or contract a writer, translator and/or editor to compile and edit member

submissions. Forming such a manuscript for the piece of literature is subject to terms approved by the Board of Trustees. The Literature Committee may include the originator of the concept or the manuscript, and also other A.R.T.S. members, to work with them on various aspects of the proposed project.

4. Following independent review by the Literature Committee and the A.R.T.S. Anonymous Board of Trustees, changes are made to the initial manuscript based on their editorial comments. These comments address the manuscript's grammar and mechanics, and also its adherence to the principles of the A.R.T.S. Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Service, while retaining the concepts, intention and voice of the original author.

5. Following the guidance provided by the Literature Committee and the Board of Trustees, a near-final draft is produced for review by the Literature Committee. Additional revisions may still be incorporated.

6. The manuscript approved by the Literature Committee is sent to the A.R.T.S. Board of Trustees for review and approval.

By tradition, the Board of Trustees accepts the responsibility to ensure the Fellowship that the spiritual principles of A.R.T.S. Anonymous have been adhered to throughout the work.

7. After having been approved by the A.R.T.S. Board of Trustees, the manuscript is presented by the Literature Committee at the next World Service Conference. To facilitate the feedback process of literature development, a manuscript for which Conference-approval is pending will be sent to registered Meeting Delegates two months before the World Service Conference. This will be accompanied by the *Guidelines for Reviewing A.R.T.S. Literature*. Comments from A.R.T.S. members are encouraged and will be considered by the Conference.

8. To receive "conference-approval," the manuscript must be approved by a 2/3 vote of all World Service Conference Delegates attending the annual World Service Conference meeting.

9. After considering copyright assignment and/or licensing agreements, and budgetary feasibility, the BoT determines the timing, production and distribution of the conference-approved literature. The final piece of A.R.T.S. Literature will carry a "conference-approved" label. If necessary, the BoT may return a manuscript to the Literature Committee for further development.

Guidelines for Reviewing A.R.T.S. Literature

These guidelines are sent to all those involved in the literature approval process, including the delegates. They are intended as a guide to review new and revised literature proposed to the Conference.

A. The work is identifiably A.R.T.S. Anonymous in content and tone. It can include a single member's philosophy or point of view and reflects the "collective conscience" of A.R.T.S. Anonymous.

B. The work is understandable by a broad-based audience.

C. The work is responsive to identified needs.

D. The work is grammatically and mechanically correct. Citations are accurate.

E. The work adheres to the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service.

Vote Count: In favor 16, Opposed 4, Abstentions 0. **Motion Passes? YES**
Minority Opinion heard.

Day Two: Friday October 13, 2023

Facilitated by Matt B

MOTION 4 Final Motion (After Crafting): Add an Introduction to the Traits

To recommend that the World Service Conference add an introduction to the Traits to read:

These are some of the common traits that many struggling artists experienced before seeking a solution in A.R.T.S. Anonymous.

Vote Count: In favor 20, Opposed 1, Abstentions. **Motion Passes? YES**

Minority Opinion: Motivation: All art is a struggle and any work is expression of deep feelings. So to think that struggling is negative and bothers the person opposing the motion.

MOTION 5 Final Motion (After Crafting): Update to the Text of Trait 7

To recommend that the World Service Conference update the text of Trait 7 to read:

Repeatedly we stood at the edge of a beginning, unable to move forward; avoiding our art, and unable to commit to pursuing or developing our creativity as a means of earning a living. The concept of supporting ourselves through our art seemed overwhelming.

Vote Count: In favor 15, Opposed 5, Abstentions 3. **Motion Passes? YES**

Minority Opinion Heard

Adhoc Motions:

Motion to remove Matt B as Conference Facilitator

Vote Count: In favor 3, 15 opposed, 1 abstention. **Motion Passes? NO**

Minority Opinion Heard

Motion to continue the business of the Conference:

Vote Count: In favor 16, Opposed 2, Abstentions 0. **Motion Passes? YES**

Minority Opinion Heard

MOTION 6 Final Motion (After Crafting): Adding a "Preamble" to the Tools and Removal of "Steps" as a Tool

To recommend that the World Service Conference remove "Steps" from the list of Tools and approve an update to the Preamble of the Tools to read:

[Preamble] In addition to working the Twelve Steps, which are fundamental to working the program, we use the A.R.T.S. Tools to build connection with others and bring our

art into the realm of reality. These positive disciplines support us in living every day as the artists we are.

Vote Count: In favor 15, Opposed 3, Abstentions 1. **Motion Passes? YES**
Minority Opinion Heard

MOTION 7 Final Motion (After Crafting): Updates to the Tools “Affirmations”, “Meetings” and “Anonymity”

To recommend that the World Service Conference approve updates to the Tools “Affirmations”, “Meetings” and “Anonymity” to read:

AFFIRMATIONS We identify ourselves as the artists that we are. “My name is _____ and I am a _____.” This and other positive statements affirm our commitment and help offset invalidating societal myths, attitudes and beliefs.

MEETINGS We attend meetings to learn how the program works. We share our experience, strength and hope with each other, as well as our art and/or creative process.

ANONYMITY We respect the confidential nature of each member’s share. Who and what we see and hear at meetings is not repeated outside the meeting. We also maintain anonymity at the level of press, radio, TV, video, social media and other public forums.

Vote Count: In favor 15, Opposed 0, Abstentions 3. **Motion Passes? YES**

MOTION 8 Final Motion (After Crafting): Updates to the Tools: “Action Groups,” “Art Buddy” and “Bookending”

To recommend that the World Service Conference approve updates to the Tools “Action Groups”, “Art Buddy” and “Bookending” to read:

ACTION GROUPS We form mutual support groups of fellowship members to help each other develop action plans and follow through on them.

ART BUDDY An art buddy is another A.R.T.S. member, someone we speak with on a regular basis to turn over what we have done or will do for our art today. Our art buddy may be someone in our field or a different one.

BOOKENDING We bookend by making contact with another member before and after taking action for our art. Expressing our thoughts and feelings clarifies our course of action and helps us to move through the process.

Vote Count: In favor 16, Opposed 0, Abstentions 1. **Motion Passes? YES**

Procedural Motion during the Vote on Motion 8: To extend the time for the conference to continue by extending the time to finish business.

Vote Count: In favor 14, Opposed 0, Abstention 0. **Motion Passes? YES**

Day Three: Saturday October 21, 2023

Facilitated by Matt B

MOTION 9 Final Motion (After Crafting): Updates to the Tools: “Telephone,” “Action Plan,” and “Creativity Inventory”

To recommend that the World Service Conference approve updates to the Tools “Telephone,” “Action Plan” and “Creativity Inventory” to read:

COMMUNICATING We address our feelings of isolation by reaching out to other A.R.T.S. members and sharing between meetings. Communicating with another member helps both artists.

ACTION PLAN This is our personal roadmap for recovery. It includes specific actions to take for the development of our art and ourselves as artists, as well as listing our creative goals. It may also include a plan for realizing our professional aspirations and achieving balance in the significant areas of our lives.

CREATIVITY INVENTORY We take a written inventory of our artistic efforts and accomplishments since childhood.

Vote Count: In favor 20, Opposed 2, Abstentions 0. **Motion Passes? YES**
Minority Opinion Heard

MOTION 10 Final Motion (After Crafting): Updates to the Tools: “Literature” and “Prayer & Meditation”

To recommend that the World Service Conference approve an update to the Tools “Literature” and “Prayer & Meditation” to read:

LITERATURE We use A.R.T.S. literature to learn how a spiritual recovery can remove the blocks to artistic freedom. We use A.A., other Twelve Step Program literature or other inspirational material.

PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS: We use prayer and meditation as we seek to become channels for the Infinite Creative Process.

Vote Count: In favor: 17, Opposed 3, Abstentions 1. **Motion Passes? YES**

MOTION 11 Final Motion (After Crafting): Update to the Tool “Service” and Add a Tool “Sponsor & Sponsorship”

To recommend that the World Service Conference approve updates to the Tool “Service” and add a Tool “Sponsor & Sponsorship” to read:

SERVICE A.R.T.S. could not exist without the service of its members. Service expands our commitment to our A.R.T.S. recovery by providing a safe environment where we practice how to work with others, compromise, be open to the point of view of others, lead and work through problems.

SPONSORS & SPONSORSHIP A Sponsor is an A.R.T.S. member who embodies the recovery you seek and is experienced in working the A.R.T.S. Steps. We can work the Twelve Steps with the help and guidance of a Sponsor through a one-to-one relationship and/or in a group setting. Sponsorship can benefit all concerned.

Vote Count: In favor 19, Opposed 1, Abstentions 2. **Motion Passes? YES**
Minority Opinion Heard

MOTION 12 Final Motion (After Crafting): Updates to and Renaming the Tools: “Abstinence” and “Daily Action”

To recommend that the World Service Conference update and rename the Tools called “Abstinence” and “Daily Action” to read:

5-ALIVE We do our art for at least 5 minutes every day. We nurture our creativity every day. Five minutes a day keeps our art alive. Five alive!

HONORING THE CREATIVE SELF We abstain from behavior, thinking and attitudes that keep us from using our creative energy productively. We appreciate and express the creativity that is both inside and around us, taking time to play and to rest. Members often make commitments to nurture their creativity.

Vote Count: In favor 20, Opposed 1, Abstentions 1. **Motion Passes? YES**

Day Four: Saturday January 13, 2024

Facilitated by Matt B

2023 World Service Conference of A.R.T.S. Anonymous

Treasurer's Report

Revised 1-09-2024

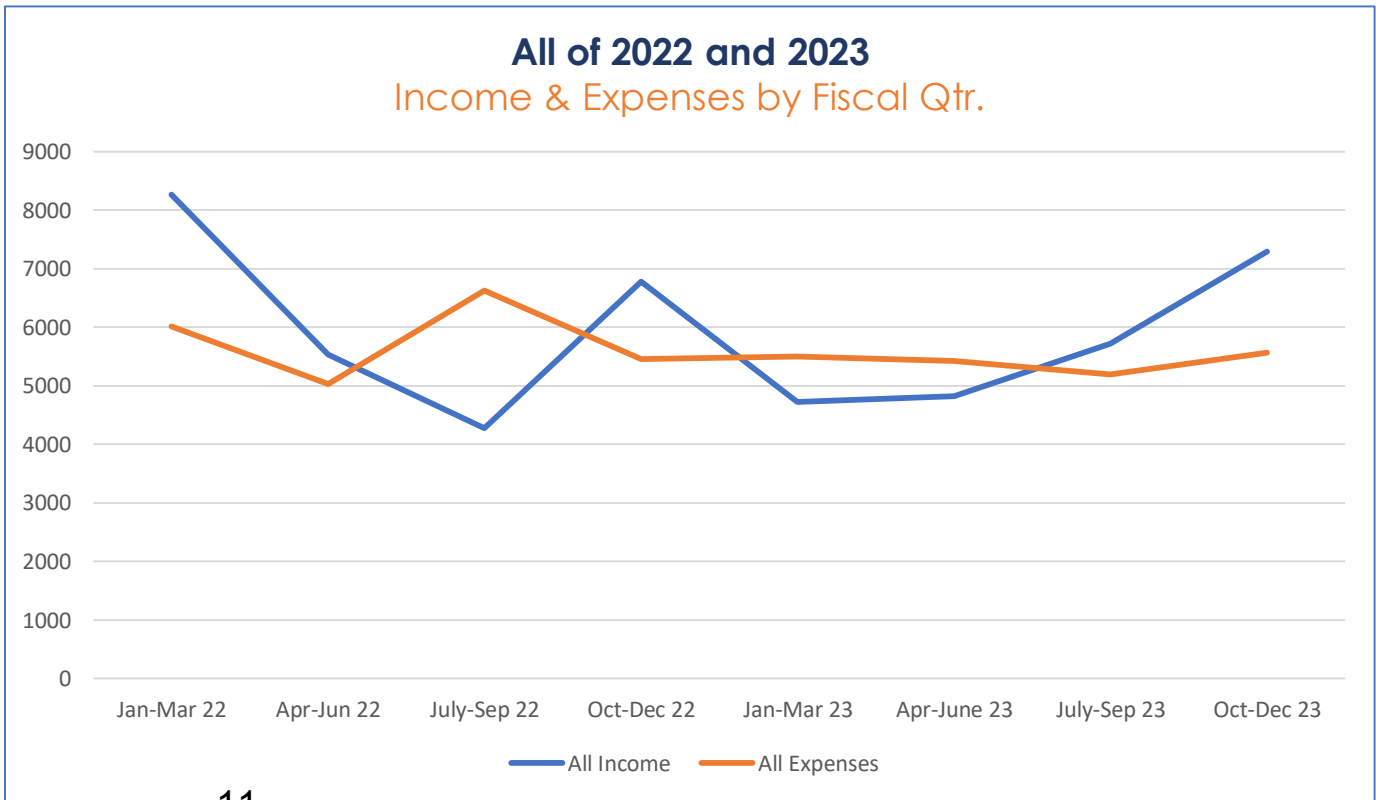
All of 2022 and 2023

by Fiscal Quarter

Income and Expenses

	Jan-Mar 22	Apr-Jun 22	July-Sep 22	Oct-Dec 22	Jan-Mar 23	Apr-June 23	July-Sep 23	July-Sep 23	Oct-Dec 23
All Income	8265.35	5527.53	4269.77	6779.14	4723.69	4817.22	5720.15	7292.87	7292.87
All Expenses	6018.44	5034.78	6624.77	5457.56	5496.93	5427.32	5191.31	5566.69	5566.69

- 2022 began with a large donation; overall income (blue line) dropped and is going back up again
- The uptick in income at the end of 2022 is due to the 2022 Conference, Convention and Birthday Celebration
- The end of 2023 shows a good trend upwards in income while expenses (orange line) remain steady



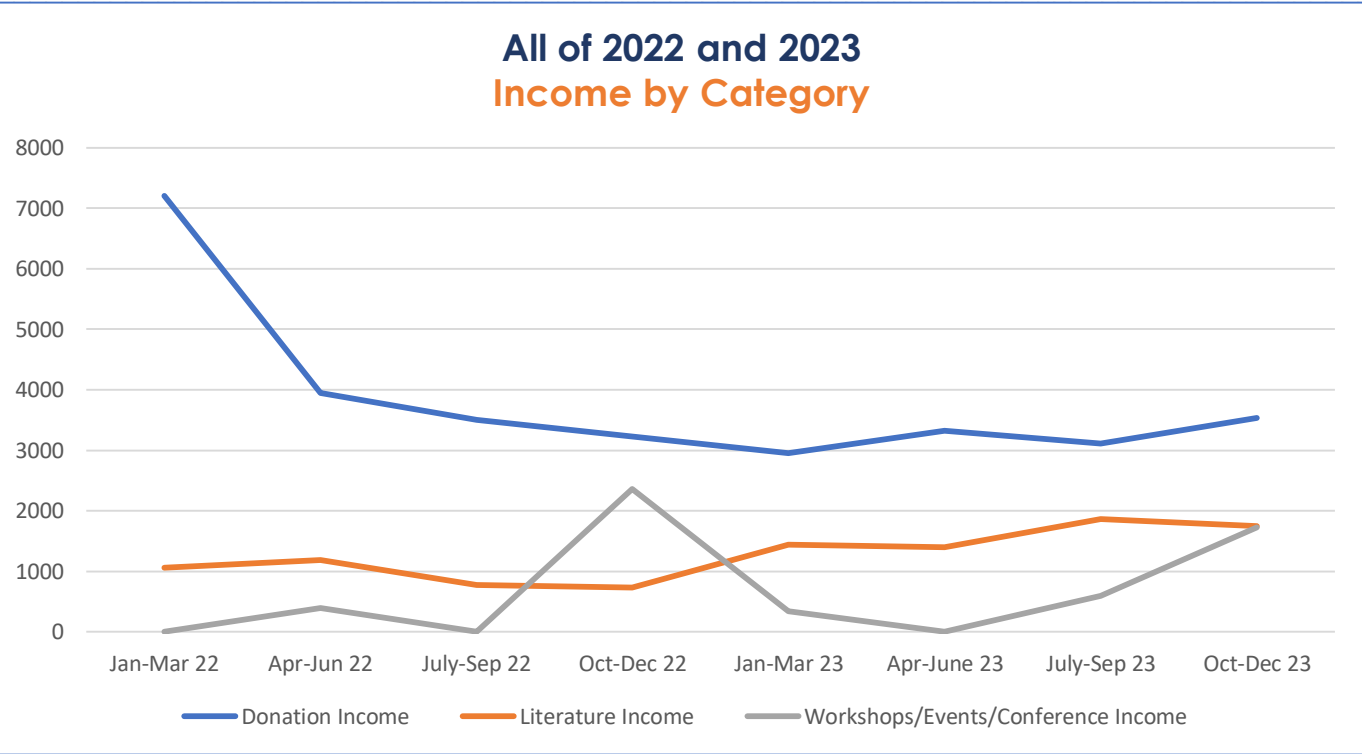
All of 2022 and 2023

by Fiscal Quarter

Income by Category

Category	Jan-Mar 22	Apr-Jun 22	July-Sep 22	Oct-Dec 22	Jan-Mar 23	Apr-June 23	July-Sep 23	Oct-Dec 23
Donation Income	7206.5	3946.65	3500.76	3229.73	2952.92	3325.47	3116.36	3529.38
Literature Income	1058.85	1182.88	769.01	728.19	1435.55	1396.75	1861.94	1741.89
Events/Conference Income	0.00	398	0.00	2356.22	335.22	0.00	592.3	1721.60

- Donations (blue line) remain the largest source of income
- Income from Literature (orange line) and Events/Conference (gray line) is going up



