

FAA Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting Minutes
Sunday March 16, 2025 –7:30 PM ET
ZOOM Virtual Meeting ID: 973 5019 9561
Password: 459076

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/97350199561?pwd=r2iX9bBfoVVLJ86wSWwb8XR03U2GLC.1>

OPENING: Serenity

Prayer ROLL CALL:

Quorum - Cindy K., Linda A., , Chuck S., Charlotte S., Darlene D., Kelley N., Anne S.

Visitors - Heather S., Tmima K., Phyllis E., Helen C., Maryanne L., Ann W., Simone F., Linda S., Deborah G., Cynthia M., Maryellen W., Bonnie-Jean F.

Reading Tradition Five (long version) – Read by Ann W.

Review/Approval of Minutes of January 12, 2025 - Motioned by Cindy K. to approve minutes, Seconded by Anne S., all approved to accept minutes

REPORTS:

Co-Moderator- Last minute note sent to Board Members regarding the suggested change in order of items to be discussed due to time sensitivities. Some concerns were presented to Co-Moderator from fellowship members about how to access the committee reports if reports are not shared during the meeting.

Treasurer - Report presented by Charlotte S. The CDs both had positive earnings in the amount of \$788.88 and \$378.08 and both reinvested for another year. The report was sent to Board members ahead of the meeting that confirmed the organization is in good financial standing.

Secretary - Received most of the reports on time to be able to attach to the agenda.

Executive Assistant - See attached report.

Office Committee - Next meeting scheduled for 4/17/25 at 8pm. The office has been running well. More books have been ordered. No new business has been discussed at this time.

Bylaws Committee - Next meeting scheduled for 4/9/25 at 7pm. Document has been reviewed regarding proposed changes to by-laws. Three wording changes were discussed for added clarification.

Literature Committee - No meeting scheduled for the main Literature Committee, Concepts Sub-committee meeting scheduled for 4/8/25 1pm. See Literature Report that summarized the Concepts of Service that is heavily rooted in the Traditions. Discussion occurred regarding the development of a Traditions Workbook to further build on foundational materials to strengthen the organization.

Public Information - Next meeting scheduled 5/18/25 at 3pm. See attached report. Campaign launched to support National Nutrition Month. Members can contact the WSO to request 5 copies of the Understanding Food Addiction and Why Abstinence is necessary pamphlet to give to professionals to help spread the word about FAA. Campaign ends March 31st. Shipping cost will be monitored to avoid excessive expense to the WSO (not to exceed \$300). If campaign is successful there may be another launch in October to support Eating Disorder Awareness Month.

Convention Committee - Next meeting TBD. See attached report. Most promising location reported to be the Mercy Center in CA. This location was within the right cost, but falls on a Jewish holiday and has a limit of 50 bed capacity. It was suggested to consider another location within the same organization given the cost effectiveness. Kelley will contact the Mercy Center to inquire about different dates and/or camp sites for expanded availability. Consideration for the Rochester, NY Mercy Center location was discussed and Kelley will inquire about their availability. The expectation for next step is to have a solid location proposal submitted via email by mid-April from Kelley for Board discussion.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update Status of Action Items September 8th Meeting:

- a. **Motion:** create a disclaimer on the website regarding what constitutes an FAA meeting. Primarily those meetings and events registered with the office and posted as such on the website as open to all. Motion passed with all in favor.
Action Item; Create disclaimer and submit to BOT members via email for approval prior to posting. Possibly consider consulting our attorney if needed. (*Draft previously provided via email on September 10th*) submit to legal for review prior to posting) - **This item was combined with New Business d. And motion was approved with 7 in favor, no abstentions, and 0 no that a letter be sent to the attorney.**

b. Update Status of Action Items November 17th Meeting:

- c. Convention feedback review.- **This item was combined in discussion with item b. And motion was approved by all to remove from future agendas**

- d. Discussion of each committee's hope and focus area for the upcoming 2025 year - **This item was combined in discussion with item a. and the motion was approved by all to remove from future agendas**

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Motion:** I propose that a Town Hall be held in February for the purpose of engaging in a dialog with our general membership regarding instituting a "voice of the fellowship" service process and structure for member participation through elected delegates in decisions currently taken solely by our self-appointed Trustees.

