**4/19/2014** **ALL GROUPS MEETING NOTES**

*\*(the following notes were taken by an imperfect human being who was doing her best to be accurate. There might be a mistake or two within.) ☺*

*\*\*NOTE: None of the following will make much sense if you have not read the document on the homepage of our virtual building:* [*www.alanonphonemeetings.org*](http://www.alanonphonemeetings.org) *At the top right hand side is a PDF document entitled, “Revised Virtual Al-Anon Meetings.*

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The meeting was opened five minutes late. A person volunteered to be the moderator and stepped up to lead the meeting. The moderator shared, that to the best of her knowledge, the **OLD BUSINESS ITEMS** were:

* In the February All Group Meeting, an idea was introduced that any meeting that has been without a leader for a year would be closed. Some discussion was had but no vote was taken.

* In the March Group Conscience Meeting, a proposed process was introduced to address communication between groups on the phone bridge **and** to address the multiple, ongoing disturbances on the phone bridge. (\*\*\* Remember to please read PDF document on home page of [*www.alanonphonemeetings.org*](http://www.alanonphonemeetings.org) *entitled “Revised Virtual Al-Anon Meetings to understand the rest of the notes for this meeting.)*
* The moderator stated that at the March Group Conscience meeting, after discussion, the following issues were voted upon and passed by majority vote:

  **\***Phone Meeting Reps (for lack of an agreed upon term, yet) have to have been in Al-

 Anon for at least 6 months before they can be voted in as a Phone Meeting Rep.

 (Passed by majority vote).

 **\***Dual members are ok to serve as Phone Meeting Reps. (Passed by majority vote).

The moderator said that in the March Group Conscience Meeting there was time for some discussion on guidelines for security monitors. She said the suggestions made at that time were:

a) that security monitors had to be in Al-Anon/AA for 1 year

b) that security monitors had to be in Al-Anon/AA for 5 years

c) that security monitors had to be in Al-Anon/AA for 10 years. No vote was taken.

After the above summary of old business, the meeting was then opened up for **NEW BUSINESS:**

The moderator shared that she hoped to use the time today to discuss guidelines for security monitors, ‘if it were decided that we would have them.’ The moderator shared two concerns she had. One was that a person might have a criminal record and be applying to be a security monitor for the phone bridge. Another concern was confidentiality for participants and ‘how the meetings would be kept safe for people calling in’ to participate in a meeting.

A member of our phone bridge - who has described himself in the past as serving for ten years as the ‘custodian to our virtual building’ (our phone bridge) offered up a brief synopsis of the proposed process. He shared that he felt that each meeting should, ideally, have responsibility for its own self. For example, the Tuesday at noon meeting is one group. This meeting would, ideally, be responsible for itself. This meeting/group would have both a Phone Meeting Rep AND a Security Monitor to take care of their meeting. He added that he recently talked with WSO’s Sharon and Mary Lou, who wrote him an email back ‘giving the green light to the current proposed process.’ (the one discussed in the PDF document…on the home page…)

The moderator asked if WSO said “ok” to dual members serving as Phone Meeting Reps and Security Monitors for the phone bridge. The ‘custodian of our virtual building’ answered that it was ok because the virtual building of our phone bridge was “not affected by WSO.” The moderator then suggested that the WSO emails please be posted on the website.

An Al-Anon member then said that she heard at the March Group Conscience Meeting ‘that there were already security monitors and that 2 of 3 identified themselves to the people at the meeting.’

One of the persons who acted as security monitor then spoke to say that she wasn’t a security monitor for more than 2 weeks and that she stepped down because she felt she was being harassed by members of the group who knew she was acting as a monitor. She shared that she felt personally attacked during her time as a security monitor.

Then there was a side argument of how many times a person could share and if the shares for the All Group and Group Conscience Meetings should be timed. There were different recollections on whether this was voted upon or not but finally it was agreed, that for this meeting, the shares should be timed and that ‘a person could only share once on each topic.’

Then a member volunteered to be timekeeper and began to serve the meeting. The discussion then resumed. An Al-Anon member asked ‘what would be the guidelines for blocking a person (as a security monitor) who has several phone numbers they use to call the phone line.’

The acting security monitor and custodian of the virtual building shared that ‘all numbers that cause a disturbance are blocked.’ “We block whoever is a problem,” he said.

Another Al-Anon member asked, ‘How will we make sure a security monitor has good motives? What about safety for people who call in and have their info. displayed?’

The custodian of the phone bridge said that ‘this would be addressed by each group.’ He said, ‘if a person acts as a security monitor and there are problems, then the group would address this and vote in a new monitor for the group.’