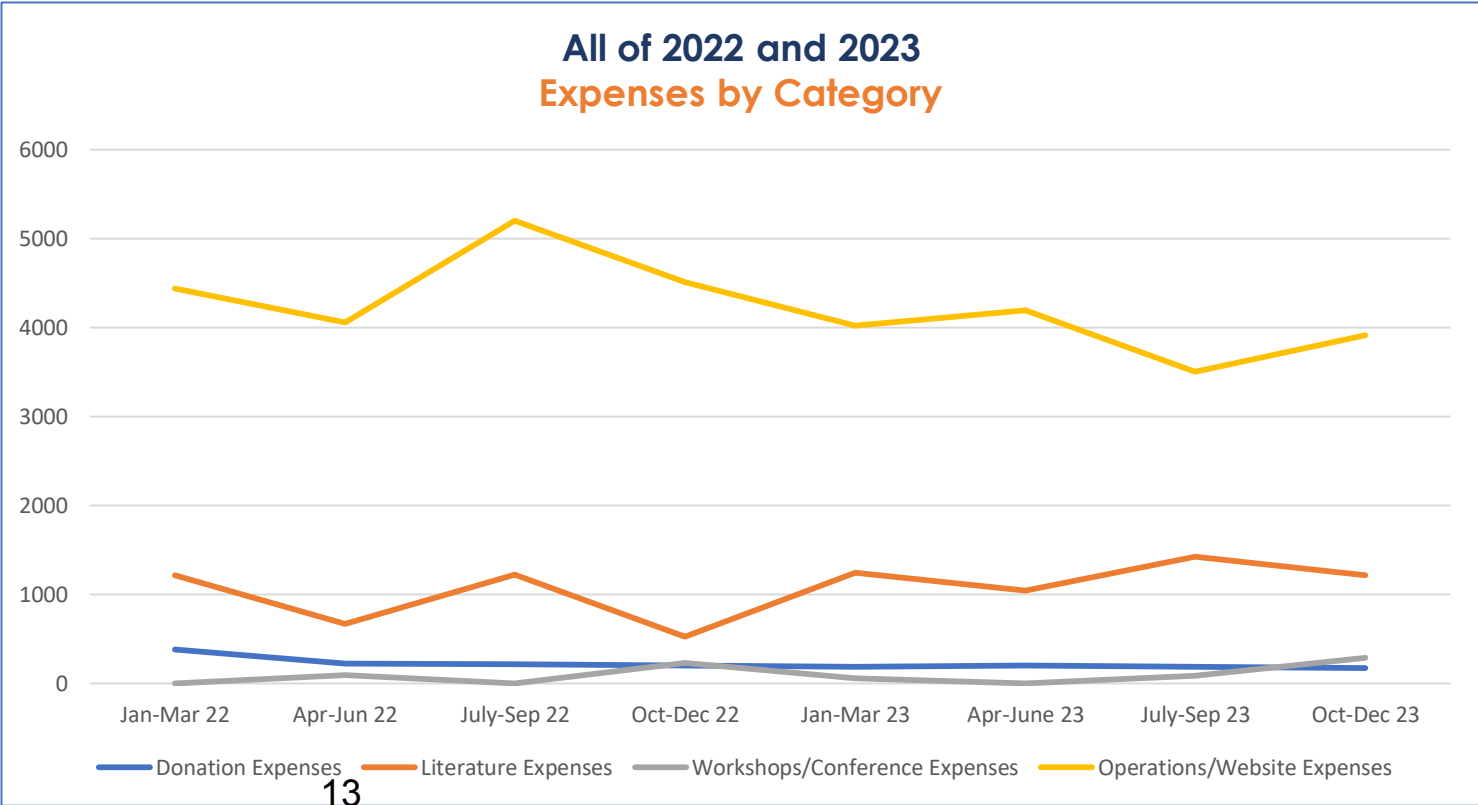
All of 2022 and 2023

by Fiscal Quarter

Expenses by Category

Category	Jan-Mar 22	Apr-Jun 22	July-Sep 22	Oct-Dec 22	Jan-Mar 23	Apr-June 23	July-Sep 23	Oct-Dec 23
Donation Expenses	375.17	221.17	210.79	200.39	184.65	194.73	184.66	166.93
Literature Expenses	1211.15	668.94	1216.59	522.49	1240.73	1039.1	1422.14	1209.47
Events/Conference Expenses	0.00	90.37	0.00	229.99	54.82	0.00	81.99	282.39
Operations/Website Expenses	4432.12	4054.3	5197.39	4504.69	4016.73	4193.49	3502.52	3907.90

- Operations (yellow line) is the highest expense category, but has dropped some
- Monetary benefit for each A.R.T.S. meeting from Office Operations and the Website is estimated to be \$29.30 per month

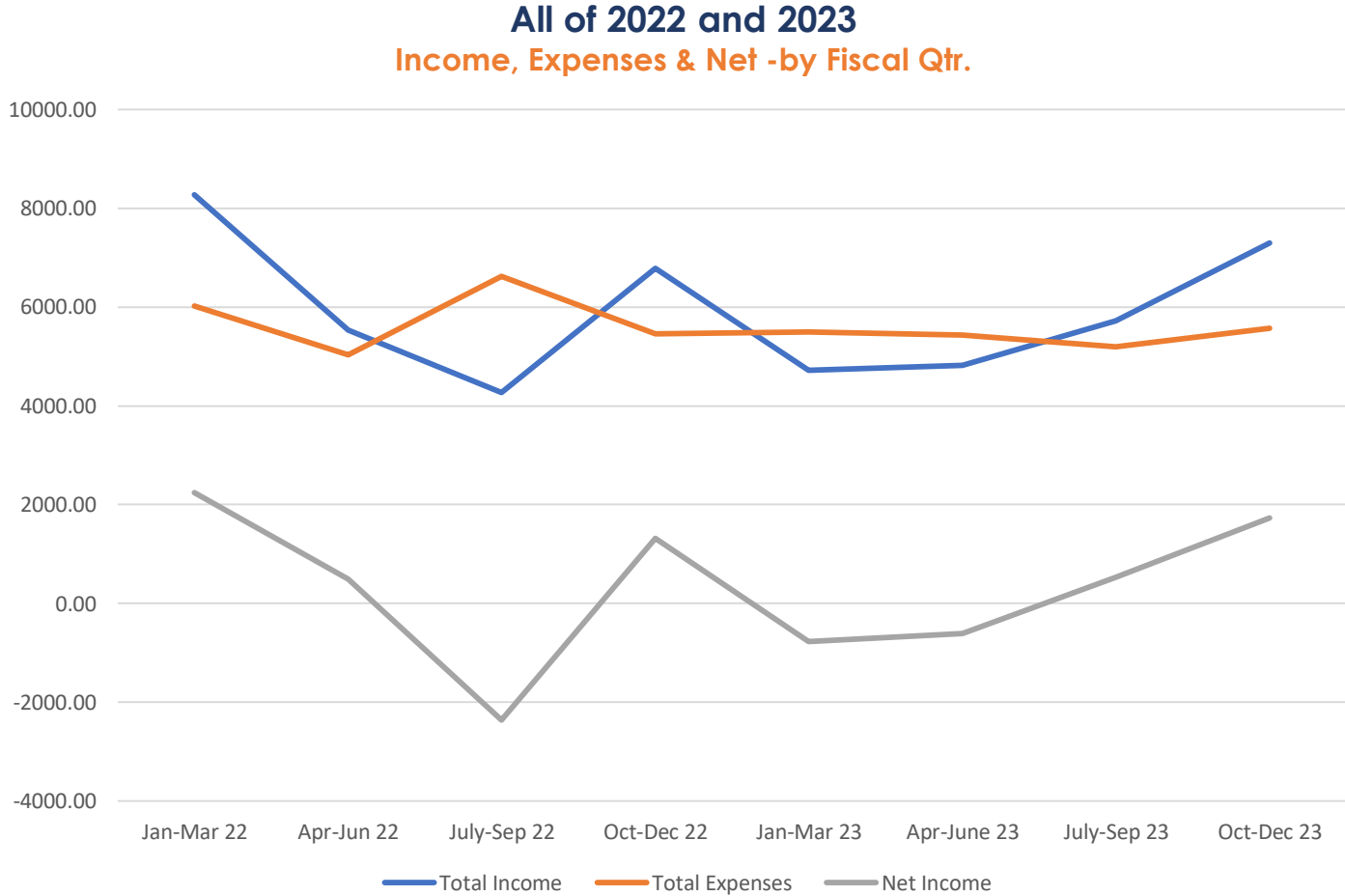


All of 2022 and 2023

by Fiscal Quarter

Income, Expenses & Net

- "Net Income" (the gray line) refers to the amount of income received as compared to the expenses paid in any given moment
- Net income goes up and down, depending on how much income we earn compared to the expenses. Sometimes that goes into the negative (below zero)
- Right now, net income is above 0, meaning we are in a moment of profit



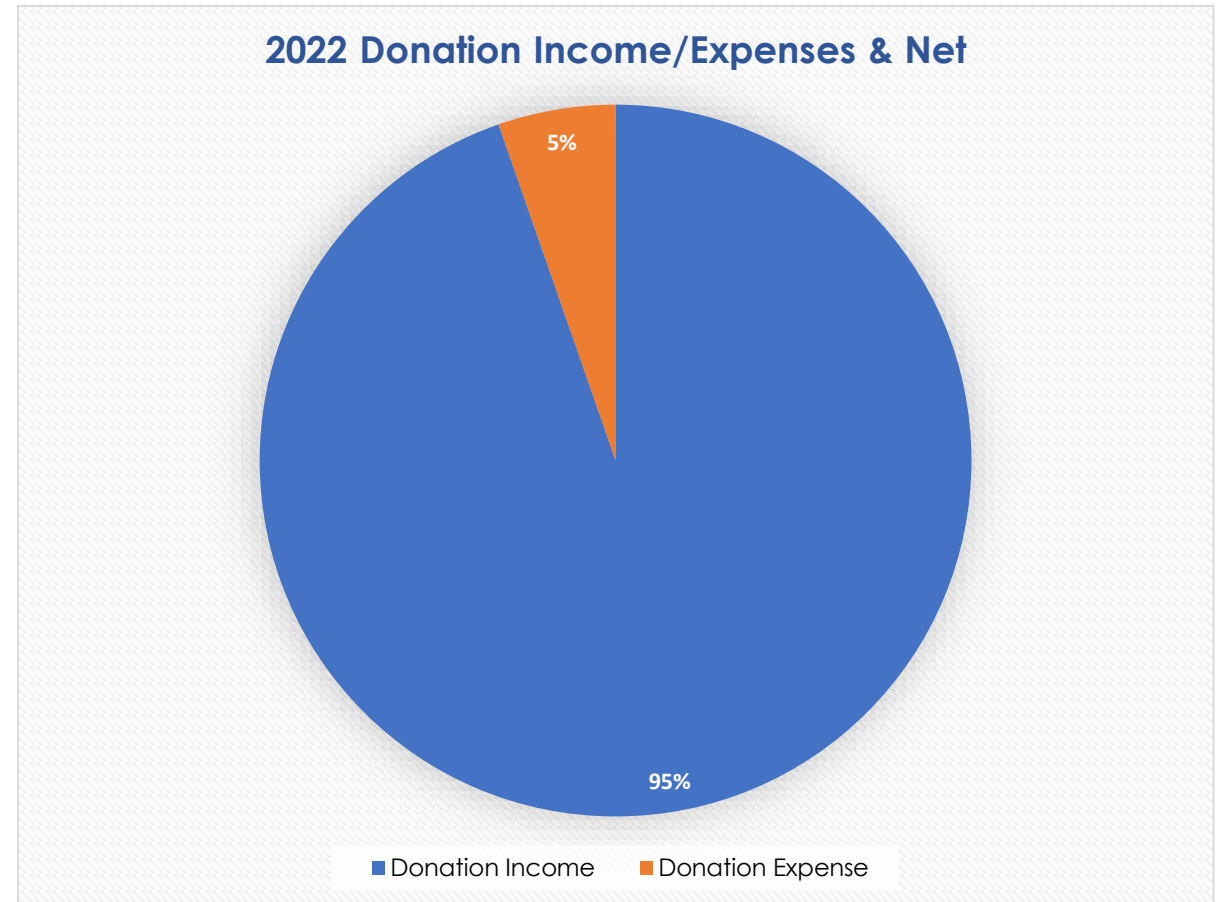
All of 2022 – Donation Income / Expenses & Net

Donations Income - 2022 \$17,883.64

Donations Expense - 2022 \$1,007.52

Donations Net Income - 2022 \$16,876.12

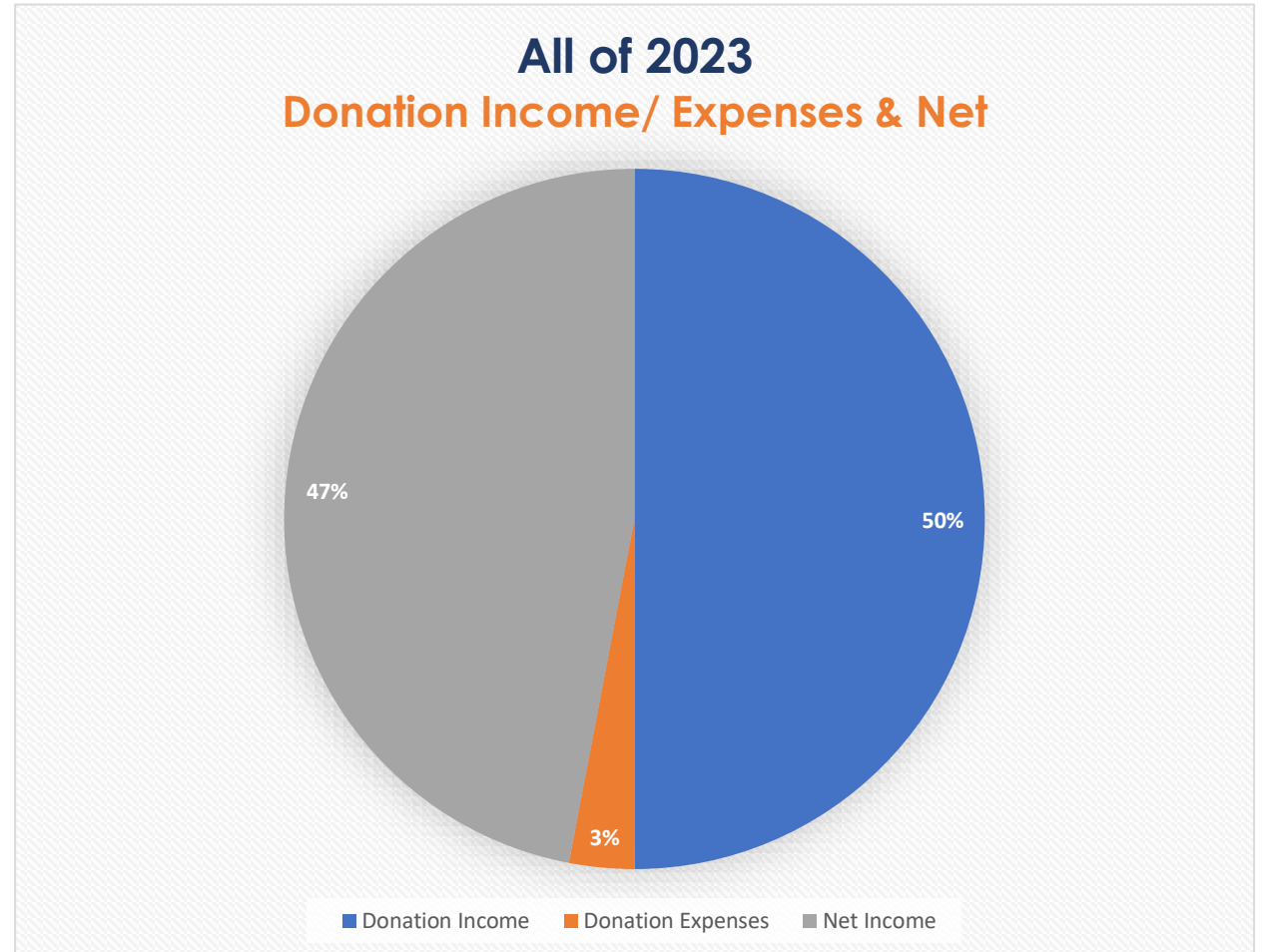
- \$3800 One-time major donation January 2022
- Expenses include the processing and transaction fees from credit cards and Paypal. In 2022 this came to just under 5%



All of 2023 – Donation Income/Expenses & Net Donation Income/Expenses/Net

Donations Income - 2023	\$12,924.13
Donations Expense - 2023	730.97
Donations Net Income - 2023	12,193.16

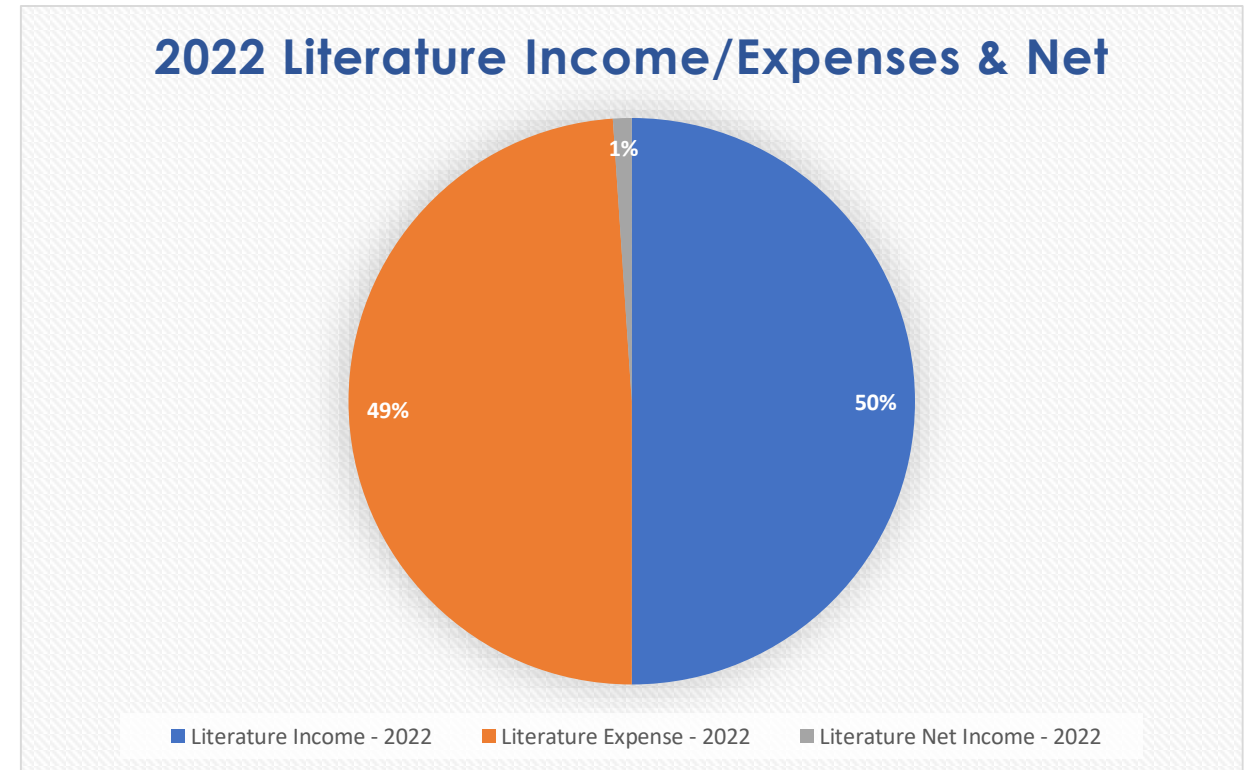
- When not counting the \$3,800 major donation made in 2022, the anticipated donation amount in 2023 is lower by \$1,159.51 from 2022 (about \$96.62 a month)
- International credit card fees have gone up
- Paypal donations, particularly when the donor pay the fees, costs A.R.T.S. less in transaction fees due to our not-for-profit status. Paypal donations are increasing
- Check donations incur no expense



