

# Pills Anonymous World Service

## 2016 PAWS Conference

8/19/16 – Friday

Conference Welcome and Opening Prayer

Larry H welcomed the conference and introduced the history of Pills Anonymous. In 2008, approximately 50 groups were meeting as a loose confederacy of meetings without an official structure. Originally, the meetings were using the AA big book as a basic text. *In the Solution* was published and the structure of PAWS was created.

Three parts of PAWS are represented by this conference – PA World Service Inc., PA World Service Office, PA Trustees. Larry H encouraged all to participate and join a committee. The committees are as follows:

- Conference Committee
- Common Welfare
- Organizational
- Public Information/Internet
- Archives
- PA Unity
- Hospitals and Institutions

An overview of each committee was reviewed for the conference.

Delegates are present at this conference representing meetings in their local areas. As a delegate, this person is present as a representative of their group. A delegate has the responsibility to vote as a representative of their local group. Delegates are elected by every meeting. Each group elects one delegate and one alternate delegate.

The PAWS committee has the power to change anything except the steps and the traditions.

8/20/16      Saturday

**Registration, Welcome and Prayer**

Minutes from 2015 conference Larry motioned to approve with minor correction and Wanda second  
Ayes – 23, nays – 0, abstain – 0

**Robert's Rules of Order**

These were reviewed by Rosalie.

**Treasurer Report for PAWS Inc. -**

Pills Anonymous World Service Treasurer’s Report 9/1/15 – 8/18/16

Cash in bank beginning balance 9/1/15	\$15,292.34
Withdraws administrative costs	-\$260.20
Deposits PAWSO transfer	\$1,449.52
<u>Deposits PA meetings 7<sup>th</sup> tradition</u>	<u>\$1,974.84</u>
Cash in bank ending balance 8/18/16	\$18,556.47

**PAWS World Service Office**

Lisa reported on the business office. There are currently approximately 8 people who assist with the office. The duties of the PAWS world service office were reviewed. The key tags and book were created by the world service office. A duty of the world service office includes ensuring that the books and key tags are from the PAWS World Service Office. Delegates and groups may also seek assistance through this the world service office. See the manual and website. The World Service Office is striving the answer the calls and emails from groups and potential members.

**PAWSO Treasurer Report**

PAWSO has earmarked startup funds to repay PAWS inc for seed funds to write the book. In 2015, the income collected exceeded the expenses. The excess money is sent to PAWS Inc. to repay the seed money. This repayment is begun only after a prudent reserve is created. This can be seen under the line item of Payment to PAWS inc.

Overall sales of the book, *In the Solution*, and key tag sales have decreased. This may be because there was a lead up to the sales of the book and key tags. The shopping cart feature of the website was redesigned. The old shopping cart was difficult to maneuver and has now been remedied.

**Common Welfare Committee**

Wanda reported for the Common Welfare Committee. A tri-fold flyer was created and distributed for review by Wanda. “A Higher Power” pamphlet was presented to the conference. This pamphlet was read for the conference as introduction to “A Higher Power” pamphlet. Later in the day, this pamphlet will be voted and decided upon.

Nomenclature – Wanda reminded the group that the preference is “P.A.” not PA or pa.

There was a suggestion to modify some of the language. The changes include:

- Change “we came here in our darkness hours” may be changed to “we came here *at* our darkest hour”. This wording was run through Wikipedia and deemed to be appropriate in the first sentence.
- The sentence with “recovered from their addiction”, this can be changed to “they are recovering from their addiction”.

Wanda will incorporate changes and resubmit to the committee.

### **Organizational Committee**

Larry reviewed the organizational committee. We should begin utilizing “Pills Anonymous” in lieu of “P.A.” as not to become confused with other groups. A history of Pills Anonymous was reviewed. The original delegates are no longer active after eight years. They are being phased out. This change will be reflected in the Pills Anonymous service manual. Please join the organizational committee – see Larry.

BREAK

### **Public Information / Internet Committee**

Carrick reported on the “Start A Meeting” tab. Groups are utilizing this tab and information is being passed between groups and the committee. New meetings are starting.

A new shopping cart tab was created and redesigned for purchases through the website.

