

MINUTES OF THE LAA INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

DATE: SATURDAY 1 JULY 2023

TIME: 8.00 AM (PACIFIC TIME)

Persons in Attendance (9 at maximum):

A____y, Andrew, Betty C, Gwendolyn, Linda S, Katya, Mel, Tisha, Vincent

Meeting Commenced with Serenity Prayer (we version).

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting (Saturday 3 June 2023)

Minutes were read and Tisha motioned to accept minutes, nobody in opposition. Minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

2. Committee Reports

(i) Website

Tisha advised that phone dial in option was now listed for the zoom meetings for those who do not wish to access these online. All International LAA meetings currently listed on website checked and confirmed as being active.

(ii) Treasury

Katya advised that Lena was stepping down from her role as treasurer. There was an issue with PayPal holding onto money and requesting personal information that Lena was not comfortable with sharing. Vincent advised that when he was treasurer he used a business PayPal account with a non-profit status linked to a business bank account. It may be the case that the current PayPal account was classed as personal and that may account for the issues being experienced.

(iii) Literature

There was currently no literature report. Tisha queried what the situation was with the literature that had recently been prepared on patterns of love addiction vs recovery. Vincent advised that although the draft for this had been completed there was the issue of copyright infringement by a third party of LAA literature that still needed to be resolved before any new literature could be released.

(iv) Meeting Co-ordinator

A____y advised that he was not a meeting co-ordinator but had merely offered to do service to maintain the Google Calendar of LAA meetings. He also requested that his first name not be disclosed on any LAA documentation as he had concerns about personal anonymity.

3. LAA Literature Copyright Infringement

Katya asked if there was an active committee regarding the situation with the LAA Basic Fellowship Text being sold for profit by a third party. Vincent advised that

Mel was on the committee and he was assisting her with bouncing off ideas regarding the way forward. Gwendolyn suggested that LAA may need to establish itself as a legal entity. Tisha advised that while it is important to resolve the copyright infringement issue the legal status of LAA was a separate issue. (At this point Mel entered the meeting). Mel suggested establishing a WAG to facilitate the committee. Katya asked if anyone had any ideas for a name. Vincent suggested the copyright committee. Gwen suggested the identity committee. Katya felt this covered the two issues regarding copyright infringement and LAA's legal status.

Motion: Katya proposed that the committee be called The Identity Committee, this was seconded by Gwen - motion passed unopposed.

4. LAA Non-Profit Legal Status

Discussion ensued on the legal status of LAA with regard to becoming a non-profit. Andrew advised that a non-profit has legal requirements such as a Board of Directors. Vincent advised that in the UK a non-profit doesn't have to be incorporated and he was able to open a business bank account as a non-profit without the need to incorporate. Katya advised that there were different legal requirements for non-profits in the USA and the UK. Vincent advised he had carried out research in the UK regarding this. He was aware that in the USA the IRS had forms to submit for a non-profit that wasn't incorporated. It may be helpful if some of the USA members of LAA could enquire about this option by contacting either the IRS or consulting a tax attorney to clarify this.

Mel suggested that The Identity Committee could look into this issue. She was aware that Canada has different rules from the USA and this would need to be investigated to understand what options were possible.

5. Preserving Anonymity on the LAA Website

Katya asked Vincent to clarify why he was raising this issue. Vincent advised that he was aware that the website contained the full name of an individual and that the individual was also singled out for their contributions, over and above other LAA members, that had been made. As LAA is an anonymous fellowship everything is a collective effort and no one individual ought to be singled out as being more important than others. Instead of an individual being singled out Vincent felt it more appropriate to use terms such as "an LAA member" or "a group of LAA members" with regard to respecting the 12th Tradition on anonymity being the foundation of all our traditions.

Gwen advised that anonymity is important and we need to be careful not to give a member more status (eg referring to them as an "elder member"). It is an important principle that we are all equal as members of LAA.

Motion: Andrew proposed to amend the LAA website to preserve anonymity, Katya seconded - motion passed unopposed. Vincent advised he would contact Tisha to highlight the changes to the LAA website which would preserve anonymity.

6. Use of WhatsApp by LAA Service Members

Katya raised the issue with LAA Service Members not being on WhatsApp and that this could cause difficulties with trying to communicate such as raising agenda items for business meetings. Andrew advised he did not use WhatsApp as he was not a fan of Meta. He was open to other platforms such as Signal, Rock, Slack etc. Vincent suggested that perhaps service members who aren't comfortable with WhatsApp could use an anonymous email address for communication. Katya advised she felt WhatsApp was more democratic and widely used. It was also a good platform for everyone to view the history of how a Group Conscience was forming around an issue by other LAA members. Mel suggested that WhatsApp could be accessed online without need to use a smartphone. Andrew advised he had investigated this and it was not possible without use.

7. New Treasurer

Katya advised that as Lena was no longer continuing as Treasurer LAA was in need of someone to carry out that service position. Vincent had previously served in this position and was willing to undertake another six month term.

Motion: Andrew nominated Vincent as Treasurer, Linda S seconded - motion passed unopposed.

Vincent advised he would liaise with Lena to obtain transfer of the current LAA bank balance and he would see if he could liaise with PayPal to unfreeze any monies held in that account.

8. Agenda Items Tabled Due to Lack of Time

As the IBM is restricted to 60 minutes two agenda items were tabled to the next meeting due to running out of discussion time.

- (i) Defining the relationship between LAA International and LAA Odaat
- (ii) Request by an LAA member to prepare audio versions of the LAA literature

After discussion it was agreed to table this and discuss this further at the next IBM meeting. In the meantime LAA members would be requested not to record or distribute LAA literature without agreement from LAA IBM.

9. Meeting ended prior to 9.00 am (Pacific Time) to facilitate the start of the LAA Odaat meeting.

Meeting closed with 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.