

LAA INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

ORDINARY INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Location: IBM Zoom ID 842 1001 4666 PC: 375920

Date: 6/3/2023

Persons in attendance:

Katya, Alexey, Andrew, Chris E, Gwendolyn, Julianne, Kristie K, Linda S, Lindsey Warner, Mary Ruth, Pamela M, Tisha, Vincent

Meeting Service Positions:

Chairperson- Katya

Secretary/notetaker – Cynthia

Screen sharer – Chris

I. Opening Verse: Serenity Prayer

II. Approval of last IBM minutes from 5.6: Yes with 1 revision.

III. Committee Reports

- 1. Website Committee Report/elections:** Tisha: Minor changes, removing meetings that were no longer happening and adding new meetings (Sunday Book study was removed &, Tues SA meeting was added). We are also removing content that is no longer needed, where it was duplicated. I did see where individuals and names were on the site, but I need to know where

that is located, so I may assist.

2. **Treasury Committee:** Lena – Katya read off the message provided Info in an email. Out paypal acct 4/1 – 4/30 = we received no additional funds. No money in March or April. As of 5/31, 1,928.86 is our current balance. Vincent, on average we were receiving 250/mo. Lena maintains a balance in a bank account, and the paypal account feeds the bank account.
3. **Literature Committee:** Chris – Vincent and I have been talking, and since last month, Vincent has taken over and is doing a fine job. Vincent: Thank you for the praise. New Literature in terms of patterns of Love Addiction and when I am in recovery. Principles over personalities came about and everyone contributed. We did have a bit of an issue of the status of the Literature. We need to resolve before distributing anything new.

Taken our fellowship text and modified it. Amazon was an older version costing 5, and a new version that costs 10. They have taken 2 pages out of the basic text. And they have revised the step guide. The old version can only be found on the LAA website. There was a copy write infringement to our basic texts. The Literature was developed by the members and was not created by an individuals with copy write. We now have 2 versions of our basic text on Amazon. I have suggested we create a committee to resolve, because new comers will get confused. Change were not done with consultation with the IBM business meeting, so the changes were not conference approved. I have had a number of individuals volunteer and were upset and left because of this behavior. Our proposal is to create a committee to resolve this issue, so others are not upset and leave the group. This committee would resolve the issues with the basic text and the step guide.

4. **Meeting Coordinator:** Alexey – the calendar is all current.
5. **IBM Chair** – I have been busy and I feel I have slacked a bit. I am in touch with the LAA workshops and time zone distances. As the Chair of LAA international and discussion of legal items, I have questions about what our standards are. Am I liable? I want to make sure I am not exposed to law suits.

IV. Discussions/Motion Items

Formation of a committee to address and resolve the questions pertaining to the LAA Basic Text's & Step guide - multiple additions

Chris- I have made a point to stay in contact with the person that is making the revisions. We wanted to change the basic text to change our email address, so I had reached out to obtain a word document, and she did it herself. Then she realized the account wasn't in her name any more, so she retaliated. The version that was on Book Patch wasn't the correct version. It had misspellings, etc. She wanted us to fix it, she went ahead and did it herself. She wants to know if LAA wants the correct version loaded to ? She will give the documents to Vincent. She will take the new account down, if we decide to put the corrected version up there. I am not clear on the differences between her version and ours. The committee will address this (Copyright, etc). How does LAA itself Copyright? Who is exposed here? We can at least get our version out there and have her take her's down.

Gwendolyn: I pulled another fellowship the Copyright belongs to the Augustine fellowship. Now that we are now a more conscious contact group, would it make sense if we move to the Augustine Copyright? Are we associated with this fellowship currently?

Mel: I am not familiar with the current status with the legal status of LAA. Our claim would be to protect our LAA name. This person is using it to profit. If we own a name, it is our responsibility to purchase, protect and pay our domain name. It would be worth to make sure the literature cannot be used by other people.

Tisha: Someone other than LAA has purchased the domain for the website. I express we would like to take control of the LAA domain, but I haven't heard back. How do we get untangled, so we have a clear shareholder?

Mary: I loved what Gwendolyn said. If we were under the umbrella of Augustine, we would not have to fight these battles. I was curious if anyone in LAA was around, when those were revised. I feel an individual revised without group conscious. I wasn't around then to know if the original was created by group conscience. I would suggest we have our own text.

Vincent: LAA is an autonomous group. I wouldn't want to get involved in lawsuits. We simply need to obtain the Copyright and it is an easy process. We only know first names, so it would be difficult to sue an individual in the fellowship, as it is autonomous.

Chris: AA – the big book is not owned by anyone, so people can make revisions, so there are different versions. I suggest we figure out if there is much of a difference between the new version and the old, and then replace one for the other. And then have a committee to discuss Copyright and book patch.

Mary: I believe AA has Copyright of other versions of the big book. Is Vincent putting forth a motion for the exploratory committee?

Vincent: we are having a discussion of the situation and everyone is giving their views and are comfortable to do so. How can we stop someone else from copying and using the literature for profit. The particular individual doesn't do any service for LAA. How upset one person is, is on them and none of our business. As a committee, we come up with a solution to the situation. AA is a very well established fellowship. We are very small, and 1 person can do a lot of damage to the group. I just felt the committee could resolve.

Gwendolyn: what kind of entity is LAA currently? LLC? It seems to me we do not need to reinvent the wheel, since so many other fellowships have done this work we can model from. It will be useful to follow some of their footsteps, even down to someone's name being on the bank account. It seems like we would follow that model.

Linda: We are not a registered organization. Board of Directors – 5 people used full addresses, but they could not be found.

Vincent: we can protect via Copyright and it doesn't require corporation. Any author has protection under Copyright vs being a corporation. A committee can find the best solution. I propose we vote that everyone would agree on having a committee.

Katya: Motion: to form a committee with LAA International copyrights to our LAA basic text and our LAA step study. No opposition. This passes.

Who is willing to be on the committee? Mary, Mel, Vincent, & Tisha (Gwendolyn is available for support)

Katya: do we have someone that will take over treasury? Our current volunteer needs to step away.

We will table this for now, since we are out of time.

Chris: do we want to put up the correct version of text now, or will the committee address this?

Katya: Committee will handle.

VI. Necessary Service Positions to fill:

VII. 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.