

JFT Quarterly Business Meeting Notes 01/06/2024

Carol C: Chair

Intro and Agenda

Moment of silence, reading of Traditions, Informed AA Group Conscience

Carol C: Agenda we are here for quarterly business meeting, what we've been up to since last quarter. We discuss service jobs, standing reports, updates from meeting in Sept, and new business. Service position rotation is very important.

Carol C: there are two Steering Committees 6am 7am groups, Scottie is chair 6am, Barbara chair 7am, please contact them with questions and / or get on the committee, meetings are scheduled as needed

Carol C: since September, we had meeting on Oct 21st based on two topics for changes

1. Posting meeting information to AA website
2. Propose and discuss service chair Sobriety Time (change it from 90 days to 30 days or 60 days)

Carol C: Both items discussed, these should be worked on as a group and discuss it at business meeting as follow up.

Item 1 - Posting meeting information to AA website

Carol C: this was discussed by steering committee last march, concern of pluses and perils, security etc. Security is the biggest thing, meeting being bombed is disturbing. Current process is to go to website and link to JFT contact list, and then that person sends the meeting info.

We have 76 requests for JFT meeting information since October. In a typical period is less than half, word is getting out there for this meeting. Auto email is the other option.

Member with Auto Experience: set up a vacation responder on the meeting he started, it has an auto responder. They get an immediate response and we get their email. It gives immediate access to the meeting, it doesn't guarantee something unsafe will happen. We could include in automatic email that we ask for additional email. The autoresponder with Gmail has had no trouble at all

Carol C: looking at the contact list some folks may wait a few days before joining after they click the link.

Member: went to AA international website, had the experience of doing auto meeting response email. In addition to needing to take a step for access, we also retain the waiting room. Waiting room is a deterrent. That layer has kept us protected and as far as I know no zoom bombing

Member: Microsoft account also has auto replies, doesn't need to be Gmail. Also I would add a suggestion, instead of a phone number pose the question, do you have a desire to stop drinking

Member: I belong to a group that has been zoom bombed, we had another service position, a security button within zoom, and you can lock someone if there is an issue

Member made a motion, it was seconded

Discussion

Member: we have gotten 6-12 emails stating warning don't respond to them. I think auto response is not personable

Member: I have been on meetings that have been bombed. For security purpose to help with this, what they are doing that is effective, not able to unmute without permission, the meeting chair or security controls who can speak

Member: I have never experienced zoom bomber on JFT zoom, we have ability to kick folks out. We are afraid of something that hasn't happened. I don't understand the fear of possibility.

Member: on some websites you have something indicating yes I am human, I wonder if that is possibility. Third tradition point, there are other traditions, I am more towards not doing the auto reply

Carol C: if we do this there are some additional security, the auto reply still gives us email, it allows it to be more expeditious, and we do have to keep in mind emails with warnings. Maybe add to the response do you have a desire to stop drinking

The need to be open and not afraid, and possibility of muting folks as they raise hands is possible.

Member: trust god and lock your car. Yesterday I was at a meeting that was zoom bombed, use the security we have

Member: I appreciate the conversation, I do think it is about the motion on the floor I don't know or perceive we can make an auto response that asks a questions and has another auto response, etc. that is layered technology. My opinion is do what Member said is to give it a try. I have been delighted by newcomers we've had

Carol or Member: let's give it a shot with auto reply and see how it goes. We don't give that test of regular halls of AA, the statement that it is a closed meeting, we if issues come up with that, we can address it. Not keep people out

Vote: in favor 13, Opposed 2, Others Abstained 3

Minority Opinion / Abstained

Member: you might be taking something away from another person helping (I assume she means service position)

Member: you don't have to be an alcoholic to come to AA, the only requirement is a desire to stop drinking

Carol C: Vote is accepted that we will change access, service position will still be needed, we can reach out to folks who were sent an automated response

Wendy: it is a wonderful opportunity to shift the role to making it a hey how are you vs. sending meeting info, more of a liaison, a newcomer focus. I would be happy to help work with that person

One voter change

Carol C - In favor we have 12, opposed is 3, we are changing it. I will ask for help from Jerry as to how to craft it. And we are going to address again at March meeting

Agenda proposal, change service position to 30 days. We didn't change it from 90 to 30, we talked about other ideas for service under 90 days.

