AA Beyond Belief Bylaws

PREAMBLE

Inspired and strengthened by those who came before us, we secular members of Alcoholics Anonymous do hereby create a space for agnostics, atheists and freethinkers in AA to be known as AA Beyond Belief. Guided by AA’s Twelve Traditions and Concepts; AA Beyond Belief will serve the secular AA community by providing a forum for our membership to share their experience, strength and hope through the written word, audio, photography or any other art form that allows our membership to express their recovery and showcase their talent.

Perhaps nothing is more important in Alcoholics Anonymous than the sharing of our stories with each other. This is the foundation of AA—the language of the heart, the ability of one alcoholic to make a personal connection with another through shared experience. AA Beyond Belief will maintain a website to publish stories submitted by agnostics, atheists and freethinkers in AA to help educate those both in and out of AA of the special challenges facing the secular person seeking help in Alcoholics Anonymous.

AA Beyond Belief will publish stories submitted by AA members including but not limited to personal stories, articles that report on what is new in addiction treatment, book reviews, articles about AA history, news of special interest to AA members, and reports on actions taken by the AA General Service Conference, AA World Services and the AA Grapevine. We may also publish articles written by professionals in the field of alcohol and drug treatment, as well as articles written by non-Alcoholic friends of AA.

We will keep an open and curious mind to explore almost any subject related to alcoholism and addiction treatment and recovery, while striving to portray the very best in recovery through Alcoholics Anonymous.

We will build our community upon a foundation of trust and respect. We will be honest and always seek the truth, and report the truth.

1.0 NAME

The official and legal name of this organization shall be AA Beyond Belief.

2.0 PURPOSE

Operating within the Traditions and Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous, the purpose of AA Beyond Belief is to serve secular members of Alcoholics Anonymous by providing a space to share our experience, strength, and hope as secular people in AA, to build community, and to give hope to the suffering alcoholic regardless of their belief system.

3.0 STATEMENT OF INCLUSION

AA Beyond Belief was established to serve and have the involvement of secular people in Alcoholics Anonymous, regardless of how they chose to identify themselves. However, we do not exclude anyone with a desire to stop drinking, and we welcome and embrace the entire AA Fellowship. AA Beyond Belief seeks to always be inclusive, never exclusive.
4.0 **OBJECTIVES**

4.1 To serve as an online community for secular people in AA.

4.2 To share our experience, strength and hope as secular people in AA, and to act as a mirror of our Fellowship by reflecting the rich variety of experience that exists among Secular AA members.

4.3 To provide a platform to showcase the talents of our membership through writing and art.

4.4 To carry the message of recovery in AA using a wide variety of medium, online, print, audio/video, photography and other art forms.

5.0 **OFFICERS OF AA BEYOND BELIEF**

The Officers of *AA Beyond Belief* will include: President, Deputy Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

6.0 **DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS**

6.1 **Chair**

6.1.1 Participate in all planning to ensure that *AA Beyond Belief* serves the secular members of Alcoholics Anonymous; works in the spirit of unity with AA and carries the message of recovery for the nonreligious and secular alcoholic who still suffers.

6.1.2 Conduct all meetings of the Executive Committee annually whether in person, conference call or other media method.

6.1.3 Encourage and support the participation of members, representatives and volunteers in all areas of *AA Beyond Belief*.

6.1.4 Maintain fiscal accountability of *AA Beyond Belief* through the development of an annual budget, approval of the annual budget, raising funds as needed, and monitoring the Treasurer’s reports.

6.1.5 Participate in periodic inventory of *AA Beyond Belief*’s mission, services and goals; this inventory to take place in all odd-numbered years.

6.1.6 Participate in the oversight responsibility for the *AA Beyond Belief* website, podcast, e-books, e-zine, or any printed media that may be published and distributed by *AA Beyond Belief*.

6.1.7 Agree to release full name and contact information while serving on the Executive Committee in keeping with the public corporate and fiduciary responsibilities.

6.1.8 Participate in the formulation and membership of standing and ad-hoc committees as determined by the Executive Committee.
6.1.9 At the time of rotation off the committee prepare and train the in-coming member to ensure an orderly transition to maintain the purpose and services of *AA Beyond Belief*. This includes verbal, written and written documentation.

