



The Beacon Weekly

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aaworcester.org

Intergroup Office
Is **CLOSED** until
further notice.

Please call the office
number (shown
above) or email the
Office Manager
(shown below) for
any assistance

**The Beacon
Weekly Staff**

1/2020 — 12/2020

Editor:

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Keep the chain
going— Pass this
Along

Let us know how
we are doing—
beacon@
aaworcester.org

VIRTUAL LOCAL MEETING SUPPORT FROM WAI

Fast, easy access to a detailed list of local Online A.A. meetings

Worcester Area Intergroup's home page includes a Virtual Meeting box and a link to a spreadsheet listing Virtual A.A. meetings in Massachusetts, including many in the Worcester area. [<https://bit.ly/2WlpfBD>] As of this writing, the

Day	Time (ET)	Meeting Name	Topic/Meeting Format	ZOOM Link	Meeting ID	Password	Phone Number	Notes
		Boston Saturday Speaker Discussion		https://zoom.us/j/9963323885	996 332 3885	None	1 929 436 2866	
		1 Day at a Time		https://zoom.us/j/773878425	773 878 425	None	1 646 876 9923	
		Daily Reflections		https://sites.google.com/site/aatelephonemeetings/home		654443#	1 712 432 0075	https://sites.google.com/site/aatelephonemeetings/home
		AA Topic Discussions		https://sites.google.com/site/aatelephonemeetings/home		654443#	1 712 432 0075	https://sites.google.com/site/aatelephonemeetings/home

Spreadsheet's left tab includes links to **158** meetings in the Central Mass. and surrounding areas. Got a new meeting to add? See the link in the Virtual Meeting box to go the Virtual Meeting Request Form to submit a new meeting. The spreadsheet includes a second tab (right tab—see illustration) listing **79** online meetings in related areas.

All meetings setup using the Worcester Intergroup account require a password to keep bots and hackers out — The password for attending is **Sober2020**

An online meeting list is hosted by the Eastern Mass. Central Service Committee — https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/12-gRXU_fNZ2ggNxI2KdCbzODwR9mNvVW — showing **340** meetings. Also available is a nationwide list from A.A. Central Service in New York [https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/options-for-meeting-online]

The opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to A.A. as a whole, nor does the publication of any article imply an endorsement by either A.A., General Services nor Intergroup.



**Step Three:
“Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of
God as we understood Him.”**

Tradition Three

**“The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop
drinking.”**

Isn't every organization entitled to have rules for membership? Why did A.A. decide to forgo this privilege, to be “inclusive...never exclusive”? That's easy. Early members tried it the other way, and it just didn't work. As the Fellowship was nearing its ten-year mark, the office that served as headquarters “asked the groups to list their membership rules and send them in,” Bill W. recalled. “If all of these edicts had been in force everywhere at once, it would have been practically impossible for any alcoholic to have ever joined A.A. About nine-tenths of our oldest and best members could never have got by!” So the rule books went out the window and were replaced by one uncomplicated sentence: Tradition Three.

But, somebody may ask, isn't this Tradition itself a rule? It does state one requirement for membership. Let's read it again, and ask another question: Who determines whether or not newcomers qualify, whether they do want to stop drinking? Obviously, nobody except the newcomers themselves; everybody else simply has to take their word for it. In fact, they don't even have to say it aloud. And that's fortunate for many of us who arrived at A.A. with only a halfhearted desire to stay sober. We are alive because the A.A. road stayed open to us.

The problem faced by this Tradition isn't just past A.A. history. It keeps coming up—for instance, when a group debates whether to exclude alcoholics who have problems other than alcohol or have differing lifestyles. The Tradition mentions no such additional requirements, no demand that prospective members must not have a history of drug abuse, a certain lifestyle, or an institutional background. All alcoholics are welcome.

