

Pills Anonymous International Conference 2015

Meeting Minutes by Monica T.

Please forward any corrections to magicmonica716@gmail.com

Saturday 8/22/15

A moment of silence was observed followed by a prayer.

The total number of voting delegates was 27 and 4 visitors were recognized.

Secretary Report

Minutes of the 2014 conference were read. Minutes were accepted as read. Wanda motioned for acceptance and Lisa seconded. Motion was approved 27 ayes, 0 nays, 0 obtained.

Treasurer Report for PAWS inc.

Randy presented the report as follows:

Beginning Balance	\$10,188.70
Deposits from PAWSO	+\$2,836.23
Deposits from 'Pink Can'	+\$2,660.23
Expenses	-\$308.13
Ending Balance	\$15,377.31

Treasurer report accepted as read.

Pills Anonymous World Service Organization (PAWSO)

Lisa reported for PAWSO. This organization is responsible for the website and business office. The conference drives and dictates the goals for PAWSO. PAWSO is responsible to the trust concerns. 120 days prior to the conference, groups should forward information to PAWSO. 60 days prior to conference, PAWSO should send out an agenda and information to delegates and groups.

A pre-conference luncheon was held to assist with the planning of the convention.

PAWSO is also responsible for the selling of key tags and books.

PAWSO is responsible for maintaining communication between groups. Several discussions ensued regarding communications. Chairpersons of committees should have access to the directors. Delegates should see the website for additional info. New delegates expressed a frustration with the lack of communication from PAWSO regarding the conference. The goal in the future will refer to the 120 days prior to the conference for communication to be distributed. Please note that there are only 8 people who volunteers at PAWSO. Please be patient (see attachment B)

Andrew continued the PAWSO report with the treasurer's report (see attachment B2). The financial statements were reviewed for PAWSO. The books are open to anyone who would like to review. The prudent reserve is intact at \$5,000. PAWSO is repaying PAWS inc for the loan for the book creation. Books and key tags are sold through PAWSO. Starter Kits for new meetings have been well received.

Common Welfare Committee

Committee Reports to reflect time of day, names, etc. (see attachment C)

Wanda motioned to approve the Book Study format. This motion was seconded by Lisa.

The vote was 27 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 obtained

Wanda motioned to approve the Topic Discussion Meeting Format. This was seconded by Patty. After discussion, the vote was called.

The motion passed with 23 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstaining.

The Speaker's Meeting Format was discussed. A motion was made by Wanda and seconded by Wendy to approve the Speaker's Meeting Format. Vote was 27 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 voters abstaining.

A discussion continued regarding the appropriate location of the meeting formats. This is especially essential when Hospital and Institutional (H&I). The approved guidelines will be placed within the H&I booklet. A motion was made to place the H&I meeting format into both the H&I guidelines and the local service manual. Wanda motioned and Andrew seconded. The vote was 26 ayes, 1 nays, 0 abstained.

Public Information / Internet Committee

Carrick reported for the committee. One of the goals for this year was to create a tab on the website titled "Start a Meeting". This has worked well along with the welcome packets that are sent to group. Monica T. from New Mexico thanked the committee for the welcome packet.

A 'shopping cart' for the website was tabled due to lack of funding. Currently there is no engine optimization for the website. Website traffic is monitored and traffic reports more than 700-800 individual hits per month. The conference was reminded of our 11th tradition regarding our public information policy of attraction rather than promotion.

One of the main duties for the Public Information / Internet Committee is to maintain current information on the website. A search engine for the website will be created. Some delegates requested phone numbers of PAWSO be published by the website. Currently, no phone other than group representatives are available to the public.

Ad Hoc Committee

This committee has not been active over the last year.

Archives

The goal of this committee is to collect, store and archive important documents that may be pertinent to the history of PA. The committee has been inactive over the last year. However, with new delegates,

additional work can begin. So far the committee has collected a stack of hard copy documents to be archived. There is a scanner and future plans will determine storage and availability.

PA Unity Committee

There is currently no report for the conference. Goals for next year include a mission statement and clarifications of duties.

Hospitals and Institutions (H&I) Committee

This committee has met and discussed issues. The committee will be setting goals and electing a chairperson. The committee is interested in getting PA books "There is a Solution" into additional hospitals and jails. Approximately 100 books have been sent to various institutions. A suggestion was made to send PA books "There is a Solution" to public libraries for general public access.

