

Sunday Morning Hope & Recovery Group Conscience

Men's Only Meeting

Phone: 1-667-770-1450

Passcode: 417389

Sunday 7AM

Pacific Standard Time

Use this document to keep a running list of group conscience decisions with most recent meetings at the top. Make sure to upload a PDF of this to the website after making changes.

April 24, 2022

EXISTING BUSINESS:

Future Website For Hope And Recovery Meeting

"Homepage" planned by Jack, Ted, & Vince to link meeting resources.
Looking to fund nominal Google fee or possibly use free "Wordpress"

NEW BUSINESS:

If anyone wants to sponsor a female to the May 2022 national SAA meeting in Atlanta, contact Deb W @ saawomensig@gmail.com

Monthly Moderators:

May 1st - Vince (TX); Backup - Jack (WI)
May 8th - Ted (TX); Backup - Brandon (WA)
May 15th - Mark (AZ); Backup - Vince (TX)
May 22nd - Brandon (WA); Backup - Mark (AZ)
May 29th - Jack (WI); Backup - Mark (AZ)

Call Manager / Dashboard Operator: Jack

March 27, 2022

EXISTING BUSINESS:

No ongoing business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Monthly Moderators:

April 3rd - Mark (AZ); Backup - Vince (TX)
April 10th - Vince (TX); Backup - Jack (WI)
April 17th - Brandon (WA); Backup - Ted (TX)
April 24th - Jack (WI); Backup - Kash (CA)

TX SAA Conference - Last weekend of April 2022 (Houston):

Contact marktacoma@hotmail.com or hopererecoveryysaa@gmail.com for more information for registration information.

Future Website For Hope And Recovery Meeting

Will create a google homepage to link resources for this meeting. A working group was established (Jack, Ted, and Vince). Will revisit next month.

Call Manager / Dashboard Operator: Dustin / Jack

February 27, 2022

EXISTING BUSINESS:

No ongoing business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Monthly Moderators:

March 6th - Kash (CA); Backup - Mark (AZ)
March 13th - Eric (IN); Backup - Jack (WI)
March 20th - Ted (TX); Backup - Vince (TX)
February 27th - Kevin (TX); Backup - Brandon (WA)

Call Manager / Dashboard Operator: Jack

January 30, 2022

EXISTING BUSINESS:

No ongoing business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Monthly Moderators:

February 6th - Eric (IN) (Backup - Ted (TX))
February 13th - Vince (TX) (Backup - Brandon (WA))
February 20th - Jack (MI) (Backup - Mark (AZ))
February 27th - Brandon (WA) (Backup - Jack (MI))

7th Annual Sponsorship Workshop:

This event will be a discussion for sponsors, sponsees, and those who want to become one. Reach out to Ted D. (855-784-8739 or tedind.recovery@gmail.com) for virtual login information.

Call Manager / Dashboard Operator: Jack

December 26, 2021

EXISTING BUSINESS:

Monthly Moderators:

January 2nd - Kevin (TX) (Backup - Ted (TX))
January 9th - Eric (IN) (Backup - Mark (AZ))
January 16th - Vince (TX) (Backup - Eric (TX))
January 23rd - Brandon (WA) (Backup - Jack (MI))
January 30th - Jack (MI) (Backup - Brandon (WA))

Monthly moderation schedule for January
- **DONE!**

Call Manager / Dashboard Operator: Jack

Add a revision date in the script document.

August 29, 2021

EXISTING BUSINESS:

Monthly Moderators:

September 5th - Vince (TX) (Backup - Mark (Mexico))
September 12th - Dustin (TX) (Backup - Cash)
September 19th - Kevin (TX) (Backup - Ted (TX))
September 26th - Ted (TX) (Backup - Vince (TX))

Monthly moderation schedule for September
- **DONE!**

Call Manager / Dashboard Operator: Jack

Elect still open service positions for secretary, call manager/dashboard operator, and additional website contact (currently filled in by Vince from Texas, could become permanent)

Add a revision date in the script document

July 25, 2021

EXISTING BUSINESS:

