

AA Tokyo Intergroup Minutes
via Zoom
August 6, 2023

Call to order: 6 pm

Opened with "The Serenity Prayer"

Self-Introduction of Participants:

- Secretary [acting Chair for this meeting]
- H&I
- Webmaster
- Literature
- Representative: New Beginnings
- Representative: Free Thinkers & TUC
- Representative: Tokorozawa BB (Sunday)

Approval of Minutes of 7/2/2023

Motion to approve minutes of 7/2/2023 was made, seconded, and **PASSED** with all in favor.

Reports

- Secretary: Nothing to report
- Treasurer: Not present. Written report submitted as follows.

Nothing much to report, the balance does not reflect contributions (sober dance party) /expenses not yet dealt with(phone battery + July phone bill) but they will not change the balance by more than about ¥10000.
So, we have a solid ¥200,000+ going into August. [Note: exact balance is ¥223782.

- Literature: There was no activity → no report.
- H&I: Trying to get the message out to prisons. Literature Rep will send old list of hospitals which H&I will update. In answer to questions:
 - Regarding prisons, we are only reaching out to English speakers
 - We can ask JSO to let us know if they become aware of English speakers in prisons

- Phone: Not present. Written report submitted as follows.

As usual, either feast or famine – no calls for a week, and then three calls in a day.

Several people calling on behalf of relatives or friends, especially looking for hospitals or detoxes while emphasizing it was my opinion, and not AA I told them to go to Kurihama.

Some calls from potential newcomers. Both here in Japan, and for some reason from Africa, I referred the African people to their local AA, the people

here I referred to meetings, and I've been in contact with them, not sure if they're ready to pull the trigger or not.

We've somehow gotten on some kind of spam list for the WhatsApp account and I'm getting a lot of calls from places like Kazakhstan and Afghanistan. They never leave messages and only ring once. The one time I called them they told me they were from the recruitment agency.

I got a message today from a guy who says he's in AA and needs financial help. I told him we can't help him — if someone wants to reach out to him I'll pass along his information.

The new battery seems to be working well. The phone holds a charge a lot longer. Once again, the new battery charge was ¥7800.

I'm afraid I haven't followed up yet on contacting and checking the Loners information.

- Webmaster: reported as follows.
 - Microsoft 365 can be used free as a trial for 6 months. To be considered.
 - Two Spanish-speaking meetings have been added to the list.
 - Several cosmetic changes to website remain pending—rep has been exceptionally busy this month.

Discussion:

- Member reported difficulty opening the PDF of minutes which was sent as a link in an email rather than as an attachment; they would prefer receiving an attachment. This will be discussed with the Chair, currently out of the country.
- Posting the redacted June minutes on the website: Secretary will send text to Webmaster who will upload it ASAP.

Issue raised later in meeting by Webmaster: we are paying for "two seats"—aatokyo.org and "helpdesk." There is no paper trail for this "helpdesk" account and no one has any idea if or when it was ever used. Eliminating it would cut the associated expense in half. The group agreed by consensus that the Webmaster can proceed to eliminate "helpdesk" as an "upgrade" to the system.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Purchasing an ad in the Japan Times
Suggestion by Secretary and Webmaster. The cost is still not known; when this has been determined, a proposal to place an ad can be taken to groups for feedback. Motion was made, seconded and passed with all in favor to **TABLE this issue** until next month.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Changing email servers?
This possibility was suggested by Phone rep. Motion was made, seconded and passed with all in favor to **TABLE this issue** until next month when Phone rep is likely to attend. In the meantime, Webmaster will monitor emails for any problems receiving.

- Donation to JSO
A proposal has been made by Chair for IG to donate ¥100,000 to JSO. A counterproposal was made [by Phone rep] that the donation be ¥50,000. Literature rep agreed that we have too much money, and that excess funds has caused problems in the past, but suggests that we hold off any donation until we know any cost that might be incurred by changing email servers. Literature rep added that donations are generally made by “groups” and IG is a “service entity”—gray area. Tokorozawa BB rep reflected that if IG cannot make donations then funds are bound to accumulate unless spent.

Comments submitted by members not present:

- Treasurer, in support of ¥100,000 donation:
[Whom would we support] If not the JSO (and why we wouldn't first help the fellowship that directly supports us I don't know). To the best of my knowledge, we have no large outgoings on the horizon, and in the spirit of World Service Concept 12 “...that sufficient funds, plus it's prudent reserve, be it's prudent financial principle.” That is to say, it's my personal feeling that we have no business sitting on such a sum of money as ¥200,000 if there is no good reason.
- Phone rep, in support of ¥50,000 donation:
Technically, we are a separate organization and everybody should self-supporting but don't care so much about that. Still, I think ¥100,000 is too much and ¥50,000 is more appropriate.

Regarding JSO, everyone agreed that they provide service for us (obtaining literature, possibly referring English speakers, hosting our phone in the past) and helping JSO indirectly helps us as well. Key issues are JSO's actual need and their “accountability” in use of funds (i.e., some idea of their operating costs and whether a donation of any amount from us would have an impact). Webmaster offered to contact JSO to gain more clarity. Motion was made, seconded and passed with all in favor to **TABLE this issue** until next month.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and passed with all in favor.

CLOSED WITH “The Serenity Prayer”

NEXT MEETING: 9/3/2023 at 6:00 PM