

LAA INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

EXTRAORDINARY INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Location: IBM Zoom ID 842 1001 4666 PC: 375920

Date: 8/17/2022

Persons in attendance: Katya, Chris E., Alexey, Amy, Antranette, Chrissy, Cynthia, Dave, Elizabeth, Hailey, Jane L, Jean A (Listening), Lena, Linda S, Liz T, Mari, Marian, Mary, Mary Ruth, Mel, Mindy, Nancy R, Rachael O, Roisin W, Sally, Victoria & Vincent

Meeting Service Positions:

Chairperson- Katya

Secretary/notetaker – Cynthia

Screen sharer – Katya & Chris

Empath – Mary Ruth

Time Keeper – Dave

Opened the meeting at 10:30 am PST

1st item: Need to decide the length of time for individual discussion comments in today's meeting: Vote: 1 minute shares – 14 out of 26 initially voted yes.

I. Opening Verse: Serenity Prayer (We version) & 12 Traditions: Serenity prayer said by all / 12 Traditions were read by Dave

II. Approval of last IBM minutes from 8/10/22: 10:39 am viewed the business meetings from 8/10

Note: Need to create a place to store the business meetings on the website

Dave moved to adopt the minutes as written, and Katya 2nd. Since we didn't have all attendees from the 8/10 meeting attending today, we asked if any opposed. No one opposed.

III. Reports

10:43 Linda S – meetings coordinator – keeps the calendar current. Small problems with it – 1. The LAA for Parents meeting – Susan said they have moved over to the ACA fellowship, so Linda removed it from the LAA calendar. 2. Linda S created the Google calendar and has all of the logon IDs, but would like to pass it on to someone else, so they have it as well. Katya responded that we will address this under the website portion of the meeting.

Katya – good at coordinating and running a meeting but needs a co-chairperson to post documents. Mel is happy to do this today.

Mindy spoke and indicated that she has the document that stores the volunteer hosts by day and is still looking for someone to take Mondays.

Mary – Launched the site this week!! Yeah!

Vincent – Explore ways to set up a new account. It is possible for Vincent to set up his own account, and then if someone else takes over they can open their own account. People can decide. Antranette is thinking she can set up an App for this, but still researching.

Dave – met with Chris on what is meant by conference approved. It is only for published materials – hard published. Chris – traditionally the IBM votes on conference approved literature. AI anon – the group may decide/vote on it. IBM will vote on what is conference approved. Katya – the IQ of the group is way higher than an individual.

Positions:

1. Meeting Host Coordinators (Linda & Mindy)
2. Chairperson (Katya)
3. Secretary (Cynthia)
4. Website Committee (Mary/Mary Ruth)
5. Treasurer (Vincent)
6. Literature (Dave)

IV. Discussion Items

1. Service Position Protocols (Committee)
 - a. Qualifications (screen shared – copied text under each position below under original text for review)

b. Chairperson

Original text for review:

One year in the program
Has worked the 12 steps in LAA or another 12 step program
Some knowledge of Roberts Rules of Order
Able to host the IBM Meeting on the first Saturday of the month
Available throughout the month to work with others to solve problems and to suggest changes to be presented at the next IBM meeting.
Able to get along with others.

Mary Ruth: agree 1 year in the program could switch to 1 year in 12 steps. Willingness to be in the meeting vs a job description.

Chris – agrees. 1 year in LAA would benefit.

Mel supports 1 year in LAA and other programs, or 6 months. Questioned who would be responsible for Agenda items.

Katya- the chair is responsible for collecting the agenda items from the Chats.

Katya – put forth the motion to add the willingness to prepare the Agenda (people can post agenda items in the chat during the meetings, and the host can send them to the chair). Agenda items could also be posted in the WAG, as well as email via the website contact info.

Vincent – thought it would be a burden to collect agenda items during the meetings.

Chris – as chairperson, all of these modes can be cumbersome. As a chair, maybe you could ask that all items be emailed to Katya directly.

Dave – supports Chris, in that should be 1 way to submit agenda items.

Katya – Motion: for the Chairperson 1 year in LAA, willingness to prepare the Agenda as the group conscious collects those items.

Linda S 2nd Chris 2nds that 1 year in the LAA program makes sense.

