

Group Conscience (GC) Business Meeting: Agenda, Minutes and Business Items

Monday, May 15th, 2023, at 8:45 a.m. EST

Chair: Joy

Recording Secretary: Caitlin service.caitlin@gmail.com

Timekeeper: Lisa

Summary of Motions

- 1 Motion to adopt the agenda [Cynthia]
 - Second: Antoinette
 - Motion passes

- 2 Motion [Boaz]: Table all un-approved and un-posted minutes until we have a chance to meet in a safe, business care meeting.
 - Second: Jim
 - Vote
 - All in favor: 17
 - All opposed: 0
 - Abstentions: 1
 - Motion carries

- 3 Motion (this motion was amended once to clarify “selected” instead of “elected,” see full notes below for original)
[Lisa] – Draft announcement to ask people to self-nominate for the Web Servant position and show up to be “selected” in 3 weeks. On discussion, allow self-nominees to email interest to info@acamorning and include qualifications required in the announcement
 - Seconded – Una
 - In favor – 16
 - Opposed – 0
 - Motion carries

- 4 Motion to extend meeting by 15 min [Member]
 - Second [Member]
 - 1 Nay vote in chat
 - Simple majority to extend – motion passes

- 5 Motion [Jim] – motion that the time for giving reports be extending from 2 to 3 minutes
 - Second – David
 - In favor – 11
 - Opposed – 1
 - Minority opinion
 - Jean – this issue was brought up b/c reports took too long, that’s why posted. 2 min was instituted
 - Joy: Has anyone changed their vote? 1 in favor changed to opposed
 - Revote
 - In favor – 5
 - Opposed – 9
 - Motion does not pass

- 6 Motion [Jim] extend meeting to top of hour
 - Second: Jean
 - Motion carries

- 7 Motion to adjourn – member
 - Second
 - Motion carries
 - 10:25 am EST adjourned

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Agenda (in-short)

1. Call to Order
2. ACA Serenity Prayer
3. General Guidelines
4. Call for Service
5. Motion to Adopt the Agenda
6. Reading of Traditions and Commitments to Service
7. Approval of Minutes
8. Reports
9. Old Business
10. New Business
11. Announcements and Next Meeting
12. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Full Notes

1. **Call to Order**
2. **ACA Serenity Prayer**
3. **General guidelines for this meeting only**
4. **Call for Service:**
 - a) Recording Secretary: Caitlin has volunteered to be the Recording Secretary
 - b) Timekeeper: Lisa has volunteered to be the timekeeper

5. **Motion to adopt the agenda:**
 - **1 Motion to adopt the agenda: Cynthia**
 - **Second: Antoinette**
 - **Motion passes**

6. **Volunteer to read Traditions:** 6 volunteers to raise your hands and read the Traditions – **Lisa, Cynthia, Stephanie, Jim, Barb, Margaret**

Volunteer to read Commitments to Service: 3 volunteers to read the Commitments **Una, Cynthia**

7. **Approval of Minutes:**

April 2023 minutes: [\[LINK\]](#) Are there any corrections to the minutes? Are there any further corrections to the minutes? There being no corrections to the minutes, the minutes are approved.

Discussion

- Jean: there are several sets of unapproved minutes, including March
- Boaz: there are a set of questions about group conscience meetings and group care meetings. Suggest we bring the meeting minutes to the safety/business group to sort them out in a more spacious manner with more people present.
- **2 Motion (Boaz): Table all un-approved and un-posted minutes until we have a chance to meet in a safe, business care meeting.**
 - **Second: Jim**
 - **Vote**
 - **All in favor: 17**
 - **All opposed: 0**
 - **Abstentions: 1**

8. Reports:

Treasurer: [\[Jim & Shana\]](#) - Shana not present. Jim doesn't have treasurer's report

Service Team: [\[Boaz\]](#)

Report can be found here: https://www.acamorning.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/PDFServiceReport5_23.pdf

Summary of report

- Training – no training in May (will have one in June)
- Room host roundtable – happening on May 21
- Captioning – testing it out, will need to be voted on at some point
- Transition time for Service Co-Secretaries (6 month mark just passed)
 - Krista is stepping down
 - Boaz interested in staying on, has asked if Caitlin would serve with her

Questions and Discussion re: Service Team Report

- Jean: Will there be an election process for the co-secretary position? Would like to have a transparent election process
- Boaz: Do you mean a general election asking Caitlin to step up? Or do you mean a general election asking anyone stepping up?
- Jean: Want other members who want that position to have a chance to speak on it. You can explain your preference
- Lisa – in agreement with Jean. When Wendy handled it with Joy and myself she met with us to train us and prepare us for a transition
- Margaret – what qualities does she have that worked well? See both sides – opening position to all vs. appointing/selecting Caitlin
- Cynthia – b/c we have such a large group, it is important that the requirements of the person providing service be attended to. I think it's important that we as a group be caring of and for the people who give their service so they can do so safely and comfortably

- Jim – I see what Boaz is saying and in agreement that knowing who you will be working with is important. Maybe in the long run, a system is developed where there is a practice that someone from the team steps up after really participating.
- Will – echoing sentiments. Having served in the co-secretary role in the past, being in the role with someone you know you are comfortable with is a prerequisite. Boaz has been serving in this capacity for 6 months, they are familiar. It would be preferable to support Boaz in selecting their co-secretary in the process
- Eric – are we discussing a motion or an idea?
- Joy – an idea
- Eric – from what I've seen, Boaz's leadership has been exceptional and give them some weight. B/c there has been some controversy, feel some stability would be good for the meeting.
- Caitlin [recording secretary] – am I capturing all meeting discussion, including names?
- Jean – if we are following Robert's Rules then we should only capture what was done – motions, etc. But we haven't voted on following Robert's Rules so it's up to the group.