Monthly Moderators:

August 1 - Vince (TX)
August 8th - Cash (CA)
August 15th - Kevin (Texas)
August 22nd - Brandon (Washington)
August 29th - Mark (Mexico)
Backup - Vince

Monthly moderation schedule for August
- **DONE!**

Elections:

Group Service Representative: Mark (Arizona)

Secretary: Still open

Call Manager / Dashboard Operator: Still open

Additional Website Contact: Vince (TX) (potentially still open)

NEW BUSINESS:

Elect still open service positions for secretary, call manager/dashboard operator, and additional website contact (currently filled in by Vince from Texas, could become permanent)

June 27, 2021

EXISTING BUSINESS:

Monthly Moderators:

July 4th - David (France)
July 11th - Matt (Michigan)
July 18th - Vince (Texas)
July 25th - Mark (Arizona)
Backup -

July 18th has a guest speaker

Monthly moderation schedule for July
- **DONE!**

NEW BUSINESS:

June 6, 2021

SPECIAL BUSINESS:

Guest speakers extended share proposal:

Discussed requirements:

- They must have worked the steps
- We need an announcement prior

PASSED

We are happy to host guests. We don't need a vote each time if the above requirements are met.

May 30, 2021

EXISTING BUSINESS:

Monthly Moderators:

June 6th - Mark (Arizona)
June 13th - Eric (Indiana)
June 20th - Cash (California)
June 27th - Kevin (Houston)
Backup - Vince (Texas)

Monthly moderation schedule for June
- **DONE!**

NEW BUSINESS:

New group officers needed

Next month elections
Next month script change for readings introductions
GSR
Secretary -
Requirement: Mac Computer, Internet access
Call Manager

March 28, 2021 - Group Inventory

Could we emphasize the current step more during the meeting?

- We are doing our best so far

- Sponsors help to cover step discussion

Service position rotation interval? 1 year, 2 year?

- One year feels right

Are being careful to avoid outside endorsement and programs?

- SAA needs to be pure. Moderators need to enforce names and places need to not mention authors, programs, etc.
- Fellowship is an opportunity to bring up these types of things
- First step presentations should be reviewed by a sponsor who should be sanitizing any such references

Are we using attraction whether than promotion?

- Sometimes fellowship is being used as a venue for viewpoint promotion
- Should try not to use fellowship for our viewpoints on recovery?
 - Fellowship cannot be easily moderated. Use best judgement with each other, otherwise leave things as they are
- Fellowship is an open forum where we should be able to discuss anything, free from structure
- Disclaimer to say fellowship is not explicitly endorsed by SAA. Things said there may cross over into promotion, advice, and cross talk

Is attention being given to the needs of the newcomer?

- Yes. Numbers are offered and people are given a warm welcome
- Newcomer guide that includes pure SAA resources on our page

Should we formalize number exchange with newcomers?

- Leave it in fellowship

March 28, 2021

EXISTING BUSINESS:

Monthly Moderators:

April 4 - Kevin (Texas)
April 11 - Mark (Mexico)
April 18 - Vince (Texas)
April 25 - John (LA)
Backup - TBD

Monthly moderation schedule for April

- **DONE!**

NEW BUSINESS:

- Newcomers welcome sheet? Common resources and phone numbers available
 - Vote next month on this proposal
 - Fellowship perhaps should have a disclaimer that makes clear this time is not endorsed by the group or SAA. Elucidate it is freeform.
 - Vote next month on that language addition to the script
 - Group rotation of trusted servants
 - One year has been proposed (this was an assumption, not explicit). We should codify the time
 - Group inventory notes will be taken by the secretary
 - These notes will live in the Group Conscience document
-

Feb 28, 2021

EXISTING BUSINESS:

Monthly Moderators:

March 7 - Ted (Texas)
March 14 - Eric (Indiana)
March 21 - Vince (Texas)
March 28 - Mark (Mexico)
Backup -

Monthly moderation schedule for March
- **Done!**

NEW BUSINESS:

