

## **EXTENDED IBM MINUTES**

LOVE ADDICTS ANONYMOUS (LAA)

Date: July 5, 2025

Time: 11:03 AM EST (8:03 AM PST)

Location: Zoom (Meeting ID: 2764161378)

Chair: Tisha

Secretary: Mel

Attendees (24 total by end of meeting): Tisha, Mel, Michele, Shawn, Chris, Julie, Alyona, Antranet, Fawn, Ilu, Jennifer, Joanna, Kimberly, Linda, Lori, Naava, Naiika, Naomi, Oskar, Pooja, Samara, Toby, Vanessa, Vladimir

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### **I. Opening Prayer**

The meeting opened with the Set Aside Prayer, led by Tisha.

### **II. Call to Order**

Tisha called the meeting to order at 11:03 AM EST.

### **III. Approval of IBM Minutes**

- The minutes from the June IBM meeting were reviewed on-screen.
- No questions or objections were raised.
- The June meeting minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

### **IV. Treasurer's Report**

- The Treasurer was unavailable due to a move but submitted a financial update.
- The current treasury balance is \$3,378.07.
- The Treasurer will send an Excel spreadsheet with full financials.

### **V. Fellowship Reports**

Fellowship representatives provided 30-second updates:

- **ODAAT**: Chris reported meetings are stable, but they need hosts.
- **Christian Fellowship**: Naiika reported meetings are thriving and open to all.
- **LAA/ACA Hybrid**: Pooja reported good attendance on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
- **Saturday West Coast Meeting**: No representative was present.
- **Russia**: Oskar shared positive feedback on a new 11th step meditation group, inclusive of Christian prayers.
- **LGBTQ+ Fellowship**: Ilu shared that their first meeting went well and will continue monthly. It is a standalone meeting that uses the ODAAT script.

### **VI. Committee Reports**

- No committee reports were submitted for this meeting.

### **VII. Old Business**

- **LAA Email Administrator**: This position has been filled, but the identity of the member is confidential.
- **IBM Chairperson**: Tisha announced her term is ending and asked for interested candidates to review the job description on the website.

## VIII. New Business

### VIII.a. Motion: Does LAA Endorse the Christian Faith?

#### - Sponsored by Vanessa.

Vanessa began by thanking Tisha and acknowledging her recent involvement in the fellowship—six months in LAA but thirty years in other 12-step programs. She comes from a Christian background and values it but expressed discomfort with LAA having meetings labeled explicitly as "Christian" on its website. Vanessa stated, "We do break traditions by associating with just the name Christian. It does make us break a bunch of traditions." After multiple prompts from Tisha to clarify her motion, she finally stated the motion as: "Does LAA endorse the Christian faith?"

#### • Seconded by Pooja and Kimberly.

#### Discussion:

- **Chris** briefly supported the Christian meetings, noting they had existed since the fellowship's beginning and should continue.

- **Naiika** quoted **Tradition Four** in its short form: "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or L.A.A. as a whole." She clarified that Christian LAA meetings align with the fellowship as a whole, are open to everyone regardless of faith, and do not impose beliefs on attendees. She emphasized the group's right to choose its spiritual language within its own format.

- **Lori** argued that having the Christian meeting listed on the website is not an endorsement by LAA as a whole. She likened it to BIPOC or LGBTQ meetings and emphasized that members can choose what suits them best. She invoked the principle of "take what you like and leave the rest."

- **Naomi** read the full **Long Form of Tradition Four**:

"With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount."

She also read the **Long Form of Tradition Ten**:

"No A.A. group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate A.A., express any opinion on outside controversial issues—particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever."

Naomi clarified that these traditions emphasize group autonomy while discouraging LAA from taking sides on controversial issues, including religion.

- **Fawn** referenced her experience across multiple fellowships, emphasizing that AA's Big Book is rooted in the Bible and that spiritual specificity helps people share more freely. She stated it is respectful, not exclusionary, to allow for spiritual diversity.

- **Oskar** defended the Christian meeting, affirming it aligns with **Tradition Four**. He said it is open to all and serves those recovering through Christian language. He suggested ceasing references to AA or NA in LAA group chats as they are different fellowships.
- **Julie** pointed out that LAA is spiritual, not religious. She said the Christian meeting is optional and doesn't affect other meetings. Members who are uncomfortable with it can attend other options.
- **Michele** shared how she sometimes feels unsafe identifying openly as Christian. She described the emotional difficulty of feeling judged and said even within Christian circles, she hesitates to use the word "God." She emphasized how important safe spaces like this meeting are.
- **Shawn** called the motion hypocritical, saying it unfairly targets one kind of affinity meeting. He said, "If we have women's groups, why not Christian groups?" and expressed concern about the repeated attempts to bring up this issue by members who haven't been involved long enough.
- **Pooja** expressed neutrality. She said she has attended the Christian meeting and saw no violations or impositions. She encouraged others to experience meetings themselves before raising objections.

**Vote Results:**

- In favor: 2
- Opposed: 21

**Outcome:** Motion failed.

**VIII.b. Motion: IBM Chair/Secretary Job Descriptions and Rotation**

- **Motion 1:** To bring the IBM Chair and Secretary job descriptions to IBM for review and approval.
- **Motion 2:** That the IBM Chair and Secretary positions rotate across different fellowships.

- **Sponsored by Pooja.**

Pooja expressed concern that members were exceeding their responsibilities and wanted job descriptions clarified and approved at the IBM level. She also wished to promote holistic participation by rotating leadership roles across different groups.

**Motion 1 Discussion:**

- The first motion received no second and did not proceed to a vote.

**Motion 2 Discussion:**

- **Seconded by Fawn.**

- **Naika** asked for clarification regarding how the rotation would be implemented and whether there were enough volunteers across fellowships.
- **Chris** opposed the motion, stating it would limit the pool of available service members unnecessarily and waste time.
- **Linda** reminded the group that job descriptions were already public and open to all.
- **Fawn** sought clarification on whether this would change who is allowed to serve or simply suggest rotation.

**Vote Results:**

- In favor: 1

- Opposed: 10

**Outcome:** Motion failed.

**VIII.c. Motion: Restrict Use of IBM Zoom Link for New Meetings**

- **Sponsored by Mel.**

- **Seconded by Lori.**

- Mel proposed that no new meetings be permitted to use the IBM-provided Zoom link currently used by 15 ODAAT meetings.

**Discussion:**

- **Linda** asked for clarification about whether this change would impact existing meetings.

- **Lori** supported the motion to avoid confusion and scheduling conflicts.

- **Chris** expressed concern that the motion's language was unclear and overly restrictive.

- **Tisha** clarified that the motion would apply only to future meetings, not existing ones.

**Vote Results:**

- In favor: 3

- Opposed: 7

**Outcome:** Motion failed.

**IX. LAA Web Administrator Vacancy**

Tisha announced that the role of LAA Web Administrator remains open. Interested members should review the job description posted on the LAA website.

**X. Closing Prayer and Handover**

Tisha closed the meeting with the Prayer of Seeking and Listening. The meeting was then turned over to the early ODAAT speaker meeting.

**XI. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM EST.

Respectfully submitted by: Mel (IBM Secretary)