

aaHomeGroup

Group Conscience | November 12, 2022 11 am EST Special Workshop on Safety and Security

ATTENDEE LIST

~margie~	Eddie V Hemet, SoCal	John F MN	Ms. Bellman (El Paso, TX)
✨ Marcelino ✨ ODATT	Eileen Ford	Judy	nicole c (bowdoin, maine)
Ali W---	Elaine Irish	Julia Z	Patricia (California)
Alison G	Elizabeth (Lizard) NorCal	K-Dawg (Kayla) San Diego	Paul, MA 11/27/2021
Amanda G Indiana	ElsAA Chingona (OR.)	Katy F	Pete. S. Lancaster Pa
Andi S (Santa Fe)	Emily ✨ Atlanta, GA / USA	Kelly VT	Rachel CT
Andy H London UK	Eric C (Chicago)	KEN B NC/USA	Richard T. Atlanta
B (She/her)	Esther (they/them)	Kevin C Derby Ct	Roy D Waterbury, Ct (FYT)
Big Bob NJ/USA	Felix San Antonio/Corpus Christi TX	Kevin S Scooby Baton Rouge, LA	Sabrina VA
Brandi K TN	Gary-Ohio	Kimberly K - OR	Shannon Shannon
Brooke, Biloxi, MS	Gina Kentucky	Kirk	Shylo BC Canada
Carla S, WA	j b	Laurie B	Stacey
Carolyn B Arkansas	Jamie C (Petaluma, CA)	LG [Lindsey G] N. Carolina	TM
Chris MA - 9/29/21 (Pipezilla)	Jannely (juh-NELLY) - SoCal	Lisa	Tracey Mc
Cora	Jeff B (St. Louis)	Liz P-H New York	Vanessa C. - Los Angeles
dAAniel OR	Jeff N - Spiritual Push-Ups -	Mad Max NV (She/her)	Wendy PA
Debbi Poconos Pa	Jenne/Dundalk/Md	Maggie S.	
Diane - Butler, PA	Jessica Salsa	Marissa M, Lincoln, NE	
Duane - Utah	Jo H England	Matt Rawls	
Eddie E • NYC	Joe & Pinkie	Mistydawn MS	

76 attendees (that were captured)

CALL TO ORDER & MEETING OPENING

Meeting called to order at 11:06 AM.

- **LG [Lindsey G] N. Carolina**, chair opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees.
- **Misty Dawn MS** opened the meeting with the Serenity prayer.
- **Roy D Waterbury, Ct (FYT)**, Co-Chair read the 12 Traditions and **LG** read the tradition of the month - 11th tradition.
- **LG [Lindsey G] N. Carolina** provided an overview of the workshop and the goals and output expected

SECURITY PROCEDURE OVERVIEW

LG [Lindsey G] N. Carolina, assisted by **Joe & Pinkie** (Security Co-Chair), gave an overview on the existing safety procedures

NOTES:

Joe & Pinkie: Slide 9 - First 3 responsibilities lead up to the 4th. We are here for the newcomers and doing the first three consistently leads us to help people in the meeting

OPEN QUESTIONS:

Gina Kentucky - Situation about person recording and posting it on Facebook.

Joe & Pinkie - Member has been spoken with, took necessary actions with member. Meeting was not being recorded. The person was on a different device and live streaming it. If anyone had not said something we wouldn't have not known.

If the meeting is ever being recorded you will know. Zoom recording is not enabled on our platform.

LG [Lindsey G] N. Carolina - Member spoken to and addressed

OPEN DISCUSSION AND BRAINSTORMING

CHAT

Jenne/Dundalk/Md - *(Provided a range of suggestions across security procedures as a whole.)*

Suggestions for chat and de-stressing security: Get rid of verified names. Keep Ros and Bolo list short, with no non actionable names on either list. Service team, the people responsible for monitoring chat should decide if it's open or closed, based on what's going on in the meeting. Management - mistakes always discussed in private. Recognize volunteers in service both by giving recognition and by de-stressing the position. If we have disruptions in chat - use the boot function for repeat offenders. This removes the person for the rest of the day.

Roy D Waterbury, Ct (FYT) - Should be up to the chairperson, likes the fellowship. When you shut down the chat, you shut down the private messaging. Chat was helpful through his heart attack. Chat brings people together.

We can't meet in parking lot or go to diner.

Don't post welcome messages and announcements during chat is closed

Joe & Pinkie - Likes chat closed because it lets him focus on what is being said. Talk in chat can be distracting.