All of 2022 – Literature Income / Expenses & Net

Literature Income - 2022	\$3,738.93
Literature Expense - 2022	\$3,659.21
Literature Net Income - 2022	\$79.72

- Literature (all printed books, booklets and pamphlets, plus pamphlets in kindle) barely broke even in 2022
- In June 2022 the Board moved to stop printing pamphlets and booklets as they were losing money
- A number of member-written pamphlets were converted for electronic download sale. There is a clear profit for ARTS for these, and the conversion takes little time

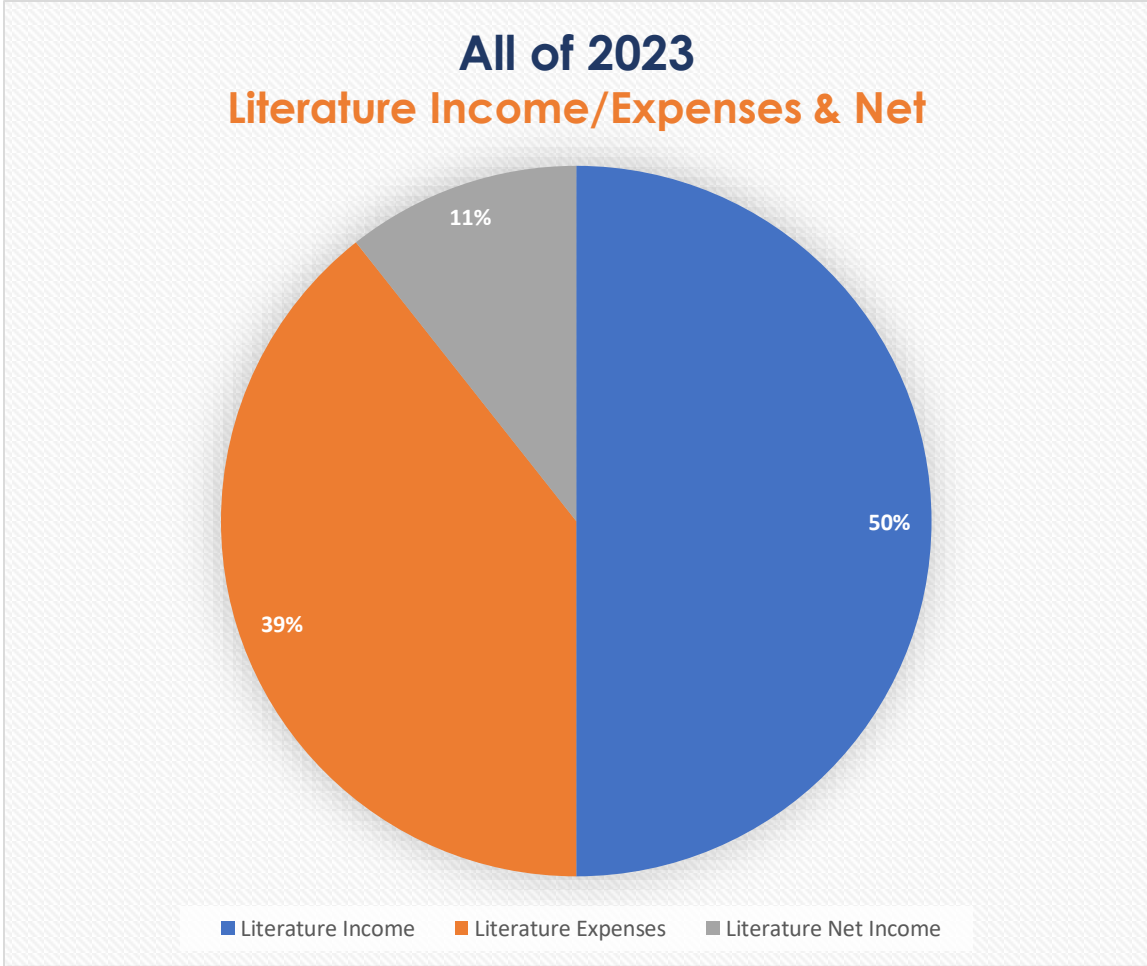


All of 2023 – Literature Income/Expenses & Net

Literature Income – 2023 \$6522.14

Literature Expense – 2023 \$4972.13

Literature Net Income – 2023 \$1550.01



- 2023 shows a healthier margin in net income, of about 11%. If this becomes a trend it has the potential to provide "seed money" for developing future literature.
- There has been a rise in shipping charges from the printer for shipping books in print. We just about break even on shipping print materials
- Income from pamphlets in electronic form is increasing as titles continued to be added

All of 2022 – Events/Conference Income/Expenses

Events/Conference Income - 2022	\$2,754.22
Events/Conference Expense - 2022	\$320.36
Events/Conference Net Income – 2022	\$2,433.86

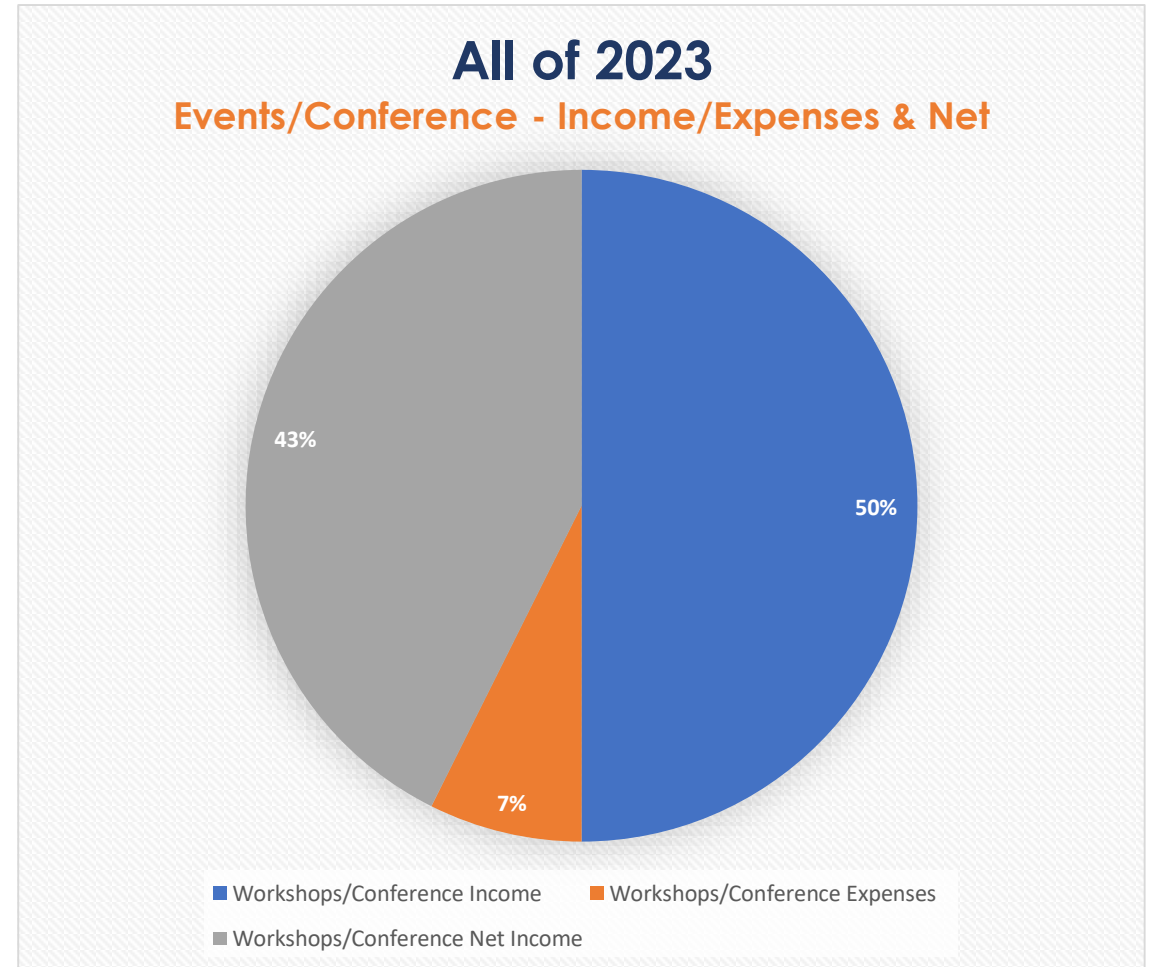
- In 2022, the Conference/Convention/Celebration was a major source of revenue
- Expenses for Workshops, Conference and other events are for Eventbrite ticketing fees, credit card and Paypal processing fees



All of 2023 – Events/Conference Income/Expenses

Events/Conference Income – 2023	\$2649.12
Events/Conference Expense – 2023	\$419.20
Events/Conference Net Income – 2023	\$2229.92

- The idea for a Convention has been moved to early 2024, so income from that will come then
- The quarterly Sharathon has begun
- Eventbrite fees and international credit card processing fees have gone up. We are trying TicketTailor, which could reduce expenses



Conclusions

- Overall income has dropped by about \$2,300 from the end of 2022 to the end of 2023
- 2022 ended with about \$1,666 in net income, and 2023 ended with \$897 in net income
- Cost-cutting and volunteer contributions of time and services has kept operations expenses lower even with a staff raise. We have yet to see the potential for a prudent reserve
- Income sources are becoming more varied
- Income from Literature increased from a 1% margin in 2022 to a healthier 11% margin in 2023
- Income from workshops, the Conference, and other events provide a strong source of income. Donations are where most income comes from.
- There is a hope the meetings become self-supporting, including the value of what they receive in services from the A.R.T.S. World Service Office

2023 Committee Reports

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT TO THE 2023 WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE presented by Allegra B

Over the last year, the A.R.T.S. Anonymous Board of Trustees conducted several discussions and a retreat for the purpose of exploring the principles of the 12 Traditions and the 12 Concepts of ARTS Anonymous. The Trustees remain committed to carrying the message of A.R.T.S. Anonymous in a manner consistent with the Traditions. The Board always attempts to exercise its powers and makes decisions within the principles of the A.R.T.S. Anonymous fellowship as laid out in the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts of Service of A.R.T.S. Anonymous.

Directly after the conclusion of the 2022 World Service Conference, Allegra B. was elected Chair, Pat Q. was elected Vice-Chair, Cindyann W. was elected Secretary, and Dave F. was elected as Treasurer. The Board decided on a regular meeting date of the second Saturday of each month.

There was discussion on what the priorities for the Board are for 2023, along the lines of growing the membership and improving A.R.T.S. financial health. As a result, Board members took on certain goals and actions. These include the following:

- Immediately “doable” updates to the website.
- Developing new member-written literature and engaging the membership in the Traditions through a newsletter writing project.
- Forming a committee to survey the talents and skills of the members to help with outreach and other efforts.
- Regular updates to the Delegates about the Conference and Pre-Conference.
- Board members acting as liaisons to reach out personally to meeting contacts and Delegates in support of the meetings and providing service.
- Updating materials on the website for starting new meetings. These and the A.R.T.S. Meeting Basics document were revised with the help of an ad hoc committee of volunteers.
- A “Welcome to A.R.T.S. team” was formed with an alias email for newcomers who might have questions.
- A Workshop Committee was formed to hold workshops relevant to recovery in A.R.T.S., benefit the membership and achieve financial sustainability.

- A committee was formed inviting members to participate in planning quarterly “Sharathon” events which would provide a day-long platform for members’ art and creativity. Work on these efforts is ongoing.

Major Board Actions:

- The Board decided not to renew its consulting agreement with Florence F. As Board consultant she provided experience, strength and hope as the Board reorganized, and she facilitated the renewal of the World Service Conference. We thank her for her service.
- The Board asked Dave F. to leave the Board. We thank him for his service and contributions.
- The Board approved reviving the Conference-approved versions of four member-written pamphlets which are now available on the website via Kindle. It also approved sending On Being the Perfect Artist to the Conference, along with updates and revisions to Facing Avoidance. These were approved by the Conference at a special One-Day meeting in July.
- Some updates to the Traits and Tools submitted by the Literature Committee have been reviewed by the Board and will be considered at the October World Service Conference.
- In preparation for submissions from members to an A.R.T.S. book of member personal stories, pro bono legal services were engaged to review an Author Release Form drafted by the Board. This project is ongoing, and we are hoping to continue the relationship with the firm for future legal services, such as copyright registration of Conference-approved literature, foreign language translation licensing agreements, etc.
- The Literature Committee is now officially a standing committee of the Board of Trustees. A.R.T.S. members are welcome to join this committee.
- The Board developed a list of potential new Board members and some of them are being approached on an individual basis to discuss the opportunities. There is a concern that we need more voices, better fiscal oversight, and time in service on the Board for newer members to later carry on the work once Board member terms end.
- Discussion emerged about different ways financial oversight of A.R.T.S. could be structured as an alternative to a Treasurer on the Board, such as Chief Financial Officer, or a Trustee-at-Large who would allow expertise from non-members of A.R.T.S. These are possibilities.
- The Board has oversight of the World Service Office. The office continues to find ways to reduce the cost of A.R.T.S. operations and gave its special worker a long overdue raise. A 2023 budget was created by contacting our monthly and annual services, asking for anticipated cost raises.
- We switched to an online version of Quickbooks which saves quite a bit of money.
- Microsoft Office 365 OneDrive is being utilized to save server space and a backup external hard drive has also been installed. We continue to learn more about the benefits (and shortcomings) of MS 365 as A.I. has its impact.

- We were forced to upgrade our Mailchimp service, and its contact database, in order to segment and more reliably reach the membership.
- An overhaul of the Management Reports over the past 2 plus years was done to accurately reflect our income and expenses.
- The use of Google forms for various submissions such as meeting additions or changes, motions submission, surveys, etc. has reduced website costs and made communication with members easier.
- Other website related services that were no longer being used have been cancelled.
- As office staff and Board members learn more about how to approach the website, we are less reliant on outside services. However, the paid consultant for the website has recently expressed security and other concerns about how the website has been built and maintained over time that could soon cause some major crashes. A back-up system has been put in place to help in the short term, but it seems that rebuilding the website is in order.
- Other office operations include (but are not limited to) processing book orders; tracking and reporting on income, expenses and cost analyses; bookkeeping; email communications for the Conference, Workshops, and the newsletter; updating website postings; updating the meeting list and information; converting Conference-approved literature to Kindle for electronic purchase.

We appreciate the confidence the Fellowship has placed in us. The primary responsibilities of the Board of Trustees are to comply with legal requirements for our non-profit status, and to maintain the fiscal viability of A.R.T.S. This past year has seen enormous progress in reaching those goals. We invite A.R.T.S. members to participate in all levels of service: individual outreach to fellow members; service to meetings such as holding office; contributing financially to our slim treasury and potentially a prudent reserve; delegate to the World Service Conference and being elected to the Board of Trustees.

CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING TO THE 2023 WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE presented by Matt B

The Conference Planning Committee's year and mine as Conference Chair started off in February with the Agenda Setting Meeting for the February Pre-Conference. I really think we've learnt a lot from last year with organising and putting on the 2022 World Service Conference.

The February Pre-Conference agreed to meet every two months continuing with the April, June, and August Pre-Conferences, which I believe helped make it all a sustainable process for us all.

The main function of the Conference Planning Committee throughout the year was and is to support the process of the Pre-Conferences and to put forward Agenda Items pertinent to the Conference itself, such as Dates, Times, and Motion collection for example. Anything, any aspect, or detail, of the upcoming Conference that we feel is needed to be voted on or discussed. It is the A.R.T.S fellowship Conference, the Conference's Conference basically we all, as much as possible need to be involved in the decision making.

Speaking of which, I was officially voted in by the Pre-Conference as Conference Chair by the February Pre-Conference, thank you everyone!

Running up to the World Service Conference the Conference Planning Committee typically meets monthly at the beginning of the month. It was implemented, for simplicities sake and to encourage inclusion that we have the Bimonthly Agenda Setting meeting for the Pre-Conferences in lieu of the Conference Planning Committee meeting on the Corresponding months of the Pre-Conference, starting from April until the last Pre-Conference of the year in August. Despite initial confusion of which meeting was what I think that worked pretty well. As luck would have it, I think we gained new Committee members due to this, which was more of a happy accident than intentional.

A one-time Ad Hoc Committee that was nicknamed the Skeleton Crew was formed to work out a Skeleton Agenda for the Conference with Agenda items were an essential part of the framework for the Conference, with items such as Review of the Delegate Packet and Community Problem Solving Method and Committee Reports.

This report was completed in time to go into the Delegate Packet on August the 15th subsequent to this the Conference Planning Committee will have met on the First Saturday in the U.S in September and October to do any further work necessary to put on the Conference Itself starting on Friday October the 14th.

The last item at any regular meeting of The Conference Planning Committee is me posing the question, 'Is there anything that we have forgotten? Followed by an all-important brain storming session to make sure, as much as possible no detail remains overlooked.

After the August 19th main focus of the Conference Planning Committee would have shifted to the Support of the two main teams that support the Conference, the Delegate Registration and Support Team and the Conference Actual Team. Following is a brief description of what they do. The Delegate Registration and Support Team is there to help any Meeting Delegates with any problem Registering and render any other assistance they could require, before and during the Conference.