Communications: [Joy]

Report can be found here: <https://www.acamorning.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/COMM-Report-Apr-2023.pdf>

Discussion of Comms Report

- Lisa - If we are recommending that we buy a paid subscription, are we making a motion at some point?
- Jean – the mass email that was sent on April 20, who is/was responsible
- Joy – I am the one that posts emails. There is only access to the email database by the Comms team. When people want to send an email, they send me content and I upload it to MailChimp.
- Jim – wish people were taking notes on ideas of what's not working/working for business meeting purposes
- Boaz – honor Jean's point. When Joy gets a request, she sends a mass email. Anyone at this point can ask for a mass email.
- Kelly – when we had an issue regarding holding meetings on this zoom account. When that happened, we immediately put a freeze on the account. would like to propose that we do a similar thing with the mass emails. Important to address anonymity in all of these things.

WSO Representative: [Vivienne] Boaz is giving the report on behalf of Vivian.

- The report can be found here: <https://www.acamorning.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-ABC-Report.pdf>

Website: [_____]

- No webservant is present, stepped down last month
- Open position

- Archived webservant reports are available on the web

Ad Hoc Safety Committee: [Lisa]

Report can be found here: <https://www.acamorning.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Safety-Committee-Report-R2-May-2023.pdf>

Discussion of Safety Working Group Report

- Jean – safety working group needs to be voted in by group conscience. Is there a time that can happen to make official this working group to voted to create recommendations, not actions
- Jim – in theory we could vote on it now, only 28 participants, not representative of 250 that were here today. At WSO, they put the vote out to the group worldwide and vote online. We can consider how we want to vote in the future
- Boaz – on Saturday, had a really amazing productive discussion. Regular . Talked about the merging the safety working group with the business practices, and expanded scope of the group including coming up with a new name. Would like to see us name ourselves, what we propose to do before we vote on it
- Ingrid – in my home group, we always announce twice before taking a vote.

9. Old Business:

a) **Positions open – GC Chairperson; Webservant, Service Co-Secretary**

- Lisa – need to start announcing the webservant position and work to have an election
- Jean – agree with Lisa that we should have an election. If anyone needs the template for how to have an election, Lisa and I have the template
- Jim – realizing the treasurer’s report might be in the webservant’s inbox. Shana may not have been available. Treasurer report will be filed next month.
- Lisa – can we make a motion to have an election in three weeks?
- Birgit – when it is a game changing decision, we announce it at every meeting that it will be voted on in two business meetings – allows discussion at one then voted on at the next. Is there any clarification on how many people need to be in the business meeting to make a decision?
- Jim – there is no policy at this point
- Maria – my experience is that things get announced before voted on. In place so that it isn’t
- Caitlin – consider having meetings in evening or weekends so more people can participate in the discussions and context (not just voting). Hard to vote without context
- Eric – agree- need innovation. I bet there are ideas out there to. Gut reaction, 3 weeks is fast
- Brian – if we have important meetings to be brought to the floor, could be an annual or quarterly meeting, could be during the regular meeting schedule. Trying to find another time to do the business in the group is challenging with this many. We do not have a quorum based on the amount of people coming to this meeting if following Robert’s rules.

- Margaret – in my experience, been going to 12 step meetings for. Can't think of any time when I've seen a quorum of a group at a business meeting. We have a tradition of attraction rather than promotion.
- Jean – made a motion in Feb 2022 to adopt Robert's Rules of order in our business meeting. That motion has been deleted. Would like to bring that motion back in. Or another parliamentary procedure. Or the WSO
- Brian – would be willing to second the motion
- **3 Motion [Lisa] – have an election in three weeks for the webservant role and to announce until then.**
 - **Jean – second**
 - **Discussion**
 - **Caitlin – is this an elected position?**
 - **Lisa – when Conrad was announcing his departure he said it wasn't an elected position but thinks it should be**
 - **Caitlin – can see why it should be an elected position.**
- **4 Motion to extend 15 min [Member]**
 - **Second [Member]**
 - **1 Nay vote in chat**
 - **Simple majority to extend – motion passes**
- Una – is the safety group also looking at changed in how we do business?
- Jim – a group is being formed at how we conduct our business. Will kick-off in another week or two.
- Una – idea – can we put a survey out prior to group conscience?
- Birgit – would like to move the business meetings to Saturdays or Sundays due to work schedules worldwide.
- Member – would be willing to second.
- Jim – a poll can be sent out what times work best for most people. We'll also look at recording. That's some of the work of the working group.
- Birgit – we are deliberately not on the mailing list. It's not anonymous the mailing list. Please consider allowing "Europe" as an option.
- Eric – as a personality type, I find that ACAs are procrastinators and people pleasers. A motion was made and seconded. Can you tell me where that stands?
- Amended Motion – selection of webservant in 3 weeks, on a Sunday and that we announce it until then?
- **Motion - Lisa – Draft announcement to ask people to self-nominate for the webservant position and show up to be "selected."**
 - **Seconded – Una**
 - **In favor – 16**
 - **Opposed – 0**
 - **Motion carries**
- Jim – need to plan for a plan B. Can they write to an email to express interest?
- Lisa – can go to info@, will write a blurb
- Jim – maybe wendy can talk to them
- Birgit – when voting, hard to know if not on

- **Motion [Jim] – motion that the time for giving reports be extending from 2 to 3 minutes**
 - **Second – David**
 - **In favor – 11**
 - **Opposed – 1**
 - **Minority opinion - Jean – this issue was brought up b/c reports took too long, that's why posted. 2 min was instituted**
 - **Has anyone changed their vote? 1 in favor changed to opposed**
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 - **Second: Jean**
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- **Motion to adjourn – member**
- **Second**
- **10:25 am EST adjourned**