

## Minutes for March 7 2015

### "Bridge Technical Service Meeting

Meetings held every Saturday at 2PM (except second Saturday)

### "Meeting Space Building Representatives"

from various meetings on this phone bridge

Tuesday 8PM Present

Thursday Noon Present

Saturday 8AM Present - present later in the meeting

**Present:** (on March 7 2014)

**Monitor Chair** (present) phonemeetingsmonitor@yahoo.com

**Info Committee Chair** (present) phonemeetingsinformation@yahoo.com

**Web Committee Chair** (absent) phonemeetingsweb@yahoo.com

"Scribe" - member from Upstate NY  
(Title offered by minutes taker)

## Minutes of March 7 2014 Meeting

Reading of Feb 28 2014 Meeting minutes -- accepted

### OLD BUSINESS

\*\* Tuesday March 17 Marathon, using holiday format  
Meetings at 2PM, 6PM, midnight EST

\*\* New format to accommodate special needs members, time suggestion for 6PM on Sunday

\*\* Revisit suggestion by one member to make announcements in all meetings about format changes  
Member said she would pray on going to all meetings of one weekday, make announcement,  
then submit changes for all formats for that one weekday to the web host for this bridge line  
(Item was remembered by member at the end of the meeting, now placed in its proper rotation...)

\*\* After meetings - wish to discuss pros and cons

### NEW BUSINESS (pending)

\*\* Revisit GC in July 2014 regarding blocked member

\*\* Workshop AI Anon Spoken Here

\*\* Workshop AI Anon Service

## **Item #1 -- Tuesday March 17,2015 Marathon, using holiday format**

Comments:

Member from NYC co ordinating these meetings, 2AM EST meeting not planned  
Meetings that day will be at 6AM, 9AM, noon, \*\*2PM 4PM \*\*6PM 8PM 10PM \*\*midnight  
All times are EST, \*\* items are additional meetings following the holiday format, available at website

## **Item #2 Meeting to accommodate Special Needs Members**

Comments: Discussion on this subject spanned almost the entire meeting.

-- Statements to object to the meeting:

AI Anon does not divide into people with ordinary and special needs  
This creates chaos, does not Keep It Simple, member does not see the need  
The creation of a special focus isolates people and does not give them a complete experience of the program

There are not enough chairs for the meetings we have as it is

"There are laws [ie in the United States] against segregation of any kind."

Does old age count as a disability or a special need? Grief over the death of a loved one?  
(sincere inquiries as to what counts as a special need...)

-- Statements to affirm the meeting:

Special needs meetings do exist and are represented in the Service Manual as Special Focus Meetings

AI Anon recognizes special focus meetings of various types  
for Spanish Speaking, Gay Bisexual Lesbian Transgender etc.

All are open to all AI Anons but they have provisions in their formats to address the special focus

From the 2014-2017 Service Manual p 36:

Some relatives and friends of alcoholics find it easier to address their common problems in dealing with the effects of someone else's drinking with those in similar life situations. These members have formed AI Anon groups for men, women, parents, adult children, and gays and lesbians (LGBT). The group may include these designations in its group name, with the understanding that, as with all AI Anon groups, membership remains open to anyone affected by someone else's drinking. Members of these groups are encouraged to attend other AI -Anon meetings as well.

In the 90s there was a special focus meeting in a specific geographic area named for people of color

apparently this meeting was registered with WSOat the time

One member helped Spanish Speakers to have their own meetings on their own line because she wanted to be sure they had a place to be heard

"When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help..." AI Anon Declaration

This would just be another Special Focus meeting, like the Spanish Speaking Meetings

(possibility that special needs members need their own phone lines)  
(member mentioned that there are other lines with smaller, slower meetings that do address this need)

Lone Member Service (old service manual p 68 to 69) is now covered by the Phone Bridge  
Special accommodations for those with special needs are no longer available through Lone Member Services

[Old] Service Manual also made reference to members who are:

"...home bound due to illness, disability, or other lifestyle restrictions..."

