

Just for Today “Committees Task Team” Meeting Agenda

Time and Date: 06 Feb 2021 8:15 am-9:15am

Join Meeting 6 a.m. Zoom Log In: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82451821909?pwd=Y28xQUJXMDA0K2hWWWZRSnJnMENoQT09>

Telephone Dial In: 1 929 205 6099 Meeting ID: 824 5182 1909 Password: 537393

- **Opening** (Facilitator Liz D)
 - Volunteer to read [*The 12 Traditions*](#)
 - Introduction of & thanks to VMH(s) and Note-taker
 - Meeting process and guidance
 - All JFT Meeting Attendees are invited to attend this meeting; we ask that discussion and voting or polling be limited to those who consider themselves a JFT Group Member
 - Please mute when not speaking and unmute when speaking; VMHs will assist to keep order
 - **Our task is to discuss best practices for Steering Committees going forward.** Any discussion of the merits of decisions that have been made by the Steering Committees to date will be deferred and referred to future meetings of the relevant Steering Committee.
 - Please limit comments during the discussion period to critical comments, keep them to 2 minutes, and please do not duplicate what someone else has shared.
 - Volunteer to read “An AA Informed Group Conscience”
- **Agenda Overview and Purpose**
 - Background:
 - [Chart of Current Service Jobs, Descriptions, Terms, and Minimum Sobriety](#) endorsed by the JFT Business Meeting in September 2020.
 - See agenda and notes from prior task team meeting held on January 23, 2021 available on the JFT Website’s Bulletin Board:
<https://justfortodayaa.com/jft-bulletin-board#c83578e7-36d8-4272-84c6-173c590dc348>
 - 1/23 Agenda: [2021.01.23 JFT Committees Task Team Agenda.docx](#)
 - 1/23 Notes:
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/tcxj2iuoquill6ed/2021.01.23%20NOTES%20JFT%20Committees%20Task%20Team%20Agenda.docx.pdf?dl=0>
 - **Facilitator’s Overview of Status - (Liz D)**
 - In the interest of ensuring an informed group conscience, a substantial minority of those present at the last task team meeting on Jan 23 2021 (14 of 31 present) were in favor of the Steering Committees serving as recommendation-making bodies that would only make recommendations to the Business Meeting.
 - When offered an alternative approach for consideration, a majority of those present (22 of 31) were in favor of JFT Steering Committees having limited decision-making authority, to be further defined and decided at the Business Meeting.
 - Without objections, those present also expressed a desire for more openness and transparency to be operationalized for the Steering Committees.
 - An example of a third model is the Beacon Street Group (Brookline, MA) which utilizes a “representative” Steering Committee, where Steering Committee members are elected at the Business Meeting and only Steering Committee members thereafter have a vote.
 - **Proposal Overview - (Liz D)**

- Proposal is to change the current JFT Virtual Steering Committee and JFT Virtual Steering Committee Chair service job descriptions as set forth in the [Proposed Changes to JFT Virtual Meeting Steering Committee Service Job Descriptions for 6 Feb 2021 Task Meeting](#).
- Draft by Liz D based on prior meeting discussion and inputs received from group members.
- Sent out with this agenda for group review with solicitation of feedback.
- Proposal will not be changed prior to the Feb 6 meeting for document version control and to ensure all interested group members have the opportunity to review the same information.
- o **Goals of this meeting (Liz D)**
 - To consider and discuss the proposal: [Proposed Changes to JFT Virtual Meeting Steering Committee Service Job Descriptions for 6 Feb 2021 Task Meeting](#)
 - To determine whether there is a group conscience in favor of recommending the proposal or another specific recommendation to the JFT Business Meeting (e.g., the proposal with further changes or an alternative approach?)
 - To determine whether the JFT group members need/want more information before attending a Business Meeting on these topics, and if so, next steps and volunteers for information-gathering.
- **Overview of any feedback on the proposal received prior to the meeting (Liz D)**
- **Review and discuss proposal (all)**
- **Consider alternative approaches (all)**
 - o Consider changing the JFT Business Meeting to a monthly cadence and decide all virtual meeting business at the Business Meeting (not at the Steering Committees).
 - Consider whether would need Steering Committees at all in such a model, or retain Steering Committees as a recommending body
 - o Consider whether there is any further group interest in the Beacon Street Group model.
 - o Consider whether we need any more information and, if so, how to obtain it and volunteers to focus on next steps for information-gathering.
- **Next Steps (Liz D)**
- **Any other business on task (all)**
- **Close with Serenity Prayer (all)**

AA Resources to Support Group Discussion and Decisions

An Informed A.A. Group Conscience: The group conscience is the collective conscience of the group membership and thus represents substantial unanimity on an issue before definitive action is taken. This is achieved by the group members through the sharing of full information, individual points of view, and the practice of A.A. principles. To be fully informed requires a willingness to listen to minority opinions with an open mind. On sensitive issues, the group works slowly — discouraging formal motions until a clear sense of its collective view emerges. Placing principles before personalities, the membership is wary of dominant opinions. Its voice is heard when a well-informed group arrives at a decision. The result rests on more than a “yes” or “no” count — precisely because it is the spiritual expression of the group conscience. The term “informed group conscience” implies that pertinent information has been studied and all views have been heard before the group votes. (*The AA Group*)
https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-16_theaagroup.pdf

Concept 12. The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action. (*The Twelve Concepts for World Service*) https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/smf-114_en.pdf

- *Anonymity Online and Digital Media* https://www.aa.org/assets/en_us/smf-197_en.pdf
- *The AA Group* https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-16_theaagroup.pdf
 - See page 23 re: "Why Have a Steering Committee?"
- *The Twelve Concepts for World Service* https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/smf-114_en.pdf

Other Research Submitted:

- Beacon Street Group (Brookline MA) <https://beacongrouppaa.com/> - This is but one example of another local group that operates by Steering Committee
 - Beacon Street Group By-Laws:
<https://beacongrouppaa.com/pdf/by-laws-and-rules-of-operation-for-the-brookline-beacon-group-inc.pdf>
 - See Rules of Operation starting on page 16
 - Beacon Street Group FAQs: <https://beacongrouppaa.com/faqs/>