LAA Love Addicts Anonymous

**Meeting Type**: Ordinary International Business Meeting (IBM)

**Location**: IBM Zoom ID 842 101 4666 Passcode: 375920

**Dat**e: August 5, 2023

**Start time:** 8:00 a.m. Pacific **(**60 mins.)

**Attendees:** Katya, Linda S., Susan P., Andrew, Dominic M., Lindsey W., Mary Ruth, Nat, Pooja G., Shirley, Tisha, Vincent, Pamela M.

**IBM Service Positions**

**Chairperson:** Katya

**Recording Secretary:** Pamela M.

**Screen Sharers:** Mary Ruth, Vincent

**Empath**: Pooja

**I. Opening Prayer:** A moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer

**II. Approval of Prior Minutes:** Meeting minutes from 7/1/23 were screen shared for review. Katya motioned that July minutes be accepted and approved. Andrew seconded, and minutes were fully accepted and approved.

**III. Committee Reports**

1. **Website Committee Report/Elections:** Tisha updated ODAAT meeting times on the website. She also added July minutes to the website. The LAA Adult Child Step Study URL/Link will be deactivated for the time being.
2. **Treasury Committee:** Vincent screen shared LAA bank account information and provided an update of account status. Lena, the former treasurer, transferred the remaining funds from her Fidelity account to Vincent in the amount of £1,481.98 (approximately $1,800 in US dollars). Since the transfer, member donations have been slow. Vincent attributed slow contributions to the 7th Tradition link being deactivated for some time. Donations can now be made via Square, debit/credit cards, and Google Pay. Currency exchange rates will be automatically updated at time of donation.

PayPal froze $170 in donations, which were not transferable to the LAA account. Although Lena provided all requested documentation (e.g., ID, statements, proof of address), PayPal still would not accept. A decision was made to refund PayPal contributions to all donors. Lena emailed donors regarding their refunds and directed them to use Square for future donations. Vincent opened the floor for questions, and there were none. Katya thanked Vincent for his report and service.

1. **Identity Committee:**  Mel stepped up to chair this committee but was not present today. In her stead, Vincent offered a brief update. Currently, the identity committee is reviewing two different issues: a) the possibility of establishing LAA as a non-profit or LLC (Mel), and b) the Basic Text copyright dispute (Vincent). Committee members are waiting to hear back from a couple of law firms for fee estimates.
2. **Literature Committee:** Vincent informed that Chris resigned from the literature committee. The committee prepared a draft on “patterns of love addiction” and “recovery.” Before moving forward with the completed draft, the copyright dispute must be resolved.
3. **Meeting Coordinator:**  Alexey agreed to take over the Google Calendar and is still maintaining this document. Linda advised there is no need to have a second person involved in the process.

**IV. Discussions/Motions:**

1. **PayPal Account:** Vincent reiterated the PayPal issue has been resolved. Lena refunded donations, and the PayPal account is currently at zero. We are now using Square to accept 7th Tradition donations. Vincent indicated that PayPal is a very difficult payment system to use.
2. **Copyright Issue:** Vincent proposed using £500 of fellowship funds to legally address the copyright dispute. At present, the literature committee is awaiting responses from a few law firms to provide quotes for representation. Vincent proposed we use a third of 7th Tradition funds to resolve the copyright issue. Katya prefers that LAA monies not be used for legal representation. Per Vincent, the purpose of retaining legal counsel is to copyright the literature, not to take legal action against anyone.

Susan P. asserted that she wrote the literature and therefore owns copyrights to the literature, including the Basic Text. Susan consulted a lawyer who advised her that the author owns the copyright. She believes we can resolve the copyright issue without legal intervention. Susan has forwarded emails to the literature committee, but no one has replied. She wants LAA to have the Basic Text with the stipulation that LAA communicate with her in regard to making substantive changes. According to Susan, the copy of the Basic Text in circulation is not the IBM approved version. Ultimately, Susan requests that LAA IBM upload the “correct” version of the book previously voted on. Vincent objected to Susan’s comment by stating that the stories in the basic text were written by various authors; thus, Susan P. cannot claim copyright to the entire work.

Susan P. maintained that she authored 100% of the literature and edited member stories. The member stories constitute only 25% of the Basic Text. Susan P. is requesting that the “correct IBM approved” version of the Basic Text be made available to the fellowship on the condition that she be consulted on any changes. In the short term, Susan wants LAA to upload her IBM approved version to the Book Patch. Andrew objected that no single member of LAA has the authority to declare a version of the Basic Text, nor any other piece of LAA literature, as the “correct” version.

Susan P.’s main concern is that she wants to be included in discussions regarding substantive revisions. In trying to resolve this issue, Susan expressed that she has felt ignored and invisible (e.g., committee members have failed to reply to emails).

The literature committee is presently working on new literature but, at this time, is not claiming copyrights. According to Vincent, the LAA literature, in its entirety, belongs to LAA—not to any one person. The Book Patch has publishing rights to the LAA Basic Text. There are two existing Book Patch accounts: one in Susan’s name and the other in the name of LAA. Following her medical illness, Susan tried to gain access to the LAA Book Patch accounts but could not do so. Andrew maintained that group conscience will determine the correct version of the LAA Basic Text.

Pooja initially proposed that Susan P.’s copy of the Basic Text be submitted to the LAA IBM and circulated to the fellowship. Tisha motioned that Susan provide the most updated version of the LAA Basic Text to the literature committee as soon as possible. Linda seconded. Vincent opposed. A vote was put forth, and the majority of members approved Tisha’s motion. Susan will forward her copy to Tisha via email.

**V. Necessary Service Positions to fill:** Discussion deferred until next meeting.

Katya tabled other discussion items and moved to conclude the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 a.m. PT.

**VI. 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.”