**Marijuana Anonymous World Phone Meetings Business Meeting Minutes:**

**[May 10, 2020 1:10pm EST]**

**Summary from this meeting:**

* **MOTIONS PASSED**:
1. To form a subcommittee to investigate MAWPM becoming a district and to return next month with a presentation of its findings.  Passed by majority vote. Subcommittee Formed: #18, #1, #11, #7, #14 volunteered to attend.  Attendance encouraged and Chairperson requested. No volunteer for chair at present.
2. I move we use Venmo and PayPal to collect money for the 7th Tradition and apply for a Tax ID # to open a bank account. Passed by acclamation.
3. To reduce background noise after the closing Serenity Prayer, move the transition from open line to Q&A immediately after (**If you would like to share your phone number in this public space please join the queue.**) #17: Amended motion approved.  #12 - Seconded. Passed by acclamation.
4. Several subcommittees are to determine meeting times so that they can be shared with the fellowship on the website. Passed by acclamation.
5. Amend statement in crosstalk and profanity paragraph of script from "I will follow this guideline as well" to "I will follow these guidelines as well.” Intuitively changed it, but now we have the official script change.  Passed by acclamation.
* **MOTIONS FAILED**: Motion to add Zoom Meeting to selection of phone meetings. That was put to a vote after discussion.
* **MOTIONS TABLED**: Motion Add the following to the Web Administrator Service Position Description:

- Ensures all files for the website are backed up in online storage with the Internet Service Provider

- Holds domain name registration and ensures transfer to new Web Administrator at the end of service term

- Serves as Chairperson of Internet Subcommittee

**Meeting opened with Serenity Prayer at 01.10pm Eastern**

**Read**[**12 Traditions**](https://ma-phone.org/meeting-readings)

[**Reconciliation Prayer**](https://ma-phone.org/prayers#1fbe0845-8005-48e7-8b16-8153852b8322)

**Roll Call: 21 present**

[**Minutes from Last Business Meeting**](https://ma-phone.org/mawpm-meeting-minutes#679a3c8d-0704-4c80-910e-36de1d64de75) were summarized.  Motion to approve as read. Seconded. Passes by acclamation.

**Subcommittee and Service Reports:**

- Web Administrator and Internet Subcommittee: #17: Added virtual sobriety chips shared with us by District 8, discussed web hosting needs and what software would be best, keep website simple for future web administrators, in process of finalizing internet committee guidelines, researching another isp or changing every five years

- Script Subcommittee: No report

- Chairperson Coordinator: #6: Thursday one meeting at noon to cover every other week. #6 offered the job to any takers.  He’ll keep doing it if no one takes it

- "A New Leaf"Liaison: No report

- Treasury (7th Tradition) Subcommittee: #4: Met Saturday May 2, Looking for tax id # brought up a larger conversation - if we become a district we’ll use MAWS tax id #, or we can go forward and get our own MAWPM tax id #. Bigger conversation to have first is whether we become a district under the MAWS organization or remain our own MAWPM group with respective tax id # and systems.  Venmo and Paypal determined the best ways to collect 7th tradition funds for our bank account. Discussion: A.) What does it mean to be a district? B.) Once the tax id is acquired, are we able to open a bank account? To become a district means we will become an entity of world services and we’ll report to MAWS how much $ MAWPM has brought in, spent and what remains in prudent reserve - all that business becoming that of MAWS to report on their non-profit tax return.  Once MAWPM has a tax id #, we will proceed with a bank account.

- Speaker Tapes Subcommittee: #1: Looking for ways to share speaker tapes on the console administered by #3 and #11. First step - research ongoing ways to do that and create an excel spreadsheet with speaker tape files with speakers’ phone numbers attached to get permission to have their talks on the website in a protected manner. #3: Research being done as to how to make the files on demand but not downloadable - looking into several different services. One service presents in more of a podcast format, but this realization is about a month away, also vetting the recordings to make sure they’re of good standards, and that only the speaker on the recording with no others heard.  Should come into fruition approx 2 months from this report. Long time fellows might be contacted for finding phone numbers of older speakers.

**Old Business:**

1. Continuing discussion on communication of meeting times for 7th Tradition and Speaker Tape subcommittees with Internet subcommittee. Discussion: Add announcements into the meeting script. Monthly announcements could be made after contact info and meeting times are collected and collated. Sub-committees could announce on the webpage, with a new section on the webpage including what subcommittees are meeting and at what particular times. Motion: Subcommittees are to determine meeting times so that they can be shared with the fellowship on the website. Seconded. Passed by acclamation.

