

Worcester Area Intergroup



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
needed.

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@

Zoom Forum—Resuming Physical A.A. Meetings

Because every A.A. group is autonomous, resuming in-person meetings places a heavy decision burden on individual group business/group conscience' meetings. Further, host facilities will likely apply their own individual guidelines for meeting resumption.

The first in what is likely to be numerous area, district, and individual group meetings to fashion a set of guidelines for the safe resumption of in-person A.A. meetings starts next week as Area 30 will host an online forum to discuss these issues.

The Zoom meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16 at 6:30PM, Meeting ID 856 2997 3338; Password a30forum

New York Intergroup Publishes 'Important Considerations Before Reopening Physical Meetings'

Re-opening meetings is not a simple matter—and it can be a fateful path for some A.A. members who may belong to a 'high-risk group' if they contract COVID-19.

The NY Intergroup looks at how key considerations such as A.A. Traditions, Practicing Step 12, offering Hybrid or Concurrent Meetings, overall safety, and awareness of CDC and state government guidelines make resuming physical meetings a very complex decision process.

<https://mailchi.mp/nyintergroup.org/reopeningsafely>

WAI Seeks Suggestions and Holds Zoom Event to Discuss and Decide Fate of Alcathons

Send your ideas by July 5 to: alcathon@aaworcester.org

See the flyer on page 3

Next Alcathon Committee Meeting: Friday, July 10th 5:30 PM

<https://zoom.us/j/99682321007> Password - Sober2020

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.



WAI's VIRTUAL LOCAL MEETING SUPPORT APP SOME AREA MEETINGS RESUMING IN-PERSON

<https://so7ey.glideapp.io/>



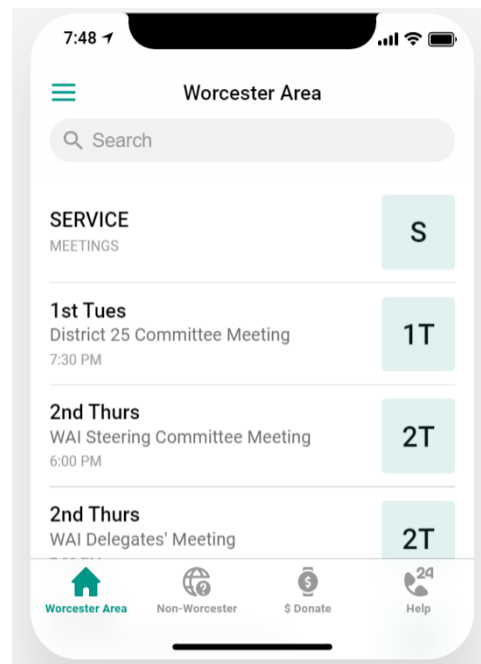
QR CODE
Scan with camera to install WAI app – (QR Code App required)

Worcester Area Intergroup's home page features a Virtual Meeting box with a link to a Web App for WAI activities. There is also spreadsheet listing Virtual A.A. meetings in Massachusetts, and the Worcester area. <https://bit.ly/2WlpfBD> (left tab) The spreadsheet's left tab includes links to **184** meetings in the Central Mass. and surrounding areas.

Some meetings have plans resume to 'in-person' status—these are highlighted in yellow in the 'Notes' column on the right.

[see illustration below]

If your group plans to resume in-person meetings, please let Worcester Intergroup know so the WAI list can be updated. The spreadsheet includes a second tab (the right tab) listing **68** 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**



Boston/Eastern Massachusetts Central Service meeting list — https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/12-gRXU_fN2ZggNxI2KdCbzODwR9mNvVW

350 meetings

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	Also meeting in person at regular location
		s Group	Daily Reflections	https://sites.google.com/site/aatelephonemeetings/home		654443#	1 712 432 0075	
		s Group	AA Topic Discussions	https://sites.google.com/site/aatelephonemeetings/home		654443#	1 712 432 0075	

Worcester Area meeting list

Non-Worcester Area meeting list

Yellow Highlight — In-Person Meetings Resuming

IMPORTANT!!

ALCATHON CONCERNS!!



Decision MUST be made at the next meeting (see below)

Worcester Area Intergroup/District 25 Alcathon Committee faces a tough decision and we need YOUR input!!