Reason: Since our founding, FAA has been guided and supported by a Board of Trustee volunteers. The number of members with the wisdom of our early years is dwindling in number, and we are now at a similar point that the founders of AA found themselves - needing a way to create a process and organizational structure to surpass their own mortality in order to preserve the message and legacy of hope of AA. FAA now similarly needs to create a way to transition to a fellowship-based decision making process through elected delegates constituting the "voice of the fellowship," spiritually guided by the Higher Power of our understanding through a group conscience. I propose a Town Hall Meeting to introduce the concept of creating a fellowship-based process for decision making, and to determine receptivity to this change.- **Discussion regarding all Town Hall meetings will be postponed to the May BOT meeting. Motion was approved by all to add this topic to the May agenda for further discussion.**

- b. **Motion:** I move that each Board Committee identify their pertinent by-laws content which defines WHAT the specific duties and functions of the committee are, and identify all text which describes HOW their duties are to be performed which will be removed from the by-laws and transferred to a Policy and Procedures (P&P) Manual (currently under development).

RECOMMENDED COMPLETION DATE: MAY 1, 2025 reports to the By-Laws Committee

TARGET COMPLETION DATE FOR P&P MANUAL FIRST DRAFT: JULY 13, 2025 (Linda A for action)

Reason: By-Laws changes are very cumbersome and time-consuming, and appropriately so. By retaining the duties and responsibilities of the Board in the by-laws and shifting the details of how to execute these duties into a P&P Manual, any changes that may need to be fine-tuned can be updated/modified in a simple, timely, as-needed basis, per the guidelines to be set forth in the P&P Manual.- **Motion approved with a majority voting yes and 1 vote was nay.**

Committee Chairs will draft and submit the separated items by May 1st. via email.

NOTE: Any changes to the remaining by-laws content discovered during this process may be recommended to the entire by-laws committee per the usual committee process.

- c. **Motion:** I move that the board adopt a Standing Rule, per Roberts Rules of Order, that the board meeting minutes, once drafted and reviewed for accuracy, be approved by email vote to the secretary for tally and posting on the FAA website.

Reason: Robert's Rules of Order, Chapter 2, paragraph 2.23 Standing Rules provides for the creation of a standing rule, relating to the details of a societies administration (not parliamentary procedure). "A Standing Rule can be adopted by a majority vote without previous notice. It remains in effect until resend or amended."

At present, it takes a minimum of two months for the minutes to be posted on the website, due to the Board's meeting frequency of bi monthly. This delays availability of the Board's activities for informing the membership. By voting to approve the minutes by email, this information will be available in a more responsive manner to our fellowship, improve communication and provide our membership better opportunity to respond to the Board actions in a more timely manner. - **Discussion occurred and it was suggested that each committee be able to post their individual minutes to WSO to be added to the website. This may be a thought for the future. The original motion to approve the minutes via email was passed with 6 in approval and 1 no.**

- d. **Motion:** That a letter be sent to our attorney of record requesting guidance re: copyright and trademark protections due to potential violations involving unauthorized use of our name and literature.

Background: This has been the subject of informal discussions for several months. As the Board Chair, I recently received the attached request from our By-Laws Committee expressing concerns and requesting we write to our attorney (who prepared and filed these documents) and request a written opinion as to the protections and/or limits of our copyright and trademark. I would add that the current misuse of our literature and name has an adverse impact on our fiscal and organizational well-being as a spiritually founded fellowship.

If passed, I am prepared, as the Chair, to draft said letter for the consideration or modification and approval of the Board - **This item was combined with Old Business a. and motion was approved with 7 in favor, no abstentions, and 0 no that an inquiry letter be sent to the attorney regarding the rights/limits of the use of copyrighted and/or trademark information.**

Visitor Comments:

Discussion occurred regarding notifying the members about the official BOT email addresses were created. WSO is awaiting for formal confirmation that all members have changed their passwords and are up and running with use of the official emails.

Further conversation regarded the benefit of increasing transparency via committee report accessibility through the website for more members to review when they choose.