- Constructing a step presentation guide (finished)
- Step guide uploaded
- Group Checklist approved for March 21

NEW BUSINESS:

Jan 31, 2021

EXISTING BUSINESS:

Monthly Moderators:

February 7 - Dustin (Netherlands)
February 14 - Vince (Texas)
February 21 - Kevin (Texas)
February 28 - Eric (Indiana)
Backup - John (LA)

Monthly moderation schedule for February

- **Done!**

NEW BUSINESS:

- In progress: Constructing a step presentation guide (Dan and John are collaborating)
 - In progress: Group health checklist
 - In progress: Business meeting outline
-

Dec 27, 2020

EXISTING BUSINESS:

Monthly Moderators:

January 3 - Kevin (Houston)
January 10 - Vince (Texas)
January 17 - Matt (Michigan)
January 24 - Eric (Indiana)
January 31 - John (LA)
Backup - David (France)

Monthly moderation schedule for January

- **Done!**

NEW BUSINESS:

- Group inventory (checklist or series of questions)
 - Half hour before the meeting? Fellowship? Replace meeting?
 - **Research and proposals coming in following group conscience meeting**
 - Issues getting on the call
 - **Get on just a touch after meeting starts to avoid meeting start rush, or use app, or use a different access number if you have long distance phone plan, or use a browser. Landlines sometimes if you wait one or two minutes it may connect. All options have instructions on our web page**
 - On introductions we should say "My name is ____, I am a ____. I am calling from ____.
Today I am feeling _____. Pass."
 - **Implemented**
-

Nov 29, 2020

EXISTING BUSINESS:

Monthly Moderators:

December 6 - Mark (Mexico)
December 13 - John (LA) Nicholas (Michigan)
December 20 - Vince (Texas)
December 27 - Eric (Indiana)
Backup - Kevin (Texas)

Monthly moderation schedule for December
- **Done!**

NEW BUSINESS:

- Make app for visible on group page
- **Done!**

Oct 25, 2020

EXISTING BUSINESS:

Monthly Moderators:

November 1 - Mark (Mexico)
November 8 - John (LA)
November 15 -
November 22 - Matt (Michigan)
November 29 -kup moderator - TBD

Monthly moderation schedule for November
- **Still need November 15 and 29 moderators**
- **Still Need Backup Moderator**

NEW BUSINESS:

Dashboard Operator Position needs to be filled:
- Dustin from Netherlands volunteered
- Voted and passed
- Dustin is the new Dashboard Operator

Script change:

“Please avoid mentioning the name of a book, movie, treatment center, author, or person in your share. This can be viewed by some as promotion.”

Sep 27, 2020

EXISTING BUSINESS:

Monthly Moderators:

October - Eric
October 11 - Nicholas (Michigan)
October 18 - Matt (Michigan)
October 25 - Randy (New Jersey)
Backup moderator - TBD

Monthly moderation schedule for October
- **RESOLVED NORMAL SCHEDULE**
- **Need Backup Moderator**

Vince from Texas is unable to run the call console on the 11th of October. David from France will take this duty on that day.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business items raised.

Aug 30, 2020

EXISTING BUSINESS:

Moderators:

September 6 - Vince (Texas)
September 13 - Mike
September 20 -
September 27 -
Backup moderator - David (France)

Additional Contact for the Website: Mark (Arizona)

Monthly moderation schedule for September
- **PARTIALLY RESOLVED**

STEP PRESENTATION SEPTEMBER 20TH:
- **Anthony**

NEW BUSINESS:

Q: Update Script Business Script to say the GSR should be signed in to the dashboard?

- Reason: The script mentioned the moderator originally. The GSR is the one actually responsible for this.

- **RESOLVED Passed**

Q: Large groups are causing introductions to dominate the meeting. Maybe after 50 we should forego sharing feelings with introductions?

- Reason: Unable to give appropriate time to readings and sharing and step presentations

- Change: Name, location only. Remove “how you are feeling and milestones in your recovery” when call is past 50

- Reason: Unable to give appropriate time to readings and sharing

- **RESOLVED Passed**

Q: On first step days, only newcomers introduce themselves?