**New Business:**

1. Knowing that MAWPM meets the requirements for becoming a district, I move that we request to become a district to be submitted for the 2020 conference. Discussion: Treasury and Internet subcommittee collective work to get a bank account brought up the “becoming-a-district question.” #3 spoke with MAWS - and has fielded a lot of questions at conferences as to why MAWPM hasn’t become a district.  It has also come up due to tax id and bank account questions - fast track could happen if we utilize a request-letter template - which a subcommittee has prepared for submission to MAWS.  The question now is: do we (MAWPM) want to submit the request letter for becoming a district within MAWS? We think that MAWPM meets the requirements for becoming a district, and that’s why it would be appropriate to submit the request for MAWPM to become a district for the 2020 conference.  New business with 7th Trad and Treasury SubCom is footwork needed for MAWPM to become a district.  #1: Questions about the Process and Reasons for prioritizing this motion? #7: Given the long list of tasks for applying for EIN #, like creating bylaws and appointing directors, it would be better to have that covered by our becoming a district and using MAWS tax id. #4: No concerns about motion being prioritized to the first item of business.  Correction: we do not need to become a 501(c)3, have bylaws or corporate structure for the kind of group MAWPM is.  Comparable to MAWPM example in IRS booklet is one of a bowling league that wishes to deposit funds in a bank account for dues. It’s a simpler process than older process of acquiring 501(c)3 status.  #11: Concerned over the 72 hour rule of agenda submission that was adjusted for this special circumstance. There was an agenda item about forming a subcommittee to discuss responsibilities of becoming a district, which is of supreme importance based on previous comments requiring clarification.  There is concern over this motion given uncertainty over responsibilities entailed with becoming a district coupled with the fast-track nature of the motion. Also, if the impetus for this move was the obtaining of a tax id and to obtain it seems near at hand without MAWS, why the apparent rush? Main concern is knowing what becoming a district would entail and not necessarily that MAWPM meets MAWS district criteria (bc apparently MAWPM does not meet MAWS criteria and MAWS would waive many criteria), but rather is becoming a district right for this group, even if MAWS is okay with or wants it? What would it mean for us as a group beyond acquiring conference voting rights and a tax id #? Esp. since our addition to MAWS wouldn’t take effect at the upcoming conference.  #3: Timeliness question: Proposal was only to apply for district status, and since the conference meets annually and that meeting was 5/22, that was the reason for fast-tracking agenda item.  Concerning advantages to becoming district: point of controversy that has been with MAWPM since inception.  We use the MA name but as an independent group without voting rights or an official presence on the MAWS level, so the application for district status is a way to get the support of MAWS.  MAWPM’s attendance levels make it district size and requiring greater support that MAWS could provide.  #11 Assent to becoming a district - question: what is the rush in doing it in the next two weeks? 12 Traditions state that groups make an informed decision, and information is lacking. MAWPM will also be unable to vote at this year’s conference.  With an informed and later decision, MAWPM could vote at next year’s conference.  If we wait for later GC to decide to become a MAWS district, it would be the first item of business at next year’s conference.  Is tax id the only impetus for the pace of process now?  Is what’s best for MAWPM to push it through in the next 2 weeks or to wait until next year?  Timing is the question and not the validity of becoming a district.  #1 Background on process so far: There is a request to become a district document that was drafted based on NE group template that was modified to reflect details of MAWPM; this document is available and could be shared at this GC or alternate way.  #4: Again, district status is not the issue but the process by which we obtain status.  Discomfort with the ad hoc nature of the process thus far.  Information of new district responsibilities needs to be shared with GC through vehicles of subcommittees.  Would like a subcommittee formed to share responsibilities as well as those bypassed given the nature of MAWPM.  #1: Second motion created by treasury subcommittee in the event GC chose not to go ahead with this motion now, there is a motion to form a subcommittee to discuss the requirements entailed.  2nd Motion reads:  “I move that we form a subcommittee to investigate the requirements of becoming a district and return with recommendations to the group conscience for a vote.” Very different from present motion. #17: Point of order: motion on the floor that no one has seconded, and we’ve discussed it; order seems awry and unsure of Robert's Rules of Order at this point.  #1: Initial motion was read as a discussion starter since it came out of the 72 hour guideline and involved many questions, and not as an official motion.  2nd Motion just read was not officially on the agenda since the district question took precedent, but motion could be made by someone in this GC echoing 2nd motion just read. #15: Question: Is being a district and the 503 1 C the same thing? #1: No - 501(c)3 is a non-profit status and the district status refers to being part of MAWS.  #12: Motion: to form a subcommittee to investigate MAWPM becoming a district and to return next month with a presentation of its findings.  #13: Seconded. #1: called for a vote: Passes by a majority vote

#1: Subcommittee Formed: #18, #1, #11, #7, #14 volunteered to attend.  Attendance encouraged and Chairperson requested. No volunteer at present to be chair.

