



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

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Keep the chain
going— Pass this
Along

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

When you can't go somewhere seeking recovery, bring recovery to you

Two Internet-based recovery resources, each with
its own spin on tools which help recovery succeed

Harbor Area Central Office - is a local A.A. group based south of
the main area of Los Angeles— <https://hacoaa.org/> - features

- 56 different A.A. Speaker recordings,
- 13 videos on different A.A. topics such as “*I Have Hope*,” “*A New Freedom*,” “*A Group of People Just Like Me*”
- A page featuring “Historical AA Documents” - one dating back to 1940

- **Silkworth.net**— <https://silkworth.net> — features a complete A.A.
online book library, 15 articles detailing the history of A.A., a Free
Audio Tapes page offering downloading or listening to great A.A.-
themed audio such as -

- 34 ‘Joe & Charlie’ recordings - 4 ‘Talks By Father Martin’
- 4 ‘Clarence Snyder Tapes’ - 5 ‘Talks by Father John Doe’
- 12 ‘Sandy B. - Saturday Morning Live’ tapes

...and for your viewing pleasure...

- “*My Name is Bill W. - The true story of the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous*,” the 1989 CBS Hallmark Hall of Fame film about the start
of A.A.
- “*When Love Is Not Enough: The Lois Wilson Story*,” a 2010 CBS film
about Lois Wilson, Bill W’s wife, and co-founder of Al-Anon
 - 8 Videos featuring Bill W. on his story and the Traditions
 - Videos on the Serenity Prayer and other A.A. topics
- Over 1,000 PDFs including historical A.A. documents, articles about
the ‘Big Book’ dating from 1940, 5 ‘*Grapevine*’ issues from the 1940s,
27 articles written by or about Dr. Bob, and numerous A.A.-related and
General Service articles
- A huge section on the History of A.A., including the “TO WHOM IT MAY
CONCERN” letter which is in the beginning of “*The Doctor’s Opinion*” in
the Big Book
 - Links to apple and Android– based Apps

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 Five

“Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.”

From: Step Five

“ALL OF A.A.'s Twelve Steps ask us to go contrary to our natural desires . . . they all deflate our egos. When it comes to ego deflation, few Steps are harder to take than Five. But scarcely any Step is more necessary to longtime sobriety and peace of mind than this one.

A.A. experience has taught us we cannot live alone with our pressing problems and the character defects which cause or aggravate them. If we have swept the searchlight of Step Four back and forth over our careers, and it has revealed in stark relief those experiences we'd rather not remember, if we have come to know how wrong thinking and action have hurt us and others, then the need to quit living by ourselves with those tormenting ghosts of yesterday gets more urgent than ever. We have to talk to somebody about them.

So intense, though, is our fear and reluctance to do this, that many A.A.'s at first try to bypass Step Five. We search for an easier way—which usually consists of the general and fairly painless admission that when drinking we were sometimes bad actors. Then, for good measure, we add dramatic descriptions of that part of our drinking behavior which our friends probably know about anyhow. But of the things which

really bother and burn us, we say nothing. Certain distressing or humiliating memories, we tell ourselves, ought not be shared with anyone. These will remain our secret. Not a soul must ever know. We hope they'll go to the grave with us.”

From “*TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS*”

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The Fifth Tradition

Each group has but one primary purpose ...to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