TREASURER REPORT

Member: treasurer report with all info thru end of December, summary of 2023

Current balance at bank \$3,888.96

Annual contributions were \$14,301.26, 80% coming from PayPal, 20% checks and cash sent in

Average per month is approx. \$1,200 that is down a little bit from 2022 (average around \$1400)

Operating expenses, zoom fee, website fee, we have PayPal fees, and we have post office box \$1,252.94 prudent reserve \$313.24, Total is \$1566.18

We bring in enough to cover operating expenses

One-time expenses we had for setting up, we take in over \$5k we are required to register with IRS as non-profit and state of MA as a charity

Some other expenses we have talked about, we reimburse CC to go to NERAASA \$325

Other categories we have talked about, think we stopped doing cards, literature and chips, no one has submitted request to reimburse those

Rest of money distributed to be split Boston center Service, district 22, Area 30, grapevine carry the message, and General Service Office in NY, approx. \$3k per entity. Total: \$15,036.58

We had extra \$3k carried over from when we split off from in person group

Current balance: \$3,888.96

Other expense not in this list is tax preparation, we will have an expense with someone helping with that, Federal is postcard, and state of MA is more complicated

I'd like to suggest we wait until next quarterly business meeting as I am not sure of expenses in next month or so,

Member: we have another ad hoc meeting to discuss how we divide it up for distributions

Member: that would make sense

Member: I served on ad hoc committee over a year ago, my understanding is that committee disbanded, I would be in favor of doing it

A few members agreed to be a part of this and discussing.

GSR REPORT

Member: I have to step down, I am not available during the meeting time, I cannot do the Wed night meetings, I have been doing it for one year. I will help out with transition and I am putting it out there

Carol C: let's have folks contact member to see what is involved

Member: we do have an alternate GSR, Member. And tomorrow is area assembly and that is a topic – what role of GSR is, what it entails .etc.

Carol C: GSR attends monthly district meeting, Second wed of month, and it is on zoom. Please contact current GSR Members with questions.

Carol C: Member is not here to give central service update, but she said not much is going on

Carol C: new script is up and we do have chat function, these were steering committee discussion, adjusted serenity prayer a bit. If you are a chair, go to website to download

Carol C: those two groups are available for members to join if interested

VIRTUAL MEETING COORDINATOR

Member, we do need VMHs to sign up, VMH is big concern, it is a great way to be of service. Folks can do it on certain days and opportunity exists for not doing it full week. We set up a just in case contacts to assemble names and phone numbers, in case emergencies occur

The requirement to have a code has been fixed (Carol C said this)

Members who are the website administrators, are not here and they are doing outstanding job, let me know if you have stuff for them.

Virtual Platform Liaison update is Member – no updates at this time

Commitment Coordinator – Member, regarding McLean hospital commitments.

Carol C: this happen on the first and last Saturday of the month commitment at McLean Hospital to share experience strength and hope

Member: A question regarding commitments, do we have service to add, Charles River Treatment center in Weston Ma is open to have commitments on weeknights. Do we wish to pursue commitment to Charles River, I would be willing to work on that, I'd work with current Commitment Coordinator

Carol C: great idea, and thanks

Carol C: JFT Contact list is now available, link on website, and you can get copies

We have already reviewed ad hoc meeting

NEW BUSINESS

Carol C: should we go forward with group inventory

Member - open the door since we are now listed on AA intergroup, they have a position to have a delegate, representative of our group. I'd like to suggest someone to investigate what the role is.

Member- I will do it

Member: concern on AI companion on zoom, this permits zoom to have permission for data. There is no option to opt out. This is a safety issue with the data. I would like it be private and it is not

Carol C: I agree I don't want to us to have data shared

Member: this includes facial recognition, private conversation and audio. I found this looking it up on AI companion

Member: an ad hoc committee be formed to discuss this, present in advance of this next meeting.

Member: I am happy to do it and need help with technology piece of it

Member: I would be a part of the committee

Member: are there other platforms like Cisco that can do this

Member: if we are looking at another platform, it is less available for those with disabilities

Carol C: I appreciate this being brought up, we want to be safe, and have our privacy, and be available for all

Carol C: I think we have hit all the points

Group inventory - raise hand and willing to discuss and look at it, folks saying yes / raised hand: 9

We will look into it, and I will summarize

Motion to adjourn meeting