

EXTRAORDINARY INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Location: IBM Zoom ID 842 1001 4666 PC: 375920

Date: 8/10/2022

Time: 10:30am PST

Service Members:

Chairperson: Katya

Empath: Antranette

Time Keeper: Dave

Document Sharing: Mindy

Meeting Minutes: Cynthia

Participants: Katya, Mindy, Abby OCH, Alexey, Alyssa, Anne Forsythe, Angela, Antranette, Ashley, Aye, Beaux, Beverly L, Bonnie, Chris E., Chrissy, Cynthia, Danny, Dave, Davida, Dawn, Denise, Diane, Elizabeth F., Gwendolyn, Guido, Jen M, Joe K., Joy, Karen, Karin, Kat, Katherine, Kathy, Kendo, Kimberly CAN, Lena – Los Angeles, Linda S, Liz T, Mari, Martha, Megan, Melanie – Montreal, Michelle S, Nora B, Pooja, Regina K, Rene'-Miami, FI, Rich, Rick B, Shirley, Stephanie T, Vincent & Susan P was logged in, however was not present

Meeting notes:

1:35 Opening with the Serenity Prayer

1:37 Minutes shared from the last business meeting

1:41 Vincent – accept phones into their account – didn't feel it as an accurate record. Set up an account specifically for LAA. Antoinette & Vincent will look into setting up an account specific to LAA

1:44 Adopted the minutes from Saturday as the final meeting notes. 10 people voted yes – no objections

1:50 Katya requested Susan make her host. Mel had messaged Susan, and Susan said she was at the doctor and unable to make Katya the host at this time.

1:50 Antranette asked that people not chat during the meeting, as it might trigger others. If a break is needed, leave the meeting to take care of yourself, and return when ready.

1:52 Rene received the documents to link to the Chat.

1:53 Katya Subsidiary Motion – Review and accept Roberts Rules and order for the business meetings and need to determine the time of the shares during the meetings. Mindy shared the Roberts Rules of Order with the participants. Katya reviewed the Roberts Rules with the participants – a way to facilitate meetings for group conscious. We will always have a discussion before we vote. We will always have a debate time. People will be called on with hands raised, and they can speak in that amount of time. If something has been said already, no need to restate what was said. Simply state you 2nd motion that person's statement. We will then vote on the motion, then we will allow decenterers to say why they object. After dissention is spoken, we ask those who had voted if they want to change their votes.

1:57 Katya went through the agenda.

1:58 Katya put forth the motion that comments are to be 1 minute. 31 voted yes out of 51. No one dissented.

2:03 Katya put forth a motion to adopt Roberts Rules of Order for facilitation of the business meetings. Need to decide the length. Does anyone want to discuss? No one came forward to discuss. Voting began and 34 voted yes out of 50. No dissenting view came forward. This motion passed.

2:06 Mindy shared the Agenda

2:07 #2 on the Agenda: Motion 1: to take a group conscious regarding the protocols of the voting in, the removal of and the resignation of administrative service positions (not host positions)

In Katya's experience, the struggle has been the lack of clarity of how to remove administrators/people from their positions. It is often the new people that have stepped up that walk away. Once we have this in writing, that they need to step back, and are not showing up, we are authorized to vote in someone to take their place, and if the prior member comes back, they are not allowed to step back in.

Danny – asked that these positions be named vs generalizing.

Mindy shared a screen of all current IBM service positions and their qualifications

Rich: the way the resignation should be handled, the position should be filled during the same meeting. The person should resign with a document somehow. Ex. if a treasurer is not filled, it can be an issue.

Katya: What if they resign via whats up app or email? Can we wait until the next business meeting?

Rich: We should appoint a new person before the next business meeting with a backup. Fill it right away vs waiting until the next meeting.

Pooja: have backup positions, in case someone does withdraw, due to personal crisis – need a backup.

Katya: History has shown, it is hard to get people to fill the positions. People are hesitant. No clarity has been available on how we conduct the LAA group, such as 12 steps. Because of this, people are hesitant, so it is a concern that we may not have backup volunteers.

Mel: Unfamiliar with Roberts rules, but as she looks at it, she would like to vote it in, however.

Chris: asked what the motion is currently we are discussing/voting for? Katya re-read the Motion. Chris: I move that we adopt a policy that we accept as a group the resignation at the business meetings and make an effort at that meeting for someone to step up to the position.

Katya: Item 2 Motion 1: To take a group conscious regarding the protocols of the voting in, the removal of and the resignation of administrative service positions (not host positions) - (we are agreeing that written resignation of any form is a resignation and cannot step back in).

