

LAA *Love Addicts Anonymous*

Meeting Type: Ordinary International Business Meeting (IBM)

Location: [Zoom Link](#)

Date: January 6, 2024

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

Attendees: Katya, Dominic, Alex, Andrew, Chris, Courtney, Lindsey, Linda, Lisa, Rachel, Vincent, Zuzana, & Pamela

IBM Service Positions:

Chair: Katya

Secretary: Pamela M.

Timekeeper: None

- I. Opening Verse – Serenity Prayer (an extended version)**
- II. Approval of December IBM Minutes**
 - i. Pamela screen-shared the meeting minutes from 12/2/23 for final review. Katya motioned to approve the minutes and Pamela seconded. The December IBM minutes were adopted and unanimously approved.
- III. Committee Reports**
 - i. **IBM Chair (Katya)** – Katya welcomed everyone to the first IBM of 2024. As chair, Katya has served faithfully in this position for two years, and she is entirely ready to step out of the role. She has remained in service because, to date, no one else has come forward to apply for the position, and no nominations have been made. Due to several key service positions needing to be filled, Katya does not want to do LAA a disservice by insisting on stepping out of the role without a replacement. Anyone interested in serving as IBM chair or who wishes to nominate another member, please feel free to do so at the next business meeting or via the IBM chat. Katya reminded everyone that we have a dire need for volunteers to serve on the following committees: LAA Identity, Literature, and Safety Committees.
 - ii. **Website Committee (Dominic)** – During December, two changes were made to the website: a) a meeting cancellation announcement for the LAA for Christians Fellowship on Christmas day, and b) the former LAA webmaster has been

reimbursed for all out-of-pocket expenses. Web hosting expenses are paid up for another year.

- iii. **Treasury Committee** (Vincent) – Vincent has served more than 12 months as the IBM treasurer. The Seventh Tradition link has been suspended pending the installation of Vincent’s replacement. Vincent reported that the account balance is approximately \$2,100 in U.S. currency. Web hosting expenses were paid/reimbursed to cover the next 12 months. Vincent indicated he is willing to continue paying expenses until we find a new treasurer; however, the Seventh Tradition link will remain deactivated until a new treasurer is in place. Vincent added that he is willing to assist in the transfer of funds to the new treasurer. The annual Zoom license is coming up for renewal. Vincent recommended that the annual license be converted to a monthly expenditure, as it is easier to keep track on a monthly basis.
- iv. **ODAAT Literature Committee** (Pamela) – The ODAAT ad hoc literature committee met in December to conduct a line-by-line analysis of the host script and make any proposed changes. The committee made several minor revisions, and the draft was edited. The literature committee is scheduled to meet on February 1st to address additional feedback. Once the draft is finalized, Pamela will present the final draft at the next business meeting for review and feedback. Pursuant to group conscience, the finalized meeting script will be posted on the WAGs to give the entire fellowship an opportunity to peruse and offer feedback. It should be noted that the LAA literature committee and the ODAAT ad hoc working group are two different committees. The LAA literature committee was established to edit/develop the LAA body of literature, while the newly formed ODAAT ad hoc working group was formed to review/edit the ODAAT meeting script and to develop an ODAAT host training manual.
- v. **Identity Committee** (Dominic) – Dominic reached out to AA for guidance on establishing LAA as a legal organization and is waiting for a response. He also reached out to a legal services firm for guidance on this issue but has not heard back. Dominic noted he is not the official chair of the identity committee. He merely offered to assist the committee by reaching out to other 12-step organizations to learn how they were formed.
- vi. **International Fellowship Reports** [ODAAT, South Africa, Russia, Christian, Sunday Step Study, Women-Only, In-Person meetings] – Linda reported that both LAA for Christians meetings are well attended. The women’s only group is held on Fridays, and the general meeting is held on Mondays. Linda stated the Christian groups are still having trouble establishing a stable team of service members, which necessitates frequent rotation within the groups. The LAA Sunday Step Study meeting has resumed with a new service team. Linda no longer holds a service position in the Sunday Step Study group. She offered to provide the Google Drive link to the Step Study materials to interested service members. The South Africa Fellowship held on Tuesdays is strong, but the

Thursday meeting is not well attended. After a long service run, the chair of the Thursday South Africa meeting is stepping down.

- vii. **Safety Committee** (Dominic) – Dominic reported that a draft of the safety guidelines recommendations is nearly finalized for review and adoption. An email was created recently to allow LAA members to report safety concerns and/or complaints. The email address is safety@loveaddictsanonymous.org. Dominic added that the safety committee continues to seek additional members to serve on the committee.