The Conference Actual Team is the 'on the ground' team at the Conference, whose duties include Tech Hosting the Conference, Monitoring the chat as well as posting relevant information, keeping the Conference secure and scribing during the Motions in the Community Problem Solving Method Form.

Finally, I want to give thanks. Without the hard work of the regular members of the Conference Planning Committee and all who have participated, and of course the wonderful Pre-Conference, we definitely couldn't put on a World Service Conference. As Conference Chair I definitely feel extremely supported.

I want to thank the Board Secretary Cindyann for wonderfully taking our minutes and for all the support generously given from the Board Chair Allegra.

As occasionally nerve-wracking being Conference Chair can be, it really is a great service role. Mainly because I ultimately don't need to worry too much about anything because we put on the World Service Conference together. A.R.T.S is our fellowship and as a wise member reminds us, the Conference is always ongoing.

Thank you all. Yours in grateful service Matt B Conference Chair.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE REPORT 2023 presented by Vickie D

The Policies and Procedures Committee met only once since the Conference. Perhaps we exhausted ourselves getting the Concepts and Charter prepared and facilitating their passage by the Conference in 2022. This was an almost Herculean effort by the Conference and so much appreciated. More about that below.

There is a certain lack of clarity about whether the P&P Committee is a “conference committee” or a “board committee.” This is not a complaint. It took amazing effort on the part of delegates and the committee to get the foundational documents done at the last Conference. It is the feeling of the committee chair that the Conference needs to keep a separate account of policies and procedures that it passes. A motion to this effect is proposed.

Looking over the 2022 Conference Report, we see a couple items that were decided by the Conference and would be considered policies or procedures.

- a. For purposes of conducting business at the World Service Conference, a quorum is met when there are at least twice as many voting delegates from meetings and Committees present as the number of members of the Board of Trustees present. Voting for the 2022 Conference was by simple majority except for literature approval, approval of foundational documents (Concepts and Charter), and trustee elections. [Note: This approval did not extend to 2023 or beyond.]
- b. For purposes of the 2022 World Service Conference until the next World Service Conference, a motion passes if it is accepted by a simple majority of the total number of Voting Members present.
 - i. While a simple majority is not binding on the Board of Trustees, they may agree to be bound by the vote.
 - ii. Exceptions to the simple majority rule are listed in the Charter.
 - iii. If a motion passes by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total number of Voting Members present, it is binding upon the Trustees, except to the extent the implementation of such a motion would cause the Trustees to be in violation of the Board of Trustees’ Legal Responsibilities to the Corporation and its members or would put the fiscal integrity of the Corporation at risk.*

At the 2023 Conference the P&P puts forward a motion to make the 50% +1 simple majority a policy for future conferences. Of course it can be changed by the Conference if necessary in the future. The major news from the P&P Committee is that the Twelve Concepts of Service passed by the 2022 Conference contained a major error in the wording of Concept 12. We accept responsibility and are embarrassed for this mistake. Except by the time we got to Concept 12, the very last item in our foundational documents discussion, everyone was pretty much burnt out and it was done in a hurry so the Conference could adjourn for the day. Therefore, we bring a motion to the 2023 Conference that the wording in Concept 12 be corrected to match the “General Warranties of the Conference” found in Article 10 of the Charter. Because amendments to the Concepts require a $\frac{3}{4}$ approval of all registered A.R.T.S. Anonymous meetings, we hope that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the meetings will be represented by delegates at the WSC. If more votes are needed, we will contact meetings individually to get approval.

The following motion is put forward to the 2023 WSC Convention:

MOTION: The Policies & Procedures Committee moves that Concept 12 of the Twelve Concepts of Service of A.R.T.S. be revised to be consistent with the General Warranties of the Conference, which is stated in Concept 12 as passed in 2022, but which did not get recorded accurately or were inadvertently omitted during the adoption process.

Areas of discrepancy are highlighted in yellow:

10. General Warranties of the Conference: In all its proceedings, the World Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service of A.R.T.S. Anonymous, taking great care that the Conference recognizes its role as the group conscience of the A.R.T.S. fellowship as a whole.

This means:

- a. No service entity ever becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power.
- b. ARTS service entities maintain an ample prudent reserve sufficient for their operations. Any additional funds will be available to carry out the primary purpose of the fellowship, 'to express our creative gifts and help others to achieve artistic freedom'.
- c. No member has unchecked authority over any other member.
- d. All group conscience decisions are reached by discussion, vote, and consensus when possible.
- e. No service entity action shall ever be personally punitive or incite public controversy.

f. ARTS service entities will always remain democratic in thought and action.
Concept Twelve. A Loving Higher Power provides the spiritual guidance for A.R.T.S. World

Services. This guidance is expressed in the General Warranties of the Conference, in Article 10 of the Charter.

[The introductory paragraph to the General Warranties was not included.]

- a. No service entity ever becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power.
- b. A.R.T.S. service entities maintain an ample prudent reserve sufficient for their operations. Any additional funds will be available to carry out the primary purpose of the fellowship. [The primary purpose of the fellowship is not included.]
- c. No member has unchecked authority over any other member. We follow the Practice of rotation of Service in leadership.
- d. All group conscience decisions are reached by discussion, vote, and consensus when possible.
- e. No service entity action shall ever be personally punitive or incite public controversy.
- f. [omitted from the adopted concept. ARTS service entities will always remain democratic in thought and action.]

Rationale:

The General Warranties of the Conference are inaccurate in the text of the Twelve Concepts that was passed by the Conference.

The P&P Committee does not recommend that the Article 10 of the Charter be amended at this time. Amendment Process: To amend the Concepts, it is necessary to have a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of approval from ALL REGISTERED A.R.T.S. MEETINGS. If the delegates at the Conference represent $\frac{3}{4}$ or more of all A.R.T.S. meetings, then this requirement could be met. Otherwise additional meetings not represented at the Conference will have to be approached and asked for their approval in writing.

Thank you for allowing our committee to be of service to the A.R.T.S. Anonymous fellowship. We appreciate so much that the Conference did such sometimes tedious, hard work last year and are privileged to work with all of you!

Respectfully submitted,

*The motion was passed in paragraph form rather than with subparts. However, for the purposes of this report it seems easier to understand this way.

GROUP MEETING PLANNING A SHARATHON EVENT REPORT presented by Cindyann W

Fourteen A.R.T.S. members expressed interest and received an email Zoom Link invitation to attend and participate in a group meeting to address Zoomathon. Meeting attendance average varies from 4 to 6 members. This group has met regularly since May 24, 2023. Initially, members met once a week and then decided to meet every other Wednesday. Our meetings engaged a number of discussions that explored what Zoomathon was about, its purpose, and how it functioned. This led to ideas on how the Zoomathon event could continue, or something like it, to best serve A.R.T.S. Anonymous.

Discussions further led the group conscience of attending members to pass two motions. 1) To Change the name from "Zoomathon" to "Sharathon: Creativity in the (Season)". Group conscience felt this title adhered to the principles of Tradition-6. 2)

To align Sharathon events to take place every three months, or once a season. A flyer announcing when this committee meets, and contact information is placed on the A.R.T.S. Website under the tab SHARATHON. This team of people would love to hear from you about what it means to you, to have a platform for sharing and celebrating all the artwork A.R.T.S. fellowship members are making. As well as questions you might as we continue to meet and further address:

- Ideas for First Event.
- How to structure the First Event.
- The purpose of the first event.
- How to address 7th Tradition regarding this event.

If you wish to participate with this committee, please contact sharathon@artsanonymous.org

REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP COMMITTEE TO THE 2023 WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE presented by Allegra B

The Workshop Committee currently has four members (Sharon G., Amy C., Shari Lynn and Allegra B.,) who meet the third Thursday of each month, and if you feel the need to serve, you're welcome to attend one of our meetings. The committee held its first meeting on January 12, 2023 with a discussion of the relevant Traditions when holding workshops for the benefit of A.R.T.S. and its members. From that discussion Guidelines for Leading a Workshop in A.R.T.S. were developed; these are provided below.

The next action was to learn more about and do some training on the technical aspects of holding workshops online, including the use of Zoom (one workshop was held in multiple languages and demanded learning how to manage translation audio channels), Eventbrite, and all the attendant benefits and pitfalls inherent in technology. This process is being evaluated regularly and we may be looking at other ticketing options that include integration with our zoom rooms. Another A.R.T.S. member (Kerimera) has been designing the flyers that are used to announce the Workshops, using members' art.

The committee feels that overall, the workshops themselves have been quite successful in providing a method of carrying out our primary purpose, and being responsible directly to those we serve. As a committee there seems to be a willingness to work closely with those who wish to lead workshops once a viable proposal has been presented.

The April workshop using the Facing Avoidance pamphlet generated a lot of interest and excitement. Participants engaged in the vast possibilities this pamphlet has for members to find ways to overcome their creative blocks, and the workshop leader did an excellent job of reaching out to participants who expressed interest in more work.

In July a workshop proposed by one of the sub-committees on the Literature Committee developed a script with the intention of making it replicable by any member or group in A.R.T.S. to use to hold their own workshop. "Inspiring Members to Write Their Stories" was held twice. One was held in German, Spanish and Russian. A number of participants came from Russia, and it was a joy to welcome them to the worldwide fellowship. In future we will know how to listen for more demand for a particular language before acquiring translators (who were all willing and capable members, putting in many hours themselves). Successes were that many members wrote stories, shared them, and some have been submitted for future publication in a book of Members Stories.

The committee looks forward to your proposals that benefit the A.R.T.S. fellowship, program, and its members. We have heard requests for a workshop on The Anorexia of Avoidance, and a reprise of the Steps and Traditions workshop held in April and May of 2022.

Guidelines for Leading a Workshop in A.R.T.S. Anonymous (passed by the Workshop Committee on 4/20/2023)

Thank you for your willingness to serve! Workshops help A.R.T.S. carry out its primary purpose: to carry the message to those who still struggle to express their creative gifts. The hope is that every workshop clarifies something about the program in a meaningful way. Please understand these guidelines are to be helpful in developing and delivering your workshop and let us know if you have questions specific to what you plan to lead. All A.R.T.S. Workshops are for the benefit of the Fellowship.

- 1) In accordance with Tradition 3, A.R.T.S. Workshops help clear the roadblocks to identifying and expressing our art and finding and fulfilling our creative potential.
- 2) In accordance with Tradition 6, A.R.T.S. Workshops are not for the professional, promotional, or financial benefit or gain of the leader or of any other individual or outside enterprise.
- 3) Workshops follow the principle of anonymity; they are not for the public in general.
- 4) Guidelines for crosstalk, feedback, and confidentiality are respected.

Examples of A.R.T.S. Workshops:

- Working the Tools
- A.R.T.S. Literature
- Recovery in Working the Steps, Traditions, and/or Concepts of Service
- Service in A.R.T.S.
- Overcoming Blocks
- Traits and Talents
- Spiritual Recovery
- Working the A.R.T.S. Program to Explore and Expand our Creative Expression
- Sponsorship

LITERATURE COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE 2023 WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE presented by Allegra B

At the 2022 World Service Conference, two motions regarding ARTS Literature were passed.

- 1) an authorization to update the Traits, Talents and Tools and provide the Fellowship with a uniform set of each.
- 2) Update the 1995 Conference-approved Literature Development Process and use a 2022 draft of a Literature Approval process in conjunction with it in the meantime to help develop that update. Work on both is progressing and will continue.

In June 2023, the Board of Trustees passed a motion making the Literature Committee a standing Committee of the Board.

To carry out its work, the Literature Committee meets monthly, and various members serve on Sub-Committees. An Ad Hoc Committee to work on the Literature Approval/Development Process was also formed.

Member-Written Pamphlets Sub-Committee: A chart of all known member-written pamphlets was created summarizing the Conference approval status of each. The following pamphlets that had been revised without Conference approval were republished in the Conference-approved versions: Art and Our Spiritual Awakening (C.A. 2000), The Anorexia of Avoidance (C.A. 1993), From Envy to Appreciation (C.A. 2002). Process v Product (C.A. 2002) which hadn't been available for some time was also revived and is available again. The Creative ProcesZ (C.A. 1994) is undergoing a draft revision and is not available in the meantime.

In July of 2023 a Special One-Day World Service Conference for the Purpose of Considering Pamphlet Literature was held during which On Being the Perfect Artist and revisions to Facing Avoidance (C.A. 1993) were passed. Both are also available on the website.

Ad Hoc Committee for a Literature Approval Process: This group of members met twice. It remained mindful of the 2022 WSC mandate to use the 1995 Conference-Approved Literature Development Process and update and revise it using material developed for a Literature Approval Process for Conference-Approved Literature drafted in 2022. A proposed Literature Development/Approval Process was developed and passed by the Literature Committee [and the Board] as a motion to consider at the 2023 World Service Conference.

Traits, Talents & Tools Subcommittee: This subcommittee began work in January 2023, and meets monthly by video call on Zoom.

As a guiding principle, the Subcommittee began review by first identifying which of the many versions of each of the Traits, Talents and Tools had received previous Conference approval. That version was then designated the Base Version. Review was then carried out of the Base Version through rigorous analysis, requiring a clear statement about why an update was necessary. Appropriate recommendations were then suggested as updates.

A review of the A.R.T.S. Traits and A.R.T.S. Tools, along with recommendations for updating, was completed, and submitted to the Literature Committee. Following detailed examination by that Committee, amendments were made as required before approval by the Literature Committee. The A.R.T.S. Talents are currently undergoing review by the T, T & T Subcommittee. Our review is not yet complete.

Members Stories Subcommittee: This Subcommittee began work in January 2023, and meets every two weeks by video call on Zoom. Membership is drawn from France, Russia, Ireland, and the United States.

The purpose of the Subcommittee is to support and inspire members to write and submit their stories of recovery in A.R.T.S., which, with the authors' permission, may form the basis for a new publication. This proposed publication may help carry the message, both within A.R.T.S Anonymous, and to the wider public.

Following substantial preparations, a workshop was run on two different dates during July 2023. This workshop was facilitated by an A.R.T.S member experienced in running these kinds of workshops in other fellowships. Live translation of the workshop was offered in German, Russian, and Spanish for the first date. The workshop and its content are available to any A.R.T.S. Group for delivery to their members.

Currently five members have submitted their stories, with others in the final stages of submission. The Subcommittee's work level has expanded because of the need to get the stories received through the Literature Approval Process, as well as the need to continue to raise awareness, inviting further submissions. This is a very exciting project and volunteers are eagerly sought.

TALENTS AND SKILLS SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE 2023 WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE presented by Cindyann W

As this committee is at the beginning stages of formation, this isn't really a report. Instead, would you take a moment to consider what the value and worth of the skills and talents a life's experience accumulates? For example: *Singer, Graphic Designer, Photographer/Videographer, Painter Musician, Songwriter, Actor/Actress, Dancer /Choreographer, Mathematics or Science, Public Speaker, Teacher/Professor, Resume Writer, Entrepreneurial Talents, Businessman/CEO, Project Manager, Start-Up Investor, Economist, Lawyer, Realist, Negotiator, Persuader/Convincer, Team Player, Leader,*

Motivator, Network Builder, PeaceKeeper/Peacemaker, Philanthropist, Humor, Communication, Intuition, Warmth, Passion, Spirituality, Empathy, Patience, Spontaneity, Inquisitiveness, Communication, Teamwork, Creativity, Problem-solving... Now multiply this partial list by 500+, approximately the number of people who are members of A.R.T.S. Anonymous. What is the number of skills or talents required or involved to meet any one of these job assignments? Now multiply that by 500. Projects are waiting for those who wish to turn gratitude into acts of service for A.R.T.S. Anonymous to be more visible to the struggling artist. Could a group of creative A.R.T.S. members craft a survey to mine the talents and skills needed to launch these projects for those we wish to reach and serve? This committee wishes to find out, but in order for all this wonder to happen, we need you to join us and share this vision. Connecting all these dots of gold through a Talents and Skills Survey may alchemize this goldmine to carry the A.R.T.S. Anonymous message.

Interested members may contact: talents-and-skills@artsanonymous.org

Round Robin Topic Discussions

Topic 1 Outside Literature: Does the use of outside literature, specifically, *The Artist Way* in the A.R.T.S. program, dilute the A.R.T.S. Anonymous program's worth?

1-While attending the Walk and Talk meeting I was introduced to the Artist's Way and I was a bit surprised because I thought, this is strange, it's not A.R.T.S. Anonymous. As I attended the meetings, they did the readings from *The Artist Way*. It didn't affect me in a negative way. I thought okay, this group has decided to read from the Artist Way.

2-This topic is important to me because I find the use of *The Artist Way* disturbing, maybe too strong a word, it confuses me. I am in A.R.T.S. and so I want to do A.R.T.S. Literature. I find *The Artist Way* kind of intrusive. I think it is an outside issue, according to the traditions we do not endorse outside literature. I think every meeting has a right to choose its own format, but I do think A.R.T.S. should encourage meetings to include A.R.T.S. literature as well. Many members in A.R.T.S. use the morning pages from *The Artist Way*, it is a tool whether we like it or not, over 60% of our members use it. I am sensitive to the fact that Julia references us in two of her books that I know of. I would not want her to hear some day that we have outlawed her literature.

3-*The Artist Way* is a little too God centered, and answered prayers that I feel is inappropriate, and over the top. I feel like someone is trying to preach to me, on what God would say to me, I think is presumptuous.

4-I would not be here if not for *The Artist Way*. It was my first introduction to the idea that there is value for me to be making art. At the same time, I also appreciate the topic, the competition for using the tools of Cameron's book and the Tools of A.R.T.S. At the same time there are other methodologies I use in my recovery that has no connection to A.R.T.S. Anonymous at all that is extremely helpful. At the same time, if not for A.R.T.S. Anonymous I would not be able to applying those tools to my life. I think the issue is how outside literature is presented in a meeting, how it is announced, this is approved literature: the Steps, and Traditions of A.R.T.S. Anonymous, and these are the Concepts of Service. Or we are also reading from *The Artist Way*, this not approved literature. Maybe it is up to this meeting to decide whether the meeting wishes to allow outside literature to come into this meeting or not. I think the meeting guidelines could articulate this very nicely.

