



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](mailto:beacon@aaworcester.org)

Office Manager:

Brandy H
[officemanager@
aaworcester.org](mailto:officemanager@aaworcester.org)

**Keep the chain
going— Pass this
Along**

**Let us know how
we are doing—
[beacon@
aaworcester.org](mailto:beacon@aaworcester.org)**

Introducing *The Beacon Weekly*

These are extraordinary times that call upon us to adapt quickly to the world around us. Alcoholics, as a lot, are resistant to change — but it is suggested that we accept the things we cannot change. For the first time in A.A.'s history, we cannot hold our customary meetings - gatherings which remain the sustaining lifeblood of our Fellowship, and the welcoming doorway through which fearful newcomers find acceptance and friendship without judgment.

It is also a period in which critical information concerning recovery resources and activities can change in a matter of hours.

The Worcester Area Intergroup's newsletter—*The Beacon*— has served as a monthly resource and reference for A.A.'s in central Massachusetts for many years. However, the pace of change demands a more frequent and relevant communications platform than a monthly publication can offer. Thus, we are launching the *Beacon Weekly*, a digital-only newsletter which we hope will provide Worcester area A.A.'s with updates on where and how to access new and evolving recovery resources—both online as well as in person. We will continue to publish the Monthly Beacon issue (and its Intergroup reference information) as part of the *Weekly's* month end issue.

Know of a good recovery resource to pass on to fellow A.A.'s?
Hear a good suggestion to help a fellow A.A. in their recovery?

Share it by sending what you have to: 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 the Massachusetts area, including many in the Worcester area. <https://bit.ly/2WlPpBD>

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VIRTUAL LOCAL MEETING SUPPORT FROM WAI

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

Providing local A.A.'s with a up-to-date printed list of local A.A. meetings has been a service that Worcester Intergroup has been performing for many years. Now, just when we need it, Worcester Area Intergroup's home page includes the Virtual Meeting box and a link [<https://bit.ly/2WlpfBD>] to a spreadsheet listing Virtual A.A. meetings in the Massachusetts area, including many on the Worcester region (shown in green). Meetings are listed by name, day and time, topic/meeting topic, and links and passwords are given where required.

The spreadsheet can be downloaded or printed—**BE CAREFUL—THE LIST IS 188 PAGES** - so print only the pages that you need, or save as a PDF. The list is updated frequently so if you don't see a meeting listed near you, keep checking!

Got a new meeting to add? See the link in the Virtual Meeting box to go the Virtual Meeting Request Form page, and follow the process to submit a new meeting.

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.

Day	Time (ET)	Meeting Name	Topic/Meeting Format	ZOOM Link	Meeting ID	Password	Phone Number	Notes
10 AM TUESDAY, MARCH 24 - 10 AM WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 Join the Worcester Area Intergroup for 24 HOURS of OPEN CLUBHOUSE Meeting Code: 521-885-467 https://zoom.us/j/521885467								
Sunday	6:00 AM	Just for Today	JFT Virtual Meeting	https://zoom.us/j/719132188	719 132 188 #	See notes	1 929 205 6099	St. Camillus has in-person meetings in parish hall as of 3/14/20. If prompted for a password when joining the Zoom meeting, it will be posted to https://justfortodayaa.com/
Sunday	7:00 AM	Daily Choice	BB 12x12 Tradition	https://zoom.us/j/110802942	110802942	None		
Sunday	7:00 AM	Just for Today	JFT Virtual Meeting	https://zoom.us/j/459881677	459 881 677 #	See notes	1 929 205 6099	St. Camillus has in-person meetings in parish hall as of 3/14/20. If prompted for a password when joining the Zoom meeting, it will be posted to https://justfortodayaa.com/
Sunday	8:30 AM	Open Meeting	Open Meeting	https://zoom.us/j/8678193070	867 819 3070	None	1 312 626 6799	
Sunday	10:00 AM	The Way of Sobriety	Open Speaker	https://zoom.us/j/457943891	457 943 891	None	1 646 558 8656	Merged with online WAVE meeting. This meeting typically meets at Holy Name in Worcester
Sunday	10:00 AM	Women's Wisdom in Recovery	ODW	https://zoom.us/j/828011701	828011701	None		Open Womens Discussion Mtg
Sunday	12:00 PM	Mendin' in Mendon	YP Daily Reflections	https://zoom.us/j/635590121	635590121	None		Mendin in Mendon

A.A. Groups Using Digital Platforms to Find Sobriety During Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak

Virtual Meetings, Email, Phone, Social Media Allow Message of Recovery to Carry On — “ONE DAY AT A TIME”

Statement from the A.A. General Service Office in New York City

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

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

However, in response to the global outbreak, the office does have some general experience regarding how some A.A. groups and members have begun addressing this issue. Many are following “social distancing” guidelines established by local, state/provincial and federal officials, while at the same time maintaining their focus on recovery and facilitating digital A.A. meetings.

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

A.A. groups and members are also creating contact lists, keeping in touch by phone, email or social media. Many local A.A. central/intergroup offices and area service structures have added information to their websites