IV. Discussions & Motions

- i. **LAA Safety Guidelines & Recommendations** – The latest draft of the safety committee’s guidelines/recommendations was screen-shared for review. Dominic indicated that since the last sharing, the draft was edited only for minor revisions. Katya invited attendees to review the draft and offer feedback. Vincent stated that the draft guidelines cannot be voted upon until the wider fellowship has had an opportunity to inspect them. Dominic acknowledged that the draft was finalized and is ready to be shared with the LAA fellowship via the WAGs. At that time, everyone will have an opportunity to inspect the draft, offer feedback, ask questions, and make recommendations.

Katya raised a concern that the draft guidelines do not include an appeal process, nor is there a provision for reinstating banned members. Dominic indicated these issues have been addressed by the safety committee; however, the draft has not been updated to reflect changes in recommendations. Based on Katya’s questions/concerns, Dominic assured that the safety committee will review/edit the draft and post the finalized draft on the WAGs for the entire fellowship to inspect.

Chris asked if Dominic was familiar with the most current LAA meeting guidelines document, which includes a “Host Bill of Rights.” Because Dominic was not aware of this document, Chris offered to post the document in the chat for the safety committee to review. The Host Bill of Rights authorizes hosts to ban disruptive or unruly members from future meetings for at least one week or permanently, pursuant to a group conscience at a business meeting. Further, the Host Bill of Rights contains language for member reinstatement that might be helpful for the safety committee to consider. Chris emphasized that the Host Bill of Rights pertains only to meetings, not the WAGs. Katya asked if the safety guidelines should be expanded to include all LAA forums including the WAGs. Dominic concurred.

Vincent shared that in addition to the steps and traditions, other fellowships, such as AA, have adopted the “*Fifth Concept of Service*.” Concept 5 states that members have the right to appeal or petition *any* grievance, including banning. Vincent underscored that a group conscience decision must take precedence over

any committee guidelines or recommendations, especially when banning a member is recommended.

Banning a member from a group is a very serious action, cautioned Andrew, and should only be taken as a last resort. Andrew suggested that ODAAT, as an autonomous group, might need to institute its own safety committee to address any safety issues that might result in banning a member.

- ii. **LAA Identity Committee** – Dominic recently contacted Susan P. regarding the copyright dispute, as well as to ascertain where she currently stands regarding the sell/use of the LAA Basic Text. Susan advised Dominic that she holds the copyrights and is willing to allow LAA to edit and market the book. Susan also indicated that any proceeds from the sale of the book may be donated pursuant to the Seventh Tradition. Further, if LAA decides to edit her work, Susan is willing to provide the book in an editable format. Vincent cautioned that we should be careful in asserting that Susan owns the book’s copyright. He informed that Susan lodged a copyright infringement complaint against Bookpatch, the company that LAA uses to market the Basic Text. According to Vincent, the complaint was not upheld on the grounds that Susan does not hold the copyright. On the copyright dispute, Vincent stated he sought legal advice and was advised that if an individual is asked to write a document on behalf of an organization, the organization holds the copyright, not the author. Vincent has reviewed the current version of the Basic Text that Susan provided and highlighted all changes that were made to the text. He then forwarded these highlighted changes to Tisha for her review.
- iii. **LAA Literature Committees**– Katya asked for clarification regarding the existing literature committees and suggested that both the LAA literature committee and the ODAAT ad hoc literature committee be consolidated, especially since LAA is currently experiencing a service shortage. At issue are revisions that need to be made to the LAA basic text, host script, and ODAAT meeting literature. Andrew reminded everyone that the formation of the ODAAT ad hoc literature committee was unanimously adopted at the December business meeting to review and revise the “host docs.”

The ODAAT ad hoc literature committee held their first meeting in December to review/edit the meeting script. In response to Katya’s suggestion, Andrew is not necessarily opposed to potentially streamlining the literature committee process, but pointed out that there are various fellowships/groups operating within the larger LAA structure, which includes ODAAT. As such, the ODAAT literature committee would need to reconvene to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of subsuming its responsibilities under the LAA literature committee, as a function of IBM.

Chris clarified that the ODAAT meeting script is technically not “literature,” as are the readings, books, and guidelines shared during meetings. All literature falls

under the purview of LAA. Thus, the meeting readings should apply across the entire fellowship. Each “group” within LAA has its own meeting script (e.g., ODAAT host script). Linda’s understanding is that LAA groups have no authority to make changes to the literature.

- V. **Closing Prayer** – The meeting was adjourned 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.