



The Beacon Weekly

100 Grove St.,
Suite 314
Worcester MA
01605
(508) 752-9000
(508) 752-0755 (fax)

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:

John Mcl
beacon@
aaworcester.org

Office Manager:

Brandy H
officemanager@
aaworcester.org

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 includes links for 153 meetings in the Central Mass. and surrounding areas, and is updated regularly (left tab). 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 80 online meetings in related areas. All meetings setup using the Worcester Intergroup account now require a password to keep bots and hackers out — The password for attending and the Host is **Sober2020**

Another useful online meeting list is hosted by the Eastern Mass. Central Service Committee — https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/12-gRXU_fNZZ2ggNxl2KdCbzODwR9mNvVW

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.

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 and activity (such as Zoom meetings) cost money to operate, and 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]. Please help keep local A.A. resources available for the alcoholic who still suffers. The contribution page offers either PayPal or Square Cash payment methods.

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’).

OPTIONS FOR MEETING ONLINE

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

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]

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://ttaa-forum.org/] Page 3 of this newsletter addresses issues of working with the popular Zoom online platform.

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 useful 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 has had problems with trolls on the internet (they are under quarantine, too) disrupting 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 areas of concern 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/>]

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

As always, remember the A.A. Preamble “...A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution.”

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

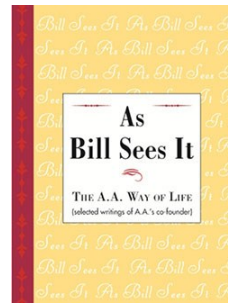
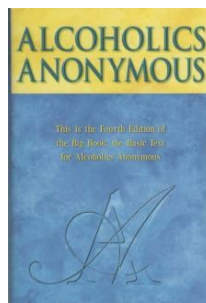
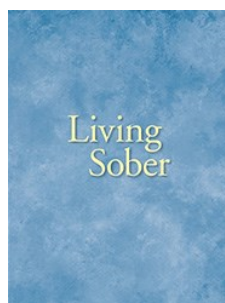
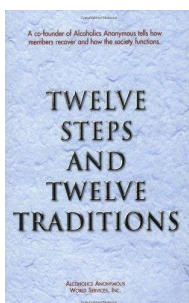
Worcester Area Intergroup Launches New Online Bookstore

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.

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

Note: Because the WAI office is closed, currently, the store is accepting orders for coins, books, and cards only



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 them, including by Email, Chat (text), Audio/Video, Discussion Forums, and Telephone

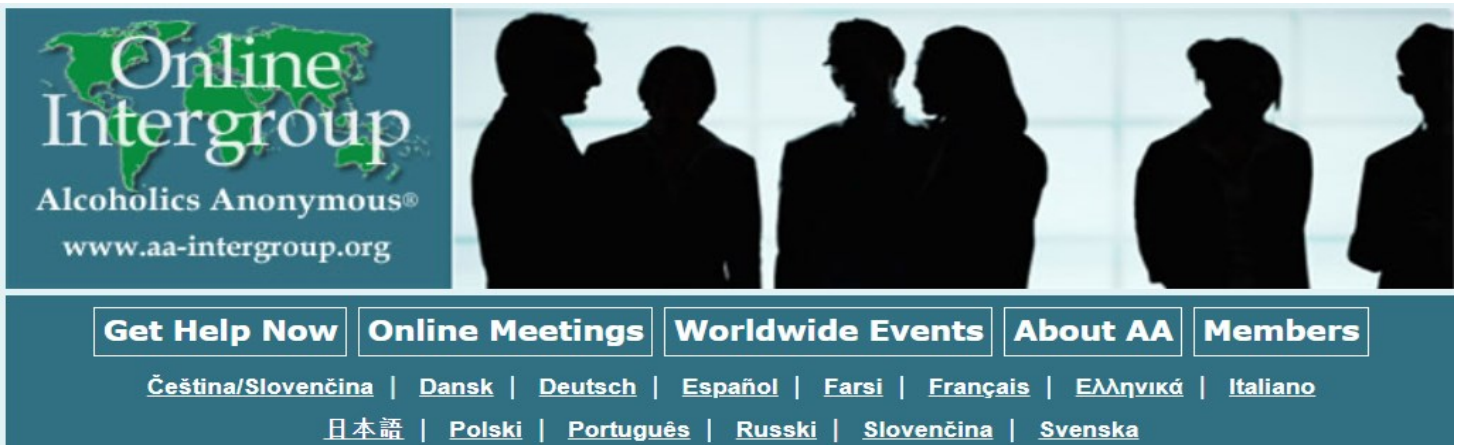
The Directory identifies a wide range of meeting formats—Regular, Men/Women, Men only, Women only, Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender, Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Blind/Visually Impaired, Loners/Internationalists, Atheist/Agnostic, Regional / Ethnic, Profession Specific and Closed or Open

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 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.



Online Intergroup
Alcoholics Anonymous®
www.aa-intergroup.org

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.