



2024-05-05 International Service Meeting Internet and Technology Addicts Anonymous

Meeting link (Service room):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89401368132?pwd=a3dleWJXNEJmMGh2QzVyTHdaMUxoZz09>

Meeting ID: 894 0136 8132

Passcode: 12

[International dial-in numbers](#)

Time: 1:30 pm EST

Date: Sunday, May 5, 2024

Opening Prayer:

Higher Power, I understand that you make your voice heard in a group conscience. I ask you to remind me that the life of my program, and therefore my own recovery, depends upon my willingness to put the group's welfare above my own will. Where I disagree with the common views of my fellows in service, allow me to state my case honestly and respectfully. Allow me to listen to and consider the views of others. May I state my view and support all group decisions, including the ones I might disagree with. May my will be aligned with yours.

Attendees

We will now go around the room and introduce ourselves by first name only, and optionally, where we are calling from. We also welcome anyone who has never attended an International Service Meeting before, and if you'd like, you may indicate whether this is one of your first ISMs when introducing yourself.

Chair	Tesla
Secretary	David
Participants at the start of the meeting	Tomas , Chris C , Holly T , Daniel L , Shannon B , Bekah , Jason

Our international service meeting is a forum for discussing important issues that are relevant to ITAA as a whole, and for collectively developing solutions that can strengthen the growth of our fellowship. If you are new to ITAA, we welcome you to this ISM. While we encourage newcomers to participate in discussion, we ask that members refrain from voting until you have been attending ITAA meetings for at least one month. We follow the Twelve Traditions, and we use Robert's Rules of Order to help guide our group conscience.

A visual overview of this process can be found here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13_d1quYWWJbjwdo9M9LPnczjkyfL1ypR/view

A written overview of this process can be found here:

<https://internetaddictsanonymous.org/guide-to-group-consciences/>

Approval of minutes

We will now take one minute to review the minutes from the previous ISM to see if there were any factual errors in the notes: [2024-04-20 International Service Meeting](#)

[After one minute] Are there any objections to approving the minutes?

- [Approved without objections]

Treasurer and Committee Reports:

[Treasurer's Report](#)

Follow-up Report:

At our ISM on April 20th, the following motion was approved: That we upgrade our three Zoom accounts from the Pro tier (which are currently costing us \$479.88 annually) to the Business Plus tier (which would cost us \$809.64 annually, or an additional \$329.76 per year) so that we can enable translated multi-lingual captions.

However, upon further investigation, the Zoom Business Plus tier requires a minimum of 10 Zoom accounts and would end up costing \$2,700 per year. So instead, we simply added the multilingual translation add-on, which only costs \$50/yr per zoom account, or \$150/yr in total for our three accounts, bringing our total annual zoom expenses to \$629.88. No further action is required unless the ISM disagrees with this decision.

No objections.

Would anybody be willing to volunteer to be our timekeeper today? We'll have two-minute shares with a 30-second warning.

Motions & Discussion Items

Motion 0: That in light of a specific ITAA member's recent inappropriate behavior (to remain anonymous unless this motion passes), they be asked to stop participating in online ITAA meetings for at least one year, that a report of their behavior be made available to meetings, and that we have a motion at our next ISM to discuss whether or not to notify law enforcement. After one year, the ISM can revisit this motion and decide whether or not it would like to end the requested prohibition against the member's participation.

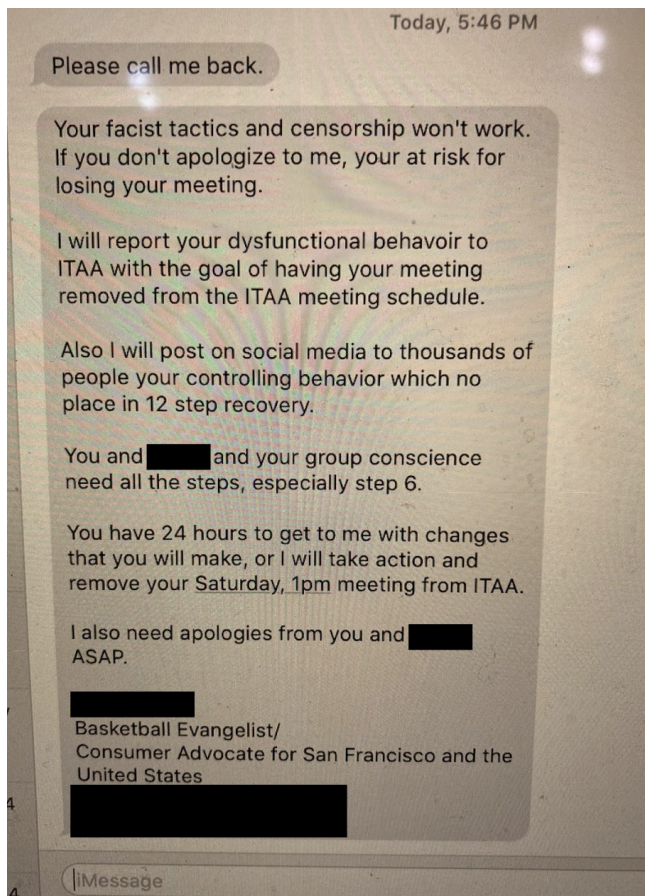
Reasoning: This past week, after a relatively new member to ITAA was respectfully asked to follow the stated boundaries of a local meeting's whatsapp group, they verbally attacked those who were setting boundaries through repeated text messages and phone calls, calling them fascists and threatening to denounce them to thousands of their followers on social media. This behavior constitutes cyberstalking, which is willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly harassing another person and making a credible threat with the intent to instill reasonable fear for the person's safety, which is a crime in California, where this member is resident. By group conscience, this member has been prohibited from attending the in-person San Francisco meeting for at least one year. From Safety and AA, Our Common Welfare: *"Anonymity is not a cloak protecting criminal or inappropriate behavior."*

