

L&T Group Inventory Notes that were captured

From Love Tolerance <info@loveandtol.com>

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Date Sunday, September 8th, 2024 at 3:59 PM

Happy Sunday everyone!

Here are the notes that were captured from the September 7th L&T Group Inventory. Nineteen people attended (including Tim C., for gracious facilitator).

I want to thank Tim C. again for his time and service.

I would also like to thank all of those that attended and contributed. There are several **ACTIONS** highlights that will need to be compiled and taken to our monthly business meeting to be discussed and acted on, where necessary, by the Group Conscience.

I am very thankful for AA, this group and each and every one of you! Happy and proud to be of service to this group!

Best regards and much Love!

Jonathan Kim (JK)

Love and Tolerance AA Group Inventory

Saturday, September 7, 2024 @ 2:30 PM ET

Attendees

- ü Tim C. (facilitator)
- ü Jonathan Kim
- ü Jim P.
- ü Felicia
- ü Fred M.
- ü Paul H.
- ü Don
- ü Tracy S.
- ü Brian Moore

- ü David B.
- ü Jess
- ü Maya
- ü Andy W
- ü Elizabeth D.
- ü Beth
- ü Felicia
- ü Chris W. (no A/V)
- ü Natasha
- ü Maya

Meeting Principles & Suggestions:

These should be reviewed at the beginning of the meeting and agreed to by all.

- Ø This is **NOT** about a specific event or individuals.
- Ø No decisions will be made; this is not a group conscience meeting.
- Ø A consensus is possible, but not necessary.
- Ø The group agrees to allow the facilitator to guide the group to adherence to the principles of the group inventory.
- Ø All participants agree to work together to complete the inventory.
- Ø Participants do not interrupt when someone is speaking.
- Ø Participants agree to raise their hands to be recognized.
- Ø There is no such thing as a bad opinion.
- Ø **NON-NEGOTIABLE** – Participants agree to treat one another with dignity and respect. Principles before personalities.
- Ø Participants agree to always keep AA's primary purpose uppermost in mind.
- Ø **HAVE FUN**, grow and share in fellowship.

Inventory Questions

1. Does our group put the interests of any individual above the welfare of the group or of AA as a whole?

- a. Jess T.
 - Believes puts welfare of the group first.
- b. Brian Moore
 - Seconds what Jess said...puts the welfare of the group above the individual.
- c. Tracy S
 - Thinks the opinion that group above the individual.

d. Chris W.

- I think we as a group are a bit more sensitive to the needs of individuals at times we are afraid to step on toes , example , keeping topics aa approved.

e. Jim P.

- During fellowship we have occasions were people before group and domination of conversation

f. Jonathan K.

- Agreed the group first mentality and host(s) do have trouble at times keeping on topic, interjecting and dialing it back in.

g. Tracy S.

- Attempted to bring non-AA topic, even after someone did it prior. Felt uncomfortable and attacked.
- Be careful how we treat others.

h. Paul H.

- Non-AA-approved material is very rare. Thinks that it is due to newer people. We have tried, but needs to be mindful.

i. Don.

- He did shut down and was following instruction(s). Apologized for his doing so.

j. **ACTION**

- Hosts need to understand the topics and content. Must be AA approved and consistently enforced.

2. Does our group do anything that misrepresents the conscience of the majority of the group?

a. Andy W.

- Yes – taking liberties with the script, format and cadence. Host feeding back, joking, cross-talking. Veering from the script.
- Hosting an A.A. meeting is not my opportunity to have open mic night.

b. Tracy S.

- Seconded Andy. Aware of the cross-talking at times, feedback from the host. Makes nervous/anxious and not used to it.
- Hosts cross-talking consistently really disrupting the meeting. Chair setting the bar and setting the tone of the meeting.

c. David B.

- I get nervous with silence and sometimes feel like I'm just have to say something ,even off topic.

d. Paul H.

- Do stray from the conscience and do let "things" slide.

e. Jess T.