With the current pandemic situation life has changed the way we do things. Our Primary Purpose is to help other alcoholics achieve sobriety, but we must also be responsible citizens. FACTS: 1) we do not know what the pandemic situation will be by November (social distancing? How do we enforce the 6 foot ruling?) 2) we do not know if any facilities will be open and allow us to rent 3) most important—FINANCES. Both District 25 and WAI are running on diminishing funds. Contributions are down across the board and product sales are down significantly.

OPTIONS:

- 1) Run the Alcathons on Zoom
- 2) Try to find a place to have them and shorten to 12 hours each with no coffee or food.

* Do we then ask people to make contributions specifically for the Alcathons? Will this further diminish regular contributions?

LET US KNOW HOW YOU FEEL BY JULY 5TH!

Email your thoughts and ideas to:

alcathon@aaworcester.org

Next Alcathon Committee Meeting:

Friday, July 10th 5:30 PM

<https://zoom.us/j/99682321007>

Password - Sober2020





HOME

MEETING SCHEDULE

FOR THE NEWCOMER

SPEAKER TAPES

RECOVERY BLOGS

FORUMS

MORE



Global Steps AA Meetings

If you are interested in Step work, this site is dedicated to The Steps, based in Bristol CT. Their mission is “WE ARE AN ONLINE GLOBAL COMMUNITY THAT FACILITATES LIVE VIDEO MEETINGS. THE SITE IS FOR ALCOHOLICS AND OPERATED BY MEMBERS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS.”

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

The site has a meeting schedule listing over 70 meetings per week on a variety of A.A. basic topics such as Beginner’s meetings, Footprints in the Sand, Language of the Heart, Daily Gratitude, Back To Basics - Steps 1, 2 & 3, A Grapevine Meeting, 9th Step Promises, and a *Daily Reflections* Meeting.

The site also offers a download page of A.A. literature including 16 A.A. pamphlets, 12 Steps & 12 Traditions, The 12 Concepts for World Service, and US/Canada and World A.A. Meeting directories.

There is a page offering of a variety of listenable A.A. and related

audio files including 2 of Bill W. in Akron, 2 of Clancy I, 33 ‘Joe and Charlie’ Big Book Study files, 12 *Big Book Adventure* files, and 6 ‘A New Pair of Glasses’ files. Other pages offers blogs on topics such as ‘New-Comer’ and ‘Step one,’ and discussion Forums.

Email: [glob-alsteps@verizon.net](mailto:globalsteps@verizon.net)

<p>▶ Bill W. from Akron, OH : The Singlen Bill W. (AA Speaker Tapes) 0:04/7:29</p>	<p>▶ Bill W. from Akron, OH : The The Tra Bill W. (AA Speaker Tapes) 0:00/59:40</p>
<p>▶ Clanc I. At The History of AA Clanc I. from Venice, CA (Downloaded from 0:00/0:00)</p>	<p>▶ Clancy I. At The Sponsorship Clancy I. from Venice, CA (Downloaded from 0:00/59:07)</p>
<p>Joe & Charlie Big Book Study number 9 is NOT missing, they numbered them incorrectly)</p>	<p>Joe & Charlie Big Book Study (Continued)</p>
<p>▶ 01-aahistory1 Joe & Charlie (Downloaded from www.xa-sj 0:00/0:00)</p>	<p>▶ 19-how-it-works2 Joe & Charlie (Downloaded from www.xa-sj 0:00/32:16)</p>
<p>▶ 02-aahistory2 Joe & Charlie (Downloaded from www.xa-sj 0:00/0:00)</p>	<p>▶ 20-3rd-step Joe & Charlie (Downloaded from www.xa-sj 0:00/7:15)</p>
<p>▶ 03-aahistory3 Joe & Charlie (Downloaded from www.xa-sj 0:00/0:00)</p>	<p>▶ 21-4th-step Joe & Charlie (Downloaded from www.xa-sj 0:00/20:15)</p>



The Sixth Tradition

“An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.”

The “related facility” may be an outside group combating alcoholism—or an enterprise that A.A.’s want to start. It was the latter that most often confronted the young Fellowship. Outside agencies were pretty scarce in those days, and some members thought A.A. should cover the whole alcoholism field. Led by a “super-promoter” (as the “*Twelve and Twelve*” describes him), one group built an all-purpose center, including a section for drying-out treatment. Picture any group tackling such a project! Arguments over cost, architecture, staff, fees, medication, and rules might even make the local paper. (And pity the poor newcomer straying into the group— “We’ll get around to you in a minute.”)