“Every newcomer learns (some of us the hard way) that the business of staying sober must have top priority. If we fail at that, we can’t succeed at anything else. The Fifth Tradition tells us that groups should remember their “one primary purpose.” Often, unthinking enthusiasm puts a group off the main track. One, for instance, offered an “expanded A.A. program” that included helping newcomers to find jobs. Tradition Five doesn’t frown on the individual A.A. who tells another about a good opening. But when the group turns itself into an employment agency, newcomers may get confused about their primary purpose. A.A.’s function is to help them get sober—then they can find work for themselves. Using discretion, a member may lend a few dollars needed for a meal or a hotel room, or may even invite a broke alcoholic to be a temporary houseguest. But the A.A. group as a whole is not a friendly finance company, nor a welfare department, nor a housing bureau. Even when acting on their own, as individual members, A.A. lay people certainly shouldn’t award themselves honorary medical degrees and hand out diagnoses and prescriptions and amateur analysis of other people’s neuroses. Exactly because this personal failing is so common, the A.A. group in all its dealings should be extra careful to emphasize that it is not invading the medical field. Through the personal experiences of its members, it is qualified to carry only one message: how an alcoholic can recover in A.A. That’s all. Yet one group recently felt itself equipped to set up an “alcoholism information center.” The temptation is understandable; it was even stronger at the time this Tradition was written, because public ignorance about alcoholism as an illness was more widespread than it is now. Since then, other agencies have sprung up to assume the task of educating the general public on alcoholism. That is not A.A.’s purpose, but these agencies also are trying to help the active alcoholic. They are our friends—and Tradition Six marks the boundaries of the relationship...”

From “*TWELVE TRADITIONS ILLUSTRATED*” Copyright© A.A. World Services





A.A.— Related Podcasts—Another Tool to Stay Sober during the COVID-19 Crisis

Dozens of different topic areas plus daily readings

Well....now that are all digital media and A.A. virtual meeting professionals, more digital recovery tools are available at—

<https://player.fm/podcasts/Alcoholics-Anonymous>

Hosted at Player.FM, this site offers a library of podcasts on recovery, the 12 Steps, and content produced by individuals and Alcoholics Anonymous groups across the country including an Alcoholics Anonymous radio show —

<https://player.fm/series/alcoholics-anonymous-radio-show-2336394>

Some podcasts of note are:



Transitions Daily Recovery Readings Podcast

<https://player.fm/series/alcoholics-anonymous-radio-show-2336394>

- *Fourth Dimension* plays only A.A. speaker tapes
<https://player.fm/series/fourth-dimension>
- *Alcoholics Ominous*— charting a man's journey to sobriety
<https://player.fm/series/alcoholic-ominous-podcast>
- *One Life* - this week: Pet Grooming 101, the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous (during quarantine!)
<https://player.fm/series/one-life-radio-podcast-1926855/pet-grooming-101-the-12-steps-of-alcoholics-anonymous>

Stream or download these audio programs—great for listening anytime.



<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=fm.player>



<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/podcast-app-by-player-fm/id940568467>

“A.A. is no success story in the ordinary sense of the word. It is a story of suffering transmuted, under grace, into spiritual progress.” Bill W.



What are your thoughts on virtual A.A. meetings?

Pandemic Recovery

Six weeks in, how can it be
The world has changed so much around me
The morning begins with coffee and friends
It's not really the same, the view through a lens
Some are new, some are old, I call them my peeps
We share our happiness and sadness especially when one weeps
Our challenge is to face each day with attitude
for a higher power, faith and gratitude
My freedom for now feels taken away
The news and government say "Stay in another day"
Come on! I say to myself with despair
I must get going, for sure, and start doing some hair
Joan says, "Take this time, make a list of something you like about you."
I pass this suggestion for others to do
"This is how it works", She says to me,
Just take the suggestion and let others see
For some, not for me, the words don't come with ease
My pen hits the paper, I hate this disease
Somehow this task helps me through these feelings and emotions
Believe me when I tell you it's hard work and devotion
I write my list and say things like, I can love, I am teachable and strong
For now, I claim my seat for this is where I belong"

A poem by Kelly C.

Our thanks to Kelly C.—a member of the 7am Daily Choice Zoom meeting - for sharing so elegantly

How about you?