(these are the ones formerly served by the Lone Member Service, via land mail and phone contact)

This meeting would be inclusive of all AI Anons, but have accommodations for special needs in the format

We are not labeling people or encouraging labeling - people see this need and want to create these meetings

People vary in the nature of their disabilities,  
Some can be seen (f2f) , heard (bridge) some not  
People don't hear from [me] much because [my] voice is so soft,  
[my] hands have trouble muting/unmuting the phone

Fully-abled people may not be able to see/feel what this is like,  
how easily special needs members may be drowned out by stronger voices and quicker fingers

All anyone needs is to be in an accident of some kind and  
suddenly they will be special needs too...and know how this is...and learn what they do not know right now...

Having this discussion raised awareness of the need to recognize those with special needs

-- Proposals on this item

Perhaps an announcement can be added to a format at the beginning of any regular meeting to accommodate special needs members ie when newcomers to AI Anon and to the bridge speak

Allowances placed in one format may serve as a model for others to follow

It is important to remember that each group is autonomous, has its own business meeting to manage its format

There is a need for broad announcements

The option needs to be made available for those with and without computers

Those with special needs may not be on the Tech Service Business meeting

Timing of the meeting could be impacted by the specific scheduling needs of some special needs members

Two times proposed, 2PM Wednesday and 6PM Sunday  
Suggestion to put the format up for the 6PM Sunday meeting since a chair stepped up and see how it goes

Two members offered contact info for follow up on this issue and on the Marathon on March 17 2015

**Recap of the purpose of the meeting:**

**to provide a place to discuss scheduling the space and**

**to provide a forum to better understand the use of technology for phone bridge meetings.**

**Next Meeting Agenda Items:**

**\*\* Make announcements in all meetings about format changes**

(Item was remembered by member at the end of the meeting, now placed in its proper rotation...)

Member said she would pray on going to all meetings of one weekday, make announcement, then submit changes for all formats for that one weekday to the web host for this bridge line  
This item needs to be revisited as member said she would pray on it, did not commit to it

**\*\* After meetings - wish to discuss pros and cons**

**\*\* Revisit GC in July 2014** regarding blocked member

**\*\* Workshop** AI Anon Spoken Here

**\*\* Workshop** AI Anon Service

**Bridge Technical Service Meetings** are held:

**First Saturday**      **Bridge Tech Service Mtg**    March 7 2015 @ 2PM (these minutes)

**Second Saturday - Concepts Workshop**      March 14 2014 @ 2PM (occurred)

**Third Saturday**    - **Bridge Tech Service Mtg**    March 21 @ 2PM (postponed)

**NOTE - these meetings are not happening on the 712 432 8733 line, they are on a special WSO line**

**A first      WSO Conference Call in support of all AI Anon Phone Lines at 4-5PM EST March 21**

**A second WSO Conference Call in support of all AI Anon Phone Lines at 4-5PM EST March 26**

**Fourth Saturday - Bridge Tech Service Mtg**    March 28 (at the old "monthly" time)

**\*\*NOTE THIS IS NO LONGER CALLED THE ALL GROUPS MEETING OR THE ALL GROUPS CONSCIENCE**

It is called Bridge Technical Service Meeting - as of January Vote by Group Conscience (see old minutes)

**NOTE: Please announce the following in all meetings on 712 432 8733 line**

**All service addresses and web addresses have removed the word "alanon" per request by WSO**

**Use of [www.alanonphonemeetings.org](http://www.alanonphonemeetings.org) now leads to an error message**

This phone bridge's current website address <http://phonemeetings.org>

Contact info: <http://phonemeetings.org/contact.htm>

Location of minutes for this meeting: <http://phonemeetings.org/schedule.htm>

Announcements/agenda for following meeting:  
<http://phonemeetings.org/announcements.htm>