

# LAA INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

## ORDINARY INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Location: IBM Zoom ID 842 1001 4666 PC: 375920

Date: 12/3/2022

**Persons in attendance:** Chris E, Katya, Cynthia, Adam, Apple, Dave, Diane, Diane, Elizabeth K, Fred, Joy, Kris, Laura Lovgren, Lena, Linda S, Lindsey Warner, LL, Mary Ruth, Mindy, Pooja, Sara R, SueBee, Todd, Victoria & Zuzana

### **Meeting Service Positions:**

**Chairperson-** Katya  
**Secretary/notetaker** – Cynthia  
**Screen sharer** – Katya  
**Empath** – N/A  
**Time Keeper** – Fred

Opened the meeting at 11:38 am PST

### **I. Opening Verse: Serenity Prayer** (extended version)

*God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
The courage to change the things I can,  
and the wisdom to know the difference.*

*Grant me patience for the changes that take time,*

*An appreciation for all that I have,  
Tolerance for those with different struggles  
and the strength to get up and try again one day at a time.*

**II. Approval of last IBM minutes from 10/1/22:** We lost them, so we do not have those meetings to approve, but can someone paraphrase that meeting for us? No one spoke up. Does anyone object to us moving forward? No one objects. They are approved to the best of our abilities.

**III. Love Addicts Anonymous google search / old message board situation:**

Katya: Can someone sponsor this for us?

Chris: I have insight with this. If you go to google, you come up with the old website (Loveaddicts.org). If someone clicks on the meetings link, it will bring you to our new site LAA site. If you click on the other links, it takes you to the old site. They have added a new link to our site within their site to direct people to the new. If you go to bing or yahoo or brave, we come up 2<sup>nd</sup>.

MaryRuth: SEO – if we want our website to come up first, our web master will need to do something. It would be awesome, if somehow we take over the old site or relink our site to that. Our web person needs to do something to bring it up higher.

Fred: What word struction is competing for the sites?

Linda S: When the new website was created, the person responsible for the old site had agreed to re-route people to the new site, but retracted, as a result of a few events.

Katya: Do we have a group conscious to ask our webmaster to do all she can to bring us up? Fred second. No one opposed. MaryRuth do you have anything to add.

MaryRuth: I hear you want me to contact our webmaster and get advise on what we can do?

Sara: Who is our webmaster?

Katya: She is a volunteer, and not sure if she is currently in the program, but she has in the past. Does anyone have any other questions? None.

**IV. Is Desire discrepancy a valid subject to discuss in LAA meeting afterhours? We would like to review the language and meaning of “sex-related topics”.**

Katya: I have been in fellowship for 2 years now. I am in a relationship, and I have learned the number 1 issue with couples is desire discrepancy. I have done a lot of research on this topic (intimacy/desire). I brought it up in the afterhours, and many people joined in on the topic. It caused a big issue for some, as they thought it was a sex related topic.

Diane: Susan and I had our difficulties, but I admire her for wanting to help people with love addiction. She was adamant about no sex topic. Many people left that meeting, because they were uncomfortable. Many contacted me afterward.

Chris: the topic was more suited for 1x1 conversation. There are not many in this program that are in a relationship. Keeping the sex talk to a minimum is important.

SueBee: I did not feel it violated sex talk. I have been in meetings where they talked about sex, and it was offensive. I was part of the discussion that day, and I do not think it violated the sex talk discussion. I saw it to be more about desire and love addiction. Keeping it to connection vs actual sex talk is appropriate.

Sara: I came to LAA because I get overwhelmed with hearing others sexual issues. I would don't want to hear details, but to discuss it on a desire basis is okay.

Katya: I am heartbroken to hear that many are not coupled. I am grateful that I have made it for a year in a healthy relationship and part of this program. 60pct of couples go to therapy, because of the desire/intimacy issues. I do not see it as a sex related topic.

Fred: I was part of that meeting, but I had to get out of that meeting because of the discussion. This is not a psychological meeting. This is a step program. There is a boundary there.

Katya: I am not following the last part of your statement.

Fred: Psychological advise is not part of the step program.

Diane: I agree with Fred. This is suited for more of a discussion with a counselor.

Chris: I echo what Fred & Diane said. There are people in relationships within LAA. This is a super advanced topic, and you can tie it to LAA, but it is beyond the scope of LAA.

Sara: I agree it is outside of LAA, but in afterhours I do not want people to feel uncomfortable to say they are part of SSLA, as long as the discussion is not offensive.

MaryRuth: It feels like the afterhours meeting is moving from whatever people want to talk about to now talk about only LAA topics.

SueBee: I wanted to share – when we focus on anything, but when we pathologized sex, it is not healthy. I feel strongly that afterhours be a more open place to talk about romantic problems.

Joy: I was at the meeting, and I was glad the topic came up, but I did feel somewhat uncomfortable. If we are going say we are not talking about psychological, but step, this is dangerous. All of this is psychological.

Katya: We need to define what afterhours is. We didn't talk specifics about sex, but the desire instead. We can bring this back to our next meeting.

V. Safety Guidelines – are they for LAA International to adopt or just ODAAT or both?

Katya: Are the safety guideline for ODAAT or LAA International or both?

Linda: In the past, the view was that each meeting was autonomous.

Linda: African meeting, we use a lot of the same wording.

**Addl Discussion at the closing:**

Linda S I agree that we need to schedule a bigger time gap between the 2 meetings.

Kris: I would like to adopt something in the language during and after hours about not being on mood altering substances – please observe and we ask that you not participate.

## **VI. 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.