What are your thoughts or experiences concerning virtual meetings? Send a two paragraph commentary to: beacon@aaworcester.org

MarketWatch

"Alcoholism, anxiety and other personal battles: In New York City and beyond, people trade in-person support for remote alternatives"

<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/alcoholism-anxiety-and-other-personal-battles-in-new-york-city-and-beyond-people-trade-in-person-support-for-remote-alternatives-2020-05-04>



WAI's VIRTUAL LOCAL MEETING SUPPORT APP

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

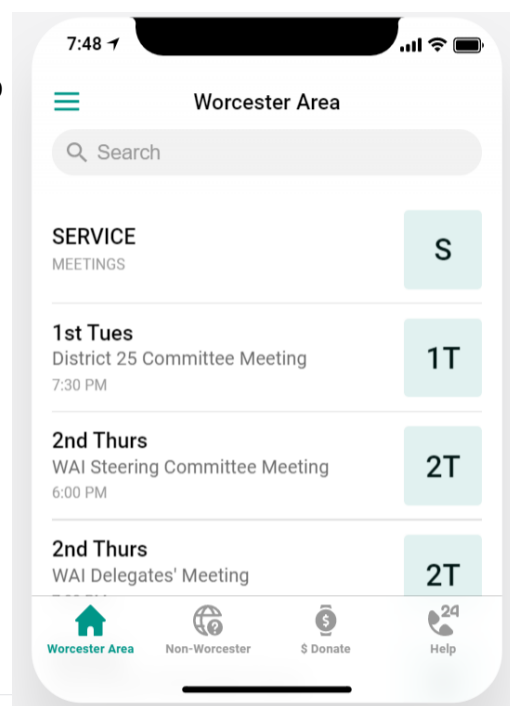
Worcester Area Intergroup's home page includes a Virtual Meeting box with a link to a Web App dedicated to WAI activities. Yes, the link to the spreadsheet listing Virtual A.A. meetings in Massachusetts, and the Worcester area. [<https://bit.ly/2WlpfBD>] is still there. As of this writing, the spreadsheet's left tab includes links to **181** meetings in the Central Mass. and surrounding areas.



QR CODE
Scan with camera
to install app

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 **65** 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 Boston Central Service Committee — https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/12-gRXU_fNZ2ggNx12KdCbzODwR9mNvVW — showing **358** meetings.

A nationwide list from A.A. World Services in New York [https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/options-for-meeting-online]

These meetings are not associated with Worcester Area Intergroup. Any questions or concerns must be directed to the meeting itself.

Day	Time (ET)	Meeting Name	Topic/Meeting Format	ZOOM Link	Meeting ID	Password	Phone Number	Notes
Saturday	5:00 PM	RDU Fellowship	Boston Saturday Speaker Discussion	https://zoom.us/j/9963323885	996 332 3885	None	1 929 436 2866	
Saturday	10:00 PM	1 Day at a Time	1 Day at a Time	https://zoom.us/j/773878425	773 878 425	None	1 646 876 9923	
Saturday	10:00 PM	Sober Voices Group	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

Worcester Area meeting list

Non-Worcester Area meeting list

Worcester Area Non-Worcester Area Explore



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 15



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.

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.



<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.meetingguide>



[apps.apple.com > app > meeting-guide](https://apps.apple.com/app/meeting-guide)



The GRAPEVINE AND LA VIÑA ARE HERE TO HELP

Home Group

Spanish issues



APRIL 2020



LA VIÑA

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, many AA meetings across the U.S. have closed. To help members during this time, The AA Grapevine, Inc., publisher of the *International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous*, is providing free access to most of 2020's *Grapevine* and *La Viña* issues. 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.