Jeff B (St. Louis) - Chat feature is fantastic and distinguishes us from other platforms - how well it is regulated and monitored. Like the idea to leave it up to the chair whether chat is open or not. Pare chair opening to bare minimum - used to have a small blurb on chat so people could contact if they needed it turned on or off. Wonderful tool we have - the more info we can give our participants, the more effective to use.

Jeff N - Spiritual Push-Ups - - - Important topic. Providing Newcomer's perspective. Left his original homegroup because of the constant chatting going on. Has had feelings hurt in chat while he was in distress. Don't do cross-talk but people are chatting incessantly. Mutes chat and reviews it later.

Carolyn B Arkansas - In person meetings - other people talking is- side talk and is not welcome. Keep it on the subject of recovery - we are here to save lives

Big Bob NJ/USA - Turn chat off for speaker meetings. In the past people would say stuff about the speaker. Comments on appearance, racial epithets. Security does a great job and people can concentrate on the message and shares are more coherent. If something is going on, he doesn't know there is a problem. Chair can't tell security to not shut down the chat. Respect should be provided for speaker and for security

Sabrina VA - Co-chair should announce that chat will stay open and educate on how to turn it on and off. Agree on closing off for a speaker.

B - Thinks that she was able to connect to people was due to the chat and being able to exchange phone numbers. Doesn't see a real danger. Don't like it, don't look. When triggered by cigarette smoking, she turns off video,

Kirk - (*Commenting on Jenne's share*) Verified screen names exist so people are not being constantly inundated with welcome messages. Don't need to keep an eye on everyone. Previous administration - did not want to make sweeping changes. We try to be free and open as transparent as possible.

Tried tested and true > things are not done by accident, Avoid making hard and fast rules. Don't have to do and say this or that > meeting is entirely at the chair's discretion. It's the chair's meeting to run and do what they see fit.

Verified screen name is another layer of security for meeting

Jessica Salsa - Each hour we get a different meeting with a different feel. If you need that chat open - learn what meetings have chat closed Don't post the announcements or welcomes when chat is closed.

Don't freak out when someone disrupts the meeting. Just move on. Has only shut down when chat is attacking someone on the platform. Let's try to be on the same team - we have different meetings, this is not against you personally

Katy F - (*Referring to verified names list*) Trusted names opens us to risk since we are not managing a secure database. We have a lot of people's last names; concerned about that. 99% of the people are the ones we don't worry about - don't really need list. Single names are not actionable - too generic. Take a look at the minimum amount of information about our participants we need to operate and consider what we are doing.

Laurie B - Go with Big Bob is saying. Like that we try to keep things as least restricted as possible. Keep it closed during speaker or during a topic. Chat saved my life. Needs to be mindful of who is sharing and the material that they are sharing.

Joe & Pinkie - (*Referring to verified names list*) We know that there are people with generic names like "Sam" We address it during security we will admit that person and BOLO them.

FELLOWSHIP CHAT

Jeff B (St. Louis) - Sees reason for fellowship chat. Concerns him that the SC has spent so much time on it. Personal opinion is that if we are not providing aaHG oversight, remove the name and don't promote it in our meetings. Break away from aaHG name and have the chat members figure out how to self monitor.

LG [Lindsey G] N. Carolina - Background - fellowship chat has been around a long time. Was created when aaHG was created. Has existed in a realm of not being monitored.

Big Bob NJ/USA - How many people are on Fellowship? What are positive things about this chat? How active is it? Likes the idea of a parking lot but is wondering if it's really effective?

LG [Lindsey G] N. Carolina - 418 members / 15 online right now / since 5:37 am there have been 28 posts from various folks. It's a pretty active chat with multiple posts engaging each day

Big Bob NJ/USA - In its best moments it is positive

LG shows Telegram safety features card and how to report.

Carolyn B Arkansas - Has been paying more attention to the fellowship chat and is trying to keep it more positive. Daily dose of Elvis. We should have broad guidelines - we may be the only copy of the big book someone will see so our actions should match our words.

Julia Z - Think the chat is great. Is in 2 or 3 sobriety chats which are good, but this chat has no moderation which makes it very confusing. Someone was sick and suffering and was spamming the chat. Should have guidelines posted in the group info. In one of the groups she's in, admins remind people what the group is for.

