

# LAA INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

## ORDINARY INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Location: IBM Zoom ID 842 1001 4666 PC: 375920

Date: 9/3/2022

**Persons in attendance:** Katya, Mindy in LA, Janice M, Susan Peabody, Alexey, Chris E., Denise, Linda S., Luke H, Mary Ruth, Pooja, Vincent, Lindsey Warner, Mari & Cynthia

### **Meeting Service Positions:**

**Chairperson- Katya**

**Secretary/notetaker – Cynthia**

**Screen sharer – Mindy**

**Empath – Pooja**

**Time-Keeper – Chris E**

**I. Opening Verse: Serenity Prayer** (We Version) Stated at 11:00 am pst.

**II. Approval of last IBM minutes from 8/17/22:** Katya motioned to approve. Chris & Vincent 2<sup>nd</sup>. A vote of 10 out of 13 approved.

11:10 am pst traditions were read by Luke

### **III. Reports:**

**Chairperson:** Katya – so far everything is going well, as long as people know if they have items for our meeting that they can post them in the IBM WAG. Katya would like a co-chair to help with the items that come through the media and the website.

**Treasurer:** Vincent – researching a bank account – if a personal account, taxes have to be paid. He spoke to a tax authority in the UK – MRC. He tried to be as general as possible, in that LAA is a non profit organization. The lady asked if a fee is charged and Vincent said no. If there are no fees, no taxes are due. Vincent applied to open a bank account in the name of LAA. It takes 6 weeks to open a business account, due to Covid. One bank did accept the application, and that application is currently under review. If the bank account is opened as an account with a tax non profit small society, we will be up and running in about 4 weeks.

**Secretary:** the 8/17 meeting minutes are posted in the WAG (IBM).

**Literature committee:** Chris – Dave and Chris met and discussed the literature. What does it mean to be conference approved or not conferenced approved? We are looking for direction from the IBM as to what we need to look at. We will continue to meet Monthly.

**Meeting Coordinators:** Mindy – needs permanent hosts for Monday morning and Saturday evening. Vincent is filling in, until we find someone permanent. What can we do about hosts not showing up for their commitment?

**Website Committee:** Mary Ruth – in touch with the person that has been working on the site. They can take any suggestions for updates. Message Mary Ruth via the chats during meetings & the WAG IBM messages for those suggestions.

#### **IV. Discussion Items:**

##### **1. WhatsApp/Social Media Administration:** We have a temporary safety statement –

If the administrators of the LAAWAGs believe that the LAA safety guidelines have been breached, they will 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 until the next IBM, after which they can ask to be reinstated.

Linda S also provided notes on the meeting that was called by Mel.

## Informal WAG Committee Meeting – 24th August, 2022

We agreed that the following recommendations should be brought up to the next IBM.

- WAGs are autonomous groups
- WAGs are encouraged to respect the traditions
- WAGs can have their own focus, and rules
- WAGs are encouraged to have a description of disruptive behaviour that is not appropriate (ex: flirting, inappropriate content..)
- have more than one admin
- when there's an issue, people can talk to the person concerned directly. If that is not possible or does not feel safe, it can be brought to one of the admins.
- Things that could damage the LAA reputation as a whole can be brought up to the IBM.

Katya – do we need a Social Media Committee? Mel has stepped up to help in the interim. The meeting took place 8/24 with 6 attendees. The group felt it should be autonomous, but respect the traditions for LAA. We may need to vote if the same safety guidelines should continue.

Katya – is Melanie our official WAG media administrator?

Linda - I am not sure if we voted on having this position or not.

Katya – I do not recall if we have formally elected.

Chris – This committee did a very nice job.

Katya – Do we want to make a motion to adopt these as a formal practice.

Chris – It would be good to marinate on this for a month and put a committee together on this.

Katya – Would anyone else like to add anything to this discussion before we table it for a month? No.