What about the group that seems to impose extra requirements, beyond “a desire to stop drinking”? This might be a “special interest” group or collection of groups in which, for example, each member must be a physician—or a young person, a man, a woman, a priest, or a law-enforcement officer. By their own account, those attending special interest groups consider themselves A.A. members first. They attend general-membership meetings as well as those that fill their other individual needs, and they remain devoted to A.A.'s primary purpose. These “special interest” groups offer only one instance of the diverse and inclusive membership within our Fellowship. Our Traditions allow unparalleled freedom, not only to every A.A. member, but to every A.A. group.



12 Step Volunteer Application

Name (First name and last initial): _____

Telephone Number: _____

Towns you will accept calls from: _____

Hours that you are available: _____

I wish to help (please circle *all* that apply): Males Only Females Only Both

Ages I am willing to work with people ages:

Teens 20 to 30 30 to 40 40 to 50 50 to 60 Over 60

I am willing to (please circle):

Talk to a person on the phone Go to a persons home to talk * Give rides to AA Meetings

Give rides to Detox * Meet someone at a meeting

Other (please specify) _____

**It is suggested that a person NOT make a Twelfth Step call alone to help an alcoholic who is still suffering. Also you should NOT drive a wet drunk to a treatment facility (detox) without having another A.A. member with you. If you circled either of these items, please be sure that you have another member of A.A. that is available and willing to go along with you.*

Anniversary Donation

Name: _____

City/Home Group: _____

Sobriety Date: _____ Amt. Enclosed: _____

Mail to: **Worcester Area Intergroup—address on page 1.** All Anniversaries submitted will be published the month following submission. Please contact the newsletter Editor at beacon@aaworcester.org if an Anniversary has not been published for two months following submission.

HALT LINE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Intergroup HALT line needs volunteers to cover open time slots. The HALT line is there to assist any alcoholic needing to find a meeting. This is service work that really matters.

See the flyer on page 12



Find a Meeting—Local or Anywhere!

Find a local meeting fast on a Map, a grid, or on a list!

MeetingMap.aaWorcester.org



Alcoholics Anonymous World Services Meeting Guide

The official Meeting Guide is a free of charge meeting finder app for iOS and Android that provides meeting information from A.A. service entities in an easy-to-access format.

Meeting Guide syncs with area, district, intergroup/central offices and international General Service Office websites (some of which are listed on A.A. Near You), relaying meeting information from more than 300 A.A. service entities directly to you. Over 100,000 weekly meetings are currently listed, and the information is refreshed twice daily.

This app gives A.A. service entities full control of their local meeting information while collecting it in one place, making it easy for anyone to find a meeting. Local entities provide their meeting information voluntarily. Meeting Guide users can suggest additions or corrections to meeting listings by using links provided within the app to contact the local service entity responsible for the information.

New & Enhanced Features

Search — Find A.A meetings by name or location, in addition to day and time

Daily Reflections — a selection of reflections by and for A.A. members

Enhanced location functionality

Expanded user interface, with a new menu bar and “Contact” feature.

“News” — Learn about events at the General Service Office (G.S.O.) and Grapevine, as well as information about updates within the app.



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The GRAPEVINE AND LA VIÑA ARE HERE TO HELP

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, many AA meetings across the U.S. are finding it safer to close. To help members during this time, The AA Grapevine, Inc., publisher of the International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous, is giving everyone free access to most of 2020's *Grapevine* and *La Viña* issues free of charge. The AA Grapevine, Inc., notes, "*Grapevine* and *La Viña* were created for such a time as this." See this link to download available issues: [<https://www.aagrapevine.org/we-are-here-to-help>] Please share with your fellows.