Discussion:

- Even having received feedback, member has demonstrated inability to respond and modify behavior. Members are uncomfortable, in some cases avoiding meetings member attends.
- Given the seriousness of the sanctions, we need to carefully and objectively describe specific documented incidents rather than base our decision on general impressions. I've been in meetings with this person and agree that his behavior is disruptive, but we owe it to any member to go the extra mile to be fair.
- We don't have a way, technically, to ban him, and it would be a matter of asking him not to attend.
- We are not excluding him from ITAA, we are limiting his participation in meetings. Request for someone to maintain contact with member to assist with their recovery.
- The reason we are removing this person is not for his inappropriate behavior but for his harassment, threatening, and potentially criminal behavior.
- Perhaps it should be left up to the individual groups, rather than a fellowship-wide banning.
- Does ITAA have general criteria in writing for what constitutes exclusion? Also, do we have plan for larger mitigations against any 'the only requirement is a desire to stop using Internet & technology compulsively' retorts this person may employ? Think we need to have something like (even a rough) comms strategy in place, given the potential volatility this person's displayed.

- Member has stated that he has used his social media platform to threaten persons he does not agree with.
- Doubt about whether these platforms actually even exist.
- Member has deliberately misgendered people in LGBTQ+ meeting in provocative way.
- Member has DMed other members with unwelcome inappropriate personal comments.
- Webmaster states that there are in fact technical ways to implement a ban.
- How would we notify groups of a ban?
- Online social media presence and published self-descriptions suggest that member is motivated to proselytize religious beliefs. This seems to take precedence over his desire for personal recovery.
- Member professes a mission to help women and LGBTQ+ but does so in a way that is unwelcome, paternalistic, and offensive.
- There is AA precedent (https://www.avcentraloffice.org/member/smf-209_en.pdf) to requesting a member not to attend and making member's behavior known to groups.
- Member's behavior has gotten worse, not better.
- Don't think that this person qualifies as a member of ITAA - don't think they have a desire to stop using IT compulsively. Do think they are an IT addict, don't think they want to stop using.
- This past week, the member claimed to be in Alabama, Malibu, and Arizona - don't think he was in any of those places. Has claimed to run multiple businesses, none of which exist. He seems to believe all these things are true.
- The fact that the member's activities are making other people leave ITAA meetings trumps considerations for his personal recovery.
- We are not removing him for his delusional or psychotic behavior.
- Setting precedent for banning a person from online meetings is a grave action. We are functioning as judge and jury. Our characterization of member's activity as criminal is not based upon conviction in a court. We should not proclaim this person to be mentally ill without a diagnosis, nor criminal without a conviction.
- Principles over personalities - it doesn't matter if he's crazy, what matters is that his actions are not aligned with the principles.
- Proposal to warn him that this is happening since we're acting as judge and jury and give him a forum to be heard. Tell him about the serious sanctions being considered and give him an opportunity to present his case. There are stories in the Big Book about this: people with aggressively hostile religious convictions who were nonetheless tolerated until they came around. I don't want to be a fellowship that discards people.
- I have personally gone above and beyond to make this member feel welcome and have reasonable conversations about his behavior with him and try to negotiate compromises for how to coexist and make him feel welcome in the fellowship and I do not think it is possible. I don't think they have the capacity for self-awareness, and I do not think that their problems are something ITAA can assist with. If this were a court of law, I do not think they would be able to appear in court and defend themselves. I gave this person the benefit of the doubt and even defended his behavior and based on what I have learned since then I have come around to believe it is indefensible. I would be wary of what this person would share with us in his defense as I believe it would be deceptive.

