

## **General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous**

www.aa.org

475 Riverside Drive, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10115 / Telephone: (212) 870-3400

Please direct all communications to: P.O. Box 459 Grand Central Station New York, NY 10163 Fax: (212) 870-3003

March 19, 2020

The General Service of Alcoholics Anonymous (G.S.O.) U.S./Canada functions as a repository for A.A. members and groups who are looking for the shared experience of the Fellowship. As the global situation related to Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to develop, we are fully committed to continue to serve as a resource center of shared experience to help navigate this unprecedented public health emergency.

It is important to note the G.S.O. is not an authoritative body over our groups, nor does it initiate rules or directives, as each A.A. group and entity is autonomous and decisions are made through its group conscience. Providing guidance on health issues is outside the scope of the A.A. sharing that G.S.O. offers. For anyone experiencing health and safety questions, it is suggested they contact national, state/provincial and local health authorities for appropriate information.

However, in response to the global outbreak, we do have some general experience regarding how some A.A. groups and members have begun to address this issue. Many are following "social distancing" guidelines established by local, state, provincial, and federal officials, while at the same time maintaining their recovery and attending digital A.A. meetings.

By attending digital meetings, groups can focus on A.A.'s primary purpose: to carry its message of recovery to the alcoholic who still suffers. Many groups have alerted *local* A.A. offices or hotlines if they are temporarily not meeting in their regular space. Some groups have shared that they are utilizing digital platforms such as <u>Zoom</u>, <u>Google Hangouts</u>, or conducting conference calls.

A.A. groups are also creating contact lists, keeping in touch by phone, email or social media. Many local A.A. central/intergroup offices, and areas have added information to their websites about how to change a meeting format from "in-person" to a digital platform. A.A. in the digital age has certainly taken on a new meaning in these challenging times.

We are here to help by providing a list of resources.

- General Service Office Website: <u>www.aa.org</u>
  - o Videos/Audios https://www.aa.org/pages/en US/videos-and-audios
  - Read/Listen/ASL "The Big Book" and Twelve Steps/Twelve Traditions Book <u>https://www.aa.org/pages/en\_US/read-the-big-book-and-twelve-steps-and-twelve-traditions</u>
  - o A.A. Archives and history https://www.aa.org/pages/en\_US/archives-and-history
  - A.A.W.S. YouTube Channel <u>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2nfvf9DeDA7QYvLeq4pQ-w</u>
- A.A. Grapevine website: <u>https://www.aagrapevine.org/</u>
  - Audio, digital, hard copy resources
  - A.A. Grapevine YouTube Channel <u>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI9uFLJ\_aXT3-At0PIPWUQ</u>
- A.A. Online Intergroup: <u>https://www.aa-intergroup.org/</u>
- Understanding Anonymity: <u>https://www.aa.org/assets/en\_US/p-47\_understandinganonymity.pdf</u>

