

Every Daily Reader Group Conscience Nov.6, 2025 Meeting Minutes:

Alexis, Group Conscience Chair, asked a member to open the meeting with the Serenity Prayer

The Knowledge Based Decision Making paragraph was screen-shared and read:

“Knowledge-Based Decision Making (KBDM) principles can help resolve conflicts in Alanon business meetings. The essential elements of the KBDM process are:

- open communication between all members
- all decision-makers have common access to full information
- the idea that everyone participates is a spiritual principle
- dialogue before decision-making allows everyone to be on the same page
- opinions are backed up by experience, principles and/or knowledge
- we are all equal and everyone is valuable. We respect all ideas and do not tolerate domination.
- we exist in a culture of trust and goodwill.”

Eli, Group Representative, gave the GR report:

- 10/4/25 Global Electronic Area (GEA) Delegate Town Hall II Electronic Alateen
- 10/14/25 GEA Assembly Agenda
- 10/16/25 District Meeting Summary
- 10/25/25 GEA Assembly with voting for:
 - Substantial Unanimity (adopted)
 - Legal Recognition of Motion (passed)
 - Budget Correction (approved)

Bill R., Interim Treasurer, gave the treasurer report:

As of 11/1/25 Every Daily Reader group has the following:

- \$250.00 in the treasury
- \$618.99 was collected between 10/1/25 and 10/31/25
- 76 total contributions with 44 different members contributed in October:
 - 74 Venmo contributions and 2 check contributions in October
- \$276.00 disbursed to GEA via Venmo on 10/31/25
- \$276.00 was disbursed to WSO-AFG via PayPal on 10/31/25
- \$65.99 Zoom One Pro paid to Gordy H. on 10/23/25
- \$250.00 kept in prudent reserve; forwarded to November 2025.

Anticipated expenses are as follows:

- Zoom One Pro + 500 participants monthly charge \$65.99 due 11/23/25 and monthly thereafter
- Website hosting (3years) \$396.00 due Jan 5, 2026
- Domain registration. (10 years) \$126.10 due Jan.1, 2033

Andrea, group secretary - no report this month.

Alexis, Group Conscience Chair report:

- Today will see changes to the meeting format*: 1-minute share per person, the meeting has a one-hour time limit, members are asked to not share more than once until all

have had the opportunity to share, and members are asked to not share if it duplicates what has already been said.

Agenda:

Old Business

1. Final vote on whether to remove the option to use emoticons
2. Consider re-phrasing what is currently in the script about sharing in the past week; clarification if this includes the after-meeting

New Business

3. Adding the traditional Alanon closing to the script
4. Adopting changes to the Group Conscience meeting format* [see above]
5. Discussion round someone smoking marijuana on-screen during the meeting
6. Draft of EDRg Financial Guidelines
7. Restore ability to copy & paste chat messages during meeting

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1. Emoticons

The use of Emoticons during meetings:

Last month a majority agreed that emoticons are distracting, and can be considered cross-talk. The matter was forwarded to the November Group Conscience meeting for resolution.

There is an option in Zoom settings to remove option entirely.

Member - was not here last month for the discussion, sees this as a need to control every aspect of other members' participation, feels this idea is very controlling. Suggested the meeting be left as is; an aspect of this disease is to keep looking for something wrong and finding something to fix.

Member - was not here last month. Likes seeing emoticons when they share, feels emoticons add to the Zoom atmosphere, helps them feel closer to the fellowship.

Member - was not here last month. Supports not having emoticons.

Member - in South Africa there are training meetings to address this issue: each person's computer /mobile device can be set individually to not see emoticons. The choice is up to an individual. There are other options between 'yes leave emoticons available' on or 'no they will not be available for anyone'.

Member - finds floating emojis tremendously distracting. Feels the option of posting a heart in each person's box is fine.

Member - finds emojis very distracting visually, hard to concentrate on the person who is speaking. They feel emojis are a commentary on someone's shares, and that there is inequality: men rarely get hearts, particularly men of color.

Member - loves the floating hearts, they show people they're not alone, that we care. But maybe for the good of the group the option could be removed, we can still smile at someone's share.

Member - often in groups people do nod and smile, give affirmation, it shows some warmth to new people. Emojis take the place of smiling and nodding at in-person meetings.

Member - this group has been in existence for 4 years, and for all that time the reaction button has been available; why make a change in a long-established meeting.

Member - we have to learn how to manage our own discomfort, not have other people solve this for us if we are uncomfortable. Uses emoticons as identification with what is being said, much like they would go up to someone after a meeting.

Alexis - it is now time for a vote:

Option 1 - complete removal of option for all

Option 2 -self removal individually

Option 3 - do nothing

1 - 25 yes, out of 76

18 no

6 abstentions

2 - 21 yes, out of 72

12 no

6 abstentions

3 - 10 yes, out of 62

16 no, out of 61

3 abstentions

Alexis - there is not a substantial majority for any of these options.

What is the protocol if don't have substantial majority?

Does that mean no changes be made?

Recommendation if not consensus?

Member - asked for a re-explanation of the options

Member - the three options were confusing. Feels there should only be two options, not three: either to have emojis or not.

Member - in Alanon we say take what you like and leave the rest, let's keep it simple

The new options are:

1 - shut it down on host setting

2 -leave it as is

Member - post the check mark for yes, the X for no (in reactions).

Member - was this not already voted on last month.

Member - each group is autonomous; we can decide if cross-talk is ok for this group.
If it's distracting for many, then it is cross talk.

Member - what is a Yes vote, what is a no vote; neither follows Alanon traditions.
The group doesn't dictate how we take care of ourselves.

Member - in favor of the option for individuals to shut it off for themselves.

New voting criterion:

- 1 - yes - means I want emoticons removed at the zoom level
- 2 - no - I do not want the option to use emoticons removed

Option 1 - 23 out of 54

Option 2 - 18 out of 54

Abstentions 3

Alexis - there is not enough of a majority to remove emoticons so the meeting format will stay as is. Perhaps spread the word that people can self-opt out individually.

Member - was not here for the October GC meeting. The vote today is that things stay as is. Maybe at the December GC meeting discuss having the chat host put instructions in the chat to turn emoticons off individually.

Member - there seems to be a lot of attempting to control others going on.

Member - why is a simple majority not enough, as is the case in Alanon generally.

Alexis - 2/3 majority is standard.

Bill R. - "substantial unanimity" opposed to razor thin. He referenced Knowledge Based Decision Making.

Eli - there is a way for zoom admin to change options to not have floating emojis, but allow individual emojis in a person's zoom-square.

Member - 35 yrs in Alanon. The clear outcome of today's session is that we as individuals have the option to turn emoticons off or keep them on if we love them. A core principle of why we come to Alanon is to learn how to take care of ourselves, make choices about what's best for us, not others. We can't legislate what people do.

Alexis - the one-hour time limit is up.
She will chair next month.

The remaining 30 participants were unmuted to close with the Serenity Prayer.