

Service Board Meeting Minutes - Thurs., November 21, 2024

Next Service Board Meeting: Thursday, November 21, 2024

aaneworleans.org | office@aaneworleans.org | Central Office, 638 Papworth Ave, Ste A, Metairie, LA 70005

Service Board Email: gnoserviceboard@gmail.com

In Attendance: Estimated 11 total attendance

2 Trustees; 0 Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs; 1 Central Office Manager; 1 DCM/Alt-DCM; 4 Group Service Board Reps/GSRs;
2 Member-At-Large

Chairperson: Andrea Halstead | Co-Chair: Jim Newton | Treasurer: Alyson "Sunny" Taylor

Welcome: Meeting called to order at 6:35pm by Andrea H. (Chairperson); Started with Serenity Prayer; Minutes from last meeting reviewed and approved with substantial unanimity

Officer Reports

Secretary: Position is still available. Notes taken by Colyn N.

Treasurer: Sunny T. - See attached report for further details

- 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Budget Update: Cannot wait for Big Deep South to disclose monies; will have a budget done by end of next week

Central Office: Carolyn H. - Full report available on website

- Plain Language Big Book released Nov. 1st – first order of 100 sold out in a few days; next order has shipped, 30 of those 100 have been preordered
- Printed Meeting Book available at the office, \$5 after tax per last month's meeting discussion
- Printable Service & Events Calendars now include Holiday Flyer for Thanksgiving Day, and will include winter holidays, so please share events and meeting changes with Central Office
- Pricing structure changes are being implemented across all products in Central Office, to make prices more accessible to more of our fellowship
- Color Printer - With high costs of toner and maintenance on current older color printer at the office, more prudent decision may be to purchase a new color printer during upcoming holiday sales to make most of tech budget.
 - Motion to purchase a new color printer (Carolyn H.) - passed with substantial unanimity.

Old Business

Ad Hoc Committee for Big Deep South Financials: Jim N. not present; still working to connect with group services at Area and national; BDSC Google Drive exists, though Service Board does not presently have access to it

Parking Issues: Andrea has phone number to contact neighbor and discuss solutions for ongoing parking issues for Tuesday and Thursday evening meetings

Gratitude Envelopes: Amended logistics of Gratitude envelopes, to give thanks to contributing groups/meetings and to allow Pink Can initiative more time to reach more groups

Committee Reports

Big Deep South: Mike A. (absent) (report via Carolyn H.)

- Planning committee has voted on the Voice and theme for the 2025 event

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Daay in the Park: Kyle N. (absent) (report via Carolyn H.)

- Had plenty of food, drinks, and activities and stayed within budget
- **Literature Fund:** Committee requested that instead of half of the 50/50 winnings going to cover costs of the event, that money instead would be used to fund literature purchases for home groups and members; Central Office fulfilled this request with a Literature Fund gift card for home groups and members in need who request literature at no cost; limited to Big Books and Twelve & Twelves only; Fellowship may continue to contribute to the Fund if it's to be a long-term effort, or when the fund is depleted, then this Fund can be reopened whenever funds are available

T&C: Scott B. (absent)

- The form to apply to bring a meeting into OPP is now available

Website: Tourne T. (absent) | **Hotline:** Will H. (absent)

District/DCM Reports

District 12: absent; SELA Spring Roundup May 23-25, 2025 | **District 17:** absent | **District 18:** absent

District 19: District Inventory December 1, chaired by Q

District 20: Colyn, Incoming DCM; Inventory, end of Nov, chaired by Molly; St. Charles Angels Hot Mess Potluck Dec. 4th; Big Easy Retreat Dec. 13-15; New Years Eve Event; Colyn is attending SE Regional Forum

District 21: Elections coming up; Sending outgoing DCM Q to Regional Forum; Had a successful Traditions workshop; Lambda Center Speak n Eat on Thanksgiving; Outreach chair compiled list of districts' meetings and their info and GSR/contact info

District 25: Newly created Area 27 online district

- Motion to invite District 25 to join Service Board (Carolyn H.) - passed with substantial unanimity

New Business

- **Holiday Office Hours:** Closed for upcoming national holidays; open limited hours Dec. 24th-Jan. 1st.
- **Southeast Regional Forum:** Motion for Service Board to cover travel costs for Office Manager to attend Forum - passed with substantial unanimity
- **Store Policy Review:** Previous policy at Central Office Policy had been no returns, exchanges, or refunds; with addition of gift card technology, this policy can be amended in certain situations: with receipt, within two (2) weeks of purchase, items like new, at discretion of manager, for store credit only
- **Phone Call Incident, Nov. 15, 2024:** Phone calls made repeatedly to central office and hotline (28 total calls between 11:36am and 2:19pm) with demands for manager's and trustees' personal information, inquiries about salaries and who oversees payments, threatened a civil lawsuit to "hold someone responsible" for the A.A. organization having "ruined his life"; did not understand our service structure. We did not file a police report, and the individual has not called again since. Call log documented for security purposes.
- **Outreach for Service Board Participation:** Discussion to make a flyer with announcements, available service positions, and more explanation about what Service Board is and does; will include flyer in Bulletin
- **Central Office Backer Program:** Needs to be overhauled; tabled for next month
- **Big Deep South Inventory:** (from member-at-large) No longer the only event in this area or at that time of year; event venue costs have increased significantly; event planning seems to continue to repeat previous years without revisiting some of these underlying issues. An inventory process could help to find solutions for some of the ongoing challenges and confusion surrounding the event.

Closed with at 8pm with "we" version of Serenity Prayer