Does anyone object? 3 dissents. Mary Ruth - not many people have 1 year in LAA, and it cuts out a lot of people. Katya is good with changing to 6 months. Linda and Vincent 2nd. Vincent 12 months in 12 steps, 6 months in the LAA program. Anyone object to this revision? No one objected.

New Description:

12 months in any 12 step program, 6 months in the LAA program.
Has worked the 12 steps in LAA or another 12 Step program.
Some knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order
Able to host the IBM meeting on the first Saturday of the month.

Available throughout the month to work with others to solve problems and to suggest changes to be presented at the next IBM meeting.

Able to get along with others.

Willingness to prepare Meeting agendas

c. Treasurer

Original Text to review:

6 months in the program

Ability to work excel

Ability to keep the accounting records

Willingness to give a report at the IBM

Willingness to set up PayPal Account

Willingness to set up a back account

Mary Ruth – if someone has to set up a new account each time they take over treasurer, that can be difficult.

Vincent – paypal has issues with payment accounts, so set up a payment method. LAA should have it's own bank account, but it is a nonprofit. He will be able to set up an account in the LAA name, but still checking.

Katya – needs to resolve the wording of the qualifications.

Dave – amend to set up a donation method vs payment method.

Chris – 6 months in a 12 step program. Willingness to set up and administer. Willingness to pay the bills.

Vincent – is it 6 months in LAA or any other program?

Chris & Vincent – would like to have the qualification read 12 month in LAA. Chris – make a motion to adopt the treasurer description. Dave 2nd. Does anyone object – no one objected

New Description:

6 months in the LAA program

Ability to work Excel

Ability to keep the accounting records

Willingness to give a report at the IBM

Willingness to set up and administer a 7th Tradition donation method

Willingness to pay bills

d. Secretary

Original Text to review:

6 months in the program

Willingness/ability to take notes and prepare minutes within 48 hours of the IBM

Willingness to attend all IBM meetings

Katya – willing to prepare the notes and posts the minutes within 48 hours. Take out that they must attend all. They may find a sub.

Linda S – post announcements for upcoming meetings in the WAG.

Katya - the meeting coordinator can handle the meeting announcements.

Chris – no need for 6 months to take notes.

Vincent – to clarify, when I see 6 months it can be any program.

Katya, if it needs to be LAA, we can write LAA.

Vincent – 12 step program.

Antranette – 3 months in any program, if you want to serve as secretary.

Chris – 3 months in LAA.

Katya – having 3 months in the program, someone has had time to decide that the program is for them.

Linda S – is there anywhere in the program that lists a requirement for the months/year of service?

Katya asks Chris to put forth a motion that all service positions have 6 months in LAA. Mary Ruth 2nd. Chris – any discussion – Vincent – does a person have to resign if someone wants to take over? Katya – someone can renew their own terms. Chris – it is the group's responsibility to vote on the replacement. Does anyone object this motion (you do not want it to happen, or you want to abstain)? No one objected or abstained. Chris – does anyone 2nd? Dave 2nds. does anyone object? No.

New Description:

6 months in the LAA Program

Willingness/ability to take notes and prepare and post the minutes within 48 hours of the IBM

Willingness to attend IBM Meetings

Linda S – would the secretary pass the notes to the chair before posting?

Liz – understand the checks and balances, but it does slow things down. Concerned on amending the notes, so I would not recommend passing to the Chair before posting.

Dave – in other programs, every committee involved. Always good to have a 2nd set of eyes, before sharing with the universe.

Chris – take notes, prepare, review with chairperson within 48 hours. Does anyone object? No Motion: pass this as written, and Mary 2nds. Does anyone object or abstain. This motions passes unanimously. 11:33 am.

e. Website Committee

Original Text to review:

6 months in the program
Able to administer the new website
Works well with others
Willing to interface with the administrator of the message board
Willingness to host committee meetings at least once a month
Willingness to accept group input

Katya – Mary has agreed to continue with this position. Need to pull together a website committee to support Mary.

Chris – how long has Mary been in the program.

Liz – 1.5 years at least. Able to administer the website and able to lead a committee.

Elizabeth – is this doing technical things, or presentations/wording?

Mary Ruth – She just needs people to tell her what to change on the site.

Katya – website committee with a chair and a website administrator. Need 2 other people? What does it take?

Chris – needs people invested in LAA need to sit down and have a conversation about their expectations are of the website first. They then can come back to the group for discussion.