JANUARY 2020

Tough Times



FEBRUARY 2020

Puzzled



MARCH 2020

Home Group



APRIL 2020

Spanish issues



LA VIÑA 

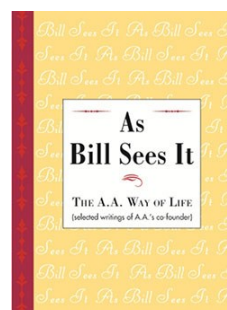
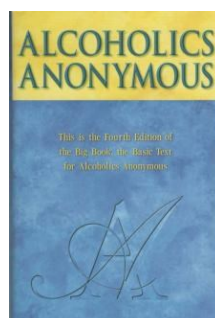
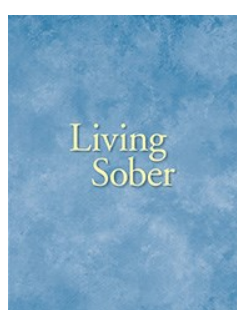
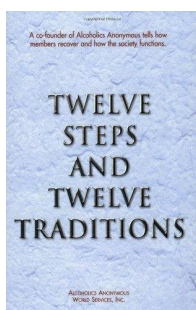
Worcester Area Intergroup's New Online Bookstore

WAI has launched a new Online Bookstore, enabling local A.A.'s to order coins, books, and cards. The site also includes a printable PDF listing these items, which can be filled out and mailed in if that is more convenient for some buyers.

If you don't know it, sales of books and other items from the WAI Bookstore helps support local A.A. activities (such as the Intergroup Office and Alcathons), so help the local recovery community by buying your A. A.-related items from the WAI bookstore. Gift certificates are now available for the WAI Bookstore and can be used for anything in the bookstore or for special orders.

Find it here: <https://www.aaworcester.org/Bookstore.aspx?GRP=WAI>

Please remember to check off the 'shipping' box—we are not offering in-person orders. Please remember to close out the transaction after Paypal returns you to the bookstore.





Worcester Area Intergroup Information

Until further notice, the Intergroup Steering Committee, District 25 meeting and Intergroup Delegates monthly meeting has been changed to a virtual event—

Information for these meetings is listed at the top of the virtual meeting list at aaworcester.org.

**The Intergroup meetings occur the second THURSDAY of each month.*

District 25 General Service Committee—meets first Tuesday of the month 7:30 pm

District 26 General Service Committee—Madonna of the Holy Rosary Church Hall, 118Theresa St., Fitchburg, meets first Thursday of the month 7:00pm AA members welcome—please come join us!

AREA 30 Eastern Mass. General Service Committee — Belmont / Watertown United Methodist Church 421 Common St., Belmont—4th Wednesday 8:00pm

Intergroup Officers & Committee Chairpersons (as of 4/12/20)

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>email address</u>	<u>Bold = new in 2020</u>
Chairperson	Steve O	chair@aaworcester.org	
Alt. Chair	OPEN	altchair@aaworcester.org	
Secretary	Hilary D	secretary@aaworcester.org	
Alt. Secretary	OPEN	altsecretary@aaworcester.org	
Treasurer	Ted K	treasurer@aaworcester.org	
Alt. Treasurer	OPEN	alttreasurer@aaworcester.org	
Trustee	Fred F.	trustee1@aaworcester.org	
Trustee	Kim N.	trustee2@aaworcester.org	
Trustee	Alice B.	trustee3@aaworcester.org	
Trustee	Emily D.	trustee4@aaworcester.org	
Office Manager	Brandy H.	officemanager@aaworcester.org	
Alcathon (WAI)	Brandy H.	alcathon@aaworcester.org	
Beacon Editor	John Mcl	beacon@aaworcester.org	
Treatment Facilities	Raymond M.	treatment@aaworcester.org	
Corrections	Steve O.	corrections@aaworcester.org	
HALTline	Donna H.	haltline@aaworcester.org	
Liaison to District 25	Steve O.		
Liaison to District 26	Jenn C.		
Liaison to Area 30	Jim B.		

Treatment Facilities Service Opportunities

Due to COVID-19, treatment commitments are being revamped. See **page 14** for Treatment Committee updates.



