



2024-06-15 International Service Meeting **Internet and Technology Addicts Anonymous**

9:30 pm EST, Saturday, June 15th 2024

Meeting link (Service room):

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

Meeting ID: 894 0136 8132

Passcode: 12

[International dial-in numbers](#)

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	Bekah
Secretary	Anton
Participants at the start of the meeting	Tomas, Alice, Paula, Meg

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:  2024-06-02 International Service Meeting agenda

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

- No Objections

Minutes Approval Status: **Approved**

Treasurer and Committee Reports:

N/A

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 1: That ITAA adopt and publish the following principles for chat groups in ITAA:

 Principles for ITAA chat groups

The five proposed principles for chats are as follows:

1. Bound by the Twelve Traditions.
2. A clear purpose.
3. Clearly defined boundaries and admin privileges.
4. Should not be the first point of contact for newcomers.
5. Limited in size.

Reasoning: ITAA has a detailed resource for members who want to learn about contributing to strong and healthy meetings, but no resource for members who want to learn about contributing to healthy chat groups. Recently, we have seen a higher degree of toxic and unsafe behavior across chat groups for local meetings as well as in the fellowship-wide chat groups and WhatsApp community, including highly public interpersonal conflict, stalking, posting pornography, and sexual harassment. There are dozens of ITAA chat groups that don't follow the traditions and are focused on topics outside of internet addiction recovery, where many newcomers end up and get confused. These are serious issues that are harming members' recoveries and beginning to affect ITAA as a whole. It is emphasized that these principles, like all ISM recommendations to groups, would be suggestions only and unenforceable by the ISM.

1. Motion Seconded

2. Discussion:

- a. Unenforceable by the ISM makes this motion in line with traditions
- b. These principles are stricter than principles for meetings.
 - i. Limit in size is contradictory to usefulness of chat groups, such as outreach groups
- c. Are the chat groups under the ITAA umbrella, or are they separate entirely?
- d. Chat groups may be enabling harmful behavior, while using the ITAA name.
 - i. Strong language in the principles, i.e. "bound by the 12 traditions" implies enforcement. 'Guided by' may be more appropriate
- e. Clear purpose creates stronger boundaries in the groups; limited size creates a more manageable environment.
- f. The ISM shouldn't regulate fellowship: chats essentially being a "parking lot" after a meeting. The people who start them should be responsible for keeping them safe
- g. Group chats should not be part of ITAA. Members may have chats with other members, but no one needs to join, and people can leave at any time and/or start their own group chats as any regular person may
- h. Guidelines for how to recognize harmful behavior in the fellowship may be productive; application of the traditions to group chats doesn't make sense
- i. Chats are essentially social media platforms. Guiding principles will help members use the spaces in a healthy manner.
- j. Traditions may not be known by many members- it would be a high standard to expect
- k. Traditions applying to ITAA chats would help reduce abuse of power.

- l. Groups should either be clearly ITAA and have the traditions in mind, or not ITAA at all
- m. Clarification is necessary on what chats are/aren't ITAA.
- n. Chats should function as meetings if they want to be part of ITAA, or be a regular, informal chat group
- o. Historically, chat groups have been considered meetings by the ISM - self guiding. Proposing principles for well-intentioned groups, helps groups decide how they might keep a healthy environment. It doesn't enforce anything
- p. Some of the WhatsApp groups could qualify as groups; that said, they can work out these principles on their own in group conscience.
- q. Amendments proposed:
 - i. 1) change "bound" to guided
 - 1. Seconded
 - 2. Call to vote
 - 3. No objections
 - 4. Amendment passes
 - ii. 2) eliminate size limit
 - 1. Seconded
 - 2. Discussion:
 - a. Outreach and Book Ending groups should not have a size limit for functionality. Eliminating this for now and coming back to it later will allow for time to adjust the suggestion to be more appropriate
 - b. Size isn't a problem - group culture is. Other principles address this.
 - c. Membership housekeeping of chats would address size issues.
 - d. Size limits may help admins keep group environments safe
 - e. Groups who hold group consciences can deal with size issues
 - 3. Call to vote, no objections
 - 4. No objection to amendment
 - 5. Amendment passes
 - iii. 3) recommend a membership housekeeping procedure to make sure current members are active in ITAA somehow and want to remain in the chat group.
 - 1. Seconded
 - 2. Discussion:

- a. Specific suggestions on how to accomplish this would be useful in the principles
 - b. A few ideas for how this may be done could be helpful: some chat groups fizzle out. Housecleaning suggestions can be passive, and remind people who aren't active that they can leave. This principle can empower admins.
 - c. Inactive members aren't a concern regarding safety - this does not have to be a priority in the publishing of these suggestions
 - i. Priority should be given to things such as security for groups- i.e not posting links to groups online
 - d. The suggestion being vague only suggests the idea, which groups may find helpful, when compared to not having it
- 3. Motion to vote, seconded
 - 4. Vote
 - a. In favor: 1
 - b. Objects: 4
 - c. Abstains: 6
 - 5. Amendment Three does not pass

Amended Motion 1: That ITAA adopt and publish the following principles for chat groups in ITAA:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Sv8no8YF597XNEho7EepW0h6OgKuFvTNJWkgm5nRAtQ/edit#heading=h.bd02bbq6ftr9>

The five proposed principles for chats are as follows:

- 1. Guided by the Twelve Traditions.
- 2. A clear purpose.
- 3. Clearly defined boundaries and admin privileges.
- 4. Should not be the first point of contact for newcomers.

Motion to extend the meeting 15 minutes: no objections. Motion passes.

- 1. Call to vote on amended motion 1
 - a. Seconded
 - b. Vote:
 - i. 6 in favor
 - ii. 2 against

1. Minority opinion: groups should figure out these principles in their own group consciences, keeping with tradition
- iii. 1 abstention
- c. Motion passes

Motion to close the meeting. Seconded. Meeting closed.

Motion 2: That the donation page contain a link to an annual accounting report, so that it is clear how donations are being used, and in addition, a short list of bullet points of the most important or biggest expenses of ITAA.

Reasoning: Making ITAA accounting completely transparent on the donation page will give potential donors confidence that their donation will be well spent and help them understand why a digital fellowship has expenses and needs funding.

Motion 3: That in order to start a new online meeting that uses one of the ITAA zoom rooms, the member starting the meeting needs to have been regularly attending ITAA meetings for at least 90 days.

Motion 4: To remove the general Donate option on ITAA's website, and cease general donation based funding for ITAA's Recovery and Serenity Rooms after six months of announcements run on the Bulletin Board stating this change. These announcements should include a link to a document explaining how the decision will strengthen the fellowship through adherence to Tradition Four, "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or ITAA as a whole," and Tradition Seven, "Every ITAA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." The document should also include suggestions on how groups may choose to receive and manage donations, and how the roles of treasurer and GSR may be useful in that endeavor.

Reasoning: The dependence of groups on these rooms creates a surplus of meetings that struggle to find regular attendees and members to fill service positions. The majority of meetings do not have trusted GSR's to represent their group's conscience in matters affecting the fellowship. Member engagement will increase if groups are dependent on their own contributions, and there will no longer be a surplus of meetings with no regular hosts. GSR's can report group incomes to the ISM if they choose, and share their group's conscience on whether any surplus funds will be donated to the ISM for its costs. Members of the fellowship at large who attend the ISM can also donate to cover ISM specific costs, should a scenario arise where most groups choose to or are

not able to donate to the ISM. Contributions from non-ITAA members should not be accepted by any group, as per the traditions.

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.*