**Marijuana Anonymous World Phone Meetings**

**Group Conscience Meeting Minutes:**

**Sunday, February 13, 2022**

**Summary:**

* **MOTIONS PASSED**:
	+ Have Dudes in Recovery announced in the first section of the MAWPM announcements to be read after the meeting, behind the “women’s only” announcement.*(No action to be taken as it is already listed under Readings & Resources, MAWPM Announcements)*
	+ Add to the end of the “There’s lots of exciting stuff happening in our group” paragraph of the script: “Look there to find out more about the new Dudes in Recovery meeting”. This will be posted for two months.
	+ Require members to call from an unblocked phone number. *(No mechanism was discussed for how to enact this item)*
	+ [At 2:40PM] Extend meeting by 10 minutes
* **MOTIONS FAILED**:
	+ Offer training for chairs to use the Free Conference Call HD app.
* **MOTIONS TABLED**:
	+ Create a subcommittee to address the issue of the disruptor.
	+ *The meeting ended without addressing these items.*

*-****Motion****to change the Friday 10pm meeting to 11pm.*

*-****Motion****to change the Tuesday 10pm meeting topic from, “topic-discussion, LGBTQ-oriented mtg that is open and welcome to all,” to, “topic discussion, LGBTQ+ and allies open meeting.”*

*-****Motion****to change "The newly updated 12 Questions and other readings" to "These readings" when readers are requested in the script (It's been 8 months since they were changed)*

*-****Motion****to create a new meeting that would be specific for members who are dealing with re-entry after incarceration due to their marijuana use.*

*-****Motion****to update the script  “meeting schedule for reference” to reflect current changes to meeting times and topics. I.e. Tuesday 10pm and Friday 10 pm meeting.*

* **DISCUSSED BUT NO MOTION**: (Withdrawn) Have script committee create text from prior motion [requiring members to call from an unblocked phone number].

**Opened with Serenity Prayer at 1:10 PM Eastern**

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

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

**Roll Call: 22 present**

**Summary of motions from** [**Last Group Conscience Meeting**](https://ma-phone.org/mawpm-meeting-minutes#679a3c8d-0704-4c80-910e-36de1d64de75)**’s Minutes were read**

**- Amendment to change under Motions Passed: “**form a subcommittee to put the subcommittee day and time meetings in the script so that people know there happening and bring back something next month.” To “Form a Subcommittee to discuss how to handle the upcoming vote to MA membership to change God to Higher Power in the Steps and Traditions.”

- **Motion to approve minutes as amended; seconded. No objections. Approved by unanimous consent.**

**Subcommittee / Service Reports**

* **Web Administrator & Internet Subcommittee**
	+ **SNL Coordinator service position description posted.**
	+ **Script updated: announcements, mostly for chairperson openings.**
	+ **Asst Web Admin posted script announcement for Subcommittee meeting for upcoming vote about Changing God to HP in Steps and Traditions. This was taken down after the meeting. The background information was left in MAWPM announcements.**
	+ **Posted Dudes in Recovery meeting info on MAWPM Announcements page.**
* **Script Subcommittee (inactive)**
* **Chairperson Coordinator: Chairperson Coordinator not present on meeting.**
	+ **Web Administrator gave the report. All meetings currently have chairpersons. Thursday at 10AM is open but current chair will continue until someone is found.**
* **“A New Leaf” Liaison: Quiet. No submissions received. Liaison will make a motion next month to drop this position as there is absolutely no activity.**
* **Treasury (7th Tradition Subcommittee) (inactive)**
* **Podcast Administrator & Speaker Tapes Subcommittee: Estimated audience of 162 people. 38,000 total plays. About 218 episodes uploaded. Last month uploaded about 20 episodes. Backlog getting caught up. Will be posting weekly or twice a week going forward to continue getting old episodes posted. It takes up to a week to get the current episode uploaded.**
	+ **Podcast Administrator term ends soon. Looking for someone who is interested in taking the position.**
	+ **There is no way to get a chronological list of podcast episodes. To find a specific speaker, search in a search engine to find a specific speaker with their name and “MA Speaker Tapes”.**
	+ **Takes about 15 minutes to edit podcast and get it uploaded, depending on the quality.**
	+ **Would take one session to get someone trained for Podcast Administrator.**
* **Changing God to HP in Steps and Traditions Vote Subcommittee: There is no update when the ballots are coming from MAWS. We will have at least 6 months to carry out the process once received.**

*Recommendation to GC*

*How to publicize*

* *Add script announcement*
* *Start with generic announcement that this is coming and members will be able to vote at each of the 32 meetings they attend*
* *Add details when voting dates/procedures are finalized*
* *Ensure consistent message to fellowship*
* *Talking points or FAQs about the process on MAWPM announcements page for easy reference by chairpersons and fellows*