Dave – needs to be a committee. Website committee takes direction from the Chairperson.

Katya – let's get a description first. Needs to have time in LAA. 6 months or a year. Chris – 6 months. Mary Ruth – Some positions need to have have similar service requirements for consistency. Katya – table website committee.

Literature committee:

Original text for review:

6 months in the program
Some writing and/or editing skills
Works well with others
Willingness to host committee meetings
Willingness to attend the IBM meetings and give a report

Chris – needs some knowledge of LAA literature.

Katya – remove works well with others? We all have to work with safety guidelines.

Chris – would anyone like to make a motion? Katya – yes. Chris 2nd. Anyone object of abstain – No. No discussion? No.

Katya – table intergroup chair. Meeting coordinator – Mindy (ODAAT) & Linda S (IBM)

Dave – substitute message board with Website.

Linda S – creates and updates the meeting list and google calendar but not the IBM.

Dave – change title to Meeting list coordinator.

Katya – 6 months in LAA? Mary Ruth – 6 months is good. Willingness to communicate with the website committee, so they can make the changes.

Vincent – 6 months in any? Chris – LAA Vincent – a lot of turnover, which will cause issues.

Katya – I think the meeting list coordinator falls under the website committee. This position should fall under the website committee.

Liz – The meeting list coordinator is okay for 6 months in LAA makes sense. Linda 2nds the suggestion of moving this position under the website committee.

Katya – tabling the Website Committee – Chair, administrator, managers

Text for later review/discussion:

6 months in the LAA program
Able to administer the new website
Works well with others
Willing to interface with the administrator of the message board
Willingness to host committee meetings at least once a month
Willingness to accept group input

2. Resignation Protocols – want to review qualifications and then we form a committee for resignation protocols.

Chris – Drafted Procedures below:

In the event an Officer or Committee Chair wishes to resign their position prior to expiration of the term, the procedure shall be as follows:

1. Officer or Committee Chair should send an email, letter or text directly to the IBM Chairperson. This message should communicate the desire to resign and the effective date.
2. The IBM Chairperson will respond via email, letter or text directly to the person resigning. The message will acknowledge acceptance of the resignation and the effective date. The IBM Chairperson will save the communications both from and to the person resigning and make it available to the fellowship upon request.
3. The IBM Chairperson will directly contact the Alternate Officer or Committee Chair (if there is one) and confirm the person's willingness to take on the position for the remaining term starting on the effective date of the vacancy. If the person accepts, the IBM Chairperson will inform the fellowship via the LAA IBM What's Up Group. If the person declines or there is no Alternate, then the matter will go to the fellowship at the next IBM meeting.
4. If it is the treasurer resigning, and not able to stay until the next LAA IBM, and if there is no Alternate to take over, the IBM Chairperson will serve as interim Treasurer until the next IBM.
5. The IBM Chairperson will announce the resignation and the effective date to the fellowship via the LAA IBM What's App Group.
6. The IBM Chairperson will also inform the fellowship of the promotion of the Alternate or the need to fill the position. This will be communicated through the LAA IBM What's App Group.
7. In the event the IBM Chairperson wishes to resign, the Alternate Chairperson will receive the resignation and perform the functions listed above. In case there is no Alternate, the Treasurer will receive the resignation and then perform the functions listed above.

Chris delivered to Liz & Mel T and they changed the language. Chris read the document above to the group for discussion. Revisions – wanted to have a simple and seamless procedure.

Katya – I am personally loving communications via whats up groups, but it can be tedious to scroll through the chats. Resignations will come via email, letter or texts.

Chris – the Chair will communicate via WAG & LAA meetings.

Katya – we need a business section on the website for this – let's table this.

Vincent – emailing the hosts?

Katya – is it too much to ask the Hosts to communicate resignations, etc.

Vincent – not a problem to post this type of message.

Chris – I will amend. Katya – table the final document for the next meeting.

Chris – any other discussion?

Vincent – in terms of the treasurer – return the money to the new treasurer via electronic means vs mail.

Katya – several aspects of this are being perfected, but we will be continuing with fine tuning the document.

Mel – table this motion, so we can move to the safety issues. Dave 2nds. No objections. No one abstains.

