

Just for Today
Virtual Business Meeting Minutes
[Meeting Agenda with Links to Standing Reports](#)

This document contains notes from the JFT Virtual Business Meeting on January 9, 2021

8:30 AM The meeting was called to order by JFT Secretary Wendy M (WM)

Opening (WM)

- o The Secretary thanked everyone for their service in attending the business meeting and asked for the serenity prayer.
- o The Secretary noted that there was a link to the agenda that had been sent previously and added the link into Chat for everyone's convenience.
- o The Secretary reviewed the meeting process and guidelines. A volunteer (Barrie B.) read the 12 Traditions.
- o The Secretary asked the participants in the onsite meeting at St. Camillus to introduce themselves. (This Zoom link was being facilitated by Jim S.)

Secretary's Report (WM)

- o Background: The Secretary asked Todd A, the liaison to the Zoom meetings, to give a brief report on current status of the Zoom meetings.
 - 80-100 people attend daily the 6 AM meeting
 - 30-50 people attend daily the 7 AM meeting
 - We have been lucky that there has been no Zoom bombings or disruptions.
 - The meetings now announce that Zoom updates have moved some of the buttons, including the raise hand button.
 - The Secretary noted that co-hosts are now able to raise their hands.
 - The Secretary thanked Todd A for his service.
- o Update on plans for website transition from .com to .org
 - In March, at the start of the pandemic, the virtual meetings were set up very quickly. As they are now seemingly long term, it was deemed a good idea to change the URL from .com to .org.
 - This promises to be a seamless process, not noticeable to users.
- o Miscellaneous. The Secretary noted:
 - The attendance at Zoom meetings are now significantly larger with participants from all over the world.
 - The meeting attracts newcomers, many of whom return and become regular participants. Thus the meetings are fulfilling AA's primary purpose.
 - The service structure that was set in place has unfolded beautifully. Shout out to former secretary Jenny T. for her services in setting up the meeting!

GSR Report (Dan E.)

- o JFT is part of District 22, which serves as a link to the greater AA as a whole. (<https://aa-semi.org/district-meeting/district-22/>)
- o JFT recently participated in District 22's Christmas and New Year alcathons.
- o District 22 is part of Area 30, which meets monthly. The meeting is tomorrow and all are invited to attend.
 - Area 30 elected a delegate to attend the General Assembly (annual conference) to be held in April. (This and other dates posted on website. (<https://aa-semi.org/assembly-meeting>))
- o Dan noted that his term ended in December and a new GSR delegate will be needed. He highly recommend this position.
- o Dan E. was thanked for his service by the group.

Questions:

- Will the GSR report be available online? Yes. [A summarized version has been posted here.](#)

Central Service Liaison Report (Les P)

- o The Delegate meeting is meeting monthly. Les P attended two months ago. There is no information at this time.
- o The Secretary noted that the Central Service Reports are being posted on the JFT website and can also be found on the Central Service website. (www.aaboston.org/monthly-bulletin)

Treasurer's Report (JL)

- o The Treasurer 's Report was shared on screen. The Treasurer reported that JFT is in a good financial position.
- o The income is made up of cash contributions from the onsite meeting which is collected diligently; checks received in the mail, and the PayPal account.
- o The onsite meeting is basically paying for itself.
- o The distributions were made in accordance with the group conscience as determined in a previous business meeting. The Treasurer noted that distributions reported were for two quarters, rather than the usual one.

Questions:

- Has the income been consistent with pre-pandemic levels?
Yes.
- Notes that Expenses and Distributions are more than income?
The Treasure noted that it is necessary to add up the Starting Balance, Current Income, and Prudent Reserve to see how much money JFT has right now. This is approximately \$20k in revenue minus approximately \$12k in expenses and distributions.
- o Can the usual Christmas bonus be given to the Church?
Yes. The Treasurer will work with the onsite meeting to make this happen.

- o The Secretary thanked everyone for following the 7th Tradition.

Virtual Meeting Steering Committee Reports/Updates

6 am Virtual Meeting Steering Committee update (Bray M):

- o Full report available by link in Agenda.
- o Briefly, motions that have passed and implement:
 - Eliminate VMH slide with Meeting tools
 - Adjusted script to welcoming Newcomers and Visitors as soon as possible - at the beginning vs after reading
 - Adjusted 6am Chair Script to say "Chair will call on Raised hands. If there are no raised hands Chair may call on others without raised hands... or, have silence."
- o Briefly, some issues that were discussed and/or determined:
 - After Covid.
Continue the Zoom meeting in addition to the onsite meeting.
 - People signing up for all major holidays.
Lead by example
 - Newcomers chairing a meeting before 90 days.
A blurb added to sign up instructions with a suggested period of 90 days.
 - Timer.
Agreed not have a timer but noted that "the chair has he prerogative/responsibility to use gentle reminders to shut people down or move the meeting along."