New content and meetings have been updated and continue to be updated.

New literature is posted online.

Mobilization updates were added.

Usage has remained steady with unique users and length of time spent on the PA.org website.

Office 365 was integrated into PAWS. This is a cloud based computer environment complete with shared calendars. Meetings online with skype business.

### **Archives Committee**

Carolyn reported about her relationship with the scanner. What are you scanning? Minutes from the meetings, changes to the world service manual, etc. This includes conference meeting minutes and agendas. These notes will be available for future prosperity.

### **P.A. Unity Committee**

No report

## **Hospitals and Institutions Committee**

Andrew reported for the H&I committee. Mark will begin to chair the H&I committee going forward.

In the past, books were donated and distributed to groups and institutions. This may continue in the future. Additional books may be donated. Word of mouth about the program is still the best and most effective way to encourage new members. A pamphlet describing how to carry the message in hospitals and institutions may be created in a guideline form to be distributed to groups.

## **Conference Committee**

Chris and Sheryl are Co - Conference Chairs for this year (2016)

Rosalie is the mentor for the conference.

Monica is the secretary

Please let us know any changes or preferences for next year

## **Board of Trustees**

Larry introduced the trustees. The length of a term is for four years. Trustees cannot serve more than two terms consecutively. The number of trustees must be at least four – this is an IRS requirement for a 501(c)3 status. There are requirements for trustees include willingness to serve, commitment to service, a minimum of 5 years of clean time, and prior service to PA conference. The Board of Trustees will meet twice a year, sometimes meetings are via telephone conference and at the PAWS conference.

Randy M, Wanda, Chris, Janice, Shea, Ron, Larry are current members.

A non-addict board of trustee is also needed.

As an example: There was a Facebook group that began using P.A. logo and trademark. There were interactions between our Board of Trustees and the group leaders.

The idea of skyping into the conference was discouraged due to the difficulty of long distances.

## **General Discussion**

### **Questions and Answers for Committee Chairs and Trustees**

There have been some emails with questions that need to be addressed. Some of these include

New P.A. meetings will be screened for physical addresses

Please encourage anonymity by discouraging Snapchat, Twitter and Facebook postings. Please take the time to encourage the principles of this program. New situations will arise and need to be addressed as technology progresses.

Randy will send out guidelines for stories on the Book Committee. Please email Randy stories as

LUNCH

Old Business

### **Ratification of New Trustees**

Maria from Denver was nominated to become a new Trustee – Larry made a motion to ratify Maria from Denver to become a new trustee. Janice seconded the motion.

23 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstaining

Eric has also been nominated as a trustee on the Board of Trustees. Larry made a motion, Chelsea seconded. Eric is a member of the Board of Trustee and \_\_\_\_\_. He will cross over between the two committees.

23 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstaining

Trustees also include will include Randy M, Chris, Janice, Shea, and Ron. Larry moves, Wanda seconds

23 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstaining

Larry and Wanda will be phasing out their service to the Board of Trustees.

### **New Business**

#### **Common Welfare Committee**

Wanda reported for the committee. The pamphlet “A Higher Power” was introduced to the conference. Minor, but important changes were suggested including the following:

- “We came here at our darkest hours” – no change needed per committee.
- “They have recovered from their addiction” – no change needed per committee
- “Do not let the talk of God deter you from the rooms” – include to “It is possible that pills caused you to stray from your religious or spiritual beliefs”.
- Some additional periods were added and a comma was removed as were some quotation marks. The language will also be changed from “PA” to “P.A.” per the nomenclature. P.A. will be added in parenthesis after the first mention of Pills Anonymous.

Wanda moves to accept this pamphlet with the suggested changes. Larry seconded motion. After some discussion, the motion removed.

Discussion included changing the PA to P.A. in other literature. Should we also consider ensuring that all literature have the same formatting.

Common Welfare Committee will meet to discuss changes and propose a new version of the pamphlet "A Higher Power". Tabled until after the break.

### **Organizational Committee –**

No changes

BREAK

Chris began with the Serenity Prayer.

### **Common Welfare Committee**

The Common Welfare Committee reported that changes and suggestions are appreciated from the conference.