Online Intergroup—Online Meetings Directory

<http://aa-intergroup.org/directory.php>

The Online Intergroup URL listed is a resource and starting point for finding an online meeting format and time that suits you, including by Email, Chat (text), Audio/Video, Discussion Forums, and Telephone

The Directory identifies a wide range of meeting formats—Regular, Men/Women, Men only, Women only, Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender, Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Blind/Visually Impaired, Loners/Internationalists, Atheist/Agnostic, Regional / Ethnic, Profession Specific and Closed or Open

This directory lists over 100 different Groups—each group hosting from 1 to more than a dozen scheduled ‘meetings.’ Each group listed displays how to connect or enter the group, the time(s) of the meetings (in local or Daylight Savings time), a brief description of the format style of the meeting, and URLs/telephone numbers or other relevant access info. Besides English, the list includes meetings offered in 12 other languages, and, meetings hosted in the U.S., Canada, and many other countries.

The Directory also offers information on the Guidelines for Submitting a Meeting for incorporation in the Directory here: http://aa-intergroup.org/directory_form.php

The Directory offers a confidential “Get Help Now” page where anyone can enter their contact information and get help 24X7 from volunteer A.A. members, and a Calendar section displaying info on A.A.-related Conferences, Conventions, Roundups, and local, regional, national and international A.A-related events.

The Online Intergroup aids its member groups in their common purpose of carrying the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffers.



[Get Help Now](#)

[Online Meetings](#)

[Worldwide Events](#)

[About AA](#)

[Members](#)

[Čeština/Slovenčina](#) | [Dansk](#) | [Deutsch](#) | [Español](#) | [Farsi](#) | [Français](#) | [Ελληνικά](#) | [Italiano](#)

[日本語](#) | [Polski](#) | [Português](#) | [Russki](#) | [Slovenčina](#) | [Svenska](#)

NOTICE ABOUT EXTERNAL LINKS This newsletter provides links to other websites, including websites affiliated with other organizations. Linking to any other website, including but not limited to websites affiliated with other organizations inside the Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) service structure, does not constitute the endorsement, sponsorship, or approval of such other website by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.), or any products, services, or content displayed, provided, promoted, or offered by such other website. Please be aware that A.A.W.S. is not responsible for the content, practices, policies, or methods of any other website, including, without limitation, any other website's collection, dissemination, use, and protection of personal information, its use of tracking technology, or its level of computer security. Additionally, A.A.W.S. cannot attest to the accuracy, relevancy, timeliness, legality, or completeness of information provided by any other website.



A Guide to using Zoom as a Virtual Meeting Platform

Highlights from the New York Intergroup's suggestions for developing and managing virtual meetings using Zoom

<https://www.nyintergroup.org/remote-meetings/join-the-nyig-zoom-meeting-room/what-is-the-aa-zoom-room/nyig-zoom-room-support/>

The New York City area has been hard hit by the COVID-19 virus, and the NY Intergroup has a helpful guide for using Zoom as a virtual meeting platform, addressing topics such as:

- The Account Setup Guide, and, How to use Zoom
- A Guide for Meeting Chairs
- Managing anonymity in virtual meetings
- Support— Zoom offers support videos and other resources. AA members are encouraged to explore <https://support.zoom.us>
- Member and Group resources

Virtual Meetings face their own challenges

According to the *New York Times*, some A.A. groups hosting virtual meetings on Zoom have had problems with internet trolls (they are under quarantine, too) who are jumping into public Zoom calls and using the platform's screen-sharing feature to project graphic (and sometimes pornographic) content to unwitting conference participants, forcing hosts to shut down their events. This practice is apparently called "Zoom Bombing."

