

Service Board Meeting Minutes - Mon., April 28, 2025

Next Service Board Meetings: Tues., May 27, 2025 | Wed., June 25, 2025 | Thurs., July 31, 2025

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

Service Board Email: gnoserviceboard@gmail.com

Chairperson: Andrea H. [REDACTED] | Co-Chair: Jim N. [REDACTED] | Treasurer: Alyson "Sunny" T. [REDACTED]

In Attendance: Estimated 25 total in attendance – 1 Trustee; 2 Committee Chair/Co-Chair; 1 Committee Member; Central Office Manager; 3 DCM/Alt-DCM; 14 Group Service Board Reps/GSRs; 3 Visitors

Welcome: Meeting called to order at 6:29pm by Andrea H. (Chairperson); Started with Serenity Prayer.

Officer Reports

Secretary: Notes by Colyn N. Jim [REDACTED]. (Uptown Men's Group) stood for position; elected by acclamation. Switching to a paperless system where possible, meeting agenda has QR codes instead of printouts for minutes, financials, CO report; Minutes approved.

Treasurer: Sunny T - See attached report for further details (also on website). Rent increase begins May 1st; remind groups about splits during business meetings. Working to get ducks in a row for Big Deep South. Report approved with substantial unanimity.

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

- **Cost Reduction Efforts.** Ongoing - cancelled redundant website-related costs with GoDaddy (savings ~\$200/yr) and found free version of Microsoft Business Suite for nonprofits (savings ~\$300/yr)
- **New Products.** Spanish language pamphlets and Spanish language Newcomer Packet now available
- **Printed Meeting Book.** Working on update for May 2025; upgrading production process
- **Rent Increase Update.** Landlord offered \$100 off for first three months; already made first payment at new rate. Still negotiating points of two-year lease agreement; is our office's first agreement in several years, had long been month-to-month handshake agreement.
- **Store Hours.** Considering change in store hours, based on sales transaction data while still making office hours more accessible. Possibly closing on Saturdays and extending hours to 11am-6pm on Thursday and Friday; please take this to your home groups and bring us feedback at next meeting.
- **Bulletin Backer.** Launched Bulletin Backer annual subscription, separate from previous Central Office Backer program. If subscription was expired or expiring, the printed Bulletin had a sticker with a QR code notifying them about the need for renewal and a link to the Bulletin Backer payment page.
- **Central Office Backer.** Any amount qualifies for Central Office Backer, and monthly and annual subscriptions are now available for recurring payments, links on the Contributions page on our website.
- **Donation Received, Questions.** Received donation from corporate foundation with no information about whether the donation originated from a member of our fellowship, per Tradition Seven. Could be a matching donation through someone's employer, though without sufficient information, office manager does not feel comfortable with the slippery slope of breaking with Tradition Seven and would like to hear group conscience.
 - Motion to decline donation from corporate foundation, citing lack of information whether donation originates from a member, per Tradition Seven (Carolyn H.); seeking discussion and group conscience
 - Motion tabled – Chairperson Andrea H. will reach out to AAWS/GSO to ask about their policy and procedures for these donations.

Old Business

Ad Hoc Committee: Big Deep South Financials - Jim N., Carolyn H. - Still reviewing past contracts and invoices with Hilton. 2024 BDSC Chair approached Service Board at June 2024 meeting for \$4,334.78 check for balance to hotel, saying we would have received \$800 reimbursement, but there were issues with being charged for parking, a Hilton employee had resigned, etc. No invoice was provided at that time. Payment was remitted by then-Treasurer of the Service Board after June 2024 meeting.

Service Board Meeting Minutes - Mon., April 28, 2025

Ad Hoc Committee: BDSC Financials (cont.) - Invoices and contracts emailed by Hilton rep to Central Office in April 2025. The final payment from BDSC 2024 in June 2024 was simply for the balance owed for hotel rooms and food/bev charges, per the contract – no issues or charges associated with parking were found, as had been claimed by the 2024 BDSC Chair at the June 2024 meeting. However, three rooms were booked under the 2024 BDSC chairperson's name: one that was complimentary per the contract, though the other two rooms are unclear, yet were paid for by the Service Board. The contracts, invoices, and checks for BDSC 2023 and 2024 are still under review.

2025 BDSC Co-Chair Mary H.: there are rooms that the convention pays for: chair, treasurer, speakers. Other BDSC volunteers confirmed from past experience that this was accurate, plus audiovisual recording (James M.) has a room paid for. However, moving forward, all rooms paid for by the convention/Service Board need to be accounted for.

For BDSC 2025, it is advised that the rooms for chair, treasurer, speakers, and audiovisual recording be paid for asap so that we have an accurate count of how many room nights still need to be booked to meet the Hilton contract's minimum requirement.

Inventory Dates. Big Deep South Wrap-up Meeting: June 19, 2025; Service Board Inventory June 21, 2025; Service Board Elections: June 25, 2025; Big Deep South Inventory: July 19, 2025.

Committee Reports

T&C: Scott B. (absent, submitted report) Closer to getting foot in the door with OPP; working on doing something with BDSC 2025; district meetings are starting to have their own T&C meetings.

- Confusion arising between district and Service Board T&C – would like to continue working on communication and collaboration between districts, and between districts and the Service Board

Website: absent | **Hotline:** absent | **DAAY in the Park:** n/a

Big Deep South: Mary H. (co-chair) - committee members are trying to stay within budget and providing receipts; still need volunteers – BigDeepSouth.org, click Volunteer to sign up.

Reminder to book hotel rooms for 2025 BDSC event through Hilton with BDS25 room block code or those rooms don't count toward the contract minimum.

District Reports

D12: Lillyn E. - shared summary of Area Assembly and GS Conference; trying to get home groups to sponsor marathon meetings at LA State Convention. SELA Spring Round Up coming up. We Are Not Saints, May 23-25, 2025.

D20: Colyn N. - Committee chair positions available: events, workshop, PI-CPC

D17: absent | **D18:** absent | **D19:** absent | **D21:** absent | **D25:** absent

New Business

2025 Elections (June 25, 2025). Officers: Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer; Committee Chairs: T&C, Website, Hotline, dAAy in the Park, Big Deep South, and possibly others.

Back Room Meetings, Contributions. Suggestion made to rent out the back room for meetings, or to ask committees that already meet in the back room at Central Office to pass a basket for Seventh Tradition contributions.

Meeting closed at 7:45pm with "we" version of Serenity Prayer.