

2022-12-04 International Service Meeting Minutes

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: 1:30pm EST / 6:30pm GMT

Date: Sunday, December 04, 2022

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

| | |
|--|---|
| Chair | Chris C |
| Secretary | Frankie W |
| Participants at the start of the meeting | Katie Mc, Bekah K, Meg, Lucy, Amanda D, Glad, Lauren, Kate, Tomás, Alex M, Ocean, Nolan |

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. Every member of ITAA is welcome to participate and vote. 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

Approval of minutes

Minutes from previous business meeting [2022-11-19](#)

Committee reports

[Treasurers' Report](#)

Web Content Committee Report:

As an update on recent work, the Web Content Committee held a forum for discussing sobriety frameworks which was very helpful and is informing changes we are making to the website, including to the [Guide for Newcomers](#) and the [Tools of Recovery](#). We also added new speaker tapes and written stories to the [Recovery Stories](#) page, and updated the formatting to make that page easier to read. We also updated the safety statement in the [Sample Meeting Script](#) and the safety guidelines in [Making Outreach Calls in ITAA](#), and we have been continuing work on the [Discovering Sobriety Worksheet](#).

Other reports

Motions & Discussion Items

1. **Election of Co-secretary** for the Saturday, 9:30pm EST International Service Meeting. Commitment is once a month for six months (six meetings).

Nominations:

- [Amanda is nominated - she accepts the nomination](#)
- [Katie Mc nominates herself](#)
 - [Perhaps for the following 6 month term?](#)
- [Questions for nominees](#)

- Description of the role in more detail
- **Motion: amanda is secretary for 6 months, followed by Katie for 6 months**
 - Votes: 7 in favor, 0 against, 4 abstain
 - **Motion passes**

2. Motion: To wind down both the Social Committee and the Annual Global Conference Committee, and to remove them from our website.

Reasoning: Both committees are defunct and inactive.

- Seconded for discussion
- Discussion
 - People can always start it up again
 - A lot of committees need more members - people can go help those
 - There is a meeting that will happen (Dec 8) where people who are interested in organizing can meet and express interest - but it's not affiliated with a committee
 - Balance between a committee and a grassroots idea
 - These committees may be confusing / distracting
 - Having structure can be good
 - Want to coordinate so that we know what's going on over the weekend of our anniversary?
 - The current committees are not attracting and retaining members
 - Support for ppl organizing social events, but does the committee disincentivize grassroots event-organizing?
 - E.g. Thanksgiving mtg / other holiday meetings - grassroots
 - Maybe ppl can just spearhead meetings, open it up to other people to help organize
 - Motion to move to vote - seconded
- Votes: 7 in favor, 0 against, 6 abstain
- **Motion passes**

3. Please note that the following motion was received only on Thursday, December 1st so not everyone may have had the opportunity to see it prior to this ISM. Given the small number of motions, the secretaries wanted to include it for the group conscience to decide if it is appropriate to vote on the motion with such short notice, to only discuss it without voting, or to postpone it entirely to the next ISM.

Motion: To respectfully remove these meetings from the main calendar and have a separate link below the general calendar, for special interest groups in ITAA, if at all.

Reason: My concern is the increasing number of special interest groups appearing in our calendar (i.e. focusing on mental diseases, race, gender). While I respect these issues as important, I see it as diluting our primary purpose (to carry the ITAA 12 Step message of spiritual awakening to the IT addict), going against our Traditions 5, 6, 10 and our mission statement- "I.T.A.A. is not affiliated with any political agenda, religion, or outside

interests". Some of these groups do not mention being open to all IT addicts in their meeting descriptions. Another mentions discussion of non-conference approved literature. I motion to respectfully remove these meetings from the main calendar and have a separate link below the general calendar, for special interest groups in ITAA, if at all. Thank you.

- Seconded for discussion
- **Sub-motion: we discuss today, but don't vote on anything today.**
 - **Sub-motion passes with no objections**
- Discussion
 - Strongly disagree with idea that these meetings dilute the mission of ITAA - feels like it strengthens
 - Appreciates variety in meetings
 - Helpful to see specific meetings where this could apply
 - Gender-specific meetings has a long tradition in 12 step groups
 - Identity groups can create a space that feels safer, can be helpful
 - Potential future motion: include language around 'this meeting uses non-conference approved literature'
 - Over the last 2 years people have been raising concerns about these meetings
 - Person thinks this motion would be like governance
 - We have meetings around identities (race, gender etc) and also special topics (e.g. maladaptive daydreaming, anxiety, creative recovery etc.). The second group is uncommon to find in other fellowships.
 - AA doesn't reject any alcoholic from any meeting, even if they aren't of the particular identity specified
 - AA doesn't do joint-addiction meetings and list them in official AA calendars
 - Potentially asking groups to send in reports / delegates to ISM (GSR's)
 - Potential changes
 - Any meeting should emphasize our primary purpose - many people agree
 - All welcome - many people support this
 - Topics framed broadly enough so that any person could come (e.g. instead of ADHD: regaining our clarity and focus) - someone agrees
 - We don't offer solutions for other problems
 - We are not affiliated with other fellowships e.g. not list dual meetings on cal (ITAA-ACA etc)
 - Re: We don't offer solutions for other problems... we do this for character defects
 - Make sure informed by group-level group conscience
 - Every meeting is autonomous
 - Impact of other things on our addiction seems different than with alcohol because of the variety of expressions of how our addiction comes out
 - Many meetings do have wording around our primary purpose and that everyone is welcome
 - Agreement with altering some of the scripts
 - Hold a group forum on this topic?

- Person says we aren't proposing solutions to medical issues
- Helps lots of people to have the comorbidity meetings - helps them stay sober from tech - enriches the fellowship
- Integrative approach can be good
- There would be 'outrage' if taken off the website
- Note: no in-person meetings are special-focus. We have so many online meetings, maybe it's ok to have the special focus meetings because there is so much choice.
- What are the meetings we are talking about? Potentials (very broad list, casting the net wide):
 - Creative Recovery
 - ITAA & Anxiety
 - Reparenting with Love
 - Serene on Saturday - ACA Focus
 - Maladaptive Daydreaming ITAA Meeting
 - ADHD- ITAA
 - Men's
 - Women's (x2)
 - BIPOC
 - LGBTQ
 - Prismatic (atheist/agnostic)
 - Top Lines Celebration Meeting
 - Abstaining from Unnecessary Internet & Technology Use
 - Top, Middle and Bottom Lines Meeting
 - Social Media
 - (potential future) sleep & bed
 - (potential future) SLAA-ITAA
- Prediction: Meetings that bring sobriety will flourish. We will find out what works! The groups that last will last
- Want the newcomer to feel welcome in any meeting
- There was a group conscience in an ACA-ITAA meeting about whether to keep ACA name and everyone wanted to keep it
- Person thinks they can't get sober just looking at tech and steps
- Unity is not uniformity
- Person has seen in other fellowships that the person submitting motion includes their name - cautious about the ITAA norm of not including the name
- Potentially put something in meeting description that everyone is welcome, not just the script - person agrees
- Potential criteria for adding something to the calendar?: focus on our common problem (IT addiction) & our common solution (the steps)
 - Person doesn't like this
- Person thinks it could hypothetically become a problem but it's not right now
- From a member: Here are some of the notes I shared earlier in this discussion—a related suggested motion, text from the AA meetings pamphlet,

and some text I wrote about special focus meetings for an initial draft from the ITAA meetings pamphlet:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FLZMS4Ov4jewHvNhPHIklaklw2-DgatU_J81AdgYhY/edit

- Discussion will continue next meeting
- Motion to close - seconded, no objections