5-Personally, I haven't read *The Artist Way* in years, I remember that reading it did affect me, but I was not a disciple of Julia Cameron. I did do the morning pages every day. I would opt for leaving outside literature out of the meeting. I think it might be confusing for some of the newcomers. I would like to just use conference approved literature.

6-I have been in A.R.T.S. for two years now. Prior to that 25 years ago I found *The Artist Way*, and it has meant a great deal to me. It was also helpful to know that A.R.T.S. Anonymous is not *The Artist Way*. I heard at meetings about morning pages, and I got a sponsor, and he does morning pages and found it helpful. But I think it is important to keep it separate. I heard at other meetings about other helpful literature by Cameron and I wanted to try it out, but I think it should be kept separate from A.R.T.S. Anonymous.

7-Broadly I think everyone could use whatever they want. I think it is fine if we do not advocate for anything other than A.R.T.S literature. But I think firstly it is up to the individual what they wish to read. Secondly up to the meeting's first level. As Abby said, the morning pages had helped many people on their way to overcoming their blocks etcetera, and that's our goal. We are here to help the artist who still suffers, is blocked or whatever. So, I would think that any tool we can provide

them, that is useful to them we would be in favor of and placed in a separate category as not A.R.T.S. literature.

8-To me it seems if it is not hurting. I used to go to a meeting where we had a share-a-thon every Saturday. It talked about that outside literature was something we thought was appropriate. Sometimes people brought interesting outside literature I hadn't heard of. It doesn't bother me if the meeting wants to do that.

9-I prefer to keep outside literature separate. A.R.T.S. Anonymous has so many valuable resources. I keep in touch with my arts buddy, and I do my art every day. I think it's fine if people want to use other resources, but I don't want to have it my meeting. It would be foreign to me. I would vote against people including outside literature in the meeting format.

10-People seem to talk a lot about using *The Artist Way* morning pages and I don't see why we don't make that an arts tool. We don't have to call it morning pages, we can get sued, we could call it daily writing. If a number of people are finding it useful, then we should use it. Certainly, Julia Cameron has stolen from many sources that is what artists do. I think you know we need to follow the Traditions; our purpose is to carry the message to the artist who still suffers. If we are carrying the message of A.R.T.S. anonymous, what is the message of A.R.T.S Anonymous? Is it Julia Cameron I think our relations is with A.R.T.S. Anonymous.

11-Our meeting reads *The Artist Way* every day and I can't say I relate to it at every meeting, but I like that we read it. It is the choice of the person chairing the meeting what outside reading we share at the meeting that includes a variety of work from other artists such as poems, or their process that often resonates with us. I don't have a problem with meetings making use of outside literature, but I do agree with the idea that when we use outside literature, that we indicate it is not approved by A.R.T.S. Anonymous.

12-The first time I heard *The Artist Way* read in one of the meetings I thought oh great I always wanted to look into that book. But after hearing what others are saying, I'm thinking *The Artist Way* may be in competition with A.R.T.S. literature. I would rather focus on A.R.T.S. literature. It is difficult to decide, but I think we should keep it separate. People can do what they want to do in their own time.

13-I would not be here if not for *The Artist Way* but it was a different group where we worked with *The Artist Way* all the way through. From there I found out about A.R.T.S. Anonymous, and I joined. I am willing to go with what the group decides, but for me the talents and the Higher Power holds validity.

14-Tradition 6 states, An A.R.T.S. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.R.T.S. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose. So, I think using *The Artist Way* conflicts with this. One meeting took a group conscience and voted to use it. I go to a lot of other meetings that do not use it and I appreciate that. I never heard of *The Artist Way* until I got there. I am looking forward to our new book of members' stories. I went to one meeting that doesn't read or use any of the A.R.T.S. Anonymous materials; it doesn't seem to really have anything to do with A.R.T.S. Anonymous. I like to go to meetings that are A.R.T.S. Anonymous.

15-I will admit that I was a bit taken back with my first experience with Julia Cameron's book at an A.R.T.S. meeting. A.R.T.S. doesn't seem to have enough developed literature. A meeting I attend reads *The Daily Reader*. I would like for us to have something like that, but we already have another book developing, so it will be while for this other book project to happen. I used to be against it, but now as a member of a meeting that uses I don't mind it as much. I think if a meeting wants to use it that is fine, but I think it should be noted that it is not conference approved.

16-I do enjoy the daily readings at the meeting I attend, and I am a long-time member at other 12-Step programs. So, this is the first time attending a 12-step meeting where outside literature was allowed. From the Tools and Talents, it talks about moving away from an atmosphere of restriction and censorship not being affirmed, not having freedom of expression. I do love the Traditions. I am in a study group on the Traditions. There is a difference between not liking something and enforcing it. How do we go about enforcing it. I like the idea of autonomy and the group choosing what they like and that creative expression are not being censored. It scares me to think about how we would enforce this without crushing the spirit of the tools and traits.

17-I have enjoyed the A.R.T.S. Anonymous literature, while I have not attended meetings that use *The Artist Way*. I think outside literature can be helpful, and that it's up for each meeting to decide.

18-A.R.T.S. Anonymous is still a young program and our literature is not really fully developed. Other programs have faced similar dilemmas. I don't remember if a book which was an outside piece used in the Debtors Anonymous program was conference approved, but it filled a gap. The World Service Board voted for meetings to be able to use it, while they developed their literature. A.R.T.S. Anonymous is in that situation. Meetings are autonomous and they can use whatever they want based on group conscience. I think we should as a world service be constantly about developing literature. The cup fills the needs.

19-I just want to mirror a lot of what I've heard already shared that every meeting should be autonomous in this regard and make its own decisions. I think *The Artists Way* is a good tool for many of us and I know several people in the meetings that I go to use the morning pages. And with that said, our literature should be the focus.

20-I've just joined, this discussion. I don't really have an opinion on it. I haven't read the book. However, I do know that various 12 step programs do read outside literature. I know they did that in our Alcoholics Anonymous with the *Sermon on the Mount*, in its early days. They do it in some of the money step programs as well. And in CoDA some coda meetings are I still reading Melody Beatty's work. So, I've just joined, with that I pass.

21-I only know one person who is present in this room who went wrote literature, day after day, decade after decade. And I think that it's important to be open minded when we come to tools because none of us want to do a damn thing at all. And if you get something to prime the pump whether it's inside or outside, I think that we should be open to it. Someone who's been in the Twelve Step movement less than 10 days, 41 years, I use whatever I can. I use whatever I can and I'm duly compensated in my life with this program and outside the program in the wide world. Had it not been for Alcoholics Anonymous and what we are able to take from them, we wouldn't be standing. So, I think that we could use whatever we can to forward ourselves in this recovery process.

22-I want to remind everyone that in October this conference approved *The Tools*, including some updates and I'm going to just read *The Tool* on literature: "We use arts literature to learn how a spiritual recovery can remove the blocks to artistic freedom. We use AA other 12 step program literature or other inspirational material." I also want to shout out to a new tool that's called *Honoring the Creative Self* and there was quite a bit of discussion on the Literature Committee and also on the board about this particular tool. Which was rewritten extensively by the conference in October: "Honoring the creative self. We abstain from behavior, thinking, and attitudes that keep us from using our creative energy productively. We appreciate and express the creativity that is both inside and around us taking time to play and to rest. Members often make commitments to nurture their commitment to their creativity." The discussion around that particular tool is that we do use other tools. We do use other things, whether it's morning pages or artist dates or whatever it is, we use whatever it is that we need as individual artists to nurture our creative selves.

23-Hi, I'm having a lot of trouble being once ever to that. And I came in very, very late, but I am definitely a proponent of using other literature. There's really good literature out there and I think it's a shame to not use it.

24-I am the delegate from the Saturday Artists Way meeting. Not too long ago we discussed the issue of our reading *The Artist Way*. To me, I think eventually the group conscience within the meeting supported this, each meeting is autonomous and how we interpret the traditions really is autonomous as well. And pretty significant to me that the second tradition in fact proceeds the tradition that might talk against using outside literature. I'm not necessarily a great proponent of *The Artist Way*. I've been the delegate for this meeting and attending this meeting. I kind of fell into it because my other meeting years and years and years ago fell apart. And so that's how I wound up in *The Artist Way* meeting. So, you know, I think there's a lot of positive stuff that people get out of out of our meeting. Actually, in the past we spent a little more time with A.R.T.S. literature and I'd like to advocate for that within my meeting. I'd like to do that. But you can't do anything about banning outside literature in any program.

25-Hi everyone, my voice might shake because I feel very strongly about this topic. I would like to say. That *The Artist Way* changed my life, saved my life, and I'm going to surprise you with what I say. *The Artist Way* states all the tools. I hope I practice them forever. But I feel very strongly that it's outside literature. And it's going to be talked about and that is totally cool. People are going to talk about it right after meetings. Just like people don't comment on people's share. We talk right after the meaning. It's going to be around in our ethos and that's wonderful. But there's a very strong tradition of 50, 60, 70 years in other programs that have bumbled and seen the pitfalls of using outside literature. Especially around newcomer retention. Our literature is already in a state that's very confusing to newcomers and I know a newcomer who left because they were overwhelmed by the literature options. This, program is young and I just wanted to gently say that a lot of people here, a lot of programs require familiarity with the traditions before, we talk about something so big. So, we are not saying any meeting could do whatever they want. We are not restricting them or governing them. We are giving guidance on what we believe might have worked and is in alliance with the traditions.

26-Okay. I'm sorry. I've just had difficulties getting in here and Yah, I'm not really sure of my feelings on this. I know for me some of the some of the literature that's read, particularly a quote of Martha Graham's, touched me so deeply that was almost the moment I belonged here because I studied her technique. I danced and studied with her ex-husband in New York. However, I agree I'm grateful to have a voice. But I'm a person in the arts really not well enough. I do a very simple program. And I must leave it to others to make these decisions. The fellowship is really important to me. I do get completely overwhelmed by the steps and the program. But I do it and naturally to the best of my ability and I'm incredibly grateful for that.

Topic-2 Accessibility and Pricing of Literature

- a. What do the Delegates think are the issues around accessibility to A.R.T.S. Literature?
- b. Does Literature aid in recovery? What is the role of Literature in recovery? Has A.R.T.S Literature helped you? What Literature do you like, and why?
- c. What does access to Literature mean to you? How does access to A.R.T.S. Literature aid in recovery?
- d. Does following a Conference-approval process ensure that A.R.T.S. Literature aids recovery?

1-I just have one permeating thought that I have shared with the board members, which is about Abby's pamphlets. Someone mentions something earlier, which were my thoughts on the matter, which was, if some final resolution arose, we could go back on being a separate category. Someone said, I don't know if they said they experienced it in another program or just suggested it as an idea that there could be a category. You know, conference approved, not conference approved or pending conference approval and maybe even another category of like founder's literature, something like that until some final resolution has happened. In the meantime, it would still make all the all the pamphlets in question available. And by the way, if price is an issue, well, I mean, everything goes up. So, I understand if at the time they were removed, they weren't making money, but I think there were maybe some people were complaining about the price, but the point I made in response is well we didn't hear about the people who weren't complaining. So, I was just thinking if it's if it's a if price is an issue, raise the price. Put them in a separate category and see what happens. I'm sorry, that's the only issue that was on my mind a bit in this whole list. So, thank you very much for listening.

2-Okay, thanks. Yeah, I really appreciate the literature. I'm in a step group right now and it's really helpful for that. Because I'm in other 12 step programs and the real recovery and all the other programs comes from working the steps and I'm really glad that they have the different step books. It's really helping me with my recovery. And the price is a little steep, but it's not because I'm gonna use it as a reference for a long time. It's not just something I'm gonna read once and not use again. You know, otherwise, you know, books are too expensive. I go to the library. But. You know, so I really appreciate that. The one thing I would bring up and maybe that's being worked on, are the different types of step books, one that's say step 2 and 3, and there's another one that is 1, 2, and 3 and then this the essay book. It seems like we're in the group it's kind of hard. To figure out what if we're all literally on the same page because since some of the book has been updated the pages are numbered, or the in the essays, the number of the essays are in a different order and another book. But that's something I'm sure that could be worked out. But, yeah, I really. I'm glad for this step-books. Look, I clearly, we've got problems. And I really appreciate this discussion because I think enough people have been concerned about arts literature that we need to make some greater effort to straighten all these issues out. I think the issues are just so kind of complicated that I'm not sure you know what's the most important issue right now. And, and that's why to some extent I just want to be a listener to this discussion. But I, do think we should set some kind of goal or expectation that we kind of straighten some of these issues out and that they not continue. just sort of being unsettled and people not feeling that arts has coherent literature access. So, I guess one thing I'm saying is that I'm all in favor of continuing this discussion. I very much want to hear Abby's, frankly, I want to hear her these thoughts about this. Which, not being around her that much. I'm pretty unaware of exactly where things are. And, as I said, I mostly just want to hear, what everybody has to say. Thanks.

3-So, I bought all the literature in order to do the steps. When I come into a step program, I try to use the literature from, from the initial source of the fellowship itself. I have got myself into very interesting position at the moment. I've paid \$170 and for the whole list. I could only ship it to United States. I couldn't get it in Argentina. Nor in Russia at all, so it won't be possible. So, I send to my friend who is taking picture to make it electronic format. And, that's a mess. And that really makes me angry about the whole situation with electronic non electronic literature. And another thing about accessibility, I'm clearly not accessible literature because if I paid \$170 and out of my money which I was in a treasury report. It's 6,000 is only received yeah, so roughly it's only 38, 39 people. Who bought that literature? How accessible is that then? I mean just for the whole set of 12 steps. There is no recovery outside 12 steps. Intel step program. That's what I know for sure. So that makes me very, kind of thoughtful regarding. What's going on. It's not accessible. Thank you.

4-The literature. I am loving my workbooks. I'm in a group heading towards step-4 very committedly. We're all very diligent. I love the pamphlets when they existed. I'm not a kindle kind of person. I think the literature shouldn't exist in both forms. If it has to be Kindle, because I just not familiar with that so well, but my big beef it's so important to me. Should be included, and should be accessible. I have manic depression, bipolar disorder. I think it was one of my first 3 meetings I attended, and at the meeting I told the story of it and what is that supposed to mean? But I did 9 years of training to be a concert pianist and had my first big episode where the illness was diagnosed. And what does that mean? And I was told by someone with a lot of experience who knows some statistics more than anybody in the program that it is common with us. I heard a statistic. What is the fear? This I was told at this meeting, nobody said to me how I should handle it. Maybe I am running out of time, but maybe it's like people that are redheaded and they get sunburn more, they should say we can talk about that. Nobody said anything to me about how I should handle the illness. I'm here and I'm saving my life at that meeting I felt included. And then I can look up that essay. And I've read it, outside the literature that's not the same. It didn't help. So, yeah. That's my story and. Okay. Yeah, I don't understand. Thank you for listening.

5-Okay, so. This is interesting. I don't think this is enough time to have this discussion really. I know there's people who think why is she always going back to the traditions? Yeah. It's because these programs have been around for a hundred years. They were started by really neurotic dysfunctional drunks. And they managed to create a democratic functioning society because of the traditions. And frankly, A.R.T.S. is so needed in the world, and yet we're so small. How come? And it is my opinion it's because we have not really followed the traditions over our history and we are revamping it now. People may get upset with me. I'm sorry. I'm not really a fundamentalist in any other way, but if we don't follow the traditions, the arts program is not going to thrive. And I think that's what all of us want. This program, with all kinds of issues, all kinds of creative people who have all of their neuroses and all the stuff, how are we going to function as a society without telling each other what to do. And we have this model of the traditions and the traditions tell us. We don't use non-conference approved literature and that the whole fellowship approves literature. And that's the experience of decades of 12 step programs. So, I think it's really super important. Thank you very much.

6-You know, I feel a little bit lost in all of this as I feel it is a really huge discussion. I feel like there's a little spillover into what we were talking about earlier in terms of the literature. My thought was that we were going to talk about the financial elements related to literature in this discussion. If that's the case, I'd like us to try to walk a fine line between allowing the literature to contribute to prosperity in creating a bottom line to continue to function. And you know maybe allow us to have a prudent reserve and at the same time making things available to people. There have been organizations that I make a contribution to. And when you go to purchase, they ask, would you like offer a tip. And I don't know if that's exactly the right way of expressing it, but you know if people who are able to afford more when they purchase a piece of piece of literature, are offered graciously the option of paying a little bit more. They'd like to help others have access to the literature. So that's just it. I don't know, it feels like a little bit out of context but that's just where my mind is right now thank you that's all.

7-Yeah Okay, well to say it's simple that my opinion is that and it's already said, I mean, I'll say I have 2 min, right? I'm gonna say it's already, I have already heard what I want to say regarding Accessibility. It needs everything it needs to be accessible. Me? I like very much what I see the people trying to create new now and also myself I wrote I tried to write an article you know a little one day was asking for people to write on the traditional thing you would and so I tried to write something it's nice great, yes, we should do. I mean, I will, I will try it, to put some time into coming into those committees trying to write the something I don't know I will But, on the other hand, And I feel this, this deep respect for what has already been created. And just, I just, I just, I can't, Forget

about that. That's fair. And that I wanted to be there. I want to be there because one day I want to be able to reach out for it. And, the other day I say, oh, I don't agree with stuff that is written in there. I'm gonna see something else. Or I'm gonna write something myself, but I want that to be there, to be accessible, I want to be able to reach out for what I want to. And after the pricing so, it was nice to say that there is a list of the founder's thing, there is a list of new literature, the list of pending, I like that word, sending a little conference approved. But we're in a process and we need to show the world that this fellowship is in a process. We're not gonna open up to the world when we're ready and everything will be finished have 10 s. So, the prices, that was said as well. I mean, prices, some are, some must. Some must have low price. So, if I have a little bit of money and I want to buy some pamphlet, I can get it. But then there must be some others that have higher price. And if I have some more money, I can go for it. Or if I have to \$100 at some point, I'll buy the whole list. Bravo.

8-Hey, thanks. I'm very much fine being a do it yourselfer and I like paper. So, I would love it if the pamphlets were all on a site. Where I could just download the pamphlet and print it on my 8 ½ by 11 paper that's in my printer that double sided and then I would have the pamphlets. I don't mind the book, you know, I had to order the first 3 steps. And wait for it to be printed and shipped to me. And so, I was a little impatient regarding that. But all the rest of it, I'm not a kindle person, but I'm happy to. For it, download it, and actually that would probably facilitate less cost. To the literature itself if everybody could do that and we you all didn't have to print. Other than the big books. That's my thoughts. Thank you.