6.1.10 Co-signatory on bank accounts.

6.1.11 Participate in other duties as assigned.

6.2 DEPUTY CHAIR

6.2.1 Participate in all planning to ensure that *AA Beyond Belief* serves the secular members of Alcoholics Anonymous; works in the spirit of unity with AA and carries the message of recovery for the nonreligious and secular alcoholic who still suffers.

6.2.2 Attend all meetings of the Executive Committee whether in person, conference call or other media method.

6.2.3 Act in place of the Chair in their absence.

6.2.4 Serve as the primary liaison with AA-GSO and other AA Special Interest/Professional Groups.

6.2.5 Encourage and support the participation of members, representatives and volunteers in all areas of *AA Beyond Belief*.

6.2.6 Maintain fiscal accountability of *AA Beyond Belief* through the development of an annual budget, approval of the annual budget, raising funds as needed and monitoring financial reports raising funds as needed and monitoring the Treasurer's reports.

6.2.7 Participate in periodic inventory of *AA Beyond Belief* mission, services and goals; this inventory to take place in all odd-numbered years.

6.2.8 Participate in the oversight responsibility for the *AA Beyond Belief* website, podcast, e-books, e-zine, or any printed media that may be published and distributed by *AA Beyond Belief*.

6.2.9 Agree to release full name and contact information while serving on the Executive Committee in keeping with the public corporate and fiduciary responsibilities.

6.2.10 Participate in the formulation and membership of standing committees and ad-hoc committees as determined by the Executive Committee.

6.2.11 At the time of rotation off the committee prepare and train the in-coming member to ensure an orderly transition to maintain the purpose and services of *AA Beyond Belief*. This includes verbal, written and electronic documentation.

6.2.12 Participate in other duties as assigned.
6.3 SECRETARY

6.3.1 Prepare and distribute minutes for all *AA Beyond Belief Executive Committee* meetings and General Membership meetings with attendance record.

6.3.2 Custodian of corporate records including but not limited to by-laws, policies, rules of order, minutes, correspondence, committees, and archival materials.

6.3.3 Receive and review all *AA Beyond Belief* correspondence; respond and or redirect as appropriate.

6.3.4 Compose and/or distribute all *AA Beyond Belief Executive Committee* correspondence.

6.3.5 Maintain a listing of all members of the Executive Committee, Representatives, Committee Members, Volunteers, and "Members."

6.3.6 Maintain the post office box/corporate mailing address.

6.3.7 Receive donations and process per defined procedures.

6.3.8 Co-signatory on bank accounts.

6.3.9 Maintain compliance with non-profit incorporation in collaboration with Treasurer.

6.3.10 At the time of rotation off the committee prepare and train the in-coming member to ensure an orderly transition to maintain the purpose and services of *AA Beyond Belief*. This includes verbal, written and electronic documentation.

6.3.11 Perform other duties as assigned.

6.4 TREASURER

6.4.1 Prepare and present an annual budget.

6.4.2 Prepare and present monthly financial reports.

6.4.3 Prepare and present monthly status reports on income, expenditures and budget adherence.

6.4.4 Maintain a standard record keeping system for fiscal matters.

6.4.5 Establish and maintain *AA Beyond Belief* checking and savings accounts.

6.4.6 Verify all monies deposited to bank accounts.

6.4.7 Approve all invoices; disburse funds and prepare checks for payment.

6.4.8 Serve as primary contact with banking institutions and arrange for authorization of check signatories.
6.4.9 Maintain co-signing authority for Executive Committee accounts.

6.4.10 Maintain prudent reserve fund as determined by the Executive Committee and other reserve funds as designated by the Executive Committee.

6.4.11 Prepare and submit appropriate tax documentation to maintain compliance with IRS rules for not-for-profit corporations.

6.4.12 At the time of rotation off the committee, each member will prepare and train the incoming member to ensure an orderly transition to maintain the purpose and services of *AA Beyond Belief*. This includes verbal, written and electronic documentation.

6.4.13 Ensure full financial transparency by posting on the AA Beyond Belief website, copies of bank statements, PayPal statements, and any other documentation that shows income and expenses. This is to be posted at least monthly.