Though that ambitious center failed, some individual members have since founded successful clubhouses, rest farms, halfway houses, etc. The enterprises are run by these A.A.’s and patronized by other members or prospective members. But money and property are involved. Therefore, it has proved wise to keep the operation of the facility completely separate from that of any A.A. group, and to keep “A.A.” or terms like “Twelfth Step” out of the name.

Toward outside agencies dealing with alcoholism, the A.A. policy is “cooperation but not affiliation.” A group cooperates, for example, by welcoming referrals from clinics or by sponsoring A.A. groups in institutions. But in one area, money for a rehab was solicited at an A.A. meeting—implying affiliation. In another, A.A. was listed among beneficiaries of a United Fund drive....

A.A. members employed by outside agencies “wear two hats”— but *Tradition Six* cautions any such members against wearing both at once! On the job, they may be alcoholism counselors; they are not “A.A. counselors.” At meetings they’re just A.A.’s, not alcoholism experts.



10 Reasons Why I Love Zoom Meetings... and Why You Should Too.

Love them or hate them, Zoom meetings are here to stay. Even though more and more face-to-face meetings are reopening, a lot of AAs say they will stick with Zoom. Many of the committed Zoomers have medical issues or are senior citizens, which puts them in a high-risk group. Some have transportation problems. Others just like the convenience. And then there are those who simply say:

All of the above.

Yes, face-to-face meetings are a lot more personal. It can be hard to feel that “I” am part of a digital “we” when sitting alone with a computer. When you are part of a physical group you can experience the physical presence, warmth, and support of the other AAs. You can hear the laughter and feel the love. There is also basic skin hunger. We all need hugs, and you can’t get them at a Zoom meeting.

You can’t join hands in prayer, either.

But you can join Zoom any time of day or night, or time zone. It’s worth noting that the United Nations has 193 member nations, and two observer states, the Vatican and the State of Palestine, and that AA is in 180 of those countries, including the Vatican, and 67 of those countries consider English their official language. You can hunt online for AA Zoom meetings around the world, or simply click on <http://www.247aaonline.com/> to join an English-speaking meeting any time of any day, or night, or even middle of the night.

Constant availability is just one reason I love Zoom. Here are 10 more:

Parking is never a problem.

Smoking or non-smoking meeting? My choice!

If I’m in the mood for caffeine-free, gluten-free, sugar free, low-calorie chocolate latte, with lactose free whipped pumpkin spice cream substitute on top, plus a cherry, I can have it. All I have to do is make it... and I don’t have to share.

If I see something or someone I don’t want to see, I can put a Post-it Note on the screen to cover that Zoom box. If the box moves, I move the Post-it Note.

Before I share, I can look up quotes in the Big Book to make it look as if I’ve actually read it and know what I’m talking about.

Four words! Volume control. Mute button.

I see the name of the person sharing and, over time, actually remember it. (NOTE: I used to think that the majority of AAs were named Tom, Pat or Mary, but a lot of AAs now seem to be named iPhone, Samsung, or Galaxy.)

Every seat is a good one, and I don’t have to make a decision about who to sit next to or worry about who will sit next to me.

My sponsor can’t elbow me when someone says something I should pay attention to.

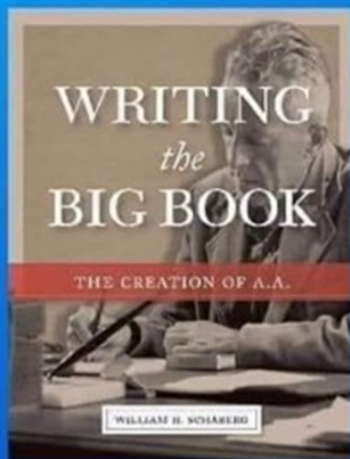
I don’t have to carry cash for the 7th Tradition. I just send regular checks to Worcester Area Inter-group, 100 Grove St., Suite 314, Worcester, MA 01605

The Cyber Sot



RECOVERYSPEAKERS.COM

Weekly History Meeting on Zoom



Special Guest
Speaker: Author of
the Newly Released
“Writing the Big Book”
William Schaberg

Friday June 5th and June 12th

9pm EST/ 6pm PST

Meeting ID: 310 333 9445

Password: 3GvNV5

The **A.A. SERVICE MANUAL**

Combined With

**TWELVE CONCEPTS
for WORLD SERVICE**

by Bill W.