9-Great topic. I'm looking forward to a new step book written by the fellowship. One book, maybe a hundred or 200 pages or something like that. I don't know, like all my other groups, maybe a workbook to go along with it. Looking forward to a tradition book written by the fellowship. Looking forward for a daily reader. And the one with our stories in it that I understand is already under underway. I like the literature that's available on Kindle, I'm not good with Kindle. I have to wrestle with it, but I did buy a piece of literature from it and I was able to get it up on the screen. I just need to get used to it and train myself. I believe that all literature needs to be conference approved. All literature, if it's not conference approved needs to be brought to the conference to get approved. The presence of a committee and a subcommittee, we have a literature committee and a literature subcommittee that can pre-approve it or go over it and find out what's wrong with it or what needs to be fixed or whatever even with the writer even with the person that who wrote it, one person and whoever wrote this whole list of 11 things, I don't know whether that was one person or a whole committee, but whoever went through all of whatever they had to go through to come up with this, hallelujah. Thank you, I pass.

10-Well, I have a lot to say. First of all, I'm in favor of the inexpensive being there for Kindle at \$2 a pop; if you can't afford it at least you can afford that. I have had people approach me and say I will offer a scholarship for up to 10 books for people who want to buy the step book and that would be \$30 a pop. Okay, today if you want a cup of coffee in New York City it's \$5. If you buy a packet of M in New York City, it's a \$1.75. If you want to buy a brownie, which I did at the break. That was \$4.75 cents. So, the fact that we've got the pamphlets at \$2.75 forever that's ridiculous. And I think we should make a profit on them because A.R.T.S. does not have a lot of revenue streams. We have the donations and we have literature and literature is primarily mine, and it is a it makes an income. And I think the pamphlet should come back. Okay, let's see. I think we should get a rent of the workbooks for one, and 2 because the concentration is on 1, 2 and 3, and 4, 5 and 6, and 7, 8 and 9, and 10, 11 and 12, and I've asked to have them removed and they haven't been removed. Okay. There is no doubt that it needs to be edited, but it would be edited again. We have had many people edit these books, probably because I can't spell. Okay, so the pages are missing in the workbooks. Paragraphs don't match from one to another. There are commas missing. The best person in the world for this is

Jay. Okay, so, I'm in favor of a founder literature corner. I'm in favor of pending conference. And, and if there's gonna be new step literature. I'm out of here.

11-Wow, I personally like the pamphlets. I'm old school in that way. And in my other 12 step programs, I always liked having something in my hand to read like that. I don't remember what the other questions were, but yeah, I mean we have to have... oh the other thing I like say is you know, in my meeting they always put up the website and the literature and expect people to go there. I think it'd be a good idea if we could sort of give a little summary of what pamphlets are available, so people have an idea. Instead of just leaving it to them their own control to go into the website. And that's about what I have to say. Thanks.

12-Okay, hi everyone. I am an artist writer and musician. And around 37 years ago, we had a big basket that we developed for literature that we would take around to different meetings. And I still have a whole cache of them. And one of them was conference approved, the original *Facing Avoidance*, which I need to read again was Conference approved in 1993. Bless your heart, Abigail and others. So, some of these are dog eared because they've been read a lot. Some of them are new. And I'm realizing this is a resource I need to go back to because I have some really wonderful ones that actually add so much to my arts program when. I'm so Grateful for it. And, we actually have several versions of some of the richer ones we didn't sell because we would buy them at cost and then we would put them out. The meeting of course went on before COVID, so now I guess we could send some of these to New York, and they could do whatever they want. But our Sunday meeting has a new literature person who gives an announcement and she says, I suggest you read this. Having a literature person is wonderful and she actually read that and told everybody where to get it. So, so I think it's important to have a literature person for the meeting, up front and promoting our wonderful literature.

13-Yeah pricing, we're in the age of everything is going up in price. So. Inflation. Yeah. Yes. I think we need to make literature available in many forms as feasible. I'm getting on with age, I'm 83 years old. I have multiple physical problems. And a couple of years ago I was given a present of a book. She's really a huge book. No, I couldn't read it. Of course, that tight face. Wasn't proper. This year I was giving a book. How is this? Christmas. But it should be a way I can adjust. The tight face to be bigger and easier to read. There are other people with even worse disabilities in May. And if a book could be made available. Or pamphlets are available in reading for language. An audio format with some of them are. That's even better. So, we have to think of. Oh, these. Make everything available. Yes, multiple formats. No. One another by products. And pandemic was that we switched to. Zoom. And other video formats. And all of a sudden, these meetings became available to people who are housebound.

14-Thank you. Yeah, wow, there's so much. I'm just gonna be as quick as I can. First of all, I just like to speak about the workbooks given the large difference in profit margins between the 2-step workbooks, and the 3-step workbooks, our group was saying, why don't we just get rid of the 2-step workbooks and focus on the three-step workbooks because the profit margin is much higher. So, we all suggested that. Also, we were talking about having an affordable like big book for A.R.T.S. that has all the workbooks, the essays, the traditions, the talents, just everything in one big book, that people could purchase at a reasonable price. To be honest that is one of the biggest issues in our group is that we have a lot of people who can't afford the literature. Especially because they're in Europe and the shipping is incredibly expensive. So, we wanted to talk about considering if there's ways you can make it more accessible for the more the wider range of people who have different financial capacities. One of the ideas was having a free newcomer packet right in the front of the website. It's a little hard to find where things are on the website, like where there's free literature that people can download. So, what if there was a newcomer packet that someone could just download and then we can direct them right to that place. We'd also like to suggest a less expensive

PDF version of the workbooks that people can download and print themselves, as well as the Kindle version. Because really what one of the things we're really present to is the diversity in many ways, neurodiversity, you know, physical diversity, language diversity, all kinds of things. We'd also like to consider the idea of having different options available for paid literature. A donation button for literature that's free, but someone could offer something if they were able to, sliding scale for different things. Payment plan options and then also making things more neurodiverse available. For example, I'll finish up colored paper for people who are dyslexic or the ability to download and printed on the color paper that works for them.

15-I believe accessibility does include electronic and print. And, right now the board can only make decisions about the things that the board has copyright or agreements over in terms of making things accessible electronically. That is the quickest, easiest way to get things out, beyond the US and Canada and all of that. At least there is a way to access literature if it is made available by Kindle. I'm very concerned about PDFs or free downloads or anything like that because it is copyrighted material. A.R.T.S. does need the funding that we get. As soon as you put a PDF out there, it's spread everywhere. We lose all control over getting any funds for the work and the effort that's gone into it. I also believe the group conscience decision is a really important part of anything we do and that access to literature includes so much of what somebody said it so beautifully before I think it was Athena. *If I want the message of arts, I want to be able to simply reach for it and know that it's there.* To have it there. And, to my mind, that does include conference approval. And I'm not saying that's in any way to disrespect anybody for anything that they've written. But I know the first time I write something or the second or the third time, I still need input from others and when it comes to a 12-step program recovery this needs to be our message. There are copyright issues. I also think translation is really important. Again, the board only has the ability to authorize translation for the material that arts has copyrighted which is the non-founder pamphlets. So, you know, it's a starting point. All of these things are starting points. The board the board has invited Abigail to have a meeting so we can start talking about the future and the next steps with the step essay book and the workbooks and the booklets and things that she's written and obviously there's a lot of value to those and they matter to people. So, I know that we want to be able to work in a cooperative and coordinated and compromising way. To make sure that our literature has access. So, thank you.

16-Oh, hi. Thank you. Oh my gosh, big topic. I'm I was feeling like, oh, I'm really behind and all this or not like. Taking it all in because I'm so new. It's nice to hear other people saying that it's just a big topic. It's a beautiful topic. I love the literature. Every time I hear somebody read from one of the pamphlets, I run to the pamphlet because I'm so blown away by it. Literally the avoidance pamphlet and there's one on spiritual awakening. My jaw just dropped open because it was like oh my goodness me again, me again. So, I, don't want to repeat everything everybody said, just a quick yes to accessibility, languages of formats, being respectful of you know copyright, and not having things just circulate. I had written down here a welcome packet. I think that was already mentioned a newcomer when I go to the site I got confused. I've only been in art since March, and I didn't know which books I was confused by seeing 2 step-1 books. There was a step 1, 2, and then a step 1, 2, 3. And that kind of confused me having them all separated out kind of confused me. I'm a big fan of having that consolidated into one book. And having a founder's area, I just can't imagine like not having all of our historical literature in the world. Like what if every generation said, let's just remove everything that was made before, cause it's not timely anymore and we'll just only live with our new stuff. So, I'm a huge history buff and treasuring those historical things. Sometimes, I go back and read ancient literature and I'm amazed at a kernel of goodness in it. So I like that. Also, I think the website is really so hard to find the message. It's so confusing to find things on it, and it also doesn't invite me to be an artist and embrace my artistry. Okay, thank you. So, I just want to feel like safe to step into that world. I came from a corporate world. And it took me a long time to get here. So, thank you.

17-Thanks for your service. Appreciate it. I am really glad to be here today. I'll just go by my experience. Haven't been in A.R.T.S. for a long time. I joined the fellowship last September. And my experience is I ordered a workbook, it's over there, steps 1, 2, and 3. And I love the content and the literature itself. I've got no problem with that whatsoever. I'm also part of the same group as Ariana and, one of the things that have come up again, by my experience about what I've heard is the price. I live in England in the United Kingdom and that workbook cost me approximately 30 pounds, if I include postage and packaging. And what come up is there are a couple of members in that in the group that just wouldn't be able to part with. It will take 140 pounds for all 4 step workbooks plus shipping. And so, to my mind, the only thing I would change is not the literature itself. It's just in an idea, well, I'll be able to order steps one to 12 in one workbook where I could just click a button. And it would be considerably less expensive and I reckon you'd probably sell an awful lot more books that way. But that's just. But the literature itself is beautifully written and I'm glad to be here. Thank you.

18-Hi everybody. Thank you, for the suggestion to listen to everybody it is really wonderful to hear everybody's viewpoints. Is just so good and really beneficial to hear. They're different outlooks and I like when someone said about helping out people that can't afford it as much. I got to tell you, I didn't even know of the essay steps 1, 2, and 3, whatever, until the Zoom Meetings after the pandemic and I've been an A.R.T.S. member forever. And every time I hear every couple of months or every month About something I didn't hear before. It's just really enlightening and wonderful. And so that for me is very great. It's really tricky about Conference approved or not. I understand traditions are important. And then I just want to say, someone mentioned what it's going to be like 30 or 40 years from now, to a new person coming on. And so, and like who I don't think about that, I just think about a year or 2. So to think about that are we leaving the legacy of this is important too, you know. Even if I don't want to. Think about that. So, thank you very, very much. Thanks for listening.

19- First of all, I want to say that I'm deeply moved by the board with the invitation to Abigail. She held space for us during the pandemic, and with the literature. The group says she had meetings at her estate. I think that we ought to be working on a trust or something, a compensation for the author. Because I didn't hear anything about or mentioned until you said, we invited Abigail to a meeting. I just want to know, is that an open meeting can people go with Abigail? They have to have Abigail be in a space of proper support, cheering because our allegiance to this fellowship depends on the literature being copyrighted. But also, people being thought well of, and people being treated well, and that's something a priority on the top of my list. We also, notice that this literature was from the higher power who gave it. Yeah, she gave it to her and then she is going to be the legacy that she leaves, her legacy will endure. So, I just would like to have those questions answered. Thank you so much for allowing me to share. And again, welcome to the newcomers in the room.

20-I'm going to go ahead and take my turn. So, Yeah, the question that, stands out for me is, Number 4, does following conference approval process ensure there our literature aids recovery. And I think it does. When I came into A.R.T.S. and, I got a hold of the A.R.T.S. Essay. Book, there were items in that book that I thought were absolutely amazing and really assisted me in opening up, regarding my recovery with my art. At the same time, I also value and cherish recovery that I have had with another the 12-Steps program. And so, I sometimes I wasn't really sure how the essay addressed the step, in the work of the step. And sometimes the step wasn't quite right. So, that was a little confusing. And this is where I think the conference approval process will help us. I think that's the whole point of the approval process. Is that literature aids our recovery and the way that that happens is by applying the principles and the traditions that make up the foundation of our program. So, thank you so much.

21-Yeah, yeah, thank you. Well, basically I was gonna just pass, but I just want to say this has been a wonderful discussion. One of the things I thought somebody said, was something about, oh if it could just be pulled off. If there was some way that it could be done, but it sounds like it would cause a problem. It sounds like it has to be a PDF, and that PDF could be passed around afterwards and that would certainly make it so there wouldn't be very much money raised from that piece of literature. I think it's also important that it is brought up that in each meeting, and it should be talked about how to take a look at the website. And, somebody said it didn't seem to speak to them. To me, the website has been really amazing. And there are some pieces of literature that you click on, and they talk right to you and a few other pieces that are wonderful. I know not all of it could be done that way. But I think it's important that at each meeting somebody emphasizes the literature. And possibly, old literature could be \$5 or \$7 whatever it is that would make it profitable. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

22-I don't have anything new to add, I just want to just say that I would love to have everything available digitally. It's just because we have the Zoom Meetings and we can share screens and people don't have to be looking at the book, they can look at the material and be shared. I would love to see all of the step workbooks combined into one. I think somebody else had mentioned that. And the third thing I think that we actually need is a whole conference on literature. I just think that it deserves to have a longer time to discuss it, maybe a day like we're doing today. So, I would pass for that. Thank you.

Open Forum:

Everyone has a minute to just say whatever it is that they need to say about the program, about their meetings, about anything that's come up for them today or at the conference, any new ideas that they have for what the conference should be doing or handling. One in 1 min each.

1-I've been to a lot of different things and this is very, very informative. I am learning a lot and when I come to these events. I'm really glad to see so many meetings that sent people here, delegates and other visitors. It's really, really a treat to hear other people on what they think, especially from all over the world, different people have different issues. It is really a privilege to be here and I really appreciate the packet, the agenda that just doesn't fall out of a tree. I wasn't there for any part of that. I didn't have to do any of that. I just have to show up here. And thank you, whoever put all that together, I'm guessing, I'm not gonna name names, but everybody all the trustees, thank you for putting this all together and making this possible. I really, really want you to know I appreciate every minute of it. Thank you.

2-Okay, so I'm very, very, very grateful for being here. And the only issue that I want to put on the table is what happens to our contact information? So, if we send the email address and our phone number. is there a someplace where it's being held, so that we make sure that we have the confidentiality that we need in the 12-step program. So, I don't know, just wanted to put that out there. Is it going to the office manager? Is being kept on a secure site where somebody can't go into it and take out our information? Also, for example I know with the Zoomathon, now the Sharathon, was our contact information transferred from the Zoom. The people that are running it. So how is it? How is our contact information being protected? Is it secure? So, I pass and thank you. Thanks everybody.

3-I am a mixed media artist, visual audience, performance artists. I just want to give a shout out to the service in this room. Also, that I've been in this 12-step movement for nearly 41 years. I link all of my success to service. I've been in service every quarter. Since I first came into the school of stuff movement little by little, I'm in an exhibition soon to come at MOMA in New York. I thank you all for the blessing of keeping the doors of arts open. Thanks, Abby, for your founding. Vision for the vision

that you continue to stand in. And thank you for your wisdom and everything that you contributed. So that this part of the movement art synonymous could get started. Thank you. I appreciate you.

4-Hi, thank you everyone. Yeah, thank you all for your service to running this meeting. I'm super grateful to be part of this. To be honest, I was a little unsure about joining it, and I'm really grateful that I did. So. Big kudos to all of you. I want to say in no way does what I had to say diminish the value of everything that you have done Abby, and everyone who's ever written literature, and have done to run this program and make it valuable for people like me. That said, I, I really want to make this accessible to more people. I think there's a way to make it happen that could actually bring in more profit. And I want to participate in that conversation. I'm really open to the possibilities of making this a win for everyone. Thank you.

5-Yes, I also am very, very grateful for this meeting, all the service in general. I was very hesitant to join in the beginning. And it taught me a lot about visibility and just doing different art and different types of art in general. The one thing I was thinking about with literature is, I don't know if we have journals. I don't think we do, like personal stories would be really beneficial to, people just coming in.

6-Rather than I mean I love a little bit of a charts really great but you know even like a children's book or something based on a children's book, where the person discovers her or his ability to be an artist. I think that would be helpful. And that's all. Thanks for letting me share.

7-I just want to say that it's been wonderful that there's been is such a huge participation in all these topics. Personally, I feel very supported and I'm grateful for that. Extremely grateful. And I'm just so thrilled that we're all here. It's amazing. It's just amazing. We're really not supposed to be a 12-step program. But we made one. Thank you.

8-I am a composer and pianist, just glad to be here. This program exists. Thanks. No, I'm grateful for everything that's been discussed today and for the existence of arts and everything that was done. To create. I just want to say that and I actually have to go. I have a commitment and I didn't realize we were meeting until this time and I don't want to leave, one of my issues, I never like to leave any place, but right now I just have to say thank you and it's been great seeing you all. So, I'm going to press that leave button and. Probably gasp after I do. Thanks.

9-I am an artist, writer, musician, And A.R.T.S. taught me how to say that. I'm so grateful for this meeting. Thank you, God. And all the people who work. Together as a team. I have to get up every so often because of health issues, but I appreciate, everything you said, even if I didn't agree with you, especially if you just spoke up and said what you felt, I appreciate hearing from other people and I was reminded that I need to practice my violin early in the morning instead of waiting till late at night. And so. And schedule my artist is just as important as is making breakfast or lunch or dinner or cleaning up, you know, that's so important and to emphasize for me. And, I feel connected to my fellow arts members. And that's a good feeling. Thank you.

10-In this time of COVID, I want to give everybody a safe hug. That's right. I'm a comedian and sometimes I use props and I also get a chance to sing, I use props and I also get a chance to sing and because of arts maybe and other programs I'm Slowly learning the guitar. And, I have a wife that knows all kinds of things about music and I don't even know how to play a kazoo. It's still I'm lucky to marry that I got married to her and I'm lucky that I got in this program. Thank you everybody. We're lucky together. Anyway.