The motion was made to add the following to the pamphlet "A Higher Power"

- (P.A.) will be added after Pills Anonymous
- "Do not let the talk of God deter you from the rooms" – include to "It is possible that pills caused you to stray from your religious or spiritual beliefs"
- Some additional periods were added and a comma was removed as were some quotation marks. The language will also be changed from "PA" to "P.A." per the nomenclature. P.A. will be added in parenthesis after the first mention of Pills Anonymous.

The following changes were not recommended by the Common Welfare Committee at this time:

- "We came here at our darkest hours" – no change needed per committee
- "They have recovered from their addiction" – no change needed per committee

Wanda motioned the pamphlet "A Higher Power" be approved by the conference with the changes recommended by the committee. Mark seconded the motion and the vote was as follows -

23 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

### **Organizational Committee**

Larry reported that the common welfare committee suggested minor administrative changes in the local and World Service Manuals. The manuals will remove information concerning the original delegates since original delegates are phased out.

### **Hospitals and Institutions Committee**

Mark will chair the H&I Committee.

The Opioid hotline will be contacted to offer the recovery in Pills Anonymous.

H&I will gather information from groups and create a guideline for taking into institutions.

### **Public Information Committee**

Janice reported as the chair of Public Information Committee.

One of the goals for next year include creating a short pamphlet to get the service manual information out to the groups. Get the information to schools and police stations. This trifold pamphlet will incorporate best practices for dissemination of public information.

### **Conference Committee**

Monica and Chris will co-chair the committee next year.

Sheryl will begin as secretary.

Chris moves that the conference will be held 8/19, 8/20, 8/21 and back up dates for the following weekend.

Chris motioned that the conference details will be worked out by the Conference Committee.

Mark seconded the motion.

23 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

### **Minority Report**

Larry introduced the minority report. This was spoken to with several examples. We will review all voting decisions on Sunday.

### **Conference Review**

A survey will allow feedback to be given to the conference. Please complete the survey and provide the conference with critical information.

8/22/16

### **New Board of Trustees**

Randy still treasurer

Eric liaison between board of trustees and PAWSO

Maria secretary

Janice is president

Chris the vice-president

### **Minority Report**

Larry explained the minority report process. The minutes were read with voting

Set format for discussion of next year. We need to utilize the Robert's Rules of Order and follow them.

Future issues may arise. Issues may increase as the number of delegates increase. The service manual has been written and approved. The goal as we get bigger is 175 representatives. This 175 includes delegates from groups, board of trustees, directors of the PAWSO, and PAWSO staff. Currently, as groups send delegates we will begin to break into states and districts and zones. Forming regions, districts and states will not be legislated from the international conference. These groups must be organically started by the people who live there.

BREAK

### **Common Welfare Committee**

Wanda will lead the Common Welfare Committee in 2015.

### **H&I Committee**

Mark reported on several ideas about reaching out to hospitals and institutions. The Committee met and set a goal of contacting a local "Opioid hotline". The H&I Committee will seek to get the word out about Pills Anonymous to the hotline. Additionally, the committee plans on taking P.A. meetings into institutions. Another idea was to contact ASU and other schools. The issue of how to approach high schools and universities was spoken to. There seems to be a need to get out recovery pamphlets and literature. The H&I Committee plans to reintroduce P.A. to institutions.

### **Public Information**

Monica will chair the Public Information Committee for 2015. One goal is to create a pamphlet for next year. The name for the pamphlet is titled "SPREAD THE WORD!". By middle October Monica will finish a first draft and send to the committee members. Committee members will send edits to Monica. This pamphlet will be posted on the website.

### **Book Committee**

No report

### **Online Communications / Internet Committee**

Carrick reported as our committee chairman. There has been work completed on the PAWSO website for ordering keytags. The pillsanponymous.org website has added a meeting contact on website. This will enable local pill addicts to connect. Office 365 was implemented to update the computer system. Each committee will have a cloud area for virtual storage. Thank you Carrick and Andrew for your tireless work.

### **Conference Committee**

Conference finance – Andrew reported

\$1,420 ~ amount taken in for conference

\$3,500~ cost of conference

The next PAWSO conference will be held 8/19, 8/20, 8/21 at the Camby in Phoenix, Arizona.