

LAA INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

ORDINARY INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Location: IBM Zoom ID 842 1001 4666 PC: 375920

Date: 3/4/2023

Persons in attendance: Chris E, Katya, Cynthia, Lena, Linda S, SueBee, Vincent, Jen C. Alexey, Tisha, Mary Ruth, Lindsey W.,

Meeting Service Positions:

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

Opened the meeting at 11:40 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 2/4/23: Approved

III. Committee Reports

1. Website Committee Report/Elections:

Mary Ruth resigned as website committee. A new website committee chair is needed.

Tisha: What does this look like?

Mary Ruth: We had someone else building the site, but I served as a liaison. The website committee chair simply relays changes to the website master – Mary.

Tisha: I agree to be the new Chair for the website committee.

2. Treasury Committee: Lena

Chris: we have this all set up and the bills have been paid. For next month, she will be able to summarize the expenses and account balances.

3. Literature Committee: Chris

Chris: There are 2 committees (one for ODATT & one for IBM). We do not have anything currently to cover on this, however. Or, do we think this is one committee?

Vincent: Our basic text is outdated, because it makes reference to the message board. Are their plans of refreshing the basic text?

SueBee: I am interested in the Literature committee. I would like to look at it as a whole. I feel called that limited contact has fallen off of the literature. We follow no contact rules now, but I would like to see more literature about limited contact.

Chris: This is in the some of our literature and on our list. I think this needs to be 2 different groups.

4. Meeting Coordinator

Linda: I gave notice I was going to step down from this position. Alexey agreed to take on the google calendar. One thing, however is getting these meeting announcements out. We shouldn't need to remind people that meetings are going on, but I do think a reminder going out is good, however.

IV. Discussion/Motion Items

1. Unifying LAA International Fellowships

Katya: I have been reaching out to Linda to learn the realities of this, but it is tricky, due to the time changes. I do see it as important for a fellowship. I feel like it would benefit LAA, if we could have representative from various fellowships. More heads are better than one, and I am willing to change the time of the meeting to accommodate.

Vincent: The issue of other fellowships, there can be a language barrier.

SueBee: I think this is a really important topic. Participation can look like speaking or document sharing that can be converted to the English language. I think it is how we grow. We need to support other meetings growing, changing starting is healthy.

Mary Ruth: When I started, we had other members that were part of other countries, it was wonderful. The time zone was the issue, however.

Katya: Do we want to make a motion to change the time of the meetings, and what time would be the best to suite everyone?

Tisha: Has anyone been contacted?

Linda: I am involved with an international step meeting. There are a few Sweden, Russia. We have a means of reaching out to those people via the international website.

Chris: There isn't much action.

Katya: I can represent the hybrid meeting, if Linda could assist me with those emails and reach out to them, so we can find a good time to meet.

Linda: I can assist you with this Katya.

Tisha: is there a timeline on this? What does this intergroup look like? We need to offer something to them, like what does this look like?

Katya: we can discuss this further during the next IBM, after I have established contact with this group. I can come back with a report on this.

Jen: I started writing a book about my recovery. I have some training on different modalities. The book is almost completed. I would like permission to use some of the LAA literature in my book, as this program has changed my life.

Chris: Jen I really appreciate you came here to ask. In LAA literature already, was that our copy right is the right to copy. Anyone has permission to use our stuff, but we do ask that it not be changed. As long as you do not change the wording, if you use our literature, I do not see a problem.

Jen: It is written in a memoir style at first. I find a lot of people struggle with understanding how it started and where to go to heal. I used the memoirs as examples and characteristics of my experience and then the literature. Then I go into my recovery (my baggage) and through modalities and principles to help me process the traumas I went through growing up. I have never seen a book that lays out our real experiences and talks about modalities to heal. I do believe it will help people to be understood and relate. I will be happy to share my book to the group.

SueBee: I am in support of continuing our traditions. I just caution that we know what we are agreeing to, along with what parts will be listed in the book, before approving. I would like to understand specifics, before saying yes, but I do support this.

Jen: Each chapter has a sentence (Characteristics of Love Addiction). I then go into my experience. I do make notations of where this is coming from. My experiences are specifically around my experiences as a love addict. I do need to know what exactly you need to move forward.

Tisha: How did you plan on communicating back to LAA, as to what you would like to include?

Jen: Promises and Steps (quotes of the steps, promises and characteristics). I looked at characteristics, and this is what I had to reflect on those characteristics.

Chris: If you want to use any of the material, we ask that you not change any words. What are characteristics? Is it a specific document?

Jen: Typical Kinds of Love Addicts

Tisha: Specifically what are you using? What Characteristics? What are you using, and then how are you going to report back to us what you are using?

Jen: Reporting my intentions? One is use in each chapter.

Katya: if you just want to post it in the chat, or come back to us and indicate "these specific things will be inserted and where".

Tisha: This is what I needed to know (what and how would it be used, and that the verbiage would not change).

Jen: I can totally provide you with what I am using and where I am using it in my writings. I am using the exact promises and the exact steps, as I write out my memoirs.

Lindsey: Are you referring to the 40 questions to determine?

Jen: it is me listing the behaviors, and I then describe how I meet the characteristics.

Lindsey: it is in the newcomers documents

Jen: my behaviors relate to those characteristics. I would be using the promises and the steps to be specific.

Motion: Chris – I move a motion that Jen can use the promises and the steps as written. Katya Seconds. No one objected. Approved.

Vincent: I do not understand why if you are writing on your own experience, why do you want to write about LAA? Jen: the main reason I wanted to use the Promises and the Steps, I want to give people the the information on how LAA helped me in my recovery. Tisha: when you started out that you had a lot of training in different modalities, is it a memoir or advice? Jen: I am telling my story, but I am combining that with how I recovered and how the steps helped me. Chris: We voted and it is okay to use the steps and the promises. We do not need someone promoting LAA, however. We have not right to tell you what to write vs not write. You

can use the steps and the promises. It has been a long time tradition, when someone goes public and starts talking about their step program, it has not gone well for them.

Jen: I appreciate the feedback. I more want to writer about this is how I overcame.

Vincent: Question, I was thinking of ACA.. no one can copy them. I don't understand how someone can use it (?)

Chris: we have it stated out there that our literature can be used, but not reworted.

Katya: Some groups do not want their literature used, but others don't mind, as long as it is not changed.

Vincent: It sounds like we don't have copy write.

Katya: What did you mean about how it has not worked well for others going public? I also want to know if it is a concern to receive proceeds from the sale of the book.

Chris: they tend to relapse, because their ego gets involved.

SueBee: I support this. We cannot solve everything that could happen right now. We can ask if we can be informed along the way. Is there willingness to come back to keep us up to date. I do not think it is appropriate to give proceeds as a promise to the group, but if you want to from your heart, that is great.

Jen: I can give a copy of the book, before going public.

Katya: thank you for making us aware. We appreciate what you are doing. Thank you for being a part of our fellowship.

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.