

OA For Today Meditation Meeting Group Conscience Minutes

Saturday, May 5, 2025

1. Introduction

2. **Serenity Prayer** (All) *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.*

3. **Tradition 2:** "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern."

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

5. Minutes (Deb B)

The minutes & treasurers report for the **April 2025** meeting were approved. The following motions were discussed:

Motion 1 (Ann C) Propose that all members can unmute and read aloud the opening Serenity Prayer, A Word on Anonymity, and Responsibility Pledge.

Second: Bill

Vote: 30 present, yes=17, no=3, abstained=2; motion passes

Motion 2 (Ann C) Propose that in addition to the daily reading from For Today, include the daily reading from Voices of Recovery in the 8AM meeting.

Second: Lisa

Vote: 30 present, yes=6, no=13, abstained=5; motion fails

Motion 3 (Jennifer J) Propose that the last five minutes of the meeting sharing time be reserved for newcomers, members with a burning desire as defined by a potential for relapse or self-harm, or members who have not shared in a while.

Second: Frances

Vote: 28 present, yes= 11, no= 12, abstained= 2; motion fails

Motion 4 (Frances) Propose that the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions be read as written determined by the OA World Service Business Conference.

Second: Wanda

Vote: 24 present, yes=9, no=13, abstained=0; motion fails

Motion 5 (Lois) Propose that the link for the "Where to Start" PDF brochure be included under the "Newcomer Resources" button on the For Today website.

Second: Kim

Vote: 22 present, yes=19, no=0, abstained=0; motion passes

6. Treasurer Report (Cathy O and Karen R) **Approved**

- Received \$282 April, sent to WSO \$282 Report (Karen R)

7. Literature Report (Paula M)

- Sent out **newcomer packets**: 5 new packets sent.

8. Old Business *none*

9. New Business - Procedure for new business:

- Presenter will make the motion by reading it and giving more information if needed.
- Chair will ask for someone to second the motion
- If seconded, discussion will follow. Please raise electronic hand to participate in the discussion
- **Chair will entertain 4 pro statements and 4 con statements after which a vote will be held.**

Motion 1 (Ann C) Propose that intruders should not be called out during the meeting. Drawing attention to the intruder with discussion after can be triggering to some members.

Second: Angie

Discussion:

PROS:

Jean: Pro 1 – for anything that makes the meeting safe. Would react better if this passes.

Angie Pro 2 – pro with exception. We need to give as little attention as possible. We should just post something in chat quickly and move on.

Denise: Pro 3– the people doing security usually address it well. If someone not doing service is the one who sees it, they should also be communicated to.

Susan: Pro 4 – some room for us to make some type of statement even if maybe at the beginning saying if behavior is considered unacceptable, you will be removed.

CONS:

Kim: Con 1 – appreciate sentiment but opposed. Feels like this is not one of those things that should be codified.

Bill: Con 2 – also appreciates it, worthy of discussion. Comes from doing zoom security in another meeting and it felt like it was important to address for those that might be traumatized, so they know what happened.

Diana: Con 3 – has had to shut meeting down and it becomes a whole big thing if there is no discussion about it.

Alice: Con 4 – Don't think it needs to be a big production.

Amended motion: Wants to amend if we do "If an intruder enters the room they will be removed and reported. The membership will be notified in chat, "the meeting intruder has been removed, no further discussion necessary".

Vote: 32 present, yes=25, no=1, abstained=2; **motion passes**

Motion 2 (Kim P) Propose that the use of emojis be reinstated for members during the meeting. (Motion to eliminate emojis passed in October 2024 meeting which was seven months ago and eligible for a new discussion).

Second: Jessica

Amended: Propose that the use of reactions in the video squares be reinstated for members during the meeting.

Kim: She does not like removing the ability to use emojis.

Discussion:

PROS:

Jessica: Pro 1 – does not like to overcontrol what people do. She is expressive and things it's not super-spamming.

Christy: Pro 2 – like Jessica's reasons. Also, does not feel it's fair and equitable because you can do it on phone but not on computer

Name: Pro 3– xxx

Name: Pro 4 – xxx

CONS:

Susan: Con 1 – against because it's distracting – misses part of next person's share. Also, thinks it's another language of speaking. Maybe open in the after-meeting (would be another motion).

Jean: Con 2 – worries it would feel like a social club and would diminish the hard work people are doing.

Diana: Con 3 – partly generational, a little external validation, prefers facial expressions and gestures of love. Plus, it is hard for someone that poured their heart out but gets nothing.

Tracy: Con 4 – does not see it as control, just a standard.

Question - Leann – can they be sep, chat vs within Hollywood square? Yes can sep. Fine with emojis in chat, not on squares.

Vote: 27 present, yes=7, no=15, abstained=2; **motion fails**

Motion 3 (Kate in TX) Propose that our meeting present a workshop open to any OA member on the Midlife Challenges in OA (title will change). Date and time TBD. 1.5 hours in length.

Second: Deb

Discussion:

PROS:

Susan: Pro 1 – great idea, grow from this to other age groups

Emerald: Pro 2 – no script

Ann: Pro 3– as long as does not take place in after meeting

Deb: Pro 4 – great idea and it does not affect this group

CONS:

Kim: Con 1 – needs to be defined more

Name: Con 2 – xxx

Name: Con 3 – xxx

Name: Con 4 – xxx

Vote: 24 present, yes=18, no=2, abstained=2; **motion passes**

TABLED UNTIL JUNE Motion 4 (Kate in TX) Propose that the number of GC meetings be reduced from once a month to once every three months. Meetings would be held on the first Saturday of January, April, July, and October. However, a special circumstance meeting could be scheduled by the Service Board at any time for a specific urgent topic.

Second: xxx

Discussion:

PROS:

Name: Pro 1 – xxx

Name: Pro 2 – xxx

Name: Pro 3– xxx

Name: Pro 4 – xxx

CONS:

Name: Con 1 xxx

Name: Con 2 – xxx

Name: Con 3 – xxx

Name: Con 4 – xxx

Vote: xx present, yes=xx, no=xx, abstained=xx; **motion passes/fails**

10. Future business – Procedure for future business:

- Christy – chat emojis not equitable (phone vs computer).
- Diana – we should look into separating chat vs reactions.
- Tracy – when did we change the muting policy? Remains on unmute through meditation .
- Diana – could add a line in script to mute all after the serenity prayer.

11. Motion to Adjourn: *Bill* seconded by *Deb*