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

**Sunday, July 11, 2021 at 1:10 PM**

**Summary:**

* **MOTIONS PASSED**:
  + **Accept Joseph (NY) as Group Conscience Chairperson.**
  + **Approve Mike (DC) as Assistant Web Administrator.**
  + Change script to [Proposed Script Revision 7-11-21](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hKlYY4w1Xu7kbV3vJkGCv9_ZxHoZniZCYbGKlToFLho/edit?usp=sharing) as posted on website.
  + Remove from script optional readings at beginning of meeting “Who Is A Marijuana Addict?” and “How can we tell you how to recover?”.
  + Remove from script 2nd reading of the Twelves or Our Awakening.
  + Move all but the following announcements in the script to the meeting after the meeting:

1. Chairperson announcement with meeting openings. Added to reach out to Chairperson Coordinator if one of those times doesn’t work.
2. Monthly Group Conscience announcement with service position openings
3. Option to continue allowing time-limited MAWPM specific announcements such as MAWPM fundraiser
   * Add one, possibly two, lines to meeting after the meeting script stating how to conduct ourselves fellowship. Add a link to the Safety pamphlet.
   * Script Subcommittee, within the next few days, will draft above verbiage to make priority changes to the current script.

* **MOTIONS FAILED**: none
* **MOTIONS TABLED**: none

**Meeting opened with Serenity Prayer at 1:11PM Eastern**

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

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

**Roll Call: #17**

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

**Subcommittee and Service Reports:**

* Web Administrator and Internet Subcommittee
* Website changes:
  + Updated chairperson lists
  + Added announcement to script for 7th tradition fundraiser on July 5
* Web Admin Update
  + Term expires in September.
  + Mike from DC has volunteered to take the Assistant Web Administrator position and is interested in becoming Web Admin when my term expires.
    - We met and reviewed the service position descriptions.
    - He has experience doing websites.
  + I am willing to be Assistant Web Admin unless someone else steps up.
* Internet/Website Subcommittee Update
  + Did not meet
* **Script Subcommittee**: Met several times. Revised version of script will be presented in several motions under New Business.
* **Chairperson Coordinator**: Not much to report. A few meetings are open. Gently encouraging people to chair meetings. Letting people know they don’t have to have a certainty about which meeting they might like to chair. They can just ask questions. Tomorrow’s Milestone Monday doesn’t have a Surprise Guest Host yet.
* **"A New Leaf" Liaison**: Nothing to report. There have been no submissions.
* **Treasury (7th Tradition) Subcommittee**: $100 of $193.75 to cover website renewal in August has been collected.
* **Podcast Administrator and Speaker Tapes Subcommittee:** Continuing to edit and upload speaker shares to podcast platform.
* **District Service Subcommittee:** This subcommittee is non-existent. Anyone is able to step up if they would like to chair it to discuss becoming a District.
  + MA World Services Conference wrapped up yesterday. They had to do a 2-part conference. This year, our group will receive a vote on taking the word “God” out of all our literature and replace it with “Higher Power”. We don’t have to be a district to have a vote. It goes out to the entire membership. Discussed removing it from agenda. Bringing it up every month is a way to make people aware of this idea. Suggestion to list it as inactive and anyone can step up to chair a committee to discuss becoming a District at the May 2022 MA World Services Conference.

**Old Business:**

none

**New Business:**

**1. A MA fellow has volunteered to serve as the Group Conscience Chairperson.**

**Motion: Accept Joseph as Group Conscience Chairperson. Seconded. No objections. Approved by** unanimous consent**.**

**2. Motion to approve a MAWPM fellow as the Assistant Web Administrator.**

**Motion: Approve Mike (DC) as Assistant Web Administrator. Seconded. No objections. Approved by** unanimous consent**.**

**3. Proposed changes (5 separate items) to the MAWPM Meeting Script as requested from the June Group Conscience. (Script Committee)**

Item #1

* Motion to change script to [Proposed Script Revision 7-11-21](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hKlYY4w1Xu7kbV3vJkGCv9_ZxHoZniZCYbGKlToFLho/edit?usp=sharing) to maximize time for sharing during the meeting. Three sections have been carved out for separate votes. Summary of changes:

1. omitted words and redundant script that did not provide additional information
2. omitted parts of newcomer information (separate motion to create newcomer meeting script)
3. omitted press \*2 to hear current participant count
4. moved meeting norms into more appropriate places
5. removed 2nd shares may be asked for
6. simplified chairperson instructions during sharing portion
7. added guidance to read from our literature if long pauses in sharing
8. Moved “we encourage members to develop a support network” to phone number exchange during meeting after the meeting

**Motion:** Change script to [Proposed Script Revision 7-11-21](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hKlYY4w1Xu7kbV3vJkGCv9_ZxHoZniZCYbGKlToFLho/edit?usp=sharing) as posted on website. Seconded.

