

Minutes – ODAAT Business Meeting

January 3, 2026

Participants: Ann S., Artur K., David B., Chris, EL, Ellie, Jennifer, Jim, Johanna, KJ, Marianna, Megha, Melissa, Monica, Peri, Rachel S., Sandy R., Sandy Ohio, Teri, Toby E., Tori, Zuzana

Chair: David B.

Secretary: Johanna

1. Moment of Silence and Serenity Prayer

2. Approval of Minutes from December 6, 2025

The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Report from the Host Coordinator – David B.

- Two new members have been trained since the last business meeting.
 - The Saturday morning host position is currently open. The Saturday evening host position will become open at the beginning of February. Justin has served as host for this meeting for three years; David expressed gratitude for his service.
 - There are currently seven open co-host positions, as announced in the Service Wag and during meetings.
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4. Committee Reports

a) Committee Report: ODAAT Host Safety (Lori)

Lori was not present. Johanna volunteered to contact her for an update on the committee's progress.

b) Committee Report: Development and Revision of ODAAT Meeting Guidelines (Lori)

Lori was not present. Johanna volunteered to contact her for an update on the committee's progress.

c) Web Administrator Report (Marianna)

- The web administrators are prepared to post open ODAAT service positions on the website; however, some details still need to be clarified.
- Johanna suggested that the open service positions not be added to the IBM open service positions on the website's front page, but instead be listed within the ODAAT section of the website: <https://loveaddictsanonymous.org/meetings/online/odaat/>
This is intended to reduce confusion between ODAAT as an LAA group and IBM/LAA as the overall fellowship (see New Business, item 6c).

- As website changes require IBM approval, David will present a summary list of requested changes in the IBM Wag once all details are finalized, in order to avoid repeated requests and redundancy.
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5. Old Business

a) Continued discussion regarding the requirement for the ODAAT Chair:

“Has worked the 12 steps in LAA or another 12-step program.”

- It was clarified that this discussion pertains specifically to the requirements for the ODAAT Chair (chair of the ODAAT business meetings and responsible for general communication and coordination within ODAAT), and not to the requirements for ODAAT hosts.
- Some members suggested removing the requirement entirely, noting that having worked the Steps may not be essential for effective leadership, particularly since the requirement of at least one year of active involvement in the fellowship would remain.
- Others discussed removing the phrase *“or another Twelve-Step program”* to ensure that the chair has worked the Steps specifically in LAA. They emphasized that LAA is a unique program and that the chair should embody and protect the culture of the program in this high-responsibility role.
- While there was general agreement on the importance of sensitivity to LAA’s uniqueness and that having worked the Steps is preferable, no strong consensus emerged in favor of changing the current wording. The group therefore decided unanimously to leave the requirement unchanged: *“Has worked the Twelve Steps in LAA or another Twelve-Step program.”*

b) Clarification regarding the Avoidant/Anorexic meeting listing (David)

This item was postponed to the next meeting.

6. New Business

a) Proposed revision to chat messages used during meetings (David)

- David proposed several changes to the standard chat messages posted during meetings.
- All proposed changes were approved unanimously, as follows:
 - Removal of the Google Calendar link, as it is no longer up to date.
 - Removal of the statement that LAA is not affiliated with <https://www.loveaddicts.org/>, as the link is no longer active.
 - Repair of the link to LAA literature on the website and removal of a redundant link.
 - Removal of links to Wags that were closed at the end of last year.

b) Clarification regarding ODAAT Meeting Themes (David)

This item was postponed to the next meeting.

c) Clarification requested regarding ODAAT's use of the term „fellowship“ rather than „group“ (Johanna)

- Johanna noted ongoing confusion among members regarding the distinction between ODAAT and LAA. She suggested that ODAAT's use of the term “fellowship” (both in the meeting script and on the website) contributes to this confusion, as ODAAT is a **group** within LAA - even though it is currently the largest group, holding 15 meetings per week.
- For greater clarity and improved alignment with the Traditions, she proposed renaming ODAAT as the “ODAAT group” rather than the “ODAAT fellowship” in both the meeting script and on the website.
- As confusion remained regarding the relationship between ODAAT and LAA, the basics were reviewed: LAA is the overall fellowship and includes eight listed groups, as well as regional groups. ODAAT is one of these groups and currently holds 15 meetings per week. All groups are part of LAA, follow the same Steps and Traditions, and use the same basic literature, while remaining autonomous in meeting scripts, topics, readings, and other aspects determined at the group level.
- Those present reached a unanimous group conscience decision that changing the language would improve clarity. It was formally decided to refer to ODAAT as a “group” rather than a “fellowship.”
- Discussion of the specific wording changes required in the meeting script and on the website was postponed to the next meeting.

d) Introduction of a Wags-related topic (Tori)

- Toby expressed interest in re-initiating an Advice Wag and an Inspiration Wag, noting that Wags can be particularly supportive for newcomers and therefore beneficial to recovery. Tori expressed her willingness to serve on these Wags in the future to support members' sobriety. Toby and Tori asked the group for guidance regarding the approval process required to start new Wags.
- The question was raised whether new Wags would need or want to be part of ODAAT (as the former Wags were), or whether they could operate under the broader LAA umbrella. Further clarification regarding the distinction between ODAAT and LAA was provided. Toby and Tori indicated that they did not necessarily intend to create ODAAT-specific Wags and would consider this further.
- A discussion followed regarding the role of Wags within a Twelve-Step program and the importance of ensuring that they remain recovery-focused and aligned with the Twelve Traditions of LAA. Several members shared concerns that previous Wags were not exclusively recovery-focused. A newcomer shared that they had felt overwhelmed by the content and unsafe to ask for advice or share experiences. It was also emphasized that a Wag should not serve as a substitute for sponsorship.

- The group reiterated the importance of clear, written guidelines if new Wags are to be created, as well as a protocol for addressing violations. It was suggested to form a Wag Committee of two to three members to develop:
 - a) the purpose of the Wags,
 - b) clear written guidelines, and
 - c) a protocol for addressing violations,in order to ensure that Wags are a safe, recovery-focused space. It was noted that the former Wags had no written guidelines, which may have contributed to previous issues.
 - Toby and Tori agreed to further clarify their goals and approach and, if applicable, to present a more defined proposal to the ODAAT Business Meeting (or to the IBM if the Wags would not carry the ODAAT name) at a future meeting for further consideration.
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7. Closing Silence and Serenity Prayer