- Reason: Unable to give appropriate time to step presentations

- Change: Change script to reflect this motions passing by noting the difference between both scenarios

- **RESOLVED Passed**

July 26, 2020

BUSINESS:

Election for Trusted Servants:

Adam (Missouri) - Secretary

Dan (Wisconsin) - GSR

Vince (Texas) - Call Manager

Monthly moderation schedule for August

- **RESOLVED**

Q: Should we change the meeting format concerning readings to give more room for newcomers?

- Idea: make a topic for discussion about being new to the meeting. Encourage newcomers to go to fellowship

- Consensus: we should not change the readings format

- **RESOLVED**

NEW BUSINESS:

Q: First step presentations limited to once a month?

- Reason: This will keep the meetings on track

- Sub-Q: Lots of newcomers. Maybe twice a month would be good so to not bar those who need to in a crowded meeting?

- Conclusion: Once a month is best in order to keep meetings on track in terms of sharing and readings.

- Sub-Q: Maybe an overflow first step could be presented in fellowship?

- Conclusion: We should be flexible. If more we work it out. Fellowship could be an option, as could allowing more than one a month during the meeting.

- Sub-Q: Put in the script the decision we make about presentations?
- Conclusion: Yes.
- Script Change Proposal: "We offer the third week of each month for step presentations. If we have more than one person in a month who wishes to share a presentation, we can be flexible."
- **RESOLVED**

SCRIPT CHANGES:

"We offer the third week of each month for step presentations. If we have more than one person in a month who wishes to share a presentation, we can be flexible."

8/0

June 28, 2020

"Moderators to be chosen monthly for the following month" APPROVED

Matt (MI) has suggested that moderators be chosen monthly. Currently we have 7 moderators that moderate the meeting on a rotating schedule which is updated weekly by email.

Approved: Moderators to be chosen at each business meeting, including a backup moderator. Current announcement for moderators remains but weekly schedule will not be necessary, this schedule will be made monthly instead.

For: 4 / against: 1 (20 present)

June 7, 2020

"Speaker meetings" APPROVED

Preamble:

Currently we give members the opportunity to present their first steps. I suggest we also give the opportunity for members to present their whole story. In AA, these are called "speaker meetings". This is a meeting where an individual who has worked the steps and experienced the awakening they promise can share their whole story. From the AA Big Book on page 58 it alludes to the format: "Our stories disclose in a general way what we used to be like, what happened and what we are like now." The stories in the Big Book and those in the Green Book follow this same format. They share the individual's entire story, the progression of the addiction, how they hit bottom, came to the program, worked the steps, had a spiritual awakening and how the promises have become manifest in their life. Speaker meetings usually occupy the entire sharing portion of the meeting, but they don't have to.

Move by David (FR):

Give members the opportunity to present their whole story.

Seconded by Jon (L.A.)

Proposed script changes:

1. Change “If you would like to present a first step or share your experience working any other step...” to “If you would like to present a first step, or have worked the steps and would like to share your story (– what it was like, what happened and what it is like now)...”

Decision:

All votes in favor. (25 unanimous)

Other Discussion:

It was suggested to limit speaker meeting time to allow for sharing. This was not included in the decision but may be discussed a later date.

“Change introductions for presentations.” APPROVED

Preamble:

Currently the first-step introduction is terse and does not provide guidelines to the group.

Move by David (FR):

Improve the introduction we give before presentations.

Seconded (by Mike NM ?)

Proposed script changes:

Change from “We are grateful to have ____ share his first step with us...” to

1. For first step presentations: “We are grateful to have ____ share his first step with us. We know the courage it takes to admit powerlessness. We want to let you know we have all been in your shoes at one time, we share your journey and we support you 100%.”
2. For speaker meetings: “We are grateful to have ____ share his story with us.”

Also: “As a gentle reminder to the group, please make sure you are muted. Use star-six or the mute button on your phone.”

