

LAA *Love Addicts Anonymous*

Meeting Type: International Business Meeting (IBM)

Location: [Zoom Link](#)

Date: December 2, 2023

Start time: 8:00 a.m. PST (~60 mins.)

Attendees: Katya, Dominic, Krista, Pooja, Tisha, Lindsey, & Pamela

IBM Service Positions:

Chair: Katya

Secretary: Pamela M.

Timekeeper: None

- I. Opening Verse** – Serenity Prayer.
- II. Approval of November IBM Minutes**
 - i. Pamela screen-shared meeting minutes from 11/4/23 for final review. Katya motioned to approve the minutes and Pamela seconded. November minutes were accepted and approved with no objections.
- III. Committee Reports**
 - i. **IBM Chair** (Katya) – Katya has faithfully served as IBM Chair for 2 years. She stated she is entirely open, willing, and ready to hand over this role. Until other members express interest in the position, Katya will continue to serve in this capacity. Katya invites more members to attend LAA monthly business meetings. LAA as a whole needs more members to serve in other service positions as well.
 - ii. **Website Committee** (Tisha) – Mary, our webmaster, is preparing to step down from this position. Dominic, who has experience with WordPress™, has volunteered to assume the role of webmaster. Katya thanked Dominic for agreeing to take on this very important service position. Per Tisha, Dominic and Mary have been in contact regarding the transition. Tisha noted that Mary has personally absorbed the annual expense of maintaining the website as her contribution to the fellowship. Going forward, a decision regarding the handling of future website maintenance expenses (e.g., domain and the hosting site) will be made.

- iii. **Treasury Committee** (Vincent - absent) – Vincent posted his Treasury report in the IBM Chat (see below). The current bank balance is £1,735.69 (US \$2,186.97). In total, we received just under US \$85 in 7th Tradition donations during November. Vincent advised that his second six-month term as Treasurer ends at the end of December 2023. Accordingly, LAA must appoint a new Treasurer, beginning January 2024. Rotation in service is an important recovery principle, and Vincent stated he is happy to facilitate a smooth and orderly transition by providing any assistance needed. If anyone is interested in learning more about this service position, please feel free to direct message Vincent on the IBM Chat. He can provide more information about the position qualifications and requirements.

LAA Fellowship Bank Balance As At 30 November 2023
(UK Bank Account Denominated in Pound Sterling)

Sort Code (All)		
Sum of Amount		
Month	Description	Total
2023-07	Opening Balance	£20.25
	7th Tradition Transfer	£1,457.12
	Square - Total 7th Tradition Donations	£4.62
2023-07 Total		£1,481.99
2023-08	Square - Total 7th Tradition Donations	£90.39
	Stripe - Total 7th Tradition Donations	£6.45
2023-08 Total		£96.84
2023-09	Stripe - Total 7th Tradition Donations	£68.50
2023-09 Total		£68.50
2023-10	Stripe - Total 7th Tradition Donations	£21.45
2023-10 Total		£21.45
2023-11	Stripe - Total 7th Tradition Donations	£66.91
2023-11 Total		£66.91
BANK BALANCE		£1,735.69

Approx \$1,865 transferred from old 7th Tradition

Bank Balance Converted to Other Currencies
(Exchange Rate as at 30 November 2023)

Currency	Balance	Exchange Rate
Pound Sterling	1,735.69	1.00
US Dollars	2,186.97	1.26
Canadian Dollars	2,968.03	1.71
Euros	2,030.76	1.17
Australian Dollars	3,297.81	1.90

Example of Payment Fees Charged:

Donation	Square	Stripe
One Pound	26 p	
Two Pounds		27 p
Five Pounds	38 p	28 p
Ten Pounds	50 p	

- iv. **Literature Committee** (Tisha) – No report.
- v. **Identity Committee** (Mel, Tisha) – No report.
- vi. **Fellowship Reports (ODAAT, South Africa, Russia, Christian, Sunday Step Study, Women-Only, In-Person meetings)** – In the IBM Chat, Linda (not present) announced that the Sunday Step Study, which is held weekly at 10:00 AM PST, has been operating since 2020 via Zoom. Because the existing service team is unable to continue the study, this meeting will be discontinued at year end unless another member is willing to assume host responsibilities and/or start a new meeting, perhaps on a different day/time. Linda has been getting the word out and stands ready to pass on the meeting resources to the new group. If no one steps up to take over, the Step Study will terminate at the end of December 2023.

Via the IBM Chat, Linda also announced that the LAA for Christians meeting, a literature meeting held on Fridays at 10:00 AM PST, is currently studying a book entitled *Naked and Transparent* by Vladimire Calixte. All women are welcome.

Weekly attendance at the LAA for Christians meeting ranges from 10 to 15 participants. The Monday LAA for Christians meeting, held at 3:30 PM PST, is open to all and has a rotating schedule that includes a topic, member share, promise of the month, and tradition/step of the month. Weekly attendance averages 10 participants. Speaking on behalf of the two South Africa groups, Pooja indicated one of the South Africa meetings currently does not have a host. Pooja continues to host the other meeting. LAA South Africa is currently seeking a representative to serve as a general administrator of both groups.