Thankfully, the Inter-Group Association of A.A. New York offers a helpful 4 page guide, '**NYIG Toolkit for Handling Unwanted Meeting Disruptions**' [download: https://www.nyintergroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/NYIG_Zoom-Protection-Guide_033020.pdf] addressing concerns such as:

- What should you do if your meeting is disrupted?
 - Turn off a Participant's Video and Remove Participant, and, Locking a Meeting
 - Preventing "Zoom Group Chat" Abuse, and, Preventing "Share Screen" Abuse
- Zoom also offers a guide to preventing security problems here - How to Keep Uninvited Guests Out of Your Zoom Event — [<https://blog.zoom.us/wordpress/2020/03/20/keep-uninvited-guests-out-of-your-zoom-event/>]

NEED HELP? A.A. Worcester Intergroup offers in-depth user training called *Zoom Trooper Boot Camp*—training assistance for using Zoom—please contact Brandy, WAI Office Manager, for info: officemanager@aaworcester.org (508) 752-9000



PLEASE SUPPORT LOCAL VIRTUAL MEETINGS and WAI

One element in online meetings which *is* different is that the digital world needs a special method to ‘*Pass the (Virtual) Basket*’ for the Seventh Tradition. Online hosting— (such as Zoom meetings) - cost money to operate, and other area A.A. activities still need support to provide ongoing services, so a link to a contribution page is included [http://aaworcester.org/contribution_page.html] on www.aaworcester.org. Please help keep local A.A. resources available for the alcoholic who still suffers. Payment services charge WAI a *per transaction* fee - so when using them, please contribute less frequently but in a larger amount to reduce the fees incurred with each contribution. The contribution page offers PayPal, Square Cash, Cash App and Google Pay.payment options, and all three platforms offer an app for download.



<https://www.paypal.com/>



waintergroup@gmail.com



Square

[Square](https://www.square.com)

You may also specify that your contribution be credited to your home group—and you may acknowledge that in your transaction.

If your home group is looking to add digital contribution capabilities, this link offers a good overview of how to add the option of a digital Seventh Tradition contribution capability to an individual group — [<https://aasfmarin.org/online-contributions-your-digital-7th-tradition-guide-to-best-practices>] (‘Best Practices For a Digital 7th Tradition’).

A.A. General Services offers suggestions and shared experiences for creating online meetings here— [https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/options-for-meeting-online]

April 11, 2020

GRAPEVINE Daily Quote

“In the first six months of my own sobriety, I worked hard with many alcoholics. Not a one responded. Yet this work kept me sober.”

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., January 1958, “The Next Frontier: Emotional Sobriety,”
The Language of the Heart



OPTIONS FOR CREATING AN ONLINE MEETING

A.. A. General Services offers suggestions and shared experiences for creating online meetings here— [https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/options-for-meeting-online]

This outline includes points to consider and links to other pages:

- Decide if you want to create your own online meeting or attend one that already exists.
- To create your own online meeting, you will choose a platform to use, and provide your group members with any relevant info/instructions for your meeting.

A.A. does not endorse any specific way to meet as a group digitally. Each group must decide what works best for their needs - several providers to get more information on how to use their platforms to set up an online meeting are -

- Google Hangouts/Meet
- Zoom
- Free Conference Call

Getting additional help

You may be able to request additional help and guidance on this topic by reaching out to your local A.A. office, technology committees, or the online Technology in A.A. forum [https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/disclaimer?u=https://tiaa-forum.org/]

Page 8 in this newsletter outlines issues of working with the popular Zoom platform.

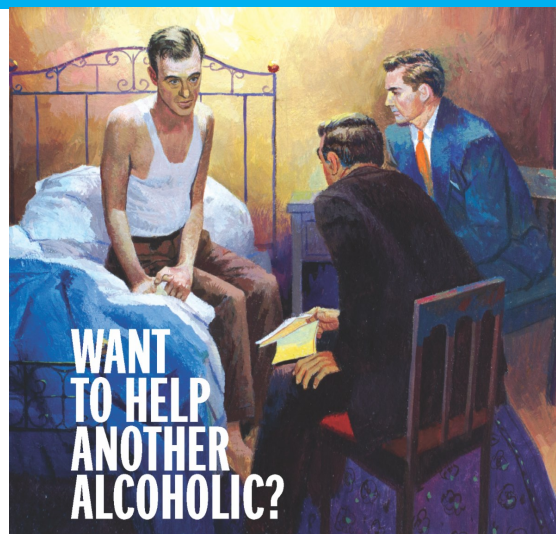
In online meetings—don't forget Tradition Twelve

As always—and especially in the digital universe—anonymity matters: See this link to a booklet including guidance and suggestions [https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-47_understandinganonymity.pdf]

Want To Help Another Alcoholic?