Decision:

Majority votes in favor (18/1)

(NOTE: Since presentations are now pre-arranged, specific suggestions that are meant *for the presenter* can be sent by email.)

“When to hold business meetings.” DECIDED - Last Sunday, during fellowship time.

Preamble:

It has been suggested that we hold monthly business meetings. Our current schedule is to hold business meetings on the 5th Sunday of the month which is not monthly because only 4 months a year have 5 Sundays.

Move by David (FR):

Decide whether to hold business meetings on the *last* Sunday of the month (monthly schedule) 17 or on the *5th* Sunday of the month (approximately 4 times a year)

Discussion:

There was concern about meetings taking up the sharing portion of the meeting, so it was suggested that we hold the business meeting during fellowship instead. Previously it had been suggested that business meetings should not take up the fellowship portion either. In

any case the general consensus was that normally there are not that many items to discuss and so business meetings should not take up too much time, and that having a monthly schedule would ensure there were few or even no items thereby leaving more time for sharing/fellowship.

Decision:

Business meetings to be held during fellowship time (after the main meeting) and not during sharing (15/3).

Business meetings to be held monthly on the last Sunday of the month.

“Improvement to meeting boundaries.” NOT APPROVED

Sometimes we forget and find ourselves mentioning or promoting from sources outside the 12-step program. Sometimes this is how we express our experience, strength and hope. But it can also be confusing or distracting to newcomers and it can lead our meeting away from the 12-step program and our primary purpose. It may also alienate members who rely on this meeting being a 12-step meeting. Unfortunately, we have lost members due to this. Interestingly, the ISO requires us to abide by the 12-steps and 12-traditions in order to even be listed on saa-recovery.org.

Move by David (FR):

Add a new meeting boundary to help keep our meetings safe and focussed on the 12 steps.

NOT SECONDED

Proposed script changes:

“Be thoughtful about – expressing religious, political or ideological concepts, quoting from outside sources, suggesting treatment centers, medicine, counseling, books or anything outside the 12-step program of recovery – as these things might distract us from our unity of purpose.”

Discussion:

The main concern people had was the list of things we shouldn’t speak about (which became the focal point of the discussion). Others mentioned that we don’t generally have a problem and so such a reminder would not be needed. There were four possible courses of action discussed:

- No change to script
- Change the script to only mention that we should remain focussed on the 12 steps
- Specifically call out people who get off topic in this way
- Specifically call out people who get off topic in this way while encouraging them to tie what they are speaking about into the 12 steps

May 31, 2020

“Shorten moderator announcement.” APPROVED

We now have 7 regular moderators. Our current announcement for moderators is very long.

Move: Shorten the announcement for moderators.

Seconded

Proposed script changes:

"If you would like to help moderate this meeting please send us an email at saamensmeeting@gmail.com."

Decision:

All votes in favor to change the script. (For: 20)

May 3, 2020

"Resolve conference call problem." APPROVED

Problem: Being rate limited has not gotten better (even with using mute) and in fact appears to be getting worse in terms of call quality.

Decision: **Switch providers**

Proposed by David, Seconded by Eric IN, Vince TX and Jon L.A.

Majority vote.

1-712-770-5374 access code: 417389

It was also suggested by Eric IN that a host sign in to the old system for a week or two to help redirect people to the new site.

April 19, 2020

"Resolve conference call problem." NOT APPROVED

Decision:

Do nothing for now. There is some indication that this is a muting issue. Number of lines muted MAY affect number of callers allowed.