- Agrees with Tracy 100%

f. Felicia

- If this includes allowing those who have recently drank to speak - this has made me uncomfortable.

g. Fred

- Hosts facilitates the meeting. Should not be acknowledging and commenting on each share. Newcomers and generic feedback like "join us for fellowship," "get phone numbers," something specific to help with a newcomer.

h. **ACTION**

- Bring up and discuss the crosstalk that occurs. The “chair don’t share.” (Tim C. comment per his group experience)
- Meetings that are larger, have a breakout room for Beginners – this is possible with Zoom technology. Entertain a Newcomer meeting? Would require updating the information “out there.”

3. Does our group exclude anyone with a drinking problem from attending the group?

a. Tim C.

- AA Security guide:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/12AFTKiXTE2r0PZay047LwdKpRrykus8jEAKQ8DHIzrl/edit>
- Attend other groups and see how they do it.

b. Jess

- Tricky question – we have problems with disruptors and at times, we make mistakes with “removing” and thus cannot get back in.
- For misbehaving, what should happen and for how long?
- Need to find a balance.

c. Fred

- Seconds Jess.
- Not following the host/co-host suggestions.
- Received emails “why did you kick me.”
- We need to follow the guidelines, not jump the gun.

d. Felicia

- No - not really that I have witnessed.
- Actually, I feel like we may be too lenient with those who are able to share... who are actively drinking or drunk to share.
- There are “bombers” who need removed.. but how to decipher who is bombing vs not??

e. Jim

- Have not addressed as much as we need to.
- No one should “enjoy” kicking people out of the meeting.
- Needs clarification.

f. Andy

- Can't log in on my laptop anymore because someone booted me.

g. Jonathan

- We need to circle back around and revisit, and focus on resources and other meetings maybe.

h. Paul H.

- Really important topic – agrees with no one enjoying.
- Don't use any word to label it. Talk about what it actually means.
- They make a racist rant, really rough porn.

i. Tracy

- Agrees with Paul H.
- Does a password help? Attends an online meeting with 300 – 500 people and they are great with security.

j. ACTION

- **Review in group conscience.**

4. Does our group do anything that does not conform to AA principles and affect other groups or AA as a whole?

a. Jim

- No, I don't think so. Please bring to group conscience as needed.

b. Fred

- No, but this is the venue to do just that, focus on the AA principles.

c. Not much discussion on this one.

5. Does our group do anything that conflicts with our carrying the AA message to alcoholics who want a way out from their drinking problem?

a. Andy

- No

b. Jonathan

- No
- Allow anyone to share, but Host.

c. Jess, Liz and Maya

- No

d. Fred

- Wet drunks sharing and discuss in GC.

e. Brian M.

- Wet drunks should have 3 minutes.

f. Felicia

- As a new person to sobriety... listening to a drunk person has been a negative experience for me
- It makes me uncomfortable.

g. Beth

- Very early in sobriety. Experience is mostly positive. Has attended the GC meeting and does not understand "it" and afraid to speak, turns off video and mute.
- There are "Catholic racist" inputs. Hurtful

h. ACTION

- Discuss and review active drunks sharing? If so, how to handle this. Putting in some "guard rails"?

6. Does anything we do affiliate, endorse or bind the group, actual or implied, to any related facility or outside enterprise?

a. Andy

- Have to use zoom, cashapp, venmo.

b. Jim P. & Fred

- No

c. Paul

- Any brick-and-mortar meeting has similar issues.
- We are adapting to the circumstances that we have to do this, and we are within the spirit of it.

d. Felicia

- nothing to share at this time.

7. Does the group receive donations from anyone other than an AA member?

a. Jonathan

- No

b. Jess

- All coming from individuals.
- Don't check IDs but is certain there are no outside interests.

c. Fred, Jim P and Paul

- No

8. Are there any fees besides meeting expenses being charged for Twelve Step work, IE: fellowship, sponsoring, step work, counseling?

a. Jess

- There have been attempts to promote "outside interests" but doing a good job of shutting down.

b. Jim P & Paul H.