**Motion to end the meeting at 12:30 – Mindy – Chris 2nds. Is there any objection to ending at 12:30? No.**

**2. ACA/LAA Parent meeting (Linda S.) – not discussed**

**3. ODAAT Business Meetings –**

Katya – do we want to start holding ODAAT meetings? They are at 9am and 3:30 pm everyday PST. We do not currently have positions for these meetings, so we have not been holding these meetings. Would anyone like to speak to this?

Vincent – there was a vote taken to retire the old group, but will continue to have the meetings on the first Saturday at 10am pst.

Katya – we need positions first.

**4. Co-Chair Katya – Are we comfortable with having a co-chair? It is a lot for Katya to answer all of the emails from the website.**

Chris – when we came up with the procedures for resignations, part of the discussion was having alternate positions – fill ins, etc.

Katya – there is an alternate and then there is a Co.

Chris – the Alternate positions would support the primary positions – same as the Co. No Need to have both.

**5. 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition donations (Vincent) – Katya – not necessary to discuss anything further than the update. It will be up to 4 weeks, before the account is ready, and no tax implications.**

**Other items brought to the meeting:**

Mindy – no show hosts – trying to handle the no shows delicately and working with people in the meetings to step up. She doesn't mind keeping up the spreadsheet, but doesn't want to play the role of managing the hosts showing up. Saturday nights meetings have had 2 no show hosts, but need to know what the best way to satisfy this problem.

Katya – this has happened a lot since we are now on zoom with meetings occurring 2 times everyday. On another program, once someone has not showed up 2 times, we remove them from host, and bring in a new host. If many are not stepping up, cancel the meeting.

Chris – No.

Mary Ruth – If people do not volunteer to host, the natural consequence is to cancel.

Mindy – There is a need for the meeting, cancelling will provide incentive for some to step up.

Vincent – the 5:30 PST doesn't help those in the East. Possibly a time change will help with this.

Chris – I don't recall an instance where no meeting occurred if a host didn't show. The meetings continue to move forward, after stepping in at the last minute.

Mary Ruth – I have been here over a year. A handful of people have been attending but have done no service or speaking.

Mindy – I have been on calls where there was no host, and the meeting did not kick off well. People come for the first time and see how disorganized things are and may turn away. The person that stepped up didn't know how to play the host role. The meeting cut off. We need structure to keep the integrity of LAA at a high standard.

Chris: I propose that we set this aside for now and see what develops.

Susan Peabody – I second the motion.

Katya – it is stressful for someone that is in the position of host coordinator. If the host coordinator is experiencing stress, it isn't fair.

Mary Ruth – Mindy is asking what the procedure is for when a host doesn't show. If I do not show up 2 weeks in a row, what do we do?

Mindy – What to do when a host does not show up 2 weeks in a row? If I announce 2 weeks in a row for a Saturday evening meeting, and no one volunteers, I suggest we cancel the meeting.

Katya – we are dealing with 2 issues here: 1. How to handle no-show hosts? 2. How to handle meetings that continue not to have a host, ie Saturday evenings?

Chris: I suggest we hear from Susan on the motion I made, and I will resend the motion.

Susan: This always happens during the summers and because of Saturday nights. Love Addicts really need these meetings especially on a Saturday night. If we do cancel, we need to announce it for several weeks/months and then the IBM votes on cancelling the meetings.

Chris – I would be open to having a 2 part conversation – discuss something that Mindy can use. I table the motion.

Pooja – Roster – have a set of people that can host 1 meeting per month as back up options.

Chris – I move that the meeting coordinator have the right to remove a meeting host that doesn't show up for 2 consecutive meetings.

Mindy 2nds the motion.

Katya – Do we have a clear protocol for hosts that they can read and understand, before they accept their host position? That document would state that they are to find a substitute, if they cannot make the meeting. If you do not show up, and there is no back up for 2 meetings, you will be removed from hosting.

Mindy – I train them informally, but I can make a document that we can send new hosts. I do like the idea of them finding a back up to cover the meeting.

Katya – if you would like that voted on, do you want to work on that document we can do that later?

