

Just for Today Virtual AA Business Meeting Q3 Agenda

24 September 2022

Opening (JFT Secretary) – 5 min

- A Declaration of Unity (all):

This we owe to A.A.'s future: To place our common welfare first; to keep our fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depends our lives and the lives of those to come.

- Thanks to Larry (VMH), Kristine (Note Taker)
- Volunteers read *The 12 Traditions* and *An Informed A.A. Group Conscience*
- Meeting process and guidance

o All JFT Meeting Attendees are invited to attend this business meeting; discussion and voting should be limited to those who consider themselves a *JFT Group Members*

o Please mute when not speaking and unmute when speaking; VMH will assist to keep order

o Onsite Liaison (with zoom access and projector) will monitor raised hands in room and request the 'floor' via raised hand feature

o Please limit comments during the discussion period to critical comments, keep them brief, and please do not duplicate what someone else has shared

o If multiple people stand for specific service jobs, we can vote as needed to select

- Purpose of meeting/review agenda: JFT Service Jobs, standing reports, other topics raised by group

Transitioning JFT/JFTV into Two Separate Groups (JFT Secretary) - 15 min

Wendy reviewed the steps that have been taken so far in separating the on-site and virtual meetings.

Barbara asked about how funds were distributed. Wendy explained that distributing funds would be addressed after the money was split. Approx \$6000 to split in half. The new virtual group can decide how to distribute funds for reserve and other service categories.

Barbara asked for clarification about contributions. Everyone will need to direct their contribution to either the virtual or on site meeting. Specific communication about how/where to send contributions forthcoming as decisions are made.

Ric asked for clarification about how many groups will be formed. Wendy explained there will be one on-site meeting (6 and 7am) and one virtual (6 and 7am). Other decisions about non-profit status will be addressed in next steps.

Agreement to

Presentation to JFTV for Transitioning into Two Separate AA Groups

Clarifying Questions Regarding Practical Steps

What's On Your Mind? (Ken T) – 45 min Ken T, Eastern MA delegate, here to facilitate

Many people shared their thoughts and feelings about the split and how the process was handled.

Molly - Expressed gratitude for the work Wendy has done to shepherd the group through this process. Noted that members can attend any meeting at any time.

Kit - Echoed gratitude and appreciation for Wendy's efforts. Noted that many aspects of the process in terms of AA's recommendations were not followed. Acknowledged that she had hurt feelings and some resentment about the way the split has happened. Expressed desire to move forward in a positive manner.

Peggy - Went to on-site meeting for 11 years. Has some concern that she would feel unwelcome at in-person meeting after the split, but acknowledged this is the nature of our alcoholic thinking.

Bray - Thinks this is wonderful news. Group numbers have expanded as a result of maintaining both formats.

Scottie - Thinks split is wonderful. Makes sense in terms of administration. Also allows for people from all over, people unable to attend in person. Feels hurt by the way the

process occurred. This didn't reflect AA's recommendations, but using the program we can move forward successfully.

Barbara - Months of group inventory didn't result in hearing all reasons for splitting. The division didn't happen the best way possible, but we are moving forward.

Ric - Attachment to virtual meeting is greater than to on site meeting. Split is a good idea even if it hasn't been done perfectly.

Sue - Joined JFT virtual and has no connection to on-site meeting. Appreciates that the leadership of the virtual meeting worked very hard to follow AA principles in this process.

Barrie - Expressed appreciation for comments and for moving the virtual group forward in a healthy way. Felt some disappointment in the way things were handled on the part of the on-site meeting.

Mark - Happy to be here at the birth of a new meeting. As someone 400 miles away he is benefiting from the virtual program. Appreciating the fact that some things have been different from normal in the way they have grown.

John - Expressed appreciation for the service and care that has gone into navigating a difficult situation. Recognized that not everyone showed up in the most helpful way for this process. This has been a learning experience from all angles.