Questions:

- With the use of Steering Committees what is the process of getting group conscience?
 - A discussion took place:
 - Noted that this is the first time JFT has used Steering Committees
 - At the beginning of the pandemic, JFT Business Meeting empowered steering committees to make decisions for the group. Now that we are in for the long term, it is a good idea to discuss this.
 - Liz volunteered to spearhead a group to discuss this.
 - Can the purpose of the Steering Committees be better defined?
This can be discussed in the group described above.
- Use of Chat in meetings?
It was decided to not enable the Chat function in the meeting. We keep the Zoom site open for 15 minutes of talk after the meeting.

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7am Virtual Meeting Steering Committee update (AlaneW):

- Full report available by link in Agenda.
- Highlighted actions/discussion included:
 - Eliminate the slide re: virtual meeting tools but keep statement about how to mute and unmute and raise hand using the phone.
 - Move all business items to the beginning of the meeting, before the share.
 - Insert at end of the paragraph re: This is a closed meeting, add *“Regarding cross talk, we do not interrupt, criticize, give advice or directly address any member when sharing. Thanking a speaker, or commenting on the speaker’s lead share, is not considered cross talk.”*
 - The chair will be requested to *“please refrain from commenting directly on individual shares other than “Thank you”.*”
 - We decided we were not comfortable with enabling the Chat function at this time.
 - We discussed the wisdom of introducing anniversary meetings as such and ask people to hold their seats for a presentation after the meeting to reduce focus on the person celebrating, we thought best to lead by example for now rather than posting rules.

Onsite Meeting Update

- “All good!”

JFT Member/Contact List, JFT Google Group and JFT E-Contact List – Update (Lisa W)

- On the JFT website there is a contact list tab where people can opt in to join the e-list.
- Hard copies of the list are being dropped off at the Onsite Meeting.
- A raffle for a subscription to the Grapevine was held and won by a member.

JFT Service Jobs (Secretary)

- Chart of Current Service Jobs, Descriptions, Terms, and Minimum Sobriety were sent by link on the agenda.
- Suggestion: Onsite Steering Committee
 - The Secretary asked If they wanted to form a Steering Committee?
They will discuss.
 - Has this group ever had a Steering Committee?
No, but now that we are in separate groups, we should discuss.
 - Is there any objections to a Steering Committee?
No.
- JFT Electronic Cards for JFT Group Members for Years of Sobriety
Jenny T [presented this proposal](#), noting that she misses the anniversary card. She suggested:
 - There are several sites that make this possible.
 - Suggests we purchase an account and pilot this program for three months and then discuss.
 - Participation is strictly voluntary.

Questions:

- A member noted that she does this for another group and loves it.

Due to a previous engagement Johanna G. needed to leave the meeting @ 9:30. Molly volunteered to take over as notetaker.

Respectfully submitted,
Johanna G.

JFT Business meeting 01-09-21 9:30 - 9:52 - notes from Molly R.

- JFT Electronic Cards continued
 - Julie volunteered to be [e-card](#) coordinator
 - Motion: Implement a 3 month pilot of ecards for anniversaries?
 - Discussion:
 - it has been used in other groups to good results.
 - More room for messages than a paper card

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- Vote: Passed unanimously, no absentions.
- Service Jobs: all rotated out and with new service people, or terms continuing.
 - [Google sheet with names and positions.](#)
 - Suggest alternate VMH for a few days when needed?
 - Good idea but implementing VMH requires steep onboarding.
- Steering committee discussion: This discussion was difficult to collect careful notes as the discussion was impassioned, and some spoke out of turn, etc. There were questions raised about two things: a) the process for communication and group input on the format changes made to date by the steering committees; and b) the best practices for governance for our group and meetings. The following is a summary of the discussion.
 - Q: What is the duty/authority of steering committee?
 - Q: Steering committee discusses technical issues, but what is technical?
 - JFT Sec: Steering committee empowered with right of decision by previous group conscience for format and other matters pertaining to how that meeting operates.
 - Q: Propose to have steering committee governance discussed at a business meeting.
 - JFT Sec: Let's form a task force to consider this matter.
 - No. Important for everyone, do it in business meeting, not in a task force.
 - Clarified that the task team would research and bring recommendations back to Business Meeting for further consideration by group conscience.
 - Q: propose to roll-back some changes of steering committee changes.
 - JFT Sec: the group gave the steering committee's right of decision. Cannot ask them to reverse their work.
 - 7 AM Steering Committee chair: We will can put changes on hold.
 - Disagreement with rolling back or putting a hold on the work already invested by Steering committees; sense of the meeting was not to roll back or put on hold but recognize that this is an opportunity for further consideration of what was implemented in response to pandemic and that more will be revealed as we consider best practices in our context.
 - Q: Steering committee is not a closed committee; people come in and out. Suggest writing in the script invitation for interested people to join.
 - The group agreed that we would implement a task team to which ALL JFT members would be invited; to consider best practices for the use of a Steering Committee in our context and aligned with AA Group traditions, to research and collect feedback, in order to make a recommendation for governance for JFT to bring to a group conscience. Steering committees would hold making any further changes until this is considered. Goal is to have the task team meet and make some recommendations within a month. Liz D. volunteered to lead; Secretary will work with team to communicate, etc.

Closed at approx 9:52.

submitted Molly R.