A member asked the custodian of the virtual building/phone bridge if he ‘really wanted the responsibility to supervise 47 security monitors?’

The custodian said that ‘it would be a better situation than what there is now’ and that he ‘felt the current proposed process would be a great way to manage the issues on the phone bridge.’

Another Al-Anon member asked if it would help the security monitor if the person who wanted to share first gave the first 3 or 4 digits of phone number before sharing. The custodian shared that this would be good while training the monitors but not really necessary later.

An Al-Anon member shared that a meeting/group had voted her in already as a Phone Meeting Rep but her group decided they did not want to elect a security monitor. She shared that ‘her group felt that there would be too many security monitors if each group had a monitor.’

The custodian stated that ‘it would be better than zero security monitors.’ He, again, directed people to the document on the Home Page: [www.alanonphonemeetings.org](http://www.alanonphonemeetings.org) to the document entitled “Virtual Al-Anon Meetings.” He said the current proposed process is described in this document and that if a group votes in a Phone Meeting Rep. to please follow through and please send an email to: alanonphonemeetingssecretary@yahoo.com with the requested info. detailed in the document. (That being the Phone Meeting Rep’s First name and last initial; their State; email; and phone number.)

Another Al-Anon member asked, “Could we just get a different phone number with a different access code for each meeting?” She added that she didn’t think the name of the security monitor should be made public.

The moderator asked, “How will a security monitor’s identity be kept confidential if the person is voted in by their meeting/group?”

A different Al-Anon member stated that she ‘felt that a security monitor without confidentiality would get harassed.’ She also felt that “only the most trustworthy people” should be security monitors for the phone bridge.

Another member shared that she felt that using our current dashboard technology it would be helpful to see if a potential security monitor had ever been blocked, then that person would not be allowed to become a security monitor.

Another member asked, “What does the security monitor see?” The custodian of the phone bridge shared that he could post a picture of the dashboard on the Home Page of the website for people to view. He said that all a security monitor sees are a scrolling list of phone numbers, not names.

A member asked what would the duties of the security monitor be? The custodian said there would be 3 levels of security. The first, a person creating a disturbance could be muted by the security monitor during a meeting. Secondly, a person could be blocked from a meeting. Third, a person can get their phone number completely blocked so that they could not come back to the phone bridge.

A few members asked, “Why is it always disturbance-free during the All Group Meetings and the Group Conscience Meetings?” The custodian answered that is because the phones are being monitored by him at these times.

Another Al-Anon member asked ‘what to do if we are having trouble with people somehow getting the leader codes and then abusing them.’ She added that she felt that it would be necessary for the groups to know how long a Phone Meeting Rep or a Security Monitor had been participating on the Al-Anon phone bridge. She said she felt that the time required should be “much longer” for a Security Monitor’s required participation on the Al-Anon phone bridge. She also suggested, “What if one person could be voted in to be Security Monitor for all 9:00 a.m. meetings, for example?” She added that this would cut down on the number of security monitors needed by the phone bridge. She suggested that a committee decide who should be the security monitors.

A different Al-Anon member said he ‘recognized that the phone bridge was a kind of virtual club.’ He said that ‘in a club there are always business meetings.’ He said that each Phone Meeting Rep from each meeting would make up the committee who would be dealing with disturbances and keep the phone bridge safe.’ He said the Phone Meeting Reps would each communicate with a Security Monitor.

Another member interjected that ‘if we had a minute taker like there used to be that all of these ideas would be taken down and posted on the website Home Page.’ She said, “Then everybody would know what was already discussed and what needs to be addressed and what the next meeting’s ‘agenda items’ were going to be.”

Then an Al-Anon member said that she felt it would be a good idea to post on our Home Page something like, “the lines are being monitored and your number can be seen.” She said a person could buy a pay-as-you-go phone so nobody can see one’s home phone number when calling into the phone bridge, only the pay-as-you-go phone number would be seen.

The moderator offered that a message could also be played when a person dials in that ‘your number is being seen by a security monitor but will not be used for any other purpose.’

Another member stated that “the Leader Code problem” needed to be addressed soon and suggested that the Leader Code be changed more often. It was suggested that this be an agenda item for the next Group Conscience Meeting.

The custodian asked for any ideas on how to safely deliver the leader code more confidentially and how to keep somebody from sharing it with somebody who was not a leader, which he said is what is happening now.

A member said that the Phone Meeting Reps could come to the monthly meeting and then be given the leader code and then they could give to their meeting’s security monitor.

Another Al-Anon member gave out her email and said she took good notes and anybody who wanted a copy could email her for them.

The meeting was concluded in haste because the next scheduled Al-Anon meeting was taking place in two minutes.