

AA Tokyo Intergroup Minutes

June 7, 2020

Online via Zoom

Call to order: 6:05

Open with Serenity Prayer

Introductions

Approval of Minutes of April 5, 2020 IG Meeting

Motion to approve was made and seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Secretary

Nothing to report. Noted with appreciation that IG minutes are posted on the website.

Phone

Calls are "feast or famine": Zero to 3-4/day. Not all are from AAs—some callers are family members or others looking for information or support and they might be referred to Alanon. Some AAs are just looking for meeting times [non-emergency].

The new call forwarding service started a few days ago and there have been a few glitches, notably no caller ID function. See below.

H&I

Nothing new to report. Nothing happening due to the virus situation as well as the long distance. Please let representative know if we hear of someone needing visits.

Webmaster

Webmaster thanked predecessor for unflagging support. The Zoom account made for IG is limited to two users; since a third person has the "master controls" he can switch out, making three people available to host meetings. Lots of people and groups have been helped by IG Zoom. Cost for Zoom is now ¥4400/month, and except for a few "bombings" at the beginning the service has been acceptable.

Webmaster has been doing a great job keeping the site updated. He reminded everyone again to please submit change requests via the website; using multiple methods of communication (e.g., LINE) causes confusion.

Treasurer:

There has been no money in or out this month, so the balance is the same as reported in April, ¥52,514. However, invoices for Zoom, call forwarding (¥2400/month), and phone have not been received or paid since then. Web hosting is an annual fee.

Old Business

• Phone

A contract was made with a service that does call forwarding with the idea that IG could get rid of the group phone and have calls forwarded from the Tokyo AA phone number to the private phone of whoever was "on duty" to handle calls. Unfortunately, it seems that this plan will not work after all because

- It is impossible to have caller ID, which means that missed calls cannot be returned
- "Latency"—time lag in conversation due to constraints in the forwarding system

The cost saving of call forwarding vs. phone is not significant, and there seem to be no other call forwarding services to explore. The group expressed appreciation to S for all his hard work. Can we switch back? Yes, easily. A motion was made and seconded that IG discontinue call forwarding and revert to using the dedicated phone.

• Zoom

General discussion of how long IG should continue to support Zoom meetings, considering burden on hosts as well as cost.

- Zoom is paid up through the end of May. With fixed expenses of about ¥12,000/month, IG has about a 4-month reserve at this time.
- Hosts said they are OK carrying on through the beginning of August, but cannot continue this level of commitment indefinitely.
- Since some of the churches are not open yet [some meetings have no venue], we need to continue Zoom at least another month.

A proposal was made that IG support Zoom through August; after that, meetings wishing to continue online will need to make their own arrangements. The motion was seconded and all approved. People need to be TOLD that groups will need to transition back to face to face meetings or become self-supporting online since they do not seem to be viewing IG Zoom as an emergency measure.

New Business

• "What does IG entail?"

This question has come up from newly forming groups wondering if active participation in IG is a requirement. No, it is not necessary for a group to send an IG representative, although participation is welcome and encouraged. Webmaster is happy to add new meetings to the website, both online and f2f. We have relaxed a previous guideline that a group must be up and running for a few months before being posted.

The Virtual Tokyo Young People's Group started at the end of March and will continue as a self-supporting online-only group with its own Zoom account.

• Overseas Meetings

Regarding recent requests to post overseas meetings on the Tokyo AA website, we can post links to groups but not list their meetings individually. It might be

useful to state this policy on our website. [Note: see <https://aa-intergroup.org/oiaa/meetings/?formats=Video>.]

- **Support for Host Church**

Several meetings each week have continued to hold f2f meetings at FCC throughout the COVID crisis. Since FCC needs money, several groups are paying their rent in advance and others might consider doing the same.

Closed with Serenity Prayer

Adjourned at 6:50 pm

Next IG: August 2, 2020