Felix San Antonio/Corpus Christi TX - (Quoted: acceptance "change what is in me and my attitude") - We have an option to not respond to everything. Is what you want to say necessary and will it cause division? Need to understand the principles to know between right and wrong. He's an alcoholic and can make a mountain out of a molehill. The chat is like the outside world. We have to learn how to deal with it.

B - Group conscience is triggering her. She has left telegram chat several times. Agrees with Felix - do we really have to monitor everything. This is online - doesn't see the danger. There are people everywhere that annoy her. Things will resolve themselves. DIRECT QUOTE: Call your sponsor. Don't look. Leave it to a higher power. Security is trying to control everything. It's not someone is trying to shock you or rape you or thirteenth step you. Should be monitored by itself. We're trying to protect newcomers but not trying to protect the people who are already here.

Kimberly K - OR - Important to have fellowship chat. (Speaking about Zoom chat) Has maybe seen trolls twice. Way to get know people. Good way to share motivations. There are pros and cons and the pros outweigh it. Option for people to reach out and feel comfortable if they are not comfortable with sharing.

Paul, MA 11/27/2021 - Is in support of Fellowship chat. However, people don't understand that they are giving up their anonymity - last name, phone number. Should warn them to protect their info. Reaction feature should be turned on so people can get more motivation to keep posting.

LG [Lindsey G] N. Carolina - (Speaking on the Telegram anonymity issue) They can go into private settings so they can change things such as phone number visibility and name. Maybe we post this occasionally to remind people

John F MN - With regards to FC, we (Steering Committee) had a serious convo about disbanding a week and a half ago re: what is / is not appropriate. What should we associate ourselves with? Useful tool for people but there should be some decorum associated with it. Guidelines posted regularly. Not regularly monitored but when things get blown up, we come in and address the specific issue. Park the person for a day or two and then let them come back.

Alison G - Somehow got added to it and doesn't remember why, and took herself off because of reasons being talked about. Went back on and immediately came back off. Aren't we here to raise each other up? Someone was posting about being in treatment and that person were being attacked by others. She felt this was the only opportunity to say, why would that happen - attack someone who is in treatment. People are trying to get healthy and get better. People who post awful things in meetings get removed.

Kelly VT - This is a very serious thing - read what was posted (about person in treatment) and was disturbed. Stopped and prayed. We are sick alcoholics. Maybe encourage people with sobriety time to go in there and help keep things from going off the rails. Carolyn is in there more now and it helps. Rely on grace of people here popping in to help people with less sobriety would help

Laurie B - FC is useful and might take up some resources but good avenue for getting together and talking after the meeting since we can't go get coffee. Appreciate Ms. Carolyn going on and keeping it positive. She will try to keep it positive too. Hasn't seen the negativity. God's got this and appreciate all for your service

Katy F - Was around when fellowship chat were started. Service Members were sharing lots of non-service stuff in the service chat. She would be fine with the elimination of the Telegram chat and having others create their own. Concerned about the scope of responsibility added to the service team. Doesn't want to create additional scope for volunteers. Is agreeable to we can do to simplify the process.

Sabrina VA - Wants clarity - what is different between fellowship and telegram chat.

LG [Lindsey G] N. Carolina - Answering: they're the same, we use the terms interchangeably

Jenne/Dundalk/Md - Didn't pay much attention to FC until recently when there were interpersonal altercations that she was exposed to. Group needs to make a decision to terminate the chat or ask people to monitor it. Doesn't think we have the number of service people to address it. Lots of people are upset about it and we should get rid of it. To have an unmoderated chat that is really upsetting people is counterproductive.

Duane - Utah - Chat inside of a meeting disappears when you leave the zoom session. Fellowship chat has the ability to communicate latently. Most online groups had mail lists in AA. Posting to a bulletin board, etc. This is not a new or weird feature. Just communication outside of active meetings. Latent moderation. Do not have an active admin monitoring the chat. Lots of noise to signal ratio. When things become a problem - SC discusses and decides on whether or not to handle

Notion of keep it to your side of the street unless stuff starts to post stuff attacking people, or that is detrimental to the group

Don't have to react to everything written. Lots of in person meetings have a way to communicate with the group in an online feature - usually through chat. Telegram can post more stuff which is sticky. Should tell participants to keep it nice or they'll be given a break

Not a new feature. Useful to improve.

Brooke, Biloxi, MS - A lot of what we've known we've learned in Kindergarten. We should have common sense on how to act in a chat room. Maybe post an occasional reminder on how to act with each other.