Additional thoughts were shared on how to become more involved in the inner workings of the fellowship as a specific intergroup representative as there has not been a formal process developed in the past. One suggestion was to have a specific meeting with all of the intergroups representatives to help disseminate information throughout the fellowship.

It was noted that changing the word “donations” to “contributions” in each area that it is currently listed on our website would be a prudent adjustment in accordance with our literature. It was suggested to submit a formal motion for the next Board meeting and the email for motion submission was provided.

NEXT MEETING: May 18, 2025

CLOSING: Serenity Prayer

**In Service,
Cindy K. Secretary**

Regarding the dispersal of copywritten Food Addicts Anonymous literature.

Over two years ago, it became known that a group within the FAA fellowship had placed copies of print and digital Food Addicts Anonymous (FAA) copywritten literature on a Google drive. Links to this drive have been given to scores of individuals in this time as part of their training as meeting hosts.

The links have been tested to reveal that the material can be downloaded and used at the downloading person's discretion. This approach is in violation of the Seventh Tradition which states that 'Every FAA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions'. By allowing the copying of our literature freely, our ability to be self-supporting has been impaired and we are being diverted from our primary purpose which is to help the suffering Food Addict.

During this time, several requests have been made to this group to take down the Google drive but no action has been taken.

We are requesting that the Board of Food Addicts Anonymous address this issue, which may include pursuing legal means to remedy this situation.

In the spirit of the 12 Traditions,

Ann Wenzel
Phyllis Eckel

EA Report

The VIG has taken advantage of the opportunity offered to them to transfer their Virtual Meeting ZOOM licenses to ZOOM licenses provided by WSO. The transition was quite smooth with a very minor hiccup. They were able to keep all of their current meeting links. They have directed those attending the Virtual Meetings to make donations directly to the WSO from this point on via Venmo, PayPal, Auto Monthly donations, or via the FAA Donation link on the web. They also transferred all of the remaining donation monies in their accounts to WSO.

There was a motion made at the Office Committee Meeting to bring up a discussion of the use of the word "Donation" vs using the word "Contribution" as the AA fellowship uses the word "Contribution." Not sure if an official motion is needed at the Board level yet.

There was also a motion made at the Office Committee Meeting to bring up a discussion of advertising both website addresses on our literature as some are confused by the "faacanhhelp.org" domain address vs the original domain address of "foodaddictsanonymous.org". The address was changed when the website was revamped. We still own the rights to both domains and if you type in the old website address it automatically directs a user to the current site. It would probably be too much work and \$\$\$\$ to redo the entire website again, especially since this website has been in use for about 6 years already. Not sure if an official motion is needed at the Board level yet.

We have had our two CDs reach maturity, one in January reaping an interest return amounting to \$788.88 and one in February, reaping an interest return amounting to \$378.08. Total return was \$1166.88. The interest was deposited into the FAA operating account (checking account). The CDs were both renewed for another year at an interest rate of 4.2%. This is about 1% less than the previous year because the Feds lowered interest rates, as we all know. But it is still better than we get with the money sitting in PNC Bank, which would have amounted to about \$6.00 at the most for the year.

EA has been advised by the PI Committee that they will be offering 5 copies of Understanding Food Addiction free of charge to members so that they can pass them along to their physicians. EA suggested possibly requesting a small donation from members to offset shipping. I have provided shipping fees to the PI Committee for shipping out 3 booklets and 5 booklets (with and without tracking). Each booklet is valued at \$4.00. I am waiting for pricing from the printer on our updated cost, as we will probably need to order more copies if this campaign is successful. Shipping fees listed below:

If we use postage stamps instead of our shipping service that includes tracking:

It is about \$3.75 to ship out an envelope of 5 booklets.

It is about \$2.50 to ship out an envelope of 3 booklets.

If we use our shipping service that includes tracking:

It is about \$5.75 to ship out 3 or 5 booklets. It does not change for either **but it does include tracking.**

Treasurer Report will be provided at the Board Meeting.

