

# **LAA** *Love Addicts Anonymous*

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

**Location:** [Zoom Link](#)

**Date:** October 7, 2023

**Start time:** 10:30 a.m. PST (~60 mins.)

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**Attendees:** Chris E., Anastasia, Victoria, Sara P., Haleh, Pooja, Corie, Andrew, Dominic M., Jose, Norma, & Pamela

## **IBM Service Positions**

**Chair:** Chris E.

**Secretary:** Pamela M.

**Timekeeper:** Dominic M.

- I. Opening Verse** – Moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer (we version)
- II. Approval of Prior IBM Minutes**
  - a. August 5, 2023 – After the minutes were reviewed, Chris made a motion to approve them; Pamela seconded. August minutes were accepted and approved with no objections.
  - b. September 2, 2023 – After the minutes were reviewed, Chris made a motion to approve them; Pamela seconded. September minutes were accepted and approved with no objections.
- III. Committee Reports**
  - a. Website (Tisha, absent) – no report.
  - b. Treasurer (Vincent) – Vincent was not present, as he is on a break from LAA. On October 1, 2023, Vincent posted a summary of the September bank account information on the IBM Chat (see below). As of July 30, 2023, the account balance was £1,481.99. During the past couple of months, multiple donations were received in varying amounts totaling £165.34. In August, both Square and Stripe were used to receive donations. Starting in September, donations will be collected using Stripe only. As of September 30, 2023, the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition account balance is £1,647.33, which is equivalent to approximately \$2,000.

**LAA Fellowship Bank Balance As At 30 September 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 7th Tradition Donation	£4.62
<b>2023-07 Total</b>		<b>£1,481.99</b>
2023-08	Square 7th Tradition Donation	£90.39
	Stripe 7th Tradition Donation	£6.45
<b>2023-08 Total</b>		<b>£96.84</b>
2023-09	Stripe 7th Tradition Donation	£68.50
<b>2023-09 Total</b>		<b>£68.50</b>
<b>BANK BALANCE</b>		<b>£1,647.33</b>

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

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

Currency	Balance	Exchange Rate
<b>Pound Sterling</b>	<b>1,647.33</b>	<b>1</b>
US Dollars	2,009.74	1.22
Canadian Dollars	2,734.57	1.66
Euros	1,894.43	1.15
Australian Dollars	3,129.93	1.9

**Example of Fees Charged:**

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

- c. Literature – no report.
- d. Identity – no report.
- e. Service Position Guidelines (Pamela) – This ad hoc committee met on September 15, 2023. In attendance were Katya, Marie, Justin, and Pamela. Committee members discussed possible guidelines criteria for certain service positions including the ODAAT host coordinator/alternate, the ODAAT host/co-host, and we proposed that the role of sponsor be added to the list of service positions in LAA. The committee recommends that for most service positions, members qualify with at least six months of active involvement in LAA.

For the ODAAT host coordinator/alternate position, the committee proposed at least six months of active involvement in the LAA program, a one-year service commitment, and three months' notice to resign. For the ODAAT meeting host/co-host position, the committee recommends that the prospective host have at least three months active involvement in LAA, make a three-month service commitment with an option to renew, have familiarity with Zoom technology, and demonstrate a willingness to fill in for other hosts, as needed. The committee will meet once more in October to finalize its recommendations and report back to IBM.

- f. ODAAT (Andrew) – Andrew summarized the following discussion items from the last meeting: reinstating a member on the WAG, the need for additional WAG administrators, adoption of the newly formatted LAA Closing Prayer, Vincent's suggestion to amend introductory reading with respect to "getting current," and the need for a new meeting host coordinator to replace Lindsey. It was noted that Tisha updated the meeting script/introductory readings to reflect the newly formatted closing prayer. The updated document was posted on the IBM WAG.

- IV. Russian LAA Representatives (Anastasia and Victoria)** – Anastasia and Victoria (translator) reported that a female in Russia formed a closed/private LAA group that admits individuals by invitation only. Additionally, the Russian representatives expressed group safety concerns. Against this backdrop, the following questions were raised: (a) Is it possible to create closed/private LAA groups such as described? (b) What are the rules and regs around forming an LAA group? (c) How do we address group safety concerns such as verbal/emotional abuse?

Andrew attempted to get further clarification by identifying two main issues: (a) How is an LAA group formed? And (b) What are the specific safety concerns? Due to the language barrier, Chris proposed that the representatives put their questions in writing. In the chat, Dominic communicated with the representatives in Russian to facilitate the discussion. Andrew posted the Twelve Traditions in Russian, and the representatives seemed satisfied that the Traditions would serve as a starting point in addressing their questions.

The representatives agreed to put their questions in writing. In reviewing the Traditions, Victoria stated “these rules are not followed.” She went on to say that people are not allowed into the group without a personal invitation. Chris advised that the practice of vetting participants in 12-step groups is not uncommon, as each group is autonomous, so long as the Traditions are not violated.

Pooja emphasized that closed group meetings are not a problem; however, if the Traditions are not followed, then the group cannot operate as an LAA fellowship. Pooja referred the representatives to the LAA Website and recommended Robert’s Rules of Order in conducting group meetings. Victoria asked if a person who has not worked the 12 steps is able to do service. Chris and Andrew replied that discussion and group conscience dictate the requirements for doing service. Chris recommended that the representatives refer to the LAA Website for additional guidance. The discussion was tabled, and Dominic agreed to further communicate with the Russian representatives on WhatsApp.

- V. Iranian LAA Representatives (Sara P. and Haleh)** – Sara and Haleh (translator) expressed interest in forming an LAA group in Iran. Chris posted a link in the chat to the LAA Website/literature. He advised the representatives to establish a group/meeting and report back. Permission from LAA, as a fellowship, is not required. Chris made a motion for the representatives to start a meeting in Iran and Andrew seconded the motion. With no objections, the Iranians were encouraged to start a meeting in Iran. Chris added we are available to offer any guidance to assist in their efforts. Andrew posted information in their language to offer further guidance. In terms of establishing LAA fellowships outside of the U.S., Chris and Pooja encouraged the Iranian and Russian representatives to communicate in the WhatsApp groups outside of meetings with LAA service members.

Due to time constraints, agenda items such as the LAA safety guidelines were deferred until the next IBM meeting. Chris adjourned the meeting with the **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 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.