Gina Kentucky - Zoom chat - She has recently been praying about a particular situation. Is pretty sure someone is in psychosis. She has concerns for the newcomer. This person is coming in and saying he has 10 days and the next he says 20 years and is reaching out to the newcomers to sponsor them. It could be what takes that newcomer out. No way we can't control that. How can we address that?

Big Bob NJ/USA - The parking lot idea - a lot of us like it. Need to encourage the positive, need to limit arguments in front of new people, personal attacks, personal information being shared, set some decorum standards. Can kind of be a self-monitoring thing. If we think there is a history, pattern of hurting people - we need to put people on notice. Tell that there are specific things that can't be done. People should report, send a screen grab.

Not wise to kick 400 people off because of a few people.

Eddie E • NYC - We like to say parking lot as being a blanket term to say anything I want. If it says AA on it - the newcomer doesn't know the difference. Code of conduct - traditions 5, 10, 12. If we don't breach these traditions we can't go wrong.

B- What is a personal attack? She felt personally attacked. The "attack" on the person going to rehab could be interpreted differently. Tough love. Different advice. We're spending a lot of time on a chat that is not a meeting. Call your sponsor. Work your steps.

Fact that people are recording on Zoom and posting on FB is more serious.

ROS

Eric C Chicago - Been on the security longer than 2 years; went through several iterations. Sometimes very to easy - people are intentionally disruptive. Go on ROS and stay on ROS. Put on list accessed only Security Cttee and Steering Cttee. List is reviewed periodically.

Some people are put on ROS because they have not heeded repeated warnings. May be put on ROS for a few days - up to 6 months. After repeated periods of ROS that kept increasing.

Always had a discussion - serious discussion - between the security committee. We spent an hour in Steering Committee about repeated behavior of one individual trying to find the best recourse

We are doing the best we can with twp conflicting traditions - 1 and 3. Can't exclude but need to provide safety and cohesion. Important to have more than two voices.

John F MN - Majority of people that are in the meeting are not in this meeting or on the front page of the meeting. Majority are people on the back pages that are trying to decide whether AA can save their lives.

Reluctant to put anyone on ROS for any period of time. Have put 5 people on ROS out of thousands. Those 5 people are the same people that we continue to have conversations with.

Propose that Security makes a decision and sends it to Steering Committee to have them make a decision. Don't want an individual to kick people out but rather a decision from the Steering Committee guided by our HP.

Katy F - It is within our purview to do what we need to in order to have our group carry out its primary purpose.

Jeff B (St. Louis) - Woman in meeting wearing a T-shirt saying "end white supremacy". Was not in service so told security. Woman remained in the meeting. Is that not something we should address?

Joe & Pinkie - Yes it should have been addressed. People bring a lot of outside issues into our zoom meetings. In an in person meeting - this would not fly. Should not be having politics etc represented. This is stated in preamble

MEETING CLOSURE

LG [Lindsey G] N. Carolina - Closed session and said that a follow up session to continue the workshop would be scheduled.

Eric C Chicago closed the meeting with the responsibility statement.

POST MEETING COMMENTS

Ms. Bellman (El Paso, TX) - Why and can we add the contact info to the meeting script and post it in chat at every meeting? Primary concern is that other people might not know the protocol since it's not obvious in the chat posting. Make it readily available to all in the meeting. Understands it would be an inundation of emails or might be an opening to gossiping.

LG [Lindsey G] N. Carolina - Mentioned that under Group Conscience on the website there is a listing of all the general email boxes. Website revamp is going to have clearer lines to contacting people, etc.

Joe & Pinkie - Said people can always email to secretary@aahomegroup.org so it can be brought up as a motion in the GC meeting. We have had many many conversations on the intro.

LG [Lindsey G] N. Carolina - We have 8 announcements that we are currently covering and it used to more. There is always room for improvements,

Big Bob NJ/USA - Don't have to say everything important. Put it on the website or put it in the chat. What we need is a chat post that we post. Make the website as friendly as possible. Need to train co-chairs better.

LG [Lindsey G] N. Carolina - We have inservice once a month where we update training.

Kimberly K - First time coming to this type of meeting. Glad she did - found it very educational. Topics brought up chat - will not be downloading Telegram. Now that people have said their parts, will the Steering Committee go back to vote?

LG [Lindsey G] N. Carolina - The Steering Committee is going to form a sub-committee to draft guidelines. This was to get a temperature of the room and to get ideas to update best practices. It seems like a lot of people wanted guidelines for fellowship chat