LAA Love Addicts Anonymous

**Meeting Type**: Ordinary ODAAT Meeting

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

**Dat**e: August 5, 2023

**Start time:** 10:30 a.m. PT **(**110 mins.)

**Attendees:** Andrew, Katya, Adam, Alexey, Dave, Ili, Kendra M., Krista, Laurie M., Lindsey W., Marie K., Mary, Rhonda, Rich, Susan P., Tiffany, Tisha, Vincent, Pamela M.

**ODAAT Service Positions**

**Chair:** Andrew

**Recording Secretary:** Pamela M.

1. **Moment of Silence followed by Opening Prayer (Serenity – “we version”)**
2. **Approval of Prior Minutes** 
   1. July meeting minutes were unavailable for review and approval.
3. **Committee Reports**
   1. IBM Business Meeting: Katya provided a summary of the August IBM business meeting. The bulk of the discussion centered on the LAA literature copyright dispute. The 7th Tradition problem has been resolved. Due to time constraints, several business items were deferred. Katya added we have a lot more work to do to make LAA a stronger organization.
   2. Treasurer: According to Vincent, ODAAT does not have a separate 7th Tradition, nor does it have a treasurer. Vincent, who serves as IBM treasurer, agreed to be the provisional ODAAT treasurer.
   3. Host Coordinator: Lindsey reported that the Saturday morning host is stepping down, but they have agreed to wait until a replacement is found. Another member expressed interest in taking over the Saturday morning time slot but has not made a final decision. Lindsey is currently recruiting for a member to replace her as host coordinator. She has spoken to a couple of individuals she thinks would be a good fit for the position. Until a replacement is found, Lindsey will continue to serve in this capacity.
4. **ODAAT Agenda Items**
   1. Recording Secretary: Andrew informed that Cynthia recently stepped down from the secretarial position, and Pamela has agreed to serve in this role. Andrew nominated Pamela to be accepted as the official LAA recording secretary for both monthly business meetings. Katya seconded, and there were no objections.
   2. LAA Closing Prayer: Lindsey proposed that the LAA closing prayer be restructured to reflect a more uniform recitation. She dislikes the way the prayer is currently recited (i.e., cacophony of voices). Marie pointed out that technology and Internet connectivity might pose a barrier to reciting the closing prayer in perfect unison. A few members indicated they like the cacophony of voices. Andrew likes the idea of balance and the goal of trying to speak in unison. He suggested that editing the prayer’s punctuation and spacing might facilitate a smoother cadence. Katya offered that hosts could begin reciting the prayer, pause, then allow others to catch up. Susan stated the LAA prayer was written by a few members and was approved by the literature committee. Lindsey offered to take the lead on this agenda item for ODAAT only and will work with a linguistic expert to effect the changes. Lindsey motioned to revise the prayer’s punctuation, Andrew amended, asking Lindsey to take the helm. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
   3. Qualifications for Service Positions: Katya introduced a document that includes guidelines for commitments, qualifications, and resignation protocol for LAA and ODAAT service positions. Proposed guidelines may include one year in program, willingness to attend business meetings, working the LAA 12 steps, willingness to abide by group conscience decisions, willingness to participate in WhatsApp Groups, knowledge of Roberts’ Rules of Order, drafting an agenda for ODAAT business meetings, term limits, and resignation protocol.

A lengthy discussion ensued, with members offering various opinions on this agenda item. Some of the more salient ideas were as follows: a) Katya stated that qualifications for the host coordinator and meeting host positions need to be addressed urgently, and the guidelines can be adjusted on an ongoing basis; b) Lindsey stated that the biggest problem she has encountered is meeting hosts quitting without advance notice; c) Andrew advised it is within the purview of the IBM to set LAA service positions. He added we should make Katya’s draft a “living breathing document” to reflect ongoing changes and recommendations. Andrew suggested we should consider forming an ODAAT service committee to flush out recommendations and proposed guidelines. Katya agreed to share the document with the fellowship on WhatsApp and IBM to allow for track changes; d) Krista suggested that the term “service commitments” be used instead of “term limits”; e) Marie and Vincent offered that a minimum service commitment should be three months; f) Susan stated that in times past, newcomers were allowed to host in emergency situations.

At this juncture, establishing host coordinator guidelines have the highest priority, followed by guidelines for meeting host qualifications. Andrew stated we need a qualifications committee for two reasons: 1) to address current issues, and 2) to evaluate prospective hosts.

Katya motioned to form a committee to address host qualification guidelines. Andrew seconded, and there were no objections. Katya’s motion was passed unanimously.

* 1. ID of ODAAT Meeting Participants: Marie stated there have been instances of people “jumping on the meeting” without identifying themselves. In another instance, one of our members was able to determine there was a bot in attendance. Pamela noted there is suspicion regarding a participant who has never shared their video, nor spoken verbally, even when asked to do so. To ensure group safety, should we request participants to self-identify? Andrew stated this is a very important and troubling issue. With the advancement of artificial intelligence (AI), group safety is paramount. If a person is unwilling to identify themselves, then they have not met the minimum requirement for admittance and group participation. Andrew indicated that other 12-step fellowships have a screening process. Due to the nature and sensitivity of our shares, LAA should be a closed meeting.

As a solution, Krista proposed asking individuals to show their faces momentarily so that hosts can ensure they are a real person. While we do not want to create barriers to people getting help, we must do everything possible to create a safe virtual space for our members. Katya motioned that hosts/cohosts place people in the waiting room to identify them and deem them safe. Andrew amended Katya’s motion to include updating our host training and safety protocols. The amendment also includes updating the opening literature for future meetings. Katya’s motion was seconded and unanimously passed. Tisha agreed to update the meeting literature to reflect these changes.

* 1. WhatsApp Groups Admins: WhatsApp Group administrators who are not active should be removed. Tisha motioned to remove inactive admins on LAA WhatsApp Groups. Andrew seconded Tisha’s motion, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Katya indicated we need to institute etiquette on the WhatsApp groups. The app has been used inappropriately to discuss emotionally charged content, which should be reserved for meetings.

Susan requested to be reinstated to the WhatsApp Groups to have access to the minutes. She feels she has not received “due process.” Susan added she has grown and wants to serve LAA. Andrew stated he appreciates Susan’s authenticity and willingness to make amends to the group. Susan’s topic will be first on the agenda for next month.

The LAA closing prayer was recited, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:50 a.m. P.T.