Join Us in our 2020
Carry The Message Project

To learn more, visit our website at aagrapevine.org/carry-the-message or visit our YouTube channel at youtube.com/aagrapevine.





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The A.A. Worcester Intergroup can provide a short guide and training assistance for using Zoom—contact Brandy, Office Manager, for info: officemanager@aaworcester.org (508) 752-9000



HALT Line Volunteers needed

What the HALT line is:

One alcoholic talking to another alcoholic --- Isn't that what A.A. is all about?

One might:

- *Give out meeting time and location information.
- *Talk and/or listen to a sober alcoholic in danger of picking up a drink.
- *Talk and/or listen to a sober alcoholic who is visiting the area.
- *Talk to a "drunk". You may be the link in the chain that could save their life.
- *Refer a caller to the Intergroup Office and inform them of the office hours.

This is a very easy way to do service from the convenience of your own home.

What you need to be a volunteer:

*1 year of sobriety is suggested because the first year needs focus on recovery before such service.

*Meeting lists (we suggest District 26 and Worcester Area). These are available free of charge from Worcester Area Intergroup and are available on the Website www.aaworcester.org or use the App MeetingGuide on your cell phone.



*3 or more hours of time during the week that you will be available to answer calls. This is done from your own home or cell phone. You do not have to answer as A.A. you can simply answer and when asked say you are "Answering for Worcester Area Intergroup, how can I help you?"



Please call Donna H., the HALT Line chair, at 508-735-8559 or email her at donnaaham@charter.net or send an email to haltline@aaworcester.org



WORCESTER AREA INTERGROUP Joint Treatment Committee Report

April 2020 | Ray Matt H Jeff W

Next Virtual Joint Treatment Meeting is Friday January 17th at 7:00pm.

We continue to be really happy with the conference call option for the Area Joint Treatment Committee. We are hopeful that the ability to dial in remotely will encourage greater attendance, even when Covid is over. I will be on the next call this next Friday. Anybody that would be interested in joining me on the call, especially individuals that were interested in being advisors on the treatment committee, the link is: <https://zoom.us/j/929134960/> or dial in at 929-205-6099 | 929134960# / Meeting ID: 929 134 960

Virtual AA Commitments - Daily at 7:30pm - Headed by Jeff Warren

Jeff is heading the virtual commitments. You may reach him by phone at 774-290-3258 to book your group. The daily re-occurring Link for now: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/699702597>. We will need to look at a couple 30 minute commitments back to back since all facilities cannot have more than 10 people in a room at a time.

Who is taking patients?

As of last week: CHL, Washburn House, Spectrum. Independence Hall is planning to start taking patients again perhaps next week. This changes day by day. As for CSS beds, many of the facilities are now keeping that within their own network instead of taking from a different detox. Spectrum is giving extensions to place people.

Bridging the Gap

We are in process of compiling this list for "Temporary Contacts" to help virtually for now and then in person when live meetings start again. Anybody looking for sponsees would be a good fit for Bridging the Gap. Email treatment@AAWorcester.org or call Ray 781-600-3510.

This is designed to help the alcoholic in an alcoholism treatment program make that transition. As you know, one of the more "slippery" places in the journey to sobriety is between the door of the facility and the nearest A.A. group or meeting. Some of us can tell you that, even though we heard of A.A. in treatment, we were too fearful to go."

Respectfully,

Raymond M. - Worcester Area Intergroup - Treatment Chair -
Treatment@AAWorcester.Org