

**For Today Meditation Meeting
Group Conscience Minutes December 2, 2023**

1. **Introduction: 9AM EST**

Welcome to the group conscience meeting of the For Today Meditation meeting of OA. My name is *Jennifer M*, I am powerless over food, and your chair for this meeting.

2. **Serenity Prayer:**

With lines muted, will those who wish to, please join me in the Serenity Prayer: *“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”*

3. **Tradition 4:** “Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or OA as a whole.”

4. **Establishing Ground Rules:**

This meeting is held for one hour. The purpose of this meeting is to make decisions that affect our group. Decisions can be changed, amended, even thrown out. I encourage everyone here to participate. If a matter comes to a vote and you do not attend our meeting regularly or do not plan to, please consider whether it would be reasonable for you to vote. However, we welcome everyone’s viewpoint; we can all learn from one another. Please remember *Tradition Five: ‘Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the compulsive overeater who still suffers.’ Therefore, anything we decide at this meeting must reflect that purpose. No matter what we believe as individuals, we must be united in our purpose to carry our message as best we can to the compulsive overeater who still suffers. That person is our focus. May we do our best for them.*

5. **Minutes from the Previous Meeting:** *Minutes Approved* GC Secretary Kate in Texas provided highlights of the November 2023 GC meeting citing motions that were carried and motions that failed.

6. **Treasurer’s Report:** *Treasurer’s Report Approved*

GC Treasurer Christy R reported that in November 2023 \$419.42 was received through donations, no expenses were incurred, prudent reserve is \$300, and \$419.42 was sent to WSO.

7. **Literature Report:**

GC Literature Coordinator April reported no newcomer packets were sent in November 2023.

8. **Old Business:**

None

9. **New Business Proposed Motions:**

MOTION 1 (Jennifer M): *Motion Carried –Present: 33 Yes 14 No12 Abstain 3*

Proposed Motion: In response to Karen’s motion last month, name the service position that opens the room at 7:45 as Pre-Meeting Host; name the service position that runs the meeting as Meeting Host; keep the position that leads the after meeting as After-Meeting Host. Jennifer M proposed, Theresa seconded.

Discussion: KarenKay and Theresa agreed with the motion as it provides consistency and clarity. April said that she would like to keep the Tech Host title. Jennifer said that some found the “tech host” title to be scary to potential volunteers. Ronna said that she was confused as the titles had been changed three times.

MOTION 2 (Jean N): Motion Carried –Present: 33 Yes 23 No 3 Abstain 3

Proposed Motion: To ask during the introductory readings that all available sponsors put their names and numbers in the chat ~~instead of~~ (in addition to) raising hands at the end of meeting. Jean N proposed, Kate in Texas seconded.

Discussion: Muriel asked if there was any abstinence requirement for sponsors. Kate in Texas that there was no requirement for our meeting.

MOTION 3 (Cathy O): Motion Carried –Present: 31 Yes 13 No 11 Abstain 0

Proposed Motion: To emphasize the 7th Tradition in the For Today meeting script and stress that making a regular donation is another form of service. Cathy O proposed, Robin seconded.

Discussion: Kim P said that she disagreed as there has been a lot of script changes lately and that our group was receiving a good amount of donations. Michelle FL said that the WSO was struggling financially and felt the proposal was a good idea.

MOTION 4 (Jennifer M): Motion Carried –Present: 31 Yes 26 No 0 Abstain 2

Proposed Motion: Motion: to approve the service board slate for the term January 1-July 31, 2024. Jennifer proposed, Sarah B seconded.

Discussion: New service board members are GC Chairperson ~ Jennifer M, Secretary ~ Kate in Texas, We Care List Coordinator ~ Katharine, Meeting Contact ~ Leeann N, Service Coordinator ~ Wanda/April, Website & Zoom Coordinator ~ Stacey D, Literature Coordinator ~ Paula M. Kate in Texas thanked the members who were leaving the board: April, Amanda, and Christy R.