*Engaging membership*

* *Encourage discussion in fellowship and with other fellows*
* *Suggest as a topic during meetings*
* *Could suggest more structured approach if it seems it’s not being discussed as time gets closer to the vote*

*Voting*

* *Have a voting week during which votes will be taken at all 32 meetings*
* *Recruit trusted servants to handle the voting for each meeting for the chairpersons*
	+ *Could use Q&A and have each member call off their name and number with their vote like we do in GC*
	+ *Trusted servants would have a script or guidelines*
* *Is quorum determined by # of people on the call or # of people who actually vote. Those who are unable to speak could be considered absent, comparable to being “out of the room” on an in person vote.*
* *Take vote near beginning of the meeting to allow time for tabulation of vote, discussion and retaking vote if ⅔ majority not reached, and announcement of results*
* *How will it be handled if ⅔ majority is not reached? Vote again next week?*
* *Return counts (total number of votes, yes/no/abstain) to subcommittee for accountability/tracking and reporting at GC and submitting votes*
	+ **Suggested to table GC action on this until the ballots are received from MA World Services. No further comments made.**

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

* **Motion to have Dudes in Recovery announced in the first section of the MAWPM announcements to be read after the meeting, behind the “women’s only” announcement.**
	+ Meets M-Th at 3PM Eastern by phone or video. Average of 4-7 people attend. Different phone number and passcode.
	+ Men’s meeting is listed under MAWPM Announcements but is not yet on the ma-phone.org website meeting listings.
	+ **Seconded. No opposition. Motion passed by unanimous consent.**
	+ Clarified what exactly is being requested. The meeting wants it read in the opening paragraph. Clarified the women’s meeting is not listed in either the opening paragraph or during announcements of the script.
	+ **No action needed as it is already posted in Readings & Resources, MAWPM Announcements.**
* **Motion to have Men’s Meeting announced in the MAWPM script in the “lots of exciting stuff happening in our group” for 2 months.**
	+ If it’s added here, it sounds like Dudes in Recovery is part of “our group”. It is a separate group, like Women in Recovery. It’s an exciting thing happening on the phone lines.
	+ **Amended Motion:** Add to the end of the “There’s lots of exciting stuff happening in our group” paragraph of the script: “Look there to find out more about the new Dudes in Recovery meeting”. This will be posted for two months.
	+ **Seconded. No opposition. Motion passes by unanimous consent.**
* **Motion to offer training for chairs to use the Free Conference Call HD console. This is to encourage use of more functionality than is available by phone and to have multiple people able to monitor calls.**
	+ Clarification of console (on a web browser, used by trusted servants under Console Administrator position description) vs. app on a mobile device.
	+ Point of Order: Motion needs to be amended to state app instead of console.
	+ **Amended Motion: Offer training for chairs to use the Free Conference Call HD app.** Seconded.
	+ Is this pertaining to cutting off disruptive people? That is part of the reason but it’s also helpful for chairs to know how to use it.
	+ It takes practice to use the FCC HD app. As the host, you can know how many people are on the meeting without pressing \*2. Inappropriate callers can also be cut off easier.
	+ App is different on Android vs. Apple. Easier for chair to not have to press \*x. Can push button to move queue forward.
	+ Dealing with inappropriate or abusive callers is a matter of chairperson training. It can be done on both the phone and app. We’re here for love and tolerance, not here to police shares. It’s important to uncheck the box when chairperson leaves the call or it will drop everyone off the meeting. This is covered in Chairperson Guidelines.
	+ Is this about making it a requirement for chairpeople to host meetings with the app? No. Most of the chairpeople don’t want to make a big deal out of disruptions. The meetings usually go well. It can be problematic enough to cajole people into chairing meetings. Making them using the app might dissuade them.
	+ Lately, someone has dialed in with different numbers to disrupt the meeting.
	+ Hearing an explanation of the app features is helpful. Suggestion made to develop an audio file or a written description of how to host on the phone or on the app.
	+ Referencing the recent disruptor, member suggested they be immediately disconnected.
	+ It’s easy enough to press \*5 to mute the line.
	+ A member, who identified as a specific minority, expressed the importance of having a safe environment to share this beautiful journey of recovery.
	+ Suggestion to put an expanded paragraph in the script to address the options to handle disruptors.
	+ Question whether, because a disruptor has been mentioned, subsequent motions are related to this motion and, if it was passed, would undo any vote on this current motion.
	+ GC Chair redirected meeting to current motion on the table.
	+ One member opposed. Motion taken to a vote.
	+ Motion fails. 18 total votes: 7 yes (39%), 2 no (11%), 9 abstain (50%)
* **Motion to require members to call from an unblocked phone number.** Seconded.
	+ A member has called in with number blocked, saying obscene things on “every single meeting of the day” and leaving harassing messages on a member’s personal voice mail. She wants that person to be disconnected immediately when her voice is heard.