3. Safety Statement

- a. Prepare safety guidelines for Meetings/WAGs/Facebook Groups

12:05- Katya asked that people raise their hand, if they want to discuss.

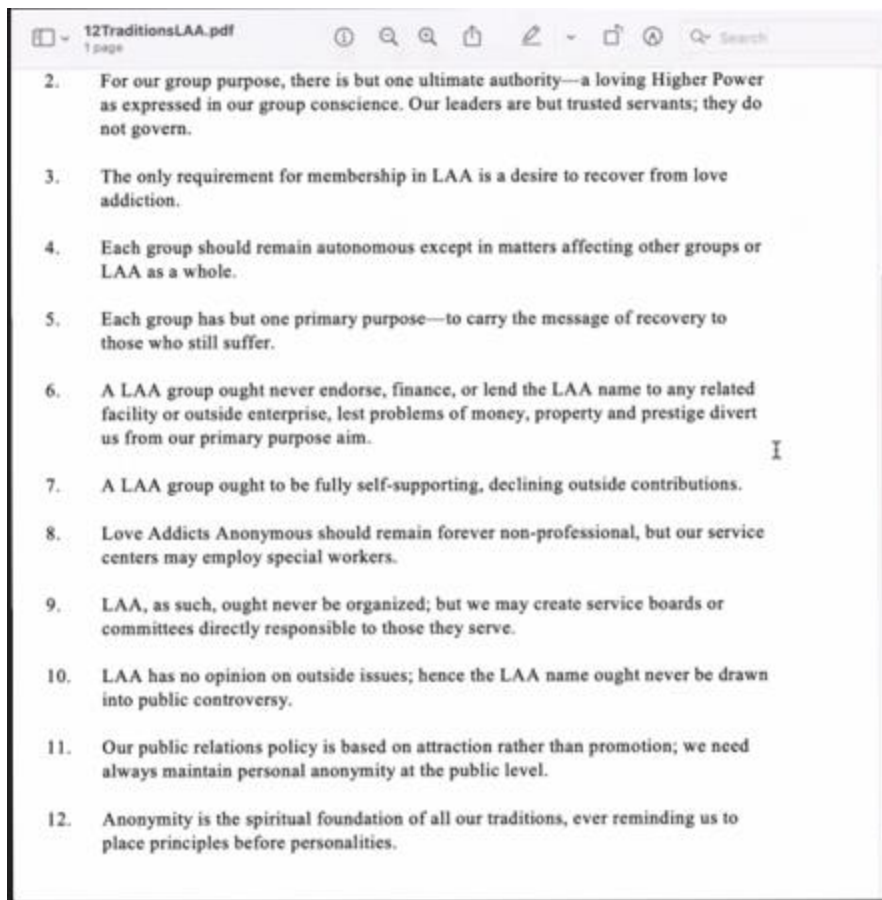
Mel – there have been concerns on WAGs. Would like a tool so 1 person isn't making a decision. Reflects traditions. Felt the group was not a place for her to correct. 2 people sent personal message to Mel about this, wishing for this issue to be brought up in the IBM.

Vincent – WAGs are difficult because there is no moderator or hosts. WAGs are for members attending meetings.

Linda S – we started WAG for the step study meeting. We have a team of 5 admins who act as moderators. We did set up guidelines via group conscience. We share these with every member using the chat. There is an existence of a FaceBook group that is a support group, but it is named Love Addict Anonymous group, but do we allow other groups that are not part of LAA use our name?

Elizabeth: As a new comer, the idea of anything that adds a loop to promote your services to the group, but are outside of the group. Like they are using LAA WAG chats to solicit their outside services. I didn't feel right about this.

Katya – we did agree that we are a traditional 12 step based group. Tradition 6 comes into play here.



Elizabeth – when I am seeing a message soliciting, what is the procedure? Is there something that says messages will be deleted when they break the traditions.

Katya – the problem is there are no clear protocols, but there are sections we would like to look at more.

Vincent – agree with Elizabeth – advertising services feels uncomfortable. Safety guidelines are already there for meetings, but we do have issues with the Wags.

Mel – several months ago, there was an issue where a new comer was uncomfortable. We improved the definition of cross talk for the meetings. It became an argument at one point. It was difficult to be in a meeting like this. There should not be a place for behavior like this. Need a more concrete definition of disruptive behavior, so the host is clear on how to handle.