Summary:

Our conference call provider has been limiting callers to around 30. Today this appears to be better. We got up to 45 callers, although there were still some people who couldn't get in. We regularly have calls of 40+ members, but with COVID-19 measures we can get up to 60. Hopefully this is a temporary situation. I have determined the following three courses of action we can take:

1. **Do nothing. This could be a muting issue. Verify next meeting. Votes: 14**

1. Pros:

1. Keep the same number and passcode
2. Keep our database of members (100s)
3. Keep an easier to use dashboard
4. Quicker introductions (less people)
5. More chance to share (less people)

2. Cons:

1. Prevents callers over 30 from connecting
2. Possible call quality problem (some robotic audio during fellowship)

2. **Switch service. Votes: 7**

1. Pros: Eric, Vince, Jon +1 (Eric IN)
 1. Support up to 100 callers
 2. International access numbers
 3. Possible call quality improvement
2. Cons:
 1. New number and passcode
 2. Need to re-input database of members (100s)
 3. More difficult to add member names
 4. Large meetings mean longer introductions and fewer people who can share.
3. **Follow-on meeting (half hour after). Votes: 3**
 1. Pros:
 1. Alternate meeting time half hour later - people choose the best time. Possibly easier for people on the west coast.
 2. Keep same number and passcode
 3. Keep our database of members (100s)
 4. Keep an easier to use dashboard
 5. Quicker introductions (less people)
 6. More chance to share (less people)
 2. Cons:
 1. Must coordinate moderators for two meetings
 2. May still prevent callers if most people prefer earlier meeting
 3. Another group might mean different scripts or group conscience?
 1. Potentially have the same script, and dedicated business meetings that are announced. Those who want to participate from either group can come.
4. **Postpone the decision. Votes: 7**
5. **Temporary COVID-19 overflow meeting (same time)**
 1. Pros:
 1. Supports overflow callers
 2. Keep same number and passcode
 3. Keep our database of members (100s)
 4. Keep an easier to use dashboard
 5. Quicker introductions (less people)
 6. More chance to share (less people)
 2. Cons:
 1. Requires a second number
 2. More difficult to coordinate moderators

March 29, 2020

"Presentations should be pre-arranged." APPROVED

Proposers: David (FR)

Seconded: Vince (TX)

Rationale: This is standard practice with other meetings. It ensures we can properly arrange the meeting to suit the presentation.

Discussion highlights:

- With modification: *all* presentations should be pre-arranged.

- Normally presentations would not be on the first two Sundays so as not to conflict with regular readings, but if the presenter's schedule requires it we can postpone the readings.

Decision: PASSED (unanimous)

"Change moderator wording." APPROVED

Proposer: David (FR)

Seconded: Mike (NM)

Discussion highlights:

- Decided to add the word "suggest" instead of making it a hard rule.
- It was also affirmed that if a moderator has a slip that they wait until they have the minimum sobriety before moderating again.

Change moderator wording from 'We are especially looking for people with some sobriety time.' to 'We suggest at least 3 months sobriety to moderate the meeting.'

Decision: PASSED (unanimous)

"First step presentations allow feedback/advice." NOT APPROVED

Proposer: Some members.

Seconded: None.

Discussion highlights:

- The discussion revolved around the definition of "feedback". For the purpose of this discussion it was clarified to mean "advice" or "criticism".
- Since our meeting has clear boundaries around cross-talk and giving advice it was the general consensus (including of the proposers) to not proceed with this motion.
- It was also confirmed that no additional post-presentation wording is necessary since our sharing preamble already spells out our meeting boundaries: no cross-talk, etc.
- First-step presenters (as with all members) may seek feedback after the meeting.
- It was also affirmed from our experience that first step presentations are almost always followed by support, appreciation and identification, so additional post-presentation boundaries are not needed.
- Therefore, it was concluded that it is not necessary to provide the group with further guidance. (Though the discussion of introductory wording in general is still TBD).

Decision: NOT PASSED. The discussion led the original proposers to retract or modify the proposal to not allow or offer feedback during the regular portion of the meeting, but to continue to allow feedback on request during the fellowship portion of the meeting.

March 15, 2020

"Minimum sobriety time to participate in business meetings." NOT APPROVED

Proposer: David.

Seconded: Several members.

Rationale: To acknowledge the healthy and sane mind that sobriety brings and how that helps us make better decisions

Decision: NOT PASSED. Per tradition 2 we decided to **leave business meetings open to anyone who wants to participate**. Also tradition 3 states “The only requirement for membership is a *desire* to stop addictive sexual behavior.”