- No

9. Is there a governing individual or exclusive group authority that dictates organization to our group?

a. Fred

- We have a chairperson to facilitate the GC, and group decided and supports this.

b. Andy

- There is a person that dominates the discussion(s) and had to step out and step down due to this.

c. Jim P

- Is the active chairperson. Tries to lead by example.
- Does not try to dominate.
- Open to be approached and please don't feel intimidated.
- Personal or in public, please approach directly or indirectly through a proxy.

d. Chris W.

- Everyone has an issue when the person in question thinks there are no good opinions but theirs.

e. Tracy

- Are we talking GC or the meeting?
 1. GC or general group direction. Is there someone trying to dominate the group?

f. Paul H.

- Like to have a discussion between a business meeting and the Group Conscience.

g. Fred

- What do we do about a person that thinks their opinion is the only one?
- Take it to Group Conscience

h. Beth

- Is this the business meeting? Thank you!
- Jess: "Hey Beth - this is actually a group inventory." The group decided to get together outside our normal schedule to look at our own norms and practices and how well they align with the traditions of AA.

i. Tim C.

- Business meeting – reviews old and new business
- GC – voting on the measures.

10. Does our group do anything that publicly states an opinion or takes sides on any issues or controversy that are outside of AA?

a. Jim P.

- No

b. Paul

- No

c. Don

- No

d. Chris W.

- No

e. Brian

- No

f. Jonathan

- There are outside topics in fellowship...do we mention anything about acceptable items.

g. ACTION

- **Review in GC if we need to corral anything in fellowship?**

11. At the public level, does the group publicize any individual AA member's name or picture as a self-appointed representative of AA?

a. Andy

- Currently have a private, invitation only Facebook Group.
- Must be invited and approved.
- Can discuss and revisit in a GC.

b. Jonathan

- There is a private FB group that is invite only.
- Group returns in FB searches, but cannot see who is in group. Protects anonymity of memberships
- Current Admins
 1. Amanda and JoeL removed.
 2. JK, Jess and Jim P. current admins

c. Jess

- We have a website and there are no individuals.

d. ACTION

- **Take the Facebook Group to the Group Conscience to discuss, review policies and procedures. Socialize it, administer it?**
- **What about the website?**

12. Does our group give personal distinction to any AA member either among fellow alcoholics or the public that puts their opinions above the conscience of the group or AA?

a. Jim P.

- Does not think so.

b. Jess

- People who have been in the group for a long time have often been the person to round off the conversation. Not sure what the motivation is. Is there a propensity for this?

c. Paul H.

- Agrees with Jess. One way to look at it: "Is the group doing that to anyone in the group?"

d. Natasha

- Nothing to add when asked.

e. Don P.

- Nothing to add when asked.

f. Fred

- How many times to revisit a topic, over and over in GC?
- Where to donate? How/When to boot people?

g. Andy W.

- There tends to be a dominance around specific and certain topics.

h. Jess

- Should we be recording these decisions for review and sharing?

i. Tim C.

- Should do something similar in GC, capturing outputs and use of minutes.
- Are the roles defined and filled?

j. Jonathan K.

- Needs to revisit the roles/responsibilities at the group?

k. ACTION

- **GC discussion: Specifically state what the motion is and what is being voted on, with intent to have most informed group conscience.**

Additional Topics

1. Karen: We don't like foul language. Some people feel like they have been bullied. What and how are we proposing to deal with this now and in the future

- a. Don't want to chase people away. Produce some parameters to avoid in the future.

2. Jim

- a. Approach in Group Conscience

3. ACTION

- a. **GC discussion: Specifically state what the motion is and what is being voted.**

Closing

1. Tim C. – Thanks for asking for his assistance and ability to be of service.

- a. Much of this can be solved with a security policy.

b. Have:

- i. Disruptors
- ii. Bullying
- iii. Flirting/hitting on others in chat.

c. Does the group have an intergroup rep or GSR?

- i. Strongly suggest that these are filled.

d. Groups exist outside of the meeting.

- i. Meetings on wheels – service to do the community to carry the message to those that cannot make it or have difficulties.
- ii. Engage with the service structures.

2. Fred

- e. Thanks to Tim C. for wonderful facilitations.
- f. Appreciates the attendance and focus on this meeting.

3. Chris W.

- g. Looking forward to the future of this group.