**Discussion**: Makes sense to cut down the script because parts are redundant and use too many words. We can always go back and reamend the script. Member wants to abstain because she hasn’t read the script. Point of order: vote hasn’t been called for yet.

* One abstention. No objections. Motion passed.

Item #2

* **Motion:** Remove from script optional readings at beginning of meeting “Who Is A Marijuana Addict?” and “How can we tell you how to recover?”.
* Seconded.
* **Discussion**: Clarified that these items are already listed in script as Optional. Member asked if this is already cut from the new script; clarified 3 separate parts of the script were carved out for separate votes. Member is fond of “How can we tell you how to recover?”; inclined to vote affirmative on all of the script revision as human nature is “paralysis by analysis”; of the nature to change things and revisit them later. Member commented this is to make more space to share however there may be dead air when few people are on the meeting or people are not sharing. Committee is trying to be transparent about removing some potentially controversial sections for separate votes so the script would pass. There is information how to handle dead air during meeting in the revised script.
* No objections. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Item #3

* **Motion:** Remove from script 2nd reading of the Twelves or Our Awakening.
* Clarified only one of the Twelves would be read if this passes.
* Seconded.
* **Discussion:** Most land meetings read Traditions and Steps. There are also 4-5 meetings per day on MAWPM line so hopefully people will hear what they need to hear when they need to hear it. People who aren’t familiar with the literature won’t hear steps and traditions if the questions are the only thing read. Committee member stated this is the one thing in the script to be removed that would give the most time for sharing: 3-5 minutes. Our script takes 20 minutes at the beginning and 10 minutes at the end. Land meetings do not take this much time for script. At land meetings, readers are often selected beforehand so there isn’t so much waiting. At some meetings, the chairperson has to cajole people into reading which takes a lot of time. As a newcomer, “Our Awakening” is valuable; in favor of more than one reading. Clarified it is optional to skip the 2nd reading. Committee is not calling into question the value of the 2nd reading but focused on providing more time for sharing. Suggestion to have 2 readings: Steps and Traditions. Good to make a change and see what happens; it can be changed in the future. “How It Works” is quite long. One of the most powerful readings to newcomers is the Questions. “Our Awakening” could be the topic for a meeting such as the Thursday 10PM Eastern meeting which needs a host. Some chairpersons seem confused and repeatedly go to the queue for people to read the Twelves. There are different levels of comfort among chairpeople so Committee is trying to tighten the script up and make it more clear. We are proposing later to have a separate Newcomer meeting which will have more readings. New script changes will need to be pointed out to chairpeople how to handle readings.
* No objections. Motion passes by unanimous consent.

Item #4

* **Motion:** Move all but the following announcements in the script to the meeting after the meeting:

1. Chairperson announcement with meeting openings. Added to reach out to Chairperson Coordinator if one of those times doesn’t work.
2. Monthly Group Conscience announcement with service position openings
3. Option to continue allowing time-limited MAWPM specific announcements such as MAWPM fundraiser

* Seconded.
* **Discussion:** This part of the script seems long-winded. Interested to see how it goes in the meeting after the meeting.
* No objections. Motion passes by unanimous consent.

Item #5

* **Motion:** Make 2 separate script documents:

1. Newcomer Meeting to include Newcomer info that was scrapped (if revised script approved)
2. Promises Meeting

* Seconded.
* **Discussion:** Create scripts that are wholly encapsulated so these meeting chairpersons don’t have to bounce around the current script. Make sure special script for Newcomer meeting since newcomer information has been removed from the regular script. The current insert for the Promises Meeting script doesn’t flow so this would make it easier. Suggestion to make a separate script for Saturday Night Live meeting; can an amendment be made to this motion? Someone from SNL group could work with script committee. Not sure if this motion can be amended or if it would need to be a separate motion. Question: does this mean welcoming newcomers has been removed from the script? No, the part that has been removed was suggesting they attend 6 meetings, etc.
* No objections. Motion approved by unanimous consent.

