

Board of Trustees Report to the 2023 World Service Conference

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 nonprofit 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.