Chris – shared the meeting guidelines.

Love Addicts Anonymous

Meeting Guidelines

Crosstalk in LAA Meetings: There is no crosstalk in LAA meetings. Crosstalk can be defined as giving advice, asking questions, referring to another person by name, directing comments to a specific individual, or commenting on what another person has shared. All of these things make it difficult for some of us to express our true feelings. The exception to this rule is (1) we can thank the speaker; and (2) the after-hours meeting has limited crosstalk.

Group Safety: LAA is not a dating club and there is no place for flirting, or any behavior that makes another member feel uncomfortable. If a member feels that they have been approached inappropriately or is negatively impacted by another's behavior, for whatever reason, they should speak to a service member. If these principles are broken, the reputation of LAA, the unity of the group, and the well-being of individual members may be adversely affected and this is of great concern. For the good of LAA as a whole, anyone breaching these guidelines may be requested not to attend a particular meeting or meetings until their recovery is more advanced.

Sex Talk & Profanity: Please be aware, that while we do encourage honesty and transparency in shares, if you do begin to share about sex-related topics, or use of excessive profanity, the host will issue a gentle reminder of redirection. If the share persists, you will be muted at the host's discretion.

Other Shares: We respectfully ask that if you are a member of another

Katya – we have clear guidelines, but we need...

Chris – the meetings are pretty good, in terms of safety. The WAGs are not so much. Who gets to administer them? Who is in place to manage the safety of these?

Katya – meetings are safe generally, but the after hours have been hijacked before. We do need to be more clear about the WAGs.

Mel – in my other groups, we use the same cross talk policy for everything.

Chris – what about WAGs?

Mel – this would be the same for WAGs.

Vincent – there is a lot of cross talk – we are supporting each other. This is different from a meeting. The issue at the moment, someone is coming in WAGs, and they do not attend the meetings. This is an issue.

Antranette – there is something that is in place that works effectively. Sister in Linda has something in place that works. We can look at Linda's process for WAGs for the moment, as a suggestion.

Mindy – initially it was confusing and overwhelming, 5 WAGs with a direct purpose. It has been good practice for me to take things to the proper place. I have been a co-admin for 2 of them – updating the purpose, etc. Things go smooth, but some people come in with lighten rods.

Dave – witnessed the devolution of the WAGs – need to place the WAGs under a 12 step/tradition process.

Katya – Chris what are the protocols of the WAGs? Someone was removed from the group, and this person complained. If someone is breaking the guidelines, it is fair to remove them. Are the admins mandated with this authority? The person that was removed did in fact violate the guidelines.

Mindy – I have seen Mel has stepped in as peacekeeper – feels not charged. This helps, but she cannot be the only one.

Dave – 12:29 we have a principle – we will support each other unconditionally. There were unsupportive comments. Through Group Conscious can we take appropriate action for those violating safety?

Mel – Posted 2 articles on how to handle. Ask the person to step back, until things settle down. After that person steps back, we share the rules.

Mary Ruth – protocol – warning in private – say something about violating. Then if they continue – warning in private. Then after – decide on how to handle.

Katya – Mary Ruth, will you draft a motion after group conscious?

Vincent – this last week has been extraordinary. Mary Ruth's suggestion is excellent. If you are not attending the LAA meetings in recovery, you should not be in the WAGs causing disruption.

Dave – was in a meeting where a fellow host pointed out that there was a person that popped in during the after hours, offering his service, and it was taken to IBM to remove him from the meetings.

Chris – we need 2 diff discussions – WAG & Meetings. Lots of people in the kitchen on the WAGs. The guidelines for meetings are really good. The biggest thing is to get a handle on WAGs now.

Antranette – right now, do you feel we need an emergency procedure needs to be put into place for safety? Get a committee around this? I think we look at what we already have, and bring it up as a temporary solution.

Mindy – in AA the only requirement for membership is a desire to quit drinking, even if they drink. I do not think we should cut someone off of WAGs if they do not attend meetings.

Mel – I feel this is urgent to discuss, because there was a question/comment posted today, and I have suggested the post that it was posted in the wrong

place. I would like a unified way of handling this. They requested that we have a way to discuss.

Vincent – we find recovery in the meetings, getting a sponsor & working 12 steps. My issue is that some are only going on WAGs, and not there for healing?

