

The Board of Trustees Report to the 2024 3rd Virtual World Service Conference on January 2025

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 nonprofit status, and to maintain the fiscal viability of A.R.T.S. The Board remains committed to exercising its responsibilities 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.

Board positions have continued with Allegra B. as Chair, Pat Q. as Vice-Chair and Cindyann W. as Secretary. Dasha B. joined the Board in February 2024. We still have no Board Treasurer or other officer to oversee fiscal responsibilities. The Board meets regularly on the second Saturday of each month. The World Service Office is ably and well-staffed by our faithful Office Manager Chinu.

Matt B. resigned from the Board of Trustees in December 2024. We thank him for his strong and honorable service to A.R.T.S. Anonymous.

Major Board Actions:

- The Board has acquired pro bono legal services from attorneys with White and Case, located in New York City.
- An Author Release agreement was finalized and OK'd by a copyright attorney. The purpose is to gain the permission from members who make written contributions to A.R.T.S. Members retain the rights to their stories, including experience, strength and hope with recovery in A.R.T.S. while allowing A.R.T.S. to use their work to carry the message and sustain the program.
- Trademark applications for "A.R.T.S. Anonymous" and "Artists Recovering through the Twelve Steps" have been filed with the assistance of pro bono legal counsel and are awaiting approval from the U.S. Trademark Office.
- Copyrights are being registered for Conference-approved pamphlets with the Library of Congress. This provides A.R.T.S. with additional legal protection over its material.
- Non-conference approved literature is no longer available to be sold by A.R.T.S. The Fellowship was informed by email, including the backstory for the decision, in March 2024.
- A committee to survey the talents and skills of the members for outreach and other efforts was formed. It developed a possible survey that will undergo review by the Board.
- Updates to the Traits and Talents submitted by the Literature Committee have been reviewed by the Board and will be considered at the 2024 3rd Virtual World Service Conference in January 2025.

Major World Services Actions:

- Continued to make improvements to the website. These include a service and event calendar, PDFs converted to posts, and more use of columns on pages to help aid users in their searches. (An attempt within the office to update the website to a current version of WordPress ended in failure as the website went down for about 9 days).
- A policy was created and passed to address the use of office resources to ensure compliance with the Traditions for supporting A.R.T.S. events and activities
- The membership was engaged in writing about the A.R.T.S. Steps through a newsletter writing project.
- Monthly email updates are regularly sent to the Delegates and Meeting contacts about events, workshops, service opportunities and the Conference.
- Holding a monthly Step Study Workshop. Material and feedback from these workshops are being used by the Literature Committee to help in developing possible Step material. The workshops are also contributing to A.R.T.S. finances.
- A Structure, Service and Traditions workshop was developed in 2024 and will be presented sometime after the January World Service Conference in 2025. The purpose is to help members become aware of the Traditions and how they support recovery, and the service contributions needed for A.R.T.S. to be self-supporting.

- A group of members is actively planning and executing quarterly “Sharathon” events – a platform for members to share their art and creativity. The Sharathon also contributes to A.R.T.S. finances.
- A 40th Anniversary birthday celebration was planned by Abigail B., our Founder and held on November 3, 2024. Over 50 members attended.
- The Executive Committee has oversight of the day-to-day operations of the World Service Office, including emergency situations. Office operations in 2024 included (but are not limited to): tracking and reporting income, expenses and cost analyses; bookkeeping; communications for the Conference and Workshops; producing and sending out the monthly newsletter; posting and updating information on the website; updating the meeting list and information; converting Conference-approved literature to Kindle for electronic purchase; filing copyright applications; converting PDFs to web page postings; upgraded the newsletter graphics.

Next Steps: The Board underwent a “prioritization” project to better focus on the nearly 20 items on a list of unfinished business. All the items are relevant to increasing the membership, improving A.R.T.S. financial health, and organizing the functioning of the Board and World Services. These include the following (*this is not a complete list*):

- Attracting a Board Treasurer or a Financial Officer to oversee and advise on financial matters to the Board.
- Support for the health of meetings and participation in them, including service.
- Policy for A.R.T.S. Anonymous to publish, distribute and sell Conference-approved literature
- Strategic Planning
- New Literature
- A survey of Talents and Skills of the membership
- A policy for an Executive Committee
- Licensing the Translation of Literature
- Website Upgrade
- Website Testimonials
- Policy for Translation of the website in other languages
- Proposed letter to seek endorsement of A.R.T.S. from the medical community
- Process for a complaint about Board member behavior

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 the A.R.T.S. Anonymous Treasury including a prudent reserve; as a Delegate to the World Service Conference and applying for service on the A.R.T.S. Board of Trustees.