

Just for Today AA Inventory Follow Up Meeting In Person and Virtual Special Business Meeting Minutes

22 Jan 2022 8:15am-9:30am

1. Opening (JFT Secretary)

- Acknowledged that thus far the group has had two conversations about inventory, the first of which on 2nd October, 2021 (notes: [JFT Group Inventory Notes](#)) where we were able to get through four of the thirteen questions from the pamphlet [The A.A. Group...Where It All Begins](#) (hereafter 'the A.A. Group pamphlet') and the second of which during the special business meeting of 11 December, 2021 where it was agreed that four more 75 minute sessions would be scheduled, of which this is the first. We will continue to meet in February, March, and April.
- Group secretary asked if before starting the inventory portion of the meeting the group wanted to discuss/review contribution distributions ([notes here](#)) or put that conversation off until the next regular business meeting in March.
 - Group members gave input that since we had Catherine, service seminar chair, in our meeting that we should stick to inventory questions and leave the contributions distribution discussion to the next regular business meeting. There were no objections to tabling the contributions discussion.

2. Group secretary turns the meeting over to Catherine:

- Catherine shared her screen with the A.A. Group Pamphlet
- Asked for a moment of silence
- Read the Declaration of Unity - This we owe to A.A.'s future: To place our common welfare first; to keep our fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives and the lives of those to come.
- General rules of order were shared:
 - Expression of ideas is more important than the frequency with which ideas are shared, if you have already shared leave time for others, no need to emphasize a point already made
 - Catherine introduces herself as service seminar chair, and is here to facilitate a discussion, be a neutral party, and answer questions
 - Page 28 of the A.A. Group pamphlet 'What is an informed A.A. Group Conscience?' is read.
 - In-person participants introduce themselves
- The purpose of today's meeting is an inventory where we collect information on which later decisions will be made

3. Discussion of Question 5 'Do we emphasize the importance of sponsorship?

How effectively? How can we do it better?'

- At the 6am virtual meeting, there is a show of hands for sponsorship both at the beginning and end of the meeting, and at the midpoint of the meeting a show of hands for anyone 'up against a drink'
- At the 7am virtual meeting, there is a show of hands at the beginning of the meeting but a suggestion made that the show of hands is done again at the midpoint of the meeting
- Suggestions:
 - re-visit adding a newcomer liaison
 - ask anyone seeking a sponsor to raise their hand
 - add a statement that says something like 'our group supports sponsorship for newcomers' and a definition of what sponsorship means
 - add a one way chat for a newcomer greeter / cohost
 - add something to the website around sponsorship
 - time/place/topic specific to newcomers (a step meeting referenced that goes back to step one whenever a newcomer joins)

- Establish a new beginner's meeting

4. Discussion of Question 6: Are we careful to preserve the anonymity of our group members and other A.A.s outside the meeting rooms? Do we also leave what they share at meetings behind?

- Discussion of the statement 'what you hear here, let it stay here' means - personal details / stories versus general comments and spiritual intention of the word anonymity
- Anonymity as it relates to virtual meetings and who/what is shown on a screen, comments related to the impact it has when people outside of the program are on the screen
 - There was a question from a member (Janice) if she could invite her family to a virtual anniversary meeting
- Catherine mentioned that there are a couple of paragraphs in the A.A. Group pamphlet about the difference between open and closed meetings

5. Discussion of Question 7: Does our group emphasize to all members the value of keeping up with the kitchen, set-up, clean-up and other housekeeping chores that are essential for our Twelfth Step efforts?

- JFT Secretary asked if we can reframe this question to encompass all the service that takes place for all of our meetings, virtual and in person; Catherine indicated that yes, people should interpret the question in a way that makes sense to them
- Catherine mentioned another group's inventory ([linked here](#)) and said that they looked at the question as 'since going virtual, how has the group's chores changed?'
- Do we emphasize that there is a real need for VMHs? Am I engaged in the meetings in the virtual setting, is my camera on, am I present?
- Suggestions
 - Remind people of how to sign up to chair the in person meetings (not everyone knows there is a book up front)
 - Come back to this question again next month as we're up against time

Meeting comes to a close with a moment of silence and the reading of the Responsibility Statement: I am responsible, when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there, and for that. I am responsible.