ITAA Meeting Affiliation Feedback Forum

June 24, 2023

Welcome everyone to our feedback forum to discuss a motion regarding meeting affiliation in ITAA. We'll start with a serenity prayer.

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

Thank you everyone. The purpose of our meeting today is to hold a fellowship group conscience to discuss a motion regarding how ITAA meetings should or shouldn't affiliate with other Twelve-Step programs or outside organizations. This motion has been worked on collaboratively in an open way through International Service Meetings dating back to December, most recently on April 2nd and April 15th, and it has also been discussed at previous forums. The current wording of the motion is as follows:

[Copy/paste into the chat:]

> **Motion: That meetings do not formally affiliate with or actively promote any other Twelve-Step fellowships or outside organizations, though groups may draw on outside literature at the discretion of their group conscience.**

While the ISM supported the spirit of the motion, the group conscience felt the wording was too vague. What do "formally affiliate" and "actively promote" mean? What is the difference between these concepts and drawing on outside literature? For these reasons, the ISM scheduled this feedback forum to invite broader input and discussion to improve the wording before resubmitting it to the ISM for a final vote.

For additional context, the ISM has also already passed the following three related motions:

> Motion 1: That every ITAA meeting's primary focus and purpose is to help internet and technology addicts find support for compulsive internet and technology use, and that all meetings (including special topic meetings) frame their description and script such that anyone with a desire to stop using internet and technology compulsively can find support for their internet and technology addiction.
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> Motion 2: That meetings for specific populations (such as men, women, LGBTQIA+, BIPOC, etc.) endeavor to welcome any member in need when possible, including those

who don't identify with the group focus. However, for safety reasons, specific population groups may choose to remain closed to non-identifying members according to their own group conscience.

Motion 3: That special topic meetings (such as anxiety, ADHD, maladaptive daydreaming, etc.) make clear that ITAA does not offer a solution for any mental health conditions or addictions other than internet and technology addiction.

The purpose of these four motions is to establish a shared truth for how our meetings put into practice our Twelve Traditions, and to make clear (especially to newcomers) that any ITAA meeting is one where we can go to recover from the problem of internet and technology addiction. Any so-called "enforcement" of these principles will happen at the individual meeting level via group consciences, with the ISM possibly making gentle suggestions or requests if they feel it's prudent. These motions do not empower the ISM to remove any meetings from the calendar. The groups govern themselves.

Today's meeting will last 45 minutes, and my role as chair is to facilitate discussion. Members may share their perspectives and make proposals related to the wording of the suggested motion. I will also read any comments sent in by email.

Before we go into sharing, would anyone be willing to volunteer as our timekeeper for today?

[Wait for timekeeper]

Thank you. We will have two minutes per share, with a 30-second warning. [If there are more than 20 members, then we should drop to 1.5 minutes per share].

[Discussion until the end of the meeting]

Thank you everyone. Let's now close with the serenity prayer.

Higher Power, Grant me The Serenity
to Accept the things I cannot Change,
the Courage to Change the things I Can,
and the Wisdom to Know the Difference.

Meeting minutes

13 members present at the start of the meeting

1. In favor of being able to read outside literature, but against meetings that are true joint ventures with other fellowships, e.g., an ITAA/OA meeting.
2. Here's an alternative wording that several of us developed:
   That meetings do not affiliate with or promote other Twelve-Step fellowships or outside organizations, though groups may draw on outside literature for the purpose of recovering from internet and technology addiction at the discretion of their group conscience. Affiliating means forming or suggesting an official association with the outside organization, promoting means encouraging members to participate in or make use of the outside organization. This motion refers only to the meeting itself and its title, description, and script; individual members are free to identify themselves as members of other programs and share about the benefits they have received from outside resources, including other Twelve-Step fellowships.
3. This proposed wording is the one I'm most comfortable with. We discussed this at the last business meeting of the ACA meeting. Everyone was comfortable with dropping ACA from the name, but there wasn't much clarity about some of the other implications of the original motion. So new motion is better.
4. Prohibition could be on affiliating with organizations that aren't aligned with our values or our anti-discrimination policy.
5. New wording is really clear and helpful in explaining what this motion actually is.
6. "Adult child" is a concept that can be used instead of "ACA" in the title.
7. Likes the wording of the new potential motion. It's clear, shows the intent behind the motion and has clear boundaries.
8. Most Twelve-Step fellowships have a tradition of non-affiliation. I don't think it's the case that ITAA could even be affiliated with other fellowships. Regarding outside literature, is that meant to be just 12-step literature, or any kind of outside literature?
9. When we had the idea to start the ACA meeting, there wasn't any intent to go outside the principles of ITAA. Very comfortable with the updated wording. Want us to accept the cohesion of the fellowship.
10. Outside literature is non-ITAA literature. If we limit meetings to only ITAA content, it's very limited.
11. For anxiety meeting, I was specifically worried about: "promoting means encouraging members to participate in or make use of the outside organization." I was worried that someone would take the mentioning of the DARE response as a tool, in violation of that.
12. ACA meeting has ACA laundry list and other materials baked into the script. However, that's not a problem as long as they don't actively promote the outside organization.
13. Motion to vote on updated wording:
    a. 9 in favor, 1 opposed, 6 abstentions
    b. Minority opinion not given, motion passes
14. Meeting closes