- vii. **Safety Committee** (Pooja/Dominic/Tisha) – On several occasions, a male member has “approached” some female members, causing them to feel uncomfortable. Although a final decision has not been made, the committee is considering recommending that this individual take a break from LAA. Due to reasons related to her recovery, Pooja has stepped away from being actively involved in committee discussions. Instead, Pooja has been working on the safety guidelines documents (e.g., outreach guidelines). Regarding any pending decisions, Pooja is leaving this process to the other safety committee members. The safety committee is currently seeking volunteers to serve on this committee, as there is much work to be done. Katya thanked all the committees for their service.

IV. **Discussions & Motions**

- i. **LAA-wide Safety Guidelines Recommendations** (Dominic) – To date, there have been no changes/updates to the draft Dominic presented at the last IBM, which proposed various safety guidelines and recommendations. Katya inquired as to whether the safety committee agreed on how complaints/concerns should be elevated. Dominic indicated no decision has been made to that effect. Katya stated that we need additional members to volunteer to do service on the safety committee, as well as other committees. She added that committees need to meet more regularly to ensure that objectives are being met. Katya invites meeting hosts to announce that LAA is actively soliciting members to step up for service.

In addressing Katya’s concerns, Pooja recalled that a member recently volunteered to serve on the safety committee, although they have not yet joined. She added that feedback offered at the last IBM regarding the safety committee’s recommendations has been documented. The safety committee meets on a regular basis.

At the ODAAT Thursday PM meeting, Tisha announced that the safety committee is seeking volunteers. Tisha suggested we post an announcement on the WAGs that the safety committee is seeking volunteers to serve on this committee. In terms of elevating complaints/concerns, Tisha stated the present status is for members to forward their concerns directly to meeting hosts who then will forward their concerns to members of the safety committee.

Due to the exigency of safety concerns, Katya strongly suggested that the safety committee establish a set time to regularly meet to address these concerns and to finalize their recommendations before year end. More broadly, Katya expressed frustration that subcommittee work appears to be “falling through the cracks.” Pooja and Katya suggested posting announcements on the ODAAT Service WAG that show the service positions currently available. Dominic volunteered to take on this assignment.

Katya addressed a recent complaint that the safety committee guidelines draft, which was referenced in the November meeting minutes, was not posted on the IBM WAG when the November minutes were posted. Katya fully supports the safety committee’s determination as to when the document is to be shared with the entire fellowship. She advised that as soon as the draft is finalized/completed with the committee’s recommendations, the document be published on the IBM WAG for a 30-day fellowship-wide review and later presented at IBM for a group conscience decision.

- ii. **LAA Literature** – (Tisha) Although there is a need, unfortunately, no updates/revisions have been made to the extant LAA literature. At present, Tisha does not have enough support to move this project forward. In addition, revising the existing LAA literature or drafting new literature intersects with the need for LAA to be established as a formal legal entity, especially in view of existing copyright challenges. Pooja previously volunteered to serve on the literature committee, and she is ready to meet. Pamela also has expressed interest in serving on this committee.
- iii. **Identity Committee** – (Tisha) Due to a lack of service commitments, the identity committee is at a standstill. Although Tisha has made multiple attempts to re-engage committee members, she is not a one-man show. Tisha needs the full support and cooperation of other members to advance the objectives of this committee. Tisha will coordinate with Dominic to announce the need for more members to get involved with both the identity and literature committees.
- iv. **LAA Service Qualifications/Commitments Guidelines** – (Pamela) Andrew, Marie, and Pamela met in November to finalize the committee’s service qualifications/guidelines recommendations. Pamela screen-shared the document reflecting the committee’s final recommendations. Katya suggested that certain service positions (e.g., IBM chair, ODAAT chair, Treasurer) should include the requirement that members attend IBM each month. Pamela noted that the role of greeter/newcomer liaison was added to the service positions/guidelines document. Pooja requested that the position of LAA South Africa representative be added to the list of available service positions. Katya announced that Lindsey has opted to continue serving as LAA’s host coordinator.
- v. **Service Rotation Guidelines/Recommendations/Rules** (Katya) Recently, a member complained that the IBM Chair position has not rotated in a while.

Having served in this role for 2 years, Katya is entirely ready to step down to allow someone else to step up. At the same time, if no one else has expressed interest in assuming the position, Katya does not feel she should be forced out, especially given that there are significant service deficits in LAA. Pooja agreed with Katya's standpoint and questioned the basis on which the member made the criticism/complaint. Dominic agreed with Pooja and stated that he fully supports Katya in her role as IBM chair. Tisha understands the need for service rotation; however, when there is a limited supply of qualified members to fill key positions, then service rotation guidelines should be relaxed to allow for the continuity of fellowship business and operations.

- V. **Vacant Service Positions** – As discussed, the following vacant service positions need to be filled as soon as possible: treasurer, ODAAT meeting cohost, safety committee member, literature committee member, identity committee member, and LAA South Africa representative.

- VI. **Closing Prayer** - Katya adjourned the meeting at 9:00 A.M. PST with the LAA Closing Prayer:

LAA Closing Prayer

*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 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.