Gwendolyn: Sometimes corporations offer a temporary position when someone resigns. Danny seconds this. Someone can temporarily fill for 1 week, or a short time frame. For example, the Whats app admin will give someone access to fill for a temporary time.

Dave: 3 issues/separate motions: voting taken care of, removal of admin for conduct, then resignation in writing

Melanie: Someone said that if someone is leaving position, someone else can take their position temporarily, but the temporary person should also be voted in as the replacement during the international meeting.

Katya: Chris, can you draft this new motion? Once receive resignation, it is official. They are no longer in the position. If we voted in a backup, they will step in, but we will have a final vote at the next business meeting.

Chris: sub committee to write the procedures: Resignation (someone sends a text as an example, the chairperson acknowledges, and informs the fellowship), Filling and placing the position. Steering committee that can get these things a little tighter.

Nora: When there is a business meeting and acknowledged that someone has resigned each meeting has their own group. Helpful to get word out to announce at meetings that there is a position open, if someone steps up, the host can let the chairperson know that this person stepped up, and then we could vote them in during the next business meeting.

Katherine: Agree that this will not be resolved in 1 meeting, maybe a committee could come up with the language, so we could then vote on each. The secretary could make the announcements.

Mindy: If we accept someone's resignation, and they come back in and say and do things without being voted back in, what is the process for that?

Katya: The message board has 8000 emails and 1 person can send out a message, but no one can reply to all. We need to discuss the message board. This is where the behavior occurs.

Antranette: There is exhaustion on this right now, can we move this forward to address this.

Liz T: Can we motion that the chairperson appoint someone to appoint a committee to craft the language.

Chris: Asked the Chairperson to appoint a committee on the 3 items. Chairperson asks for volunteers to be on the committee, and the group will vote.

Katya: Raise hands if you are in favor of resignation motion: 29 yes out of 46 – no dissent.

Antranette: Asked if we could proceed to move forward with Susan's Resignation.

Katya: We do have time later on to discuss this.

Mel: has to leave, but 2nds to motion for Susan's resignation.

Katya: Who would volunteer on writing up the language needed for the process of resignations: Resignation (someone sends a text, the chairperson acknowledges, and informs the fellowship), Filling and placing the position. Chris, Mel & Liz T

2:45 Katya: Does anyone object? No hands were raised. Motion 2 was approved, in that Chris, Mel & Liz T would work together on the documentation. Katya asked again if anyone opposed. No one raised hands. Asked if anyone abstained, and 3 abstained.

2:48 Katya brought up 3: Motion 2: Do we want LAA to be a 12 step/12 Traditions program of recovery rather than a Susan P. led group?

Danny: amend 3 and not 2. Messy when amending someone else's motion (in reference to Mary Ruth not being present to comment).

Katherine: trying to figure out if we need a committee to file paperwork to be recognized as a 12 step group to be recognized.

Guido: Involved in other fellowships, the only requirement is 2 or more people forming. It is the people that forms the fellowship. If we wanted to be 12 steps/12 traditions, we adapt to these. Many fellows left, because LAA was not a 12 step. He is in favor of making it 12 steps.

Linda S: it is incredible that we are even asking this question. This is promoted as a 12 step. The traditions are posted, but not adhered to. The message board has now changed. This fellowship is not about becoming a 12 steps fellowship, but rather behaving like one.

Antranette: Sounds like everyone will feel comfortable that we have a committee that makes sure we are in alignment with a 12 step group as a safety measure.

Pooja: Message board would be a tribute. The new website can work hand in hand with the exiting vs 2 separate sites ?

Gwendolyn: need to clarify on this meeting

Katya: we do not want to create a body that inforces things, we want it to be group conscious

Chris: to motion to affirm that LAA is a 12 steps program as our guiding principals.

3:01 voting on Motion 2: take group conscious to be a 12 step fellowship that follows the 12 traditions. Response: 31 out of 38 in favor

Mindy: does this mean that the message board come down?

Chris: the message board is separate

Katya: does anyone oppose? No hands raised Does anyone abstain. 1 abstained

3:05: Katya: Motion 3: Does LAA International want to use Susan's message board any longer or to entirely switch over to our ready-to-launch website – LoveAddictsanonymous.org? If we continue to work in conjunction with Susan P's message board, how will we handle the unilateral administrative powers it affords it's owner? How can we reconcile the message board with 12 Traditions, specifically Traditions 1, 2, 5 & 12?