2018-2020 Edition

REFLECTING ACTIONS OF THE
2018 GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

The A.A. Service Manual

Have you ever wondered about how A.A. is organized and why, and what the underlying concepts are for how it operates?

This 74 page book explains it all...and maybe you will learn more about how you can be of service to your fellow A.A.'s...

[https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/
en_bm-31.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/en_bm-31.pdf)



Step Six

“Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”

Are you ready? Are you willing?

Examine the work you have done in A.A. so far: be honest and ask yourself: Was I thorough and fearless in my 4th Step? Did I hold anything back in my 5th Step? If you did, are you now willing to talk about those defects? Are you willing to continue with the work of recovery, which is a lifelong process, one day at a time?

Step 6 is the step that ‘*separates the men from the boys.*’ What does that mean to you?

Are you are ready to take Step 6? How do you know?

From your 4th Step list, which character defects do you still enjoy or are you clinging to? Which ones are you ready to get rid of? Do you have the willingness to let them go?

For the defects you are clinging to, pray for the willingness to let them go. For the ones you are ready to get rid of, do nothing for now. You will address them in Step Seven.

Make a list, this one showing the defects you are ready to get rid of...

Don't overanalyze the "entirely ready" part of this step. Just ask yourself if you want to be happy or not. If your answer is yes—you want to be happy, ask yourself if you can give this defect up to be happy.

This step doesn't take long, but like many of the remaining steps, it will be ongoing – a lifetime job.

WAI's ONLINE BOOKIE EXCHANGE

The WAI Bookie Exchange portal enables Bookies from local towns to quickly find groups seeking commitments and/or post a request. Open slots are listed by town. Contact — BookieXchange.aaWorcester.org

I am responsible...

“When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that, I am responsible.”



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

Dozens of different topic areas plus daily readings

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

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



Meditation: A simple, fast way to reduce stress

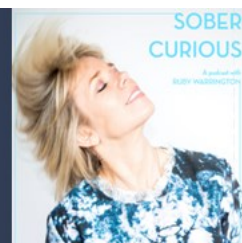
Meditation can wipe away the day's stress, bringing with it inner peace. See how you can learn to practice meditation whenever you need it most.

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/tests-procedures/meditation/in-depth/meditation/art-20045858>

The
Temper

21 Women-Led Recovery Podcasts to Listen to When You Need Hope

These podcasts will leave you feeling inspired,



<https://www.thetemper.com/best-recovery-podcasts/>



COVID-19 restrictions pose serious challenges to those in recovery

ABC News NIGHTLINE

<https://abcnews.go.com/Nightline/video/covid-19-restrictions-pose-challenges-recovery-70782123>

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. Notes on the Pandemic—Dealing With the Coronavirus

A look at how typical Americans are coping with the pandemic — including people in recovery.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/dealing-with-the-coronavirus-11584656767>



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)

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"God grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

Treatment Facilities Service Opportunities

Due to COVID-19, treatment commitments are being revamped. Contact the Treatment Committee for updates—Raymond M.—treatment@aaworcester.org



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.

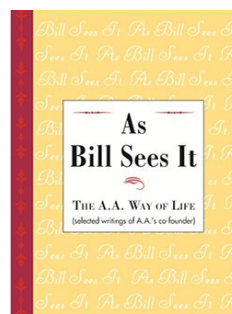
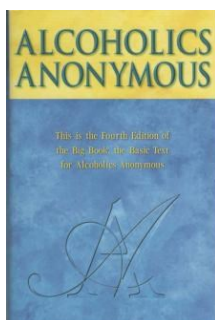
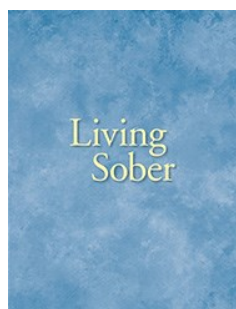
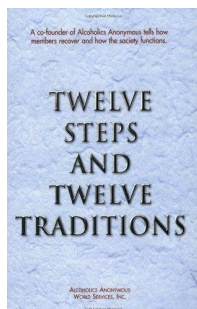
Worcester Area Intergroup's Online Bookstore

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 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 **1,083** meetings here:



www.bit.ly/aonline2020



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 6/12/20)

<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.		