11-I'm feeling grateful and content to create and produce thanks to the conference. I clearly have several recommendations regarding the trustees of the board, because I ended my term of being a trustee in the parallel fellowship and international focus, which I and, some other members from different countries like Spain. And some other places, brought to the board. It was very useful and

that's how that particular fellowship kind of quadrupled in numbers, because they have heard the number of 500 people are involved in the home of the fellowship so far. I could say only a Russian membership can adapt to that. Almost the doubly 115 people at the moment are the members A.R.T.S. So, focusing on attracting more international numbers for the Trustees of the board might be useful. Thank you.

12-Thank you. Yeah, I'm glad I came today. I was really, really nervous and grateful for the opportunity to speak my mind and grateful to come together with you guys. I'm doing really well. Thanks to Arts. Thanks to Abby for all the support and literature. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. Is my little model for there. But about the literature being expensive, I think it's worth it. And it was somebody else said something I think the same or similar I think at a group level perhaps people could get financial assistance to get literature. And for me personally, I'm going to commit to 2 things tonight. I got lucky. I got a little bit lucky recently, so I'm going to increase my monthly, automatic deposit by 150%. And then I'm gonna have start the same amount to my beloved Culver City group on Sundays. Yay! Where we have Sharathon twice a week, or twice a month. So, you guys and I can get the same amount \$25. Plus, I'll do the fee. Yeah. I'm not so savvy about the banking, but I live in Germany. It's not a big deal. So that's what I wanted to promise you guys. Thanks.

13-Hi, I'm an artist, musician and writer, and I want to thank everybody who had a partner organizing this firstly all of your efforts And, I, Kind of regret that I was not really involved in all in organizing of this. And hopefully I will be able to increase some of my service. I really have not done in quite a while. I, you know, we, met now for, since it's, 5 h and other than a half hour break. That's a pretty long time to be, going. No, to be working on this and yet, it seems like to me there was certain things that I feel I wanted to discuss or things that I want to keep us to keep in mind. I know I mentioned at the end of the last conference. That we had back in November, whatever was last time we met, about increasing arts visibility. Through the web and however else well, we can do it. But, I mentioned, the, you know, the fact that we weren't mentioned on Wikipedia. When you Just, I don't think that's changed when you, Google, artist support group. So, you know, I think that there's a lot we can be working on and I'm just glad that we've had some really good, spirit expressed here and I hope we get to follow through on all these things.

14-Hi, everyone. I just want to remind people that we have just scratched the surface today which is great. And then we're so happy to see 30 people here. That's wonderful. Let's just remind people that all those who are interested in establishing how the conference is going to govern itself. Please come to the meeting on, January 20th at 1:00 pm Eastern. I want to see you there. I want like to go around and show you, here's my studio. It's not in very good shape. But because of A.R.T.S. I have one. I have all this work. And I really want A.R.T.S. to thrive. So that's it. Thank you.

15-And I am a comedian, a dancer, and a craft person. It was really good being here. I've been in other software programs and I in general never like to be the part of a committee or a conference you know I was always I'm not joining anything my whole life but when it came to twelfth groups and it was like okay. I'll start doing that in the service I can, give to arts just by being here and being allowed to. Say what I need to say. And not be debated across talk or feel uncomfortable. That really adds to my practice of being an artist, you know, to sustain. My, art and this adds to it that I'm a part of this. I, you know, it's good I'm letting myself be a part of things more so in my life not just sitting on the sidelines and letting other people do it. And you know. Beforehand, of course, when I saw 39 pages, I said, I can't read that. I'm not going to this thing. Then I started reading, I read Ted, page, and it's like, okay, I don't have to know everything before I go on the conference and. So, you know, anything I needed would come up during the conference, which it did, and I didn't miss out on anything and it was just really good. And, Yeah, and it's great to be in this democratic process and be a part of something big and meaningful to me. It's a weird messy thing, and I believe in this thing.

16-Yeah, hey, everyone I, yeah, there's a lot. Yeah, I wouldn't mind talking about the, the, rotation. I think the rotation of the board is, is kind of, you know, is, is really, really crucial because our times of terms will run out. And, and we need people to replace us, you know, basically. And so, you know, it's sort of. And, yeah, so, and, and I love the idea of, you know, of international, oh gosh, you know, it'd be great to have as many, you know, we've got a certain number that we can have by. By the bylaws, but you know, I'm happy to go, you know, be great to get to that number because it's, you know, and also, board members do as much work as they can. It's not like you've got a this huge, work to do and if you don't do it, you get in trouble. It's sort of not really like that. We do what we can, as individual board members and take on what we can take on. So. So yeah, Thank you.

17-Hi, I'm really grateful to be here. It's Yeah, it's just been great to learn more about the program and how things work behind the scenes. I'm very grateful to A.R.T.S. and yeah as I said I really appreciate the literature and I'm grateful for the founder with whom I respect Yeah, I think it's quite likely that it's 10 past 11. PM in England so I'm thinking a bit tired and I think I'll leave it there. Thank you.

18-Okay, you guys ready to start? Am I late? That was my joke. Okay, first of all I want to tell Sharon that there was no data transmitted from the Zoomathon to the Sharathon. We don't even know what data they had there. So, you can rest easy on that. Secondly, I wanted to thank Abby in particular for suggesting that this meeting take place at the end of the last conference. Meeting when we ran out of time turned out to be a great idea and I want to pay particular attention to say a particular thanks. To the people who put this together. The format I thought was fantastic. I guess it's mainly Matt and Allegra. I don't know who else was on the committee, but from my point of view, this was very, very efficient and effective. And just kudos to you guys and I just was wondering if we should maybe hit everybody with a questionnaire later and see if they had any thoughts about how this went and suggestions for tweaking it for next time. But I think Out of the box you guys did a great job. I'm really happy to be here very happy to see all of you and happy to be in arts. Thanks.

19-Thank you. What I have to say is kind of related to the idea of the board. You know, the board of trustees. And I don't know what the standard terms are but we, we need people to be on board. And the thing is, if you would have told me I would be serving the board, I would have thought you were crazy. I just didn't ever see me doing anything like this or go into any committees. Nope, nope, that's not me. But you know, A.R.T.S. anonymous, this 12 -Step program, you know, it's different because it's a 12 -Step recovery that I cherish. That led me to be able to cherish my art and I didn't know how to do that. And so, I was so grateful, I wanted to serve. I wanted to serve the thing that was so serving me. It was the missing key for me. And so, the thing is, is that then somebody started really pushing me, encouraging me. You know, we need this. We need that. We need this. I can't do that. Yes, you can. And so, before I knew it, one thing led to another. What I didn't expect is the recovery that it gave me in my personal life, and the communication skills I am learning, how to get along with others, how to say what I think without worrying about judgment and all that. So that's the surprise, the recovery aspect of doing service. So, I hope to see you on the board soon.

20-I'm next and I'm gonna say somebody said it earlier and I just wrote it down because I love this. I don't need to know everything. None of us need to know everything. We've got a higher power that's taking care of this, taking care of us, taking care of this program, and it's by, you know, I still remember this moment I was in my daughter's apartment in Boston and I stood stock still, completely overtaken by fear. Because I was being asked to be the chair. Of this board. And, I, you know, I did not want it. Every particle in my being was like, no, no, no, no, no, no, and yet I thought. Who else is there? Right now in this moment who can step into this because there is a whole fellowship 12-Step recovery. That has the potential to just explode, to go all over the place, to really grow and to be something amazing. This world, how can I walk away from that? And, so it's not, it hasn't always been easy, you know, I have had so many personal struggles and yet I've grown so

much and I've struggled with my art and yet I've grown in my art and I struggled in my life and I've grown in my life and it's you know there's there is something really true about I don't get to keep this unless I'm giving it away. And I don't need to know everything. I mean, this, if anything is coming out of this conference for me is that We don't none of us need to know everything to serve and contribute so anyway thank you.

21-I was just wondering this, there are authors that you find in the internet and quite the important ones. And, if you search lower down, you go search more and more, you find the PDF. And you can read them. But they still make their sales. That's all. Thank you.

22-I've been in A.R.T.S. a long time and spoken about it, and I've been asked how is it a 12-Step, what do, you know all of that, and so bravo that it is. And I don't know how I answered it, but I managed through the years. And I think even before today that it's so nice to have the founder transparent there was a word, I had that it slipping my mind, you know, not obscure here amongst us. A fellow traveler as it were and yet, and yet she's the founder you know, so I think that that a lot anyway. And I and I'm appreciative of it. Okay, so thank you so, much for being here.

23-Thank you, this has been wonderful. I've never been part of a 12-Step conference before and the packet was so helpful, every time I was lost and clueless. I just went right to the packet and read it as if I had asked the question what are we doing? There was the answer. So, I'm so grateful. I wouldn't change a thing about the format and how this has moved. It is lovely. I was a little terrified to spend this much time on a zoom. It's the longest I've ever been on Zoom, but it went by very quickly. Also, I'm very grateful for the people who put all of us together, to me it's a miracle to meet like this. This feels like what it may have been like to have been in the room with Bill Wilson, or to been in the world with Lois, that's how I feel being in the room with all of you, and with Abby, I just feel like whoa this is a magical moment to be here. I know it could be frustrating to build things from the ground up. But very, very cool I've never been part of a 12-step program where the founder wasn't like a hundred years in the past. And then everybody who's building it now. So, thank you. I'm just honored and humbled. And grateful.

24-Hi, I am an artist with device problems, but it's clarified one thing. At the moment, I'm really not well and it makes it very difficult to keep contact. But it also made me feel a little bit that we can get bogged down in the right way and having everything right. Whereas it's a creative 12-step program and surely therefore, you know, it's that's one of the guiding principles is that there's a certain creativity. And perhaps flexibility in the process I miss it so much. There aren't as many things for performance or showing art, which is part of what I really need. I miss you all so much. I miss Donna's brilliant Zoom, so many had contributed to, and I miss them. Love you, love you all and miss you. Thank you.

2023 World Service Conference of A.R.T.S. Anonymous was concluded with the Serenity Prayer

Appendix I: Guidelines for Delegate and Participant Etiquette

The following motion was crafted and passed by the participants of the October 15, 2022 Pre-Conference Meeting: To approve the Guidelines for Delegate and Participant Etiquette for all Conferences

GUIDELINES FOR DELEGATE AND PARTICIPANT ETIQUETTE FOR ALL CONFERENCES

Thank you so much. Thank you for representing your groups and the A.R.T.S fellowship. We welcome you to the World Service Conference 2023 and we look forward to your participation.

Delegates can best prepare themselves if they are registered before the conference begins.

To ensure the integrity of the voting process all sessions will be recorded. All participants who agree will be able to participate and maintain the Zoom connection. Registered delegates who are on camera for roll call and discussions can vote on each motion. It is good practice that Delegates be present for the entire debate on a motion.

Please try not to repeat questions or comments made by other Delegates or Participants. If this happens the Facilitator will let you know.

Please be mindful that some behaviors work as a trigger to distract some members from participating effectively, such as: inappropriately dressed, smoking, drinking alcohol, or eating on camera.

Please remember we can best prepare Delegates who register before the conference begins.

Participants (Non Delegates): Anyone who buys a ticket to participate in the Conference and is not an elected Delegate can contribute. Non-delegate participants can ask questions. Participants who are not delegates can also help with motion crafting, including offering Pros and Cons. This last point is very important; participants who are not Delegates cannot vote on motions.

Thank you so much for representing the A.R.T.S fellowship at the World Service Conference!

Appendix II: Community Solving Method for Passing Motions

Bringing a Motion to Vote (“Community Problem-Solving Method”)	
2 min.	Presenter puts a preliminary motion on the floor, and gives the reasoning in favor of the motion, including why this particular solution is recommended by a committee or the Board

6 min.	Facilitator asks for questions; presenter answers or may ask others to help answer them. Facilitator reminds participants this is not a time to make comments, just to ask questions.
8 -12 min.	Four Pros and Four Cons are offered from the floor, in alternating format. Facilitator asks that points already made not be offered again.
6 min.	Crafting. Participants on the floor may suggest changes to the original motion, and the Presenter decides whether or not to take them, one by one, as offered. The amended motion is read back to everyone.
1 min.	Facilitator calls for a “time out” in silence for all to reflect before a final vote
1 min.	Serenity Prayer Facilitator calls for the final vote.
1 min.	One additional speaker on the minority opinion
Original Motion:	
Pro 1:	
Con 1:	
Pro 2:	
Con 2:	
Pro 3:	
Con 3:	
Pro 4:	
Con 4:	
Final Motion (After Crafting):	
Vote Count:	In favor

	Opposed
	Abstentions
	Motion passes?

Appendix III: Quorum of the World Service Conference

At the 2022 World Service Conference, the following motion was passed:

For purposes of conducting business at the World Service Conference, a quorum is met when there are at least twice as many voting delegates from meetings and Committees present as the number of members of the Board of Trustees present.

Appendix IV: Background for Topic of Discussion: Outside Literature

Submitted by an A.R.T.S. Member

Does the use of literature and tools of outside sources (specifically The Artist's Way) in A.R.T.S 'Meetings dilute and inhibit the A.R.T.S programme's own worth?

I'm very concerned about the use in meetings of the Artist Way in particular. Talk of Morning Pages and Artist Dates - which are not A.R.T.S Tools. I think it really takes away from our particular message and our own resources. I want to hear what the fellowship thinks about it.

It's my hope that this topic will spurn a discussion about the worth of our own resources such as Traits, Talents, Tools, Five Alive, our Steps Workbooks, our pamphlets and how our message as a fellowship can become stronger without relying on an outside enterprise to 'fill the gap'.

Also, does the use of the Artist way in Meetings violate Tradition Six by endorsing an outside Enterprise?'

Appendix V: Background for Topic of Discussion: Accessibility and Pricing of Literature

NOTE: The Topic "Price of Workbooks" was originally submitted by an A.R.T.S. member. The August 19, 2023, Pre-Conference meeting voted to change the topic to "Accessibility and Pricing of Literature" and expand the discussion.

The following questions were developed by the A.R.T.S. Literature Committee as a guide in preparing for this topic at the Conference.

1. What do the Delegates think are the issues around accessibility to A.R.T.S. Literature?
2. Does Literature aid in recovery? What is the role of Literature in recovery? Has A.R.T.S. Literature helped you? What Literature do you like, and why?
3. What does access to Literature mean to you? How does access to A.R.T.S. Literature aid in recovery?
4. Does following a Conference-approval process ensure that A.R.T.S. Literature aids recovery?
5. What impact could translations of A.R.T.S. Literature have in carrying the message?
6. What kinds of changes or improvements would you like to see in A.R.T.S. Literature?
7. What needs for Literature do we have that the current A.R.T.S. Literature is not

- meeting? What does the Fellowship want in Literature? (considerations can include members contributions, multiple voices of experience)
8. To what extent does purchasing Literature rest on a commitment to recovery in the A.R.T.S. program?
 9. Tradition 7 asks that every A.R.T.S. group ought to be self-supporting. How do we price Literature to be self-supporting?
 10. What forms of electronic publishing are viable for A.R.T.S. (considerations can include virtual meetings, market expectations, reducing costs)?
 11. Can A.R.T.S. meetings require certain pieces of Literature to be purchased?

Price of Workbooks

Submitted by an A.R.T.S. member, summarized by the Conference Planning Committee

Should A.R.T.S literature be more affordable for newcomers with limited financial means?

As a 12 step group ARTS is bound by traditions to welcome newcomers to the program. When newcomers can't afford the literature especially the Step work books which can total \$120 for all 12 steps, it prevents them from fully participating in the program and using the tools.

A member has found in zoom meetings when the topic of step work has surfaced, many other members express a concern about the costs of the books and the prohibition against anyone in a meeting buying a set and sharing it among members. This struck this member as counter to the A.R.T.S. purpose and mission to carry the message to others, freely.

Financial Data from the A.R.T.S. World Service Office

An analysis was conducted of all costs A.R.T.S. has in providing the printed Step Workbooks to members. These include: The cost to print the book, the credit card processing fee, the prorated cost of office paid staff time to process the order and the prorated cost of listing the book on the online bookstore on which orders are made. As the customer is charged separately for shipping, that cost was not factored in. A royalty is paid to the author, which is a common arrangement, even within 12-Step programs. We also took another look at cheaper options for printing the books, and we are already using the cheapest method; from paper, to cover, to binding.

Without the volume of sales other entities might have, A.R.T.S. must use a "print on demand" service. We are a small fellowship and do not have the money or warehousing available to print and store thousands of copies of books and ship them ourselves. We use a printing service called Lulu which has its presses in multiple locations around the world, allowing for far less shipping costs in Europe for instance. Lulu prints on demand; they only print what is sold, and it is shipped directly to the purchaser. They have been a very reliable service, saving our own office staff time and effort by running their operations well.

The table below shows what the books are sold for against the costs. In our judgment, A.R.T.S. is not making very much on them. As World Services does not even a prudent reserve on hand, we continue to remind members and groups that 12-Step programs operate best when guided by the principle of being self-supporting through their own contributions.

Name of the Publication	Selling Price	Total Cost (International) ***	Total Cost (Domestic) ***	Net profit (International)	Net profit (Domestic)
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Workbook Steps 1 and 2	\$19.95	\$17.35	\$17.15	\$2.60	\$2.80
Workbook Steps 3 and 4	\$19.95	\$17.35	\$17.15	\$2.60	\$2.80
Workbook Steps 5 and 6	\$19.95	\$17.45	\$17.25	\$2.50	\$2.70
Workbook Steps 7 and 8	\$19.95	\$16.31	\$16.11	\$3.64	\$3.84
Workbook Steps 9 and 10	\$19.95	\$16.99	\$16.79	\$2.96	\$3.16
Workbook Steps 11 and 12	\$19.95	\$17.04	\$16.84	\$2.91	\$3.11
Workbook Steps 1-3	\$29.95	\$21.49	\$21.29	\$8.86	\$9.06
Workbook Steps 4-6	\$29.95	\$21.18	\$20.98	\$8.77	\$8.97
Workbook Steps 7-9	\$29.95	\$19.53	\$19.33	\$10.42	\$10.62
Workbook Steps 10-12	\$29.95	\$21.32	\$21.12	\$8.63	\$8.83
Twelve Step Essays Book	\$30.00	\$24.44	\$24.24	\$5.56	\$5.76

Appendix VI: Topic of Discussion: Staggered/Rotating Board Terms and Service

Please note – the 2023 Conference ran out of time and this topic was not covered

Topic submitted by an A.R.T.S. member

- The importance for the rotation of service, specifically pertaining to the Board of Trustees.
- Actions each board of trustees performs; how well do we know what members of the Board do?
- Possible structure or structures for filling board trustee vacancies.
- Members' desire to serve and how we as the Board and the A.R.T.S fellowship itself can best accommodate and encourage this desire.