- We are not convicting him of a crime, we are potentially considering whether to involve law enforcement. What we are discussing here is that the threats, harassment, repeatedly calling, messaging other members threatening them, instilling fear, threatening to break their anonymity and expose them on social media - I am comfortable saying that is unacceptable in ITAA. I don't want this to be a community that is burdened by a tolerance of people who are harming other members. There have been members in ITAA who used to be trolls, and that is fine. If you used to be a troll and you want to come and recover from that, that's fine. What's not okay is coming to ITAA and zoom bombing or taking clothes off on camera. At a point, you've crossed a line and that's not okay to do here. I feel similarly about the behavior that this person has exhibited. There is precedence in AA, though this is something worth navigating very carefully. We could consider making this motion temporary until the next ISM, but I don't feel we are breaking any traditions in this motion. We are requesting that this member stop attending meetings and informing meetings what is happening so they can make their own decisions, and discussing separately whether it is wise to involve law enforcement.
- One year ban seems arbitrary - seems a little extreme - would like to discuss the term of this ban as a year seems a little excessive.
- The year is the longest time limit we could propose - I'd be comfortable with it being anywhere from 6-12 months.
- Member's threatening text was shared in the chat in redacted form:



- If this motion passes and we ask him not to come to meetings and he does anyway, what is the step after that? That seems like a very strong possibility and just having this motion doesn't take care of the problem if we don't have a solution if he declines the opportunity to step away from ITAA and continues to harass people. We need a step B after that, a more full plan.
- Zoom allows us to ban entire domains but not individual email addresses within domains. As was mentioned, if this person is removed from a meeting after being asked to leave, they could be reported to zoom - it is unclear what zoom would do with a reported account in terms of not allowing them to come back to our meetings. Emailing all meeting contacts we have to tell them they can remove that person from their meetings. There are certain meetings this person routinely attends, we could contact those meetings to ensure safety from him.
- Potentially having a discussion contacting law enforcement. Law enforcement couldn't do anything about our zoom rooms. Behavior that isn't reinforced, doesn't continue.
- When member was spoken to after uncomfortable comments he made in the SF in-person meeting, he stopped attending meeting but began harassing people on WhatsApp.
- Meetings need to address how to deal with harmful behavior going forward.
- A blanket international announcement against an individual is different from an announcement denouncing the behavior. A personal denouncement without specifying the objectionable behavior instills fear in the membership, who may feel they are being monitored for correct thought.
- Member is currently the de facto chair to the 11th step meeting.
- Issue affects fellowship as a whole, which is the mandate of the ISM.
- Clarification that the report will mention the member by first name and last initial, and that it will not be announced on the bulletin board but rather emailed to group contact emails. Additionally, individual meetings are empowered to make their own decisions about whether or not to continue allowing the member to attend.

Question called. [14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstained]

Motion passes. The member is Eric S.

Motion to adjourn the meeting

Seconded

No objections

Meeting Adjourned

Motion 1 (from the Legal and Finance Committee): That ITAA elect three members of the fellowship as temporary board members who will serve until we have been able to conduct and complete a full search, nomination, and election process, which may take 6-9 months. Currently, Tomás K is the only legal representative of ITAA and the only bank account holder, meaning that

if anything were to happen to him our fellowship would have no ability to recover our financial or legal assets. The qualifications for temporary board members would be as follows: regularly attending meetings for at least one year, having stable sobriety as they define it, be working the steps, having a track record of service commitments in ITAA, and being at least 18 years old. Additionally we would prioritize members who have relevant professional experience with corporate governance, finance, legal affairs, and who are highly effective collaborators and communicators. The responsibilities of the temporary board members are outlined in section 4 of our bylaws.

If this motion passes, the Legal and Finance Committee would like to nominate the following possible candidates for consideration by the ISM, pending their acceptance:

Frankie W
Max F
Tomas
Tesla
Bekah
Nis

Motion 2: That the ISM empower a digital form created of the Internet Addiction Test (diagnostic criteria identifier) by Dr. Kimberly Young, and that the ISM potentially publish this under the resources tab on the website.

Reasoning: ITAA has numerous members who have talked about (particularly at the beginning of their journey) the difficulty in acknowledging/proving they have an internet addiction. This resource could help members with this difficulty.

This is a link to form/resource: [Internet Addiction Test](#)

Meeting close

Would all who wish to, now join me in the “we” version of the serenity prayer:

*Higher Power, Grant us The Serenity to Accept the things we cannot Change,
the Courage to Change the things we Can, and the Wisdom to Know the Difference.*