

ACA Town Hall Discussion Agenda: January 7, 2024 8:45a.m. EST

Boaz opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Chris T leading, Wendy C. note taker; Lisa M. Timekeeper

74 participants

1. Call to Order
2. ACA Serenity Prayer
3. General Guidelines & Safety Protocols
4. Review Draft Policy Proposal: Images & Names
5. Discussion Draft Policy Proposal
6. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

~ MEETING ~

1. [9 AM ET] Call to Order:
2. ACA Serenity Prayer:
3. General guidelines for this meeting only:
 - read by: Chris
4. Safety Protocols (Following Safety Protocols from ACA WSO ABC):
 - read by: Chris
5. Call for Service: *For this meeting, we have a volunteer Recording Secretary and Timekeeper:*
Recording Secretary: *Wendy has volunteered to be the Recording Secretary.*
Timekeeper: *Lisa has volunteered to be the Timekeeper.*
5. [9:10 AM ET] Reading of Images-Names Policy Proposal
 - a. Hyperlink of policy proposal with comments: <https://www.acamorning.org/smr-names-and-images-guidelines-1st-draft/>
 - b. The Recording Secretary will read the full proposal.
6. [9:15 AM ET] Open Floor for Comments & Answer Comments
 - a. Heather B: Joe Biden on a horse. Does national icons include that. Also someone had avatar with OK sign that might have been White supremeacist.
 - b. Bryan: Doesn't like the policy and procedures in 12-steps. Prefer boundaries and guidelines. Policy puts onus on trusted servants and this is problematic because of control issues and authoritarian issues for ACAs. Would be better to have a gentle statement in the script about cross talk and other things. Who determines what is religious?

- c. Sarah: Q. Not clear. Policy only applies to trusted servants?
- d. Kelly: Why does there have to be a policy if we follow traditions? The tradition covers it. Policy is a scary word. It should be simple. The outside world insanity should not exist in meetings.
- e. Jen and Bunny: Understands the concept behind this and appreciates it but feels the policy proposal is limited and stifles the expression of the trusted servant and the members. Naming and presenting can be an opportunity to express inner children. Maybe there needs to be a what if/then type of material.
- f. Charlotte: Likes what she's hearing. The clarity given by the definition of a trusted servant. TS is responsible to show and exemplify the traditions of the meeting. But without defining and trusted servant and why it might be confusing.
- g. Marina: The ship has already sailed. Would prefer to less screens with names and blank spaces and more with faces. The room home seems lonely. Many people have their cameras off.
- h. Jim: Members at this meeting can change their names at any time. What's being asked is that if you are in service as a representative of this meeting. Will this be expanded? Will there be a part 2. Is there a process in the works for if there is a complaint?
- i. Katherine: The main thing is, this is not new. There are always complaints about how people look. How can I learn to let go of what other people are doing if everything is instituted? Recommends a vote. Have a 3 times vote. If you did this how would you feel? We all come in as we are. If I try to control everything in the meeting, how do I learn to let go of control in the outside world?
- j. Pam: Q. and concern about accountability and mechanism of enforcement and accountability.
- k. John: Does room host. If he did something that broke the group conscious, it would be important to him. He does keep a rainbow flag. He uses that for himself but others might relate. Al-anon page has a great page about sponsoring someone with different views.
- l. Sandra: We live in strange times. There are symbols that trigger fear whether in the rooms or in the outside world. A swastika would be primary. There are things that would indicate a wish for the subjugation of others. Her artwork behind her. Would people be offended by that?
- m. Kelly: Stepped down from service because of a lack of honouring tradition 10 and bringing outside issues by trusted servants and onscreen. Her serenity was more important. She didn't want to be part of the conflict. BRB p.539 focus on our recovery.
- n. Stephen: So many symbols can be misinterpreted. Things are distorted. Certain things are egregious but some are grey areas.
- o. Amy: Some of us are farther along in our recovery and maybe not triggered as much. What's most important that **none of us cause another person who needs recovery not to return to the meeting**. Might be difficult to enforce.

- p. **Angela: Personal experience: What I need to work through are my strong feelings. Parking lot discussion of how we learn to trust higher power. Some people named their higher power who is a religious figure. I did not stop that but did not because of BRB, we let other speak because it is the truth for them.**
- q. **Bonnie Lee: Q. related to Newcomer greeter. It's more relaxed and she thinks following the traditions and just reminded them of the tradition. Sometimes there are things that are scary in the Newcomer session.**
- r. **Brian: Moves the policy be tabled and the policy he wrote be used instead. Traditions are clear, we are not drawn into controversy on outside issues.**
- s. **Margot Beth: This meeting works because we have structure and boundaries. Emotional boundaries. She was able to talk with a trusted servant and was listened to and heard. But she understood it was her issue. Would not put a Canadian Flag though she's proud of being Canadian as it might trigger someone.**
- t. **Marian: Movement bothers her.**

Chris: addressed several of the issues.

Wendy: This policy is narrow and only applies to the trusted servant.

Chris asked members of the committee whether they felt the issues in the questions had been addressed.

The questions of how this will be enforced and whether this policy applied to the newcomer part of the meeting.

Lisa: policy would apply to the newcomer greeter. This policy does not address how to handle controversy in the Newcomer section.

Lisa: Changes need to be made to describe implementation of the policy.

7. [9:50: AM ET] Next Steps & Determine to Extend Meeting

- a. Extend: Stephen moved. Lisa seconded: only one Opposed 1. Meeting extended
- b. Next Steps: Policy will be amended based on what we heard today. The vote will be:
 - 1. Accept the policy
 - 2. Accept that a policy is needed but current draft still needs revision
 - 3. Vote that no policy is needed on names and images

Second motion to extend 10 minutes. Wendy moved and Stephen 2nd. Meeting extended.

Third motion to extend. Stephen moved to extend 10 more minutes: Sarah 2nd

48 people in attendance; Vote taken 19 for extension 17 nay

Bonnie Lee spoke for the nays and said the committee needs time to consider changes.

Chris: Suggested we use the website for further comments.

Staci: we've exhausted the issue

2nd Vote: 10 yeahs 21 nays

Chris encouraged people go to the website and make new comments.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:15.