Katya – insert the statement posted in chats – WAG safety statement:

WAG Safety Statement

If the administrators of the WAGs believe safety guidelines have been breached, they follow the following Safety Protocol:

1. Issue a private gentle reminder of the guidelines to the "offending party".
2. If the behavior persists, a public reminder will be issued.
3. If the behavior persists, they will gently be removed for a designated period of time after which they can ask to be reinstated.

Designated period of time:

*1 week

*Until the next Fellowgroup business meeting & IBM

Questions:

-What constitutes administration of WAGs

-Are WAGs even officially under auspices of LAA

-if they want to be promoted during Meetings -in chat & in Announcements

To Do:

-Form a WAG Administration Committee

Mel – I do not feel comfortable reaching out privately, because it can be perceived another way. I would like to post publicly to feel safe.

Dave – always appropriate to have a private reminder first. Go with 1 & 3 in the document.

Antranette – we are all spiritual beings. We can always feel when things are going off. The reminder coming in publicly first, gives everyone a feeling of safety.

Mary Ruth – use private first, so the Ego is not hurt.

Katya – Can we agree to the safety guidelines written today, with refinement in future meetings.

Chris – meeting safety guidelines is within a week.

Katya – suggests next IBM

Antranette – agree to a week. We are all addicts. A week is very graceful.

Katya – patterns do not always change in 1 week. IBM meeting provides the room to address these items. Anyone can bring a concern to IBM. In the

future, I would like to have ODAAT business meetings. If it is only happening in ODAAT, then that IBM meeting will handle.

Linda S: If there is an intergroup in the future, that is the place for the case by case considerations.

Dave- these should be brought back to the IBM as a whole.

Chris – Who is administrating these?

Katya – Group conscious – 3 admins per group.

Chris – this group does not currently have a sayso over any WAGs, because individuals started them.

Dave – do the WAGs fall under LAA or are they separate/autonomous?

Vincent – the hosts to promote them in the meeting. If they are not part of LAA, we should stop promoting them.

Chris – LAA international is the one that belongs to this group. There needs to be a committee that thinks about this kind of thing. Are their any administrators in this meeting?

Katya is administrator of LAA IBM. Mel is the administrator for the ? WAG. A group administer would be responsible for determining the rules.

Antranette – is there a chair for the WAG committee? This a lot to be crafted.

Motion: Katya – we create a WAG committee. Vincent 2nds. Chris – any discussion? No. Would anyone object or abstain? No.

12:55 Katya – Would anyone at this meeting like to be the chair of this committee. Mel will be the (Temporary) chair at the moment.

Katya – do we need to call another extraordinary meeting to finish this? The IBM is in 2 weeks. Can we wait?

Antranette – can we have an extraordinary meeting crafting the safety statement, so we can manage the WAGs?

Katya: Do we want to create a temporary guideline?

LAA WAG Safety Statement - Temporary

If the administrators of the LAAWAGs believe safety guidelines have been breached, they will follow the following Safety Protocol:

1. Issue a private gentle reminder of the guidelines of the “offending party”.
2. If the behavior persists, a public reminder will be issued.
3. If the behavior persists, they will gently be removed until the next IBM, after which they can ask to be reinstated.

Mel – I support a temporary statement, until we get together.

Katya – I motion that we adopt the temporary safety statement (Insert safety protocol). Vincent 2nds.

Linda S – I think if are going to post, we need to say what these guidelines are for.

Chris – we do not have the power to clean those WAGs up right now. It feels like it is a hammer.

Linda – agree – we are rushing this through too quickly. There is typically a committee. I am not comfortable rushing this through, even though there are people hurt.

Mel – I feel that each group should be autonomous. If a group wants a policy for behavior and post what is disruptive.

Vincent – 1 individual is causing problems. I do feel what goes on in WAGs typically works things out, but sometimes 1 person can troll and cause issues.

Dave – table this issue. Chris 2nds Motion to delay – 5 of 9 said yes. Does anyone disagree? No. Does anyone abstain? Yes - 2

LAA Closing Prayer

God, we pray for inner strength and wisdom to do together what we cannot do alone. Thank you for the courage to change. Show us how to open our hearts and eyes to your unconditional love for us and teach us how to love ourselves and others in a healthy way. May we find hope for a brighter tomorrow and pass that on to others in need.
Thank you for a better way to live.