Chris – the motion – the meeting coordinator has the right to remove a meeting host that doesn't show up for their commitment 2 weeks in a row. We can table anything else on this topic.

Katya – I don't feel that it is clear enough. There is nothing in writing to inform the host in advance what the rules are before being removed.

Chris - Motion: The Meeting Coordinator has the right to remove a host from their hosting duties if the host doesn't show up for 2 consecutive meetings.

Susan P 2nds the motion and calls for a vote. 8 out of 13 voted approved. Anyone dissent?

Pooja – If the main host cannot show up, but they have someone that can take their place for those 2 meetings, so the meetings are still going on, so would they be removed in this case?

Katya – if they get a sub, everything is fine.

Mindy – 2 times no show and no coverage no hosting for 1 month.

Chris – I propose we revote using the new language of: The meeting coordinator has the right to remove a host from their hosting duties if the host doesn't show up or find a substitute for 2 consecutive meetings.

Katya – revote 12:10 pm PST.

Motion is that the meeting coordinator has the right to remove a host from their hosting duties if they do not show up for 2 consecutive weeks without a backup. 9 out of 12 agrees to the revised wording. No one dissents.

Susan requests a motion to table: To discuss canceling the meeting until next month, in order to give people a chance to step up and come vote. Cancelling is serious for the newcomers.

## 6. Edit proposals for Meeting Format Opening Guidelines (Katya)

1. Current statement: "Group Safety: LAA is not a dating club and there is no place for flirting, or any behavior that makes another member feel uncomfortable."

**Proposed edit:** Group Safety: "LAA is not a dating club and there is no place for flirting, or any behavior that is inappropriate or unsafe."

2. We respectfully ask that if you are a member of another 12-step group, that you do not talk about that recovery program while in this meeting. Talk of other addictions only dilutes our primary purpose.

**Proposed Edit:** "We respectfully ask that if you are a member of another 12-step group, that you do not talk about that recovery program while in this meeting except as it directly pertains to your recovery in LAA. Talk of other addictions can dilute our primary purpose."

Katya would like to table these edits

Susan P – I am confused as to why we are spending time on editing these documents, when they were created and voted on in the past. This looks like a personal edit to me and not a consensus from the group.

Katya – anyone can bring forth any suggestions. I have been thinking about this ever since I joined this program. I now feel safe to bring these suggestions I have that are needed in the program.

Mindy – I like to make a motion that insults are not allowed when commenting.

Pooja – as the empath I like to propose a minute of silence to bring the meeting back to calm.

Susan – I apologize if it seems like I was attacking Katya. It just occurred to me that this was being redundant. In other 12 steps programs a comment was being made, but LAA is a little different and doesn't always fit 12 step programs. I will withdraw from the discussion.

Katya – I want to stand up for myself as a Chairperson, I do not appreciate being accused of trying to change things for my purposes. As a member, I would like to bring forth suggestions, even though I am Chair.

#### **IV. Necessary Service Positions to fill:**

##### **1. Website Committee:**

Katya – we need a chair for this committee.

Mary Ruth - can accept this position for now.

Katya – I would like to put forth a motion to elect Mary Ruth being the Chair of the website committee. Are there any objections to this? No objections. 12:30 pst.

##### **2. ODAAT Chairperson:**

Katya would love to nominate Linda S

Linda – she can be on the Social Media and Website committee, but cannot chair ODAAT or be part of the ODAAT committee.

Chris – what is the role of the ODAAT Chair?

Katya – prepare agendas and leading the meeting to discuss things pertaining to ODAAT meetings vs bringing them to IBM.

Vincent – the ODAAT meeting could vote in that meeting on a Chair?

Chris – 1st Saturday of Oct I volunteer to facilitate that meeting, and I will let the group decide. 10:30 am pst.

Katya – I suggest we also announce this in meetings as well?

Meeting closed at 10:32 am pst.

These items below will be moved to our next meeting.

##### **3. Treasury Committee:?**

#### **4. LAA IB Email Responder**

#### **V. Closing Prayer**

### **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.