Board of Trustees

Larry spoke in regards to the Board of Trustees and their duties. The conference was asked to ratify new trustees. Larry made a motion to approve the following names for the Board of Trustees: Ron, Shea, Randy, Chris, Wanda, Janice and Larry. The motion was seconded by Chris.

The vote was the following – 27 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain. This motion passed.

Larry asked Wendy to leave the room. There was a short discussion on ratifying Wendy to the Board of Trustees. Larry made the motion to accept. Vicky seconded the motion.

The vote was the following – 24 yeas, 0 nays, and 2 abstaining. After the vote Wendy reentered the conference.

New Business

Trademark

Andrew presented the PA logo trademark guidelines. These guidelines sought to clarify the appropriate usage of the PA logo for individuals and groups. There was discussion on the grammar and content of the guidelines. Some felt this issue could be properly handled and the PAWSO level and not the conference level. This guideline is a good start for the organization and the conference is encouraging editing as issues arise. This guideline would replace page 9 of the PA world service manual. Currently no requests have been made to utilize the PA logo. Rosalie made a motion to update the PA World Service manuals to include the Trademark and Logo guidelines. Scott seconded this motion.

The vote was the following – 24 yeas, 0 nays, 3 abstaining.

PA Introduction Flyer

Bill from Phoenix was recognized and took the floor. He presented a trifold flyer that could be modified and posted on the PA website for other groups to utilize. The authority of the conference was recognized to approve literature for all of PA. The group directed Bill to the Common Welfare Committee. Bill made a motion to forward the PA Introduction flyer to the Common Welfare Committee for amending. This flyer will be presented at the PAWS conference in 2016. Sheryl seconded the motion.

The vote was the following – ayes 24, nays 3, 0 abstaining.

Fourth Step Inventory Handout

Bill presented to the conference a handout created to assist members in completing the fourth step. This handout is designed to augment the fourth step process presented in the PA Book “There is a Solution”. Some delegates felt this handout should not be endorsed by the conference, but should be a one-on-one interaction between sponsors and sponsees. Other delegates felt the fourth step is covered in deep details with the PA book “There is a Solution”. The conference also did not want to over legislate the program to individual groups. The handout was withdrawn.

Ad-Hock Committee

Move to change the name of the ad-hoc committee to “The Service Development and Leadership Committee” and to append the goals of the committee to identify members of the fellowship who are willing and able to chair committees and become Directors and Trustees. (see

The conference was opened by Chris with a prayer.

There were 26 voting members present.

Minority Report

Larry reviewed the concept of minority report and the ability to give all members a second voice. Several members related experiences and cautioned the group to pause and ask for direction. Reviewing issues can feel frustrating, but moving too quickly in committees can stifle the individual and threaten unity.

Hospital and Institutions (H&I)

Monica reviewed the voting. There was a correction in the H&I Meeting Format. To break the voting down into 2 motions.

Word Usage “pills” or “pills and all other mind-altering substances”

Eric brought up concerns regarding wording of “pills” and “all other mind altering substances.” This is important to clarify because as we grow we want to be inclusive but all also to be specific regarding all other substances. The group was directed the third tradition which states that the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using pills. Wanda relayed to the group the history of the wording. There was discussion to make the language consistent throughout the literature. Larry spoke eloquently on our singleness of purpose. Our singleness of purpose statement which states that our primary purpose is to stay clean and help other addicts to recover from addiction. This is also echoed in the 5th tradition. The wording is important to keep a place within pills anonymous that there is a place specifically for pill addicts.

Word Usage “big book” or “Pills Anonymous book, There is a Solution

The changing of the wording “big book” to “Pills Anonymous book”, “There is a Solution”. There needs to be a consistent nomenclature. Other programs were referenced as in AA where the book is called

A motion was made to replace the wording “big book” The Pills Anonymous book “There is a Solution” World service manual and Local Service manual

Ken first

Ayes 14, Nays 10, Abstains 2

There was a motion to change the wording of “1st” to “the first” on the Guidelines for the Use of Pills Anonymous Trademarks.

Monica asked that the world conference not turn into a “move the comma” committee. She requested that all typos be referred back to the committee who authored the document. She felt that the world conference needed to focus on higher issues than grammar.

Motion withdrawn.

Sheryl moves that Andrews PAWSO finish the edits on the Guidelines for the Use of Pills Anonymous Trademark. Cheryl seconded the motion.

Ayes 23 nays 0

Conference not convention

Hospital and Insti