Worcester Intergroup Service Opportunities—Step Up!

Worcester Intergroup has three open positions (see above) and needs a new webmaster. For A.A.'s seeking an opportunity to serve — Please contact: officemanager@aaworcester.org for more info



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), the format style of the meeting, and URLs/telephone numbers or other 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 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.

The Realm of the Spirit

“In ancient times material progress was painfully slow. The spirit of modern scientific inquiry, research and invention was almost unknown. In the realm of the material, men's minds were fettered by superstition, tradition, and all sorts of fixed ideas. Some of the contemporaries of Columbus thought a round earth preposterous. Others came near putting Galileo to death for his astronomical heresies.

Are not some of us just as biased and unreasonable about the realm of the spirit as were the ancients about the realm of the material?”

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, P. 51



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 7th Tradition capability to a group — <https://aasfmarin.org/online-contributions-your-digital-7th-tradition-guide-to-best-practices>

Of Note...

While individual contributions are increasing (Thank You!), group contributions and sales from the WAI bookstore are down substantially. Group contributions are down because, obviously, groups are no longer meeting in person. Sales from the WAI bookstore are down primarily because groups are not purchasing typical recovery items such as books, meeting lists, coins, cards, etc.—and, group purchases represented the lion’s share of Bookstore sales.

Many people in our area are experiencing severe financial hardship due to the pandemic. We are very grateful to our fellow A.A.’s for continuing to support WAI’s mission of service in Central Massachusetts.

GRAPEVINE Daily Quote

June 11, 2020

“Not to change is not to adapt; not to adapt is to become extinct.”

***“Surrender—Not Self-Improvement,” Atlanta, Georgia, February 1990,
Best of the Grapevine, Volume 3***

<https://store.aagrapevine.org/spiritual-awakenings-journeys-of-the-spirit-soft-cover>



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 18



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 the WAI office, WAI Zoom Warriors, technology committees, or the online Technology in A.A. forum [https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/disclaimer?u=https://tiaa-forum.org/]

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

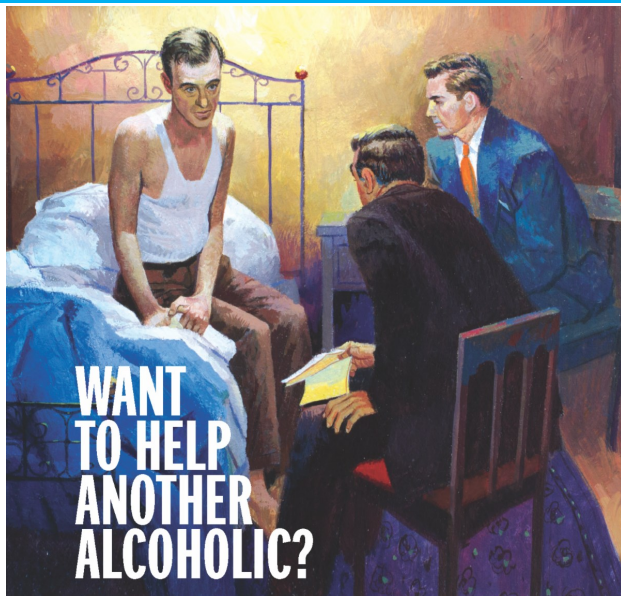
Especially in the digital universe—anonymity matters: See this link to a booklet including guidance and suggestions:

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 offers a helpful guide for using Zoom as a virtual meeting platform, addressing topics such as Account Setup, How to use Zoom, Guide for Meeting Chairs, Managing anonymity in virtual meetings, and Member and Group resources.

Zoom also offers support videos and other resources—explore <https://support.zoom.us>

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.”

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]

Zoom also 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, for info: officemanager@aaworcester.org (508) 752-9000

"We have found that God does not make too hard terms with those who seek Him. To us, the Realm of Spirit is broad, roomy, all inclusive, never exclusive or forbidding to those who earnestly seek. It is open, we believe, to all men."



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 donna@charter.net or send an email to haltline@aaworcester.org