1. #1: A motion had already been made to apply for a tax id #, and it was approved.  #4: That didn’t happen, and the minutes that were read this morning were accurate.  Last meeting’s minutes were confusing on this point.  #4: Motion: I move we use Venmo and PayPal to collect money for the 7th Tradition and apply for a Tax ID # to open a bank account. #12: Seconded.  Discussion: #11: Thanks for offering two options - venmo and paypal. Having two different venues for contributions is a good thing, and a good thing to keep in mind moving forward as we research other apps for 7th tradition, making sure they are accessible to all as much as possible.  #7: Do we have a bank account # or bank account associated with the paypal account to transfer monies or would it just be the paypal account?  Can you have a paypal account without having another bank account involved with that? #4: Thank you #7, we do not have a bank account yet bc we do not have a tax id # yet.  That is the process and then venmo or paypal must be linked to a bank account.  #7: And when we apply for the EIN #, will we need someone’s ss # to apply for that?  #4: We need a person’s personal name and address, not a ss#, so we discussed that in our subcommittee and one person was willing and we’ll see if that’s still the case when we do it.  #1: Opposition?: none.  Motion passes by acclamation.
2. Motion to add language to script to make phone number exchange section smoother. #17: After serenity prayer, tremendous amount of background noise before transitioning back to Q&A mode, and while on the script sub-committee, discussed this topic.  Do others desire this change? #13. Yes change would be good.  #12: When chairing, places in Q&A mode before reading that section for that very purpose, so it would be good for actions and script to “agree?” (inaudible). #17: Motion: Instructions be added to the script to start Q&A mode at the end of the closing serenity prayer.  #13: Seconded. Discussion: #12:  Text after closing Serenity Prayer reads: “MEETING AFTER THE MEETING **If you would** **like to share your phone number in this public space, please join the queue.” That is where #12 puts call back into Q&A mode, and underneath section is bracketed text “*[Chair: Press \*01 to go back to Q&A.]”*** and that could be moved to after the words “please join the queue.” #17: Amends motion that we make this change as #12 stated.  #1: Motion to add language to script and make the phone number exchange section smoother.  To reduce background noise after the closing Serenity Prayer, move the transition from open line to Q&A immediately after (**If you would like to share your phone number in this public space please join the queue.**) #17: Amended motion approved.  #12 - Seconded.  Passes by acclamation.

1. Motion Add the following to the Web Administrator Service Position Description:

- Ensures all files for the website are backed up in online storage with the Internet Service Provider

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- Serves as Chairperson of Internet Subcommittee Postponement is seconded, killed for now but moved to next month. #17: Motion to table motion.  #1: Checks Roberts Rules for postponement of motion.

1. Discuss status of Zoom meetings for the MAWPM phone group(s) - #17: from impromptu zoom meeting with several fellows, came the idea to open them up to everybody.  Another fellow brought up that if Zoom meeting is advertised as a MAWPM Zoom meeting, it should be brought before group conscience. Is there any interest in offering a one time Zoom meeting for people from the MAWPM lines?  Discussion: #1: Voice recognition sufficient for personal connection coupled with Zoom meetings for work mean not interested in adding Zoom meeting to MAWPM offerings.  #12 What would the downside be? #11: Our group has always been on the phone, with specific number and passcodes and Zoom would introduce an entirely new medium to navigate. Getting the message out about access to the fellowship, adding a meeting, adding confusion to our fellows.  Adding an extra meeting and making a special gathering are two ways of looking at it.  It would require picking a non-conflicting time and some education as to how to navigate technology. #10: For somebody who’s relapsed a lot, if you really want to get sober, then you’ll stay sober, like if you have the willingness to stay sober, you’ll stay sober.  But I think it’s a little bit easier for me, for instance I am more visually oriented, so I think it’s easier for people like me to match a face with a voice. I can listen to people on the phone lines and imagine what they look like, but at the same time, it’d be good to have a Zoom meeting too.  I think it might help some people out more, bc it’s easier for me to stay sober, in my state there are literally no land meetings. and I think it might help some newcomers out, if they have a Zoom meeting they could go to.   #13: Motion to form a subcommittee to look into adding a zoom meeting to our regular selection of phone meetings. #10 Seconded.  #21: Opposition - we all have limited resources, so support of such meetings should be considered. In the beginning MAWPM didn’t want a video meeting, so those that did developed their own. The possibility for video meetings is still out there.  #1: This is not a motion to add a Zoom meeting, just form a subcommittee to report back to the group conscience.  #3: Opposed.  #12: Opposed.  #4: Opposed - bc safety of Q & A would not be an easy transfer to Zoom platform.  #14: Opposed.  #1: Opposed.  #1: Roll Called, two yeas or tabled to next month. #4: Called for vote. #11 - Are we yea’ing or nay’ing the subcommittee formation? #1 - Affirms and calls for vote. This was our vote, motion failed.

1. #1: Amend statement in crosstalk and profanity paragraph of script from "I will follow this guideline as well" to "I will follow these guidelines as well.” #17: This was the language she received from the last group conscience and can’t change it, but it has caused some commentary on the lines.  #3, #4 and #5: Seconded.  #17: Intuitively changed it, but now we have the official script change.  #14: Agrees as well; it sounded like the chair was just adhering to the profanity part.  Passes by acclamation.

**Motion to Adjourn: #12. #14: Seconded. Passes by acclamation.**

**Serenity Prayer - “We” version**

**Meeting ended at 02.51pm Eastern**