Convention Report

<u>Date</u>	<u>Good till</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Room Rate</u>	<u>Conference room rate</u>	<u>Food Minimum</u>	
8/8/2025		Alexis Park	Las Vegas	135.00	5,500.00	8,460.00	*
10/17/2025	3/31/2025	Hyatt Regency	Buffalo	189.00	1,000.00	1,500.00	
8/22/2025		Marriott	Memphis	139.00	1,500.00	12,000.00	
10/3/2025		Mercy Center	Burlingame, CA	200.00	**		
9/11/2025		The Grove	Memphis	Varies	1,800.00	500.00	
or 10/2/25							

* Will waive Conference room fee if food minimum is reached.

** The \$200 per night covers use of a conference room, a single bedroom and meals starting with dinner on check-in and ends with lunch on check out.

See additional files for more detailed information regarding sites

Public Information Committee – March 2025

1. Meetings held – January 19 th and February 16 th at 3pm.

Note: PI committee does not have a Secretary so official minutes are being captured.

Committee Highlights – Attendance – January (7); February – (2)*

Updated Status/Next steps

1. Realigned 12-step Volunteers = Volunteers mentioned request have dwindled. Have no historical data on this service. Since realignment we have had three inquiries – two were from existing members of FAA. Next steps: a) Plans underway to capture historical data for this service. b) Request service realignment to PI overview vice WSO then to PI (streamline process)

2. PI Campaign 2025 – Communication with professionals about FAA Utilizing the pamphlet, *Understanding Food Addiction and Why Abstinence is Necessary*, launched the campaign in March 2025 (supports national nutrition month) to circulate this pamphlet within the medical communities (doctors, nutritionists, health fairs). Goal is to educate them about what distinguishes our program from other food programs. In FAA we recognize food as an addiction. Members may request five copies for distribution.

After consulting with Donna about being able to support request and potential cost for mailing I sent the announcement launching campaign to CIG phone meeting announcement coordinator. These announcements are disseminated wide enough to get a gauge on potential cost. Next steps: a) monitor progress (members requesting/costs to ship; b) if cost get too expensive (exceeds \$300), may suggest members consider 7 th tradition donation to offset cost or reduce quantities to three each; c) based on overall results consider second campaign in October (eating disorders month).

Projects Underway -

A) Review and update 12-step volunteer handbook - last update July 2016.

B) Review the free literature available for the professional as posted on the website to see if packet can be streamlined (potential cost savings)

Next meeting – March 16 th at 3pm

In service,

Darlene, PI Chair

*meeting reminder not sent

LITERATURE COMMITTEE REPORT

January 12, 2025 – March 16, 2025

The sub-committee working on the Concepts of Service continues to make good progress using a format that will provide consistency in the presentation of each Concept.

In their work on developing the 12 Concepts of Service for FAA, this group has been gaining greater insight on how a functional understanding of the traditions is necessary throughout our fellowship, and supportive for effectively organizing and using the 12 Concepts of Service. We recognize that a deeper understanding and practice of the Traditions throughout FAA is a necessary foundation for introducing and implementing the Twelve Concepts within the Fellowship.

We plan to develop a Workbook to guide our members in learning the principles within the Traditions, which will more effectively facilitate service efforts, from the individual, group, and intergroup, to ultimately achieving self-determination by the fellowship working with the Board of Trustees.

Together the 12 Traditions Workbook and the 12 Concepts of Service will provide a spiritual and a structural foundation to ensure FAA's survival and growth in continuing our message of abstinent recovery into the future.

MARCH 2025 LITERATURE REPORT ADDENDUM

In their work on developing Concepts of Service for FAA, the Sub-committee has been gaining greater insight on how a functional understanding of the Traditions is necessary and supportive of effective organization and use of the Twelve Concepts of Service. We recognize a deeper understanding and practice of the traditions throughout FAA is a necessary foundation for introducing the Twelve Concepts to the Fellowship.

This work would be developed by a new Sub-Committee in parallel with the Concepts Sub-Committee so that this Traditions workbook will more effectively facilitate service efforts from the individual meeting, through intergroups to ultimately achieving self-determination working with the Board of Trustees.

Together, the traditions and the Concepts of Service will provide a spiritual and structural foundation to ensure the fellowship's survival, growth and prosperity for future generations.

Linda A.
Acting Chair