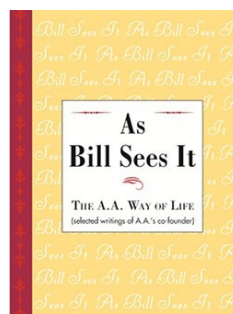
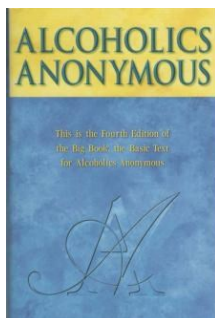
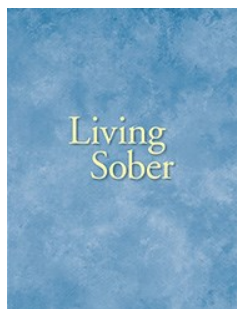
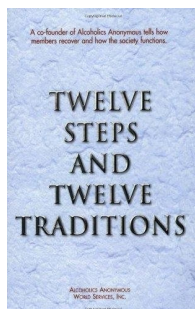
Worcester Area Intergroup's Online Bookstore

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: <http://bookstore.aaworcester.org>

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.



VIRTUAL A.A. MEETINGS WORLDWIDE

The COVID-19 crisis isn't only happening in the U.S. Worldwide, A.A.'s have stepped up to the challenge of service to their fellows by launching virtual meetings almost everywhere A.A. is— we count **1,084** meetings here:

www.bit.ly/aaonline2020





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, 118 Theresa 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 5/4/20)

<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	
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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 16** for Treatment Committee updates or contact Raymond M.—treatment@aaworcester.org



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

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

The Directory lists different 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, 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, a Calendar section displaying info on A.A.-related 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.



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.



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 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 larger amounts—reducing transaction fees. The contribution page offers PayPal or Square Cash/Cash App payment options, and both offer an app for download.



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



Square

[\\$WAIintergroup](#)

You can specify that your contribution be credited to your home group—and acknowledge that in your transaction. If your group is looking to add digital contributions, this link offers an overview adding a digital Seventh Tradition capability to a group — [<https://aasfmarin.org/online-contributions-your-digital-7th-tradition-guide-to-best-practices>] ('Best Practices For a Digital 7th Tradition').

GRAPEVINE Daily Quote

May 5, 2020

"We need to be aware not only of our limitations, defects and shortcomings, but also of our strengths, talents and successes."

West Henrietta, New York, October 2007, "Step Ten: Up Close and Personal," AA Grapevine El Granada, California, March 1989, *A Program of Action, The Best of the Grapevine, Volume 3*



AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



Tune in to the Grapevine Channel on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/>





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, choose a platform to use, and provide group members with 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 - and several providers offer 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.

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

In online meetings—don't forget Tradition Twelve

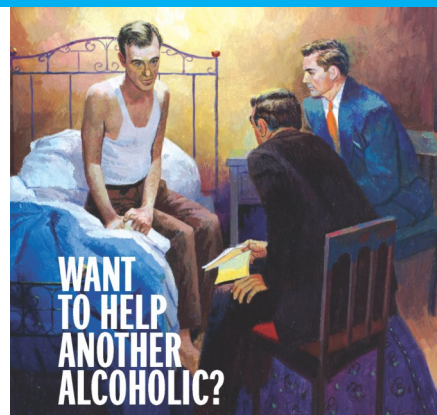
Especially in the digital universe—anonymity matters: See this link to a booklet including guidance and suggestions:

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.





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 NYC 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—explore <https://support.zoom.us>
- Member and Group resources

Virtual Meetings face their own challenges

Some A.A. groups hosting virtual meetings on Zoom have had problems with internet trolls who are jumping into public Zoom calls and using the 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 offers a security guide - 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/>]

WAI's ZOOM WARRIOR COMMITTEE TO THE RESCUE!!

Worcester Intergroup's new committee—The ZOOM Warriors— consists of 12 Zoom Warriors and 2 Honorary Warriors, along with over 70 Zoom Troopers, who's mission is to help keep local A.A. meetings going when our physical locations are closed by giving technical support to groups adding online sessions. Need help? The Warriors have a useful guide to Zoom, and, offer training assistance for using Zoom—contact Brandy, WAI Office Manager,



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