6.4.14 Perform other duties as assigned.

6.5 ADVISORS

The Executive Committee may establish Advisor positions as necessary when specific areas of specialization are identified. Elected Advisors are voting members of the Executive Committee but not considered Officers of the Corporation. Elected Advisors are part of the regular elections cycle of two-year terms. The Executive Committee may also appoint additional temporary Advisors (voting or non-voting) as needed. Temporary Advisors term of office will expire with the first election cycle following their appointment.

6.5.1 Provide the Officers expertise in their specific area of specialization.

6.5.2 Manage and perform tasks as assigned within their area of specialization.

6.5.3 Attend all meetings of the Executive Committee unless excused.

7.0 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

7.1 The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers of the Corporation and all Advisors.

7.2 The Executive Committee shall meet in person at least once each calendar year and may schedule as many meetings (in person or electronic) as deemed necessary by the Chairperson.

7.3 A simple majority of the Executive Committee membership shall constitute a quorum of the Committee for voting purposes.

8.0 VOTING BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

8.1 A binding vote may only be taken at a meeting where a quorum is present.

8.2 A passing vote is a simple majority vote.

8.3 The Chairperson votes only in cases of a tie vote.
9.0  **ACTION WITHOUT A MEETING**

Any action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the Executive Committee or a sub-committee thereof may be taken without a meeting, if a consent in writing (either electronically or physically) to the adoption of a resolution authorizing the action so taken shall be signed (either electronically or physically) by all the voting Members of the Executive Committee.

10.0  **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

10.1  Election of Officers and Advisors shall be held every calendar year on a schedule that allows those elected to assume their duties on January first of the following year. Roughly one-half of the Executive Committee shall be elected each year as follows:

10.1.1  Odd Years: Chair, Treasurer, and odd numbered Advisors.

10.1.2  Even Years: Deputy Chair, Secretary, and even numbered Advisors.

10.2  The elections shall be conducted under the aegis of the Deputy Chair or their delegate in Odd Years and the Chair or their delegate in Even Years.

10.3  All registered members of *AA Beyond Belief* are voting members.

10.4  Eligible Candidates for office shall be determined by the qualifications listed elsewhere in these By-Laws, but primarily

10.4.1  Two-years continuous sobriety.

10.4.2  Submission of a brief resume of previous service work in A.A.

10.4.3  Acceptance of a two-year commitment to *AA Beyond Belief*.

10.4.5  Elections shall be conducted via electronic means as approved by the Executive Committee.

11.0  **REMOVAL OF OFFICERS, ADVISORS OR COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

11.1  Officers, Advisors and Committee Chairs who do not maintain continuous adherence to the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous or are convicted of a felony shall be automatically removed from office.

11.2  Removal of an Officer, Advisor or Committee Chairman for other causes including but not limited to dereliction of duty, misrepresenting *AA Beyond Belief*, use of the *AA Beyond Belief* name or brand for personal advancement or gain, theft of funds or property of *AA Beyond Belief* or other reasons deemed detrimental to the name or brand of *AA Beyond Belief* may be removed from office by a three-quarter vote of the other members of the Executive Committee.

11.3  Any Officer, Advisor or Committee Chairs so relieved of duty shall immediately return all materials, records, monies and other property items to *AA Beyond Belief*.
12.0 SUSPENSION OF BYLAWS

12.1 The Bylaws of the Corporation may not be suspended completely.

12.2 A specific Bylaw may be suspended for a defined period only by unanimous vote of the Executive Committee.

13.0 REVISION OF BYLAWS

The Bylaws of the Corporation may only be revised during a physical meeting of the Executive Committee and a three-quarter-majority vote shall be required for passage. Following a successful vote the revised Bylaw shall be posted on the *AA Beyond Belief* website and if the revision is not challenged within thirty days the change shall become effective. A challenge must be submitted to the Chairperson in writing and shall include the justification for the challenge. At the next scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee (physical or electronic) the Committee shall vote to uphold or deny the challenge by a three-quarter-majority vote.

14.0 DISSOLUTION OF THE CORPORATION

14.1 The Corporation may be dissolved only if:

14.1.1 A Motion to Dissolve is passed by unanimous vote of the Executive Committee, AND

14.1.2 Two-thirds of the membership approves the vote of the Executive Committee.

14.2 Upon dissolution, all assets and records of the Corporation shall be transmitted to the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous and become their property.