Statement submitted by a Board member:

When members come into service positions, and then go on to other positions, an opportunity opens for someone else to fill the space. In A.R.T.S., as in other Twelve-Step programs, this is known as “rotation of service.” When practiced, space opens for others to engage in ways that may further their own recovery.

The wisdom of Tradition 8 guides a balance that supports individual recovery yet encourages the group to be mindful of its ability to be self-supporting through its own contributions. The Traditions guide those in service to refrain the ego from the tendency to rule or control situations. Instead, the Traditions guide a calm approach when participating with serving a meeting or group. Those who serve may be accountable to the principles and inspired to apply them to all aspects of life, including engagement with their creativity. It is possible that service is the sacrifice made as an investment to safeguard recovery.

Service on fellowship committees and service boards can result in learning new skills for effective group communication. Such communication serves all levels of A.R.T.S. Anonymous

and across the Fellowship. Learning better interactions has impacts beyond A.R.T.S. to make a difference in the lives of other communities, and in all our relationships.

Contributing service can cultivate a sense of purpose and self-confidence. From this, our creative inspirations may increase, resulting in a new sense of joy. When circumstances change, requiring a service position to be filled (or rotated), the opportunity offers new members the chance to serve. They get the benefit of receiving the service experience, strength, and hope from the more experienced members on committees or service boards. What has been learned by the former can then be passed on to the newcomer, a hallmark of all 12-Step programs. The continued support for the newcomer to learn, grow and lead is provided. Shared and rotating responsibilities sustain the well-being of those willing to participate and support the desire for A.R.T.S. anonymous to thrive and grow.

Appendix VII: Post Conference Survey Results



2023 World Service Conference Participant Survey -



16 responses

[Link to Sheets](#)



Accepting responses



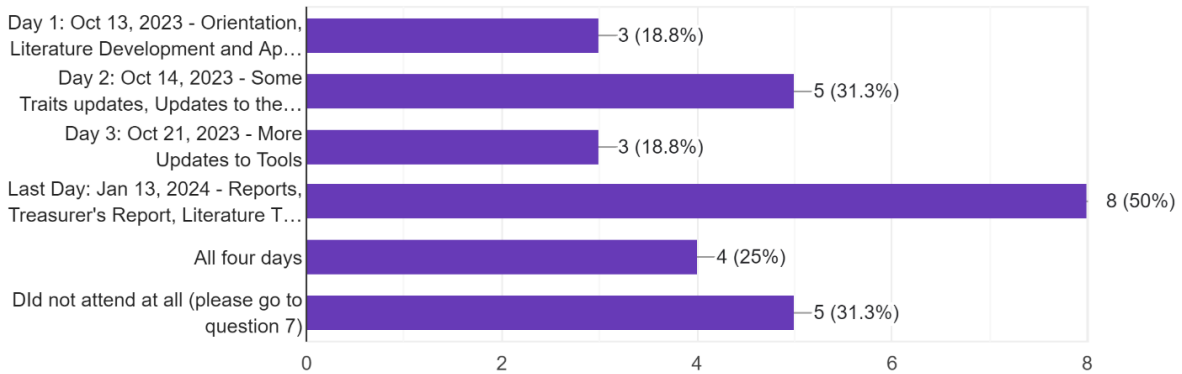
Summary

Question

Individual

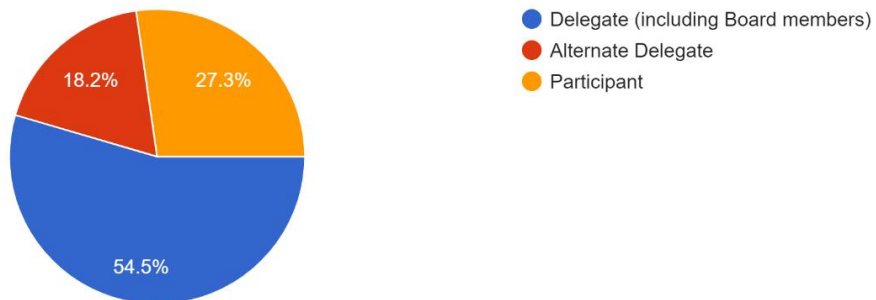
1. Which days of the 2023 World Service Conference did you attend?

16 responses



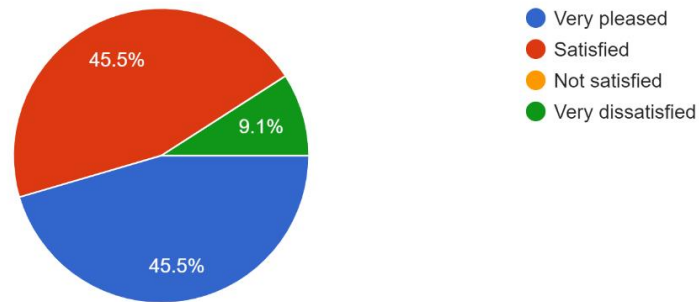
2. Did you attend the World Service Conference as a:

11 responses



3. How would you describe your experience at the World Service Conference?

11 responses



Please Explain or Comment:

9 responses

There was disruption from a few delegates that caused us to have to have an extra day. That was unacceptable behaviour. It made things difficult.

If I can be candid, I really appreciate how the board is seeming to adhere to the traditions more than ARTS leadership has historically. The change is vital and I felt safer in this community seeing the attempts to increase the fellowship's awareness of the traditions, etc. I know two delegates who are eligible to vote, who are extremely well-meaning and lovely people, who happen to have never been in any other 12-step fellowship, who told me directly they've never heard of "The Traditions" at all. It's not their fault, I attend the meetings that sent them as delegates and there is a shortage of volunteers for the WSO rep position, but also there are no requirements yet (I am hopeful for new days to come) in either of those meetings for the rep to have any length of time in program, nor other requirements like "Must have at least two years of informal experience with the traditions (such as participating in business meetings regularly and/or having read the traditions regularly in a meeting with a rotating format that does some traction study etc"... These are written requirements in my other programs which are areas before any elections for WSO/inter group reps, etc. I hope my tone doesn't sound complaining, I know some of the issues ARTS is up against, I am only trying to reinforce my sincere appreciation for the change in seeing in leadership and trying to give some additional info about where some meetings are right now. I'm optimistic about the changes I see happening, thank you.

Please Explain or Comment:

9 responses

The "disruption" during the Conference turned out, for me, to be a humdinger of an awakening that unknown, hidden character defects lay secretly hidden within me. In other words, I am very, very pleased to have been present for the disruption, and truly grateful for the gift that that young man gave me.

too much nitpicking. Too much controlling behavior from board, and

i was happy to see how well facilitated the meeting was and that it wasn't quite as long as i expected (whew!). i would have said very pleased, except that it was a very difficult to say everything i needed to say from our meeting in such a short comment time.

Well, the showdown with the founder happened, and it was good. All in all, I think that the willingness of the delegates to come back the fourth day and finish business was astonishing.

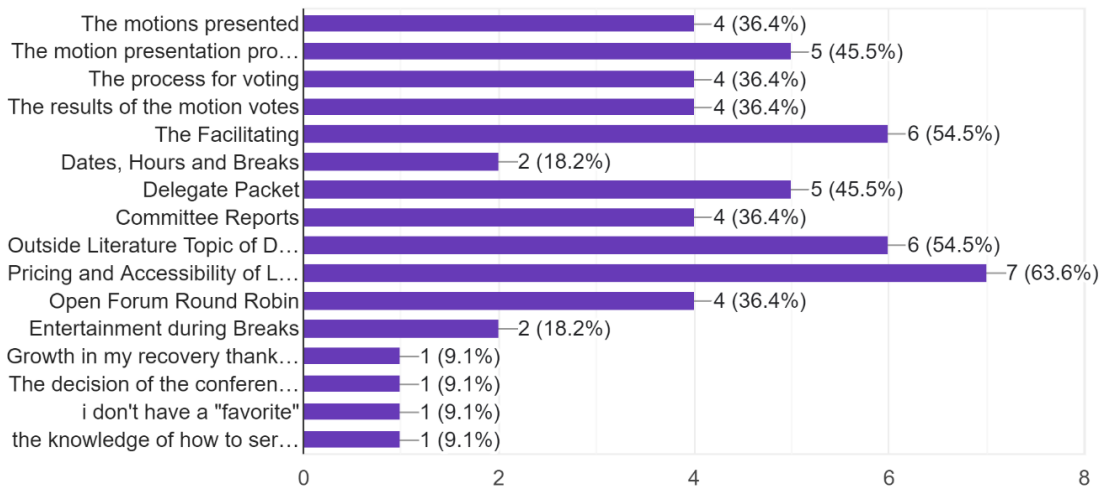
The first day I attended there was a lot of quite heated discussion and argument and I found it somewhat unhelpful in conducting the business of the conference. I could see how potentially helpful the step by step process the conference took to get to the votes but also for a first time attendee it was confusing. I also found the length of the sessions quite long as well as late for UK times.

Generous space provided for all voices to be heard.

cant say much, it was my first times at the A.R.T.S service meetings

4. What did you like best about the World Service Conference?

11 responses



Please Explain or Comment:

7 responses

The facilitating was excellent, not easy right now. Kudos and thank you.

see my previous comment

liked the Conference talking about Literature and their decision to support the literature of Founder. Also liked most of the motions of the conference.

i'm grateful we got to discuss the pricing and accessibility of literature, as that was most important to everyone in our meeting.

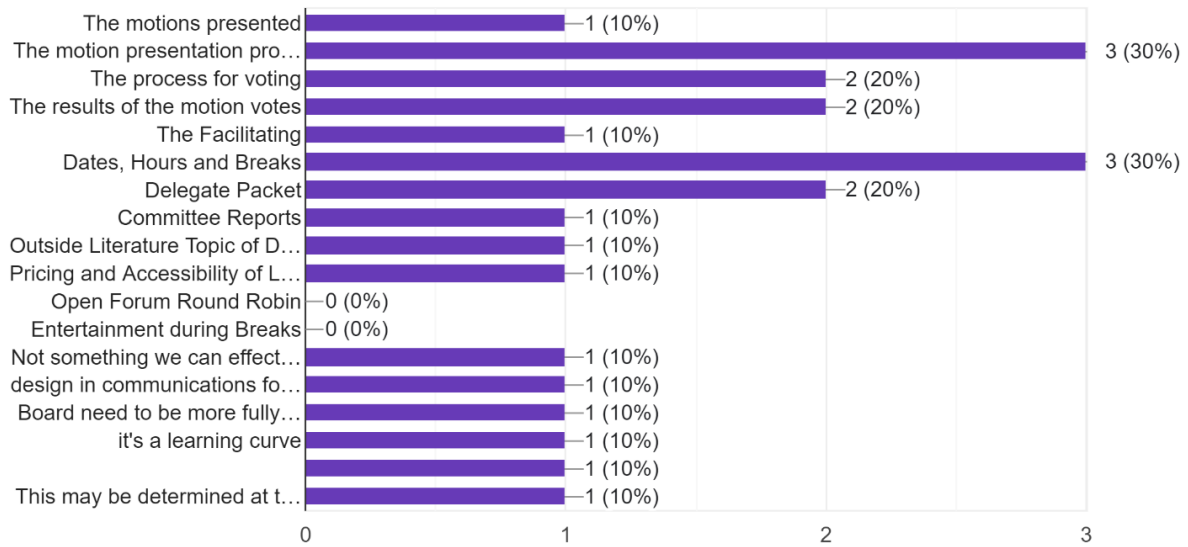
The facilitation was generally good altho when there were disputes it felt that there wasn't a satisfactory solution. The delegate packet was comprehensive if a little overwhelming to the first time attendee.

Carefull listeners and writers of what was suggested

Are you kidding???? This was the BEST EVER!!

5. What about the World Service Conference needs to be improved?

10 responses



Please Explain or Comment:

8 responses

We need more discussion time when using the Community Problem Solving Method.

Not something we can effect, would love to possibly educate meetings about how sometimes intergroup or WSO reps may want familiarity with the traditions. I will go re-read the principles of service, it maybe be there, thank you so much

It is highly likely that creativity will be a great gift for people with neurodiversity. As a result of this Conference, I have become aware that inclusiveness through communications is key. And that that inclusiveness through communications may be window dressing if it is fostered through the policy of "Not About Us Without Us."

too many things slowing down getting to do the work of the conference, facilitators need better skills on relating to delegates and how to facilitate transitions to new topics without being aggressive or relating in a passive aggressive manner. Literature Committee work is not accurate, truthful, or does not work toward allowing member full access to literature - especially creating a bullshit conference approved literature process.

as someone with a maximum capacity of about 90 minutes for meetings, it was a bit much. but i do understand why it had to be so long.

Managing the mute button during the discussions was a bit awkward.

dont know what Round Robin is

The advantage of experience is important.

6. What would you like to change or add for next year's World Service Conference?

9 responses

A day dedicated to Round Robin topics.

More delegates with familiarity with traditions....if it's not happening in meetings, maybe....we do some traditions exploration during WSO meetings? touchy, I know

see previous comment in #5

add- having an outside accounting firm work on the books and speak about the "transparency" of the finances at the conference rather than a board member. Also let this accountant not be a friend of or a relative of the board.

get more business done

Somehow make it more accessible to more members. So smaller delegate packet with simpler language. Shorter sessions (maybe two hours max with less motions discussed). Having two to three pre-conference planning sessions makes it difficult for any one member from a group to attend.

6. What would you like to change or add for next year's World Service Conference?

9 responses

I cannot really predict because our group conscience is full surprises. I think this is revealed through the Conference Planning Meetings. Creative ways, perhaps incentive to encourage meeting delegate attendance to C.P.M.

1. have all service conference meetings start with a prayer: (Adapted with focus on A.R.T.S)
Example from the workhololics anonymous meetings

Higher Power, I ask for your guidance in carrying out this work in the service of the community.

Free me from the burdens of my ego and perfectionism.

Grant me the grace of patience.

Remind me to put principles before personalities.

Help me to focus only on the good of the community.

Let me know that I am only responsible for the groundwork, not the outcome.

Give me the faith to trust You and the group conscience.

And give me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference.

Your will, not mine, be done.

2. listen to all minorities and state clear timelimits.

6. What would you like to change or add for next year's World Service Conference?

9 responses

3. read beginning of each day of conference: crosstalk statements or another text like:

To maintain the serenity of the conference, we do not engage in crosstalk, which we define as interrupting, directly addressing or abusing another member. We avoid using profanity and instead use respectful language. The Chair or .. may re-read the crosstalk statement, if the guideline is violated. The moderator or dashboard monitor (Zoom...) may also remove anyone from the conference not abiding by the conferences' guidelines in order to keep the conference safe (text to be changed..) (this text was taken from a UA meeting script)

4. follow a time structure

5. Explain before starting, some slang words:

for example.. what policies mean, what committees do, how a.r.t.s is structured (the triangle)

6. have at the end of the conference. an hour time for service members sharing with visitors: how doing service in A.R.T.S has changed their life
how service has improved the quality of life of some members and their art focus

7. use the Roberts rules of order...

8. to have the information about open service positions and who to contact
or information of all service positions and the required tasks and requirements and lengths of service and when its time to rotate

9. have a few a.r.t.s members read some of the policies or motions before the conference to check the used language so its easy to read and understand for new service members and visitors. So the voting process is also easier then for them if they better understand the words used.

The fellowship picking up more of the load.

7. What does the World Service Conference mean to you? Is it something you are interested in attending? Why or why not?

13 responses

Not too much yet. I've never really participated in any conferences. Not really. The pre conference was kind of hard to sit through because of its length.

I am disabled and not in a financial or accessible position to attend

Love it

I am interested in inclusiveness and participation in community building, as well as decision making that the Conference offers.

Yes but the timing is not suited well for Europe.

Yes, It means community, communal decision making, and making ARTS the best arts group for everyone.

I know that it's important. I appreciate all the efforts of everyone. I have tried many times to get myself interested in participating. I have failed here.

7. What does the World Service Conference mean to you? Is it something you are interested in attending? Why or why not?

13 responses

Of course. I'd love to attend. a 72 year Old woman with health issues isn't in charge of the hours she sleeps. I just went 4 hours of cooking for another 12 step program and ended up with another infection and a bad tooth. This is after recovering from covid. How do i show up at 5 am? I can't stay up late either. And it's really hot now so my heat sensitivities are a bear.

it means ARTS is growing

I believe in the concept of service being integral to recovery. And it's an opportunity to give back.

Democracy in action where a beautiful structure applies and practices inclusiveness, autonomy, and group conscience decision making.

i wish i had more time.
service always brings recovery

There is nothing more important. The fact that it is now possible to attend this conference worldwide at almost no cost due to technology is almost unbelievable. This gives the fellowship an instrumental part in running ARTS.

8. Is there anything else you would like to say?

11 responses

Thank you

Thanks for a great Conference 2023

I have a strong interest to attend, but the timing, as stated above, along with the long hours required once expressing is an interest, is more than my capacity allows. I prefer to give service at my normal arts meeting--it's much more manageable.

We need more conferences to make ARTS better for all members.

thank you for your service.

Thank you all for your work on behalf of all of us.

I have bought the literature but have no way to work it until i get better. Even healthier I may or may not stay well. Tomorrow i have to get up for an appointment at 8.30 so this is good night. I have everything i need except a person to walk me through beginner stage.

nope

The practice of Concept-4: as participation increases my inspiration to serve rises.

thank you for all who do service

How this whole conference took place, how all of the millions of tiny parts were designed and accomplished, how smoothly it went, the small amount of time and the small number of people did all of this is almost impossible to comprehend.

Your thoughts and suggestions are always welcome. Please send them to conference@artsanonymous.org