

LAA *Love Addicts Anonymous*

Meeting Type: International Business Meeting (IBM)

Location: [Zoom Link](#)

Date: November 4, 2023

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

Attendees: Katya, Anna, Dominic M., Krista, Lindsey W., Pooja, Tisha, & Pamela

IBM Service Positions

Chair: Katya

Secretary: Pamela M.

Timekeeper: None

- I. Opening Verse – The Serenity Prayer.**
- II. Approval of Prior IBM Minutes**
 - a. October 7, 2023 – Pamela screen-shared the October minutes for final review. Katya motioned to approve the minutes, and Pamela seconded. October minutes were accepted and unanimously approved.
- III. Committee Reports**
 - a. **IBM** – Dominic reflected that last month’s meeting, which included Russian and Iranian representatives and their translators, went well. Using Google Translate, Dominic and Andrew assisted in translating for the representatives to answer their questions.
 - b. **Website** (Tisha) – Tisha shared three important updates: a) the LAA webmaster plans to retire soon; thus, LAA needs to find her replacement. The webmaster is willing to stay on until a replacement is found, and she is willing to train her replacement before her departure; c) revamping the LAA website to make it more user-friendly would involve changing the current template, which, according to the webmaster, would be very difficult; d) meeting time changes were submitted and will be updated on the website soon.
 - c. **Treasury** (Vincent) – On the IBM WAG, Vincent posted the current 7th Tradition bank statement. During October, six donations were received via Stripe, totaling

£21.45. As of October 31st, the bank balance is £1,668.78 (see below). Vincent advised that, for the month of October, we were not self-supporting, as the single donation did not cover Zoom licensing and LAA website hosting/domain expenses. Katya indicated that, overall, we have sufficient funds to cover our expenses. Our Zoom license is due for renewal in February 2024, and the Web hosting/domain is due for renewal in January 2024.

LAA Fellowship Bank Balance As At 31 October 2023
(UK Bank Account Denominated in Pound Sterling)

Sum of Amount		
Month	Description	Grand 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
BANK BALANCE		£1,668.78

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
Pound Sterling	1,668.78	1.00
US Dollars	2,019.22	1.21
Canadian Dollars	2,803.55	1.68
Euros	1,919.10	1.15
Australian Dollars	3,170.68	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	

d. **Literature** (Tisha) – We are in the process of reorganizing the literature committee. If anyone is interested in serving on this committee, please contact Tisha.

e. **Identity** (Mel, Tisha) – No report.

IV. Discussion & Motions

a. **LAA-Wide Safety Guideline Recommendations** (Dominic, Tisha, & Pooja) – To serve on the safety committee, an individual must have at least three months of LAA membership and no pending safety violations. Dominic presented a two-page, type-written document outlining unsafe and unruly behavior, as well as a recommended protocol for handling offenses. Examples of behaviors deemed unsafe include flirting, intriguing (e.g., asking personal questions, flattery), dating, approaching members via private message or by phone, excessive attention, stalking behavior, and bullying. Examples of behaviors deemed unruly include cross-talking, spamming, interrupting a host or chair, and excessive posting.

To address unsafe and unruly behavior, the safety committee proposed a five-step protocol for handling offenses: 1) complainant timely reports the offense to a meeting host/WAG admin, as appropriate, 2) host/admin acknowledges the member's complaint and collects evidence, 3) host/admin private messages the

offender to advise and remind them of the safety guidelines, 4) in the event of a second offense, the host/admin may share the safety guidelines in the group space; and a member of the safety committee contacts the offender shortly following the incident, and 5) in the event of a third offense, the member may be required to take a break from LAA.

Dominic continued his presentation with recommendations to prevent an “unsolicited presence” (e.g., bad actors) from showing up and/or disrupting ODAAT meetings, LAA business meetings, and WAGs. The first suggestion proposed by the committee was to edit the meeting script as follows:

We invite and encourage newcomers to unmute and introduce yourselves by your first name. This is not to embarrass you but simply to get to know you better and to prevent any unsolicited presence in the meeting space. For the same reason, you also are encouraged to use the same name in all LAA meetings.

The safety committee proposed two additional actions if an offender is unresponsive and/or fails to comply with safety guidelines (e.g., placing a participant in the waiting room).

Pamela raised the issue of removing participants from meetings and the capability of the participant rejoining. Pooja expressed concern about Zoom bombers interrupting meetings. Lindsey stated if a participant is removed, they are unable to log back in for 24 hours with the same email address. Pooja countered that an email login is not required to join an LAA meeting. All that’s needed is the Zoom link. In the interest of time, Katya asked the safety committee to note and troubleshoot the technicality of removing participants who re-enter a meeting.

In order for members to bring their safety concerns to the attention of the committee, Katya proposed that a separate WAG be established. Another option is for members to private/direct message the meeting host, who then would forward the participant’s concern/complaint to a member of the safety committee. Due to privacy and safety concerns, Anna requested assurance of confidentiality and/or anonymity in raising a safety concern/complaint. If possible, Anna prefers to report her concerns anonymously. Pooja responded that the committee would address the question of anonymity and devise a way for members to report anonymously (e.g., via the Website). She encouraged Anna and Krista to send her a private message on WhatsApp to submit their present concerns.

Regarding After Hours, Katya has implemented in her meetings that participants raise their virtual hands when others are dominating discussions. Krista proposed the meeting script be revised to discourage participants from monopolizing the talking space or otherwise being disrespectful. Pooja indicated there is some inconsistency in how meetings are hosted across the board, not just ODAAT meetings and After Hours. Katya acknowledged the importance of this issue and volunteered to work on the After-Hours script to reflect recommended changes that might help hosts better facilitate meetings.

V. **Closing** – Katya adjourned the meeting at 9:00 A.M. PST 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.