MOTION 5 (Christy R): Motion Failed –Present: 25 Yes 6 No 11 Abstain 7

Proposed Motion: To create a WhatsApp group for a constant security thread. Anyone who is vetted and trained by our trusted servants would be added, with the intention of keeping everyone abreast of the types of intrusions happening, frequency and what action was (and can be) taken.

Discussion: Theresa asked if our group holds a security meeting or has a security volunteer position. Christy R said no. KarenKay said that co-hosts who provide security during a meeting either private chat each other or form a text group on their phones. Theresa said OA Footsteps has a security WhatsApp group because they have 100 meeting groups, but for our one group, a security group should not be necessary. Diana AZ called for a vote.

MOTION TO EXTEND MEETING TIME (Jennifer M): Motion Carried –Present: 23 Yes 17 No 0 Abstain 2

MOTION 6 (Kate in Texas): Motion Failed –Present: 17 Yes 4 No 9 Abstain 3

Proposed Motion: To dissolve the service board position of GC Treasurer for the January 1 - July 31, 2024, session due to no nominations and the challenge of the new tax law in January 2024. All members send donations directly to the World Service Organization. Kate in Texas proposed, KarenKay seconded.

Discussion: Kate in Texas said that no one had shown interest in the Treasurer position after many attempts to recruit. She proposed that the group dissolve the Treasurer position for the next six months and that her proposed plan would be explained in Motions 7-9. Kim P asked about the new tax law and whether the group could move to Zelle instead of the current PayPal application. Ann C said that not having a treasurer did not feel safe when making donations. Cathy O asked someone to explain the new tax laws. Christy R provided an explanation. Theresa said that a decision could not be made on this motion without hearing the proposed plan in Motions 7-9 first. Kate explained that all donations could be sent directly to WSO and Zoom and website expenses could be paid via funds solicited from members. Karen R said that dissolving the treasurer position set a “terrible precedent” for our group. She suggested that the position be held by two people. Karen R offered to set up the bank account and handle the Zelle application but could not handle the bookkeeping.

Post-Vote Discussion: Jennifer M said that as the motion failed, the current treasurer would continue until 12/31/23 but after that date the group has no plan. Cathy O said that she could do the bookkeeping but could not open a bank account or handle the Zelle application. Karen R said that she could set up the Zelle account as well as the bank account. Jennifer M asked Christy R if she would help in the transition of the treasurer position. Christy R agreed.

AMENDED MOTION 6 (Kim P): *Motion Carried –Present: 16 Yes 14 No 0 Abstain 1*

Motion to approve GC Co-Treasurers for the term January 1-July 31, 2024. Kim P proposed, Kate in Texas seconded.

Discussion: New GC Co-Treasurers are Karen R and Cathy O.

MOTION 7 (Kate in Texas): *Motion was not introduced*

To pay for two of the three meeting expenses, Zoom room and website, from funds solicited from members during the 8 am meeting as expenses come due.

MOTION 8 (Kate in Texas): *Motion was not introduced*

That the GC Chair and/or Secretary be responsible for soliciting funds specifically for remaining expenses of Zoom and web site fees. They will track due dates, donation solicitation, payment of expenses, and reporting of said payments at the GC meeting.

MOTION 9 (Kate in Texas): *Motion was not introduced*

To upload the newcomer packet to the For Today website and discontinue the distribution of hard copy paper packets, thereby eliminating the third meeting expense. Existing paper packets would still be available as needed.

MOTION 10 (Karen R): *Motion was not introduced*

Proposed Motion: That new agenda items may not be discussed or voted on during the Future Business portion of the meeting

10. **Future Business:**

MOTION (Theresa): *Motion was not submitted by the deadline*

11. **Closing:**

Jennifer M adjourned meeting.

Meeting ended at 9:21 AM EST.

Respectfully submitted December 21, 2023, by *Kate Edwards (Kate in Texas), GC Secretary*