Karen - Grateful for the virtual meeting and for the early pioneers who set up this meeting. Separation feels like a normal progression from where we were to where we're going. Pointed out that the on-site group has been patient in spending time and energy on addressing virtual issues.

Todd A - Sitting with the feelings. Although it's uncomfortable, at the end of the day, there are two groups helping alcoholics. Administration will be easier, and people who cannot attend in-person continue to have access to the daily meeting.

Janice - Expressed her love for the virtual meeting, how connected she feels, and how many new friends she has been able to make in this format.

David - AAs have core principles and ideas that help us stay sober. "The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking," and so we are all welcome at the in-person meeting as well as at the virtual meeting. People in this group were looking for a more democratic process than what occurred, but in the end this is a pragmatic decision that will work for the good of both groups.

Alyssa - Expressed gratitude for Wendy and others who have done the work around this process. Acknowledged the history of how the original JFT has informed the virtual meeting.

Eric - Grateful about this process. Reminded us that background of one of the members for her square in the virtual meeting Feeling at home in the virtual meeting

Wendy - 35 years after joining AA she continues to feel feelings The identity, heritage, ancestry of the original JFT is dear and there is a sense of sadness and loss in splitting. However, it is

Group Conscience on the Proposal for Transition (Ken T) – 15 min

Ken recommended that we review the proposal for the split and clarify any questions. From there we can move forward.

Todd A made a motion to accept the proposal and it was seconded.

Ken asked for discussion around the motion. None needed.

Group voted to approve the proposal as written.

JFTV Service Jobs: (JFT Secretary) - 15 min

Wendy offered thanks to all who are rotating out of service jobs!

Service Jobs Chart for Rotation Beginning October 01, 2022

Roles were filled. New people will contact Wendy. (see below)

All those rotating in: please send JFTSecretary@gmail.com your email address, telephone number, and new service job so you can be connected with the outgoing person, who will train you.

For Reference: Current JFT Service Job Descriptions here

Descriptions of jobs for virtual format, terms of service, etc should be assessed as we move forward so updates can be made as needed.

Next Steps:

Money has been allocated for literature outreach to prisons. If anyone has ideas about how we can further spread the message, please contact our GSR, Kit M:

gsrjft@gmail.com

JFTV Quarterly business meetings are scheduled for - Saturdays, Jan 07 (Q4); March 25 (Q1); June 24 (Q2); Sept 23 (Q3)

Determine if we need an extra business meeting prior to January in response to this time of transition.

Barbara pointed out that there will need to be other meetings around the separation, including whether the virtual meeting will be listed in Intergroup. Wendy explained that meetings will happen as needed to address all these questions and complete the process.

Close meeting (all)

Just for Today Business Meeting

AA 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.

Serenity Prayer: God, grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

AA Resources to Support Group Discussion and Decisions

An Informed A.A. Group Conscience: The group conscience is the collective conscience of the group membership and thus represents substantial unanimity on an issue before definitive action is taken. This is achieved by the group members through the sharing of full information, individual points of view, and the practice of A.A. principles. To be fully informed requires a willingness to listen to minority opinions with an open mind. On sensitive issues, the group works slowly — discouraging formal motions until a clear sense of its collective view emerges. Placing principles before personalities, the membership is wary of dominant opinions. Its voice is heard when a well-informed group arrives at a decision. The result rests on more than a “yes” or “no” count — precisely because it is the spiritual expression of the group conscience. The term “informed group conscience” implies that pertinent information has been studied and all views have been heard before the group votes. (***The AA Group*** https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-16_theaagroup.pdf)

(The Twelve Concepts for

World Service https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/smf-114_en.pdf)

Anonymity Online and Digital Media https://www.aa.org/assets/en_us/smf-197_en.pdf
The AA Group https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-16_theaagroup.pdf

The Twelve Concepts for World Service
https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/smf-114_en.pdf

Concept 12. The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the

seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle;

that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important

decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be

personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that,

like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.