	+ A member (erroneously) stated there is verbiage in the Parking Lot disclaimer about blocked numbers.
	+ We instituted Q&A mode to deal with disruptors. We can’t block people from calling in. Historically, people have changed their numbers and gotten in anyway. Sometimes callers’ numbers show up blocked even though they are not blocking their number (e.g., out of country). The chairperson can advance the queue to remove a disruptor. Chairperson Guidelines address this issue. The Chairperson Coordinator should reach out to every chair for training.
	+ If chairperson is using the app, they can see ahead of time that the disruptor is in the queue. If chairpeople are not using the app, it doesn’t matter if the phone number is blocked.
	+ If someone is calling a member, the group can only do so much. The person who is being harassed should contact their police. Could use “A Safe Place” pamphlet as a discussion topic during a meeting.
	+ The female disruptor gets abusive during fellowship and the chairperson can’t get them off the line without ending the meeting. How do we “not tolerate this behavior”, as stated in the disclaimer at the end of the meeting?
	+ The member has contact the police and phone carrier. She cannot do anything because she does not live in the disruptor’s state. She asked, “If her voice is heard, disconnect.”
	+ One of the Console Administrators has been contacted, asking them to remove the disruptor. This motion was made because when someone blocks their number, it shows on the console as Anonymous. While we may be anonymous to the world, we are not anonymous within meetings. If several people are dialed in as Anonymous, it’s hard to see who’s disrupting the meeting and for the Console Administrator to take the right action if the host has gotten off the meeting. Members can go to subconference rooms.
	+ Chairperson noted it’s getting close to 2:30PM Eastern.
	+ Call for opposition to this motion. A member opposed because she has no way to call in from an unblocked number.
	+ Call for vote.
	+ Point of Information: Concern about quickly moving through something without fully addressing the issue, including members who might be inadvertently blocked. GC Chair proceeded with active vote.
	+ **Motion passes**. 14 total votes: 12 yes (86%), 2 no (14%)
* **Motion to have script committee create text about prior motion. Ex: “If you called into the meeting with a blocked phone number, please unblock your number and call back in. If you stay on the line with a blocked number, you’re welcome to listen, but please do not share during the meeting. Revealing our numbers creates a safer meeting by making each of us accountable for following meeting norms.” Seconded.**
	+ Question: does that include someone who calls in displaying “Anonymous”?
	+ This language contradicts the previous motion. Can people call in with a blocked number or not?
	+ Submitter is willing to withdraw the motion as long as the host can drop someone who calls in with a blocked number.
	+ This can only be enforced if all 32 meeting chairs use the app.
	+ The above motion needs to be communicated to the fellowship.
	+ Motion was withdrawn. Submitter apologized for “making a mess of this thing”.
* **Motion at 2:40PM to extend meeting by 10 minutes. Seconded. No opposition.**
* Suggestion to create a subcommittee to look at this issue.
	+ Issue needs to be clarified. Clarification: There is a disruptor.
	+ Member said the disruptor needs to be immediately dropped when her voice is heard.
	+ We are talking about a complex issue. Members want to create a safe space but the motions put forth are not adequately addressing the issue.
	+ Is it possible to have someone speak to the disruptor, give 3 strikes you’re out, etc.? This is a serious situation affecting people’s recovery.
	+ People come into the rooms in various stages of recovery. This is not a permanent situation. We’re talking about permanent solutions to temporary problems. Suggestion to look at what is bugging me about what this person is doing.
	+ This issue has been dealt with occasionally on the phone lines. Awareness and communication is key to handling this. One Console Admin didn’t even know this was a problem. We can’t drop people as soon as their voice is heard but we do need to take action when the atmosphere of recovery is disturbed. A chairperson needs to notify Chairperson Coordinator and/or Console Admins as to what’s going on. Chairpersons need to feel comfortable advancing the queue and cutting them off. We do not police shares. If they are being appropriate, allow them to share. When this happens in fellowship, the lines can be muted. The next step is to contact as many chairs as you know and let them know this is happening; remind them of the Chairperson Guidelines. A Console Admin can be contacted to see what’s going on.
	+ **Motion to table discussion of this motion**
* **Motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded.** No opposition.

**Meeting closed with Serenity Prayer at 2:54 PM Eastern.**

***Motions not addressed will carry to next month:***

*-****Motion****to change the Friday 10pm meeting to 11pm.*

*-****Motion****to change the Tuesday 10pm meeting topic from, “topic-discussion, LGBTQ-oriented mtg that is open and welcome to all,” to, “topic discussion, LGBTQ+ and allies open meeting.”*

*-****Motion****to change "The newly updated 12 Questions and other readings" to "These readings" when readers are requested in the script (It's been 8 months since they were changed)*

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