3:07 Mel read the 12 traditions from LAA (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12)

Guido: it is easy to share these powers on the website by having an id and password to log in, they become administrators? It would be very easy to share the message board, but it may be better to start from scratch (not sure I captured this correctly – Cynthia)

Mel: the current message board does not reflect the traditions; however the articles help with running meetings. The running of the message board should be voted in to run the message board.

Katya: we do have a board to run the message board, but 1 person has authority to change and update the message board, without group conscience.

Dave: this should be voted on separately.

Katheryn: We need a committee that is a communications committee. The committee is to decide to send communications.

Katya: we do have a committee.

Linda S: there is only 1 administrator for the message board and has all of the rights/power. Committee has limitations on what they can do on the message board. (Exact words I didn't catch - Cynthia)

Mel: The group conscious has voted on not using the message board in the past, but was done against the vote. How do we handle?

Guido: We have no way of stopping this, we do not govern, but rather using our Higher Power

Antranette: We feel safe to make the vote.

Linda S: The name of the message board has been changed. The message board is moving in a different direction from 12 steps. Should be linked now that the message board has been renamed for a different purpose than 12 steps. The message board is not ours to retain.

Dave: Proposing a motion to retain the existing message board as a resource for LAA

3:23 No votes to stay in connection

3:23 28 out of 34 are opposed to retaining a connection to the existing LAA message board.

Antranette: The information will always be available as a resource to use as Love Addicts, so it is not a loss. Susan is making it available as a resource for Love Addicts.

Kimberly: Clarifying: If we have previously voted that this is a group that follows the traditions, one of the traditions is that there is no affiliation with an outside source. I feel that Susan is the Bill and Bob for this fellowship.

Dave: Sound point about the message board. This is just another source for us to access information from.

Pooja: The message board can be used as a subset, so it will be linked to the website. The guiding entity should be the website.

Vincent: Comment of Bill and Bob, every fellowship has a history. The founders of Coda did walk away for 7 years, before returning again. This does occur in other fellowships.

3:30 Katya: does anyone abstain from voting on the motion

Kimberly: Who founded LAA? What is connection?

Katya: Susan and 1 other gentleman. Connection = affiliation

Antranette: we want to be in alignment in connection with 12 steps and the traditions. Susan is renaming her message board to be her's alone. We are not losing the information, but we will not be "connected" to it

Guido: We cannot stop anyone from going to the website. Affiliation to the site is the question, in relations to 12 steps yes/no.

Jen M: We have the ability to personally unsubscribe to the message board, if it is triggering. This is something each individual can do.

3:36 Katya, are there any abstention? No

3:36 motion passes – we are no longer affiliated with the LAA message board

Dave: do we want to motion on the website?

Katya: We need to present the site to the team first. We will schedule another meeting for this.

Motion 4: What does LAA want to do about the literature on the message board?

Dave: All of the information on the existing message board we will have access to, but he will confirm this with Susan.

Guido: Most of us are familiar with the new website. We are not voting on a new one. Our main purpose is about helping other love addicts find this program.

Linda: people get confused with this... there is still a very old website: Love addicts.org. People will find this site, and we do not have control over this. The new website will appear in the search, however.

Katya: the website is ready to launch. It is up to the treasurer and Chairman, but we can launch the website and get it out to members as soon as possible.

Vincent: Proposes we resume the meeting to next week

Kathern: 2nds

Dave: 1 week from today is the recommended date

Vincent: propose that we use a zoom that is not in Susan's name. We need our own with our own passcode.

Katya: Open a new LAA IBM Zoom Room and schedule another follow-up business meeting 1 week from today in the new zoom room. We will get the link out via the meetings and chats.

Linda: I do not see why we need another zoom to have IBM meetings. Why do we need a separate link for the business meeting from the LAA daily meetings. Why can we not use the new link we used for meetings for the business meeting.

Guido: Do not see why we need a separate business link. We can use any code and advertise it. Have 3 hosts on the calls, in case someone falls off a meeting. Make it open and transparent.

Vincent: Linda and Guido are making the point I was trying to make. I don't see why we cannot use the same link as the meetings, but making sure the other meetings are not running the same time.

Mel: in the past, a separate zoom was created, because of meeting overlap.

Antranette: We want to use the brand new link for the business meeting & the regular meeting.

Katya: we will moving forward to use the new link for the business meetings, and we will schedule a new business meeting next Wed 8/17/22 at 10:30 am PST. 21 of 24 voted yes / no one against / no one abstained

3:57 21 out of 23 voted that we close the meeting / no one against / no one abstained