**4. Safety concerns during Fellowship; two people have brought it up for discussion at our Monthly Group Conscience**

(for reference: ["A Safe Place" pamphlet](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LRGY0_Yd2JVgVXni2Jh58FOgh2Zxktmp/view?usp=sharing) from District 6, not MA World Services Conference approved)

* **Background**: Member shared how she felt unsafe in Fellowship after 2 recent Monday evening meetings. Vile and inappropriate sexual comments about her were made between other members. One week, the chairperson was attacked by a member who made “disgusting” comments. She wants something added to the script to address this behavior. Another member shared he heard this happening. The chairperson usually hands off fellowship to another person if they cannot stay and does not think this happened on these events. Additionally, what is the practice for fellows who break meeting norms and are abusive? Can they be asked not to call into meetings for a period of time?
* Member asked what is being proposed? Is there specific text or procedure being requested? Member would like a statement for the chairperson to read, reminding members of the guidelines for our group.
* We discuss gossip and criticism in the script for outside of the meeting but there is no guidance for fellowship. We tell people it’s like mingling in the parking lot. Our fellowship is guided by spiritual principles that continue after the meeting into fellowship. It’s important that everyone feels safe in this environment, especially if people are being abusive. Keep newcomers in mind. What is their experience of MA if they hear these things? Suggested adding a line at the end of the script reminding people to be respectful and practice spiritual principles in fellowship. “A Safe Place” pamphlet is not MA Conference approved.
* The pamphlet was made because there are predators and these things happen. Proposed to have it added before the new script is posted. Member is going to reach out to another group for their verbiage.
* If a chairperson cannot stay after the meeting for fellowship, someone should be on the line who can mute the lines if needed. Would have to use \*5 to mute all where no one can unmute.

**Motion:**

Add one, possibly two, lines to meeting after the meeting script stating how to conduct ourselves fellowship. Add a link to the Safety pamphlet.

* Seconded.
* **Discussion:** Member has been in conversation with others who heard the attack. He was hosting and was bombarded in fellowship by a person with rapid fire questions, interruption and no chance to respond. Member lost his temper and things devolved. The individual “has an agenda of disruption and losing sight of principles before personalities”. \*04 is a “trap door” to mute someone in Q&A mode. Most people who say something inappropriate don’t know they’re going off the rails a bit. Procedurally, some people use apps to host the meeting. Maybe there’s a way to get all hosts in line to use the app for more control to eliminate individual people sharing. There is no way to eliminate a phone number through the console. Fellowship sometimes goes on much longer than a host could be expected to stay. Occasionally, we will bump up against addicts and will be offended by their behavior. We are all sick and suffering. Member needs to take care of himself and not take things personally. We are all in charge in our own recovery. Member would not allow others to affect his recovery.

**Motion at 2:43 PM Eastern:** Extend meeting to 3PM Eastern time. Seconded. No objections. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

* **Discussion (cont’d):** Console Administrators have GC permission to remove harassers. “A Safe Place” pamphlet discusses the ability of the group to bar individuals who persist in disrupting and being abusive from attend meetings. If someone persists in their behavior after putting language in place, this could be brought back to GC and perhaps a subcommittee be formed to investigate the problem and make a recommendation. Fellowship should be in an open mode, not Q&A. On the app, the chairperson can see who is causing a disruption. Console Admins can drop people from the call. If we block someone, it’s the honor system whether they follow it. Being aware of an issue tends to help. Chairpeople knowing certain behaviors are not OK helps them cut people off, letting them know their language or line of speech is not appropriate. Anyone in fellowship will know that certain behaviors are not OK. Love and tolerance is our code. We can be tolerant of the newcomer who is going through detox but we still need to draw a line to keep our environment safe. Tradition 1: Good of the group has to survive or the individual doesn’t. Tradition 4: Carrying an atmosphere of recovery. Tradition 5: Keep the newcomer in mind. Tradition12: We don’t engage in gossip.
* Member wanted clarification if anything is being proposed that will address the individuals’ behavior. There were two different individuals involved.
* No objections. Motion passed by unanimous consent.
* Member making original statements in background asked for something to be done today to address this and not wait until the next Group Conscience as this has been going on for some time. Member does not feel safe chairing until this has been put in place.
* Suggestion to draft language for the script to address this.

**Motion:**

Script Subcommittee has the authority to draft the safety statement for the script.

* Seconded.
* Chairperson suggested priority be added to the motion so we don’t have to wait until the next Group Conscience Meeting.

**Amended Motion:** Script Subcommittee, within the next few days, get together to draft above verbiage to make priority changes to the current script to address safety concerns.

* Seconded.
* No objections. Motion passes by unanimous consent.

**Announcements**

- The positions of Chairperson Coordinator and Web Administrator are open.

**Motion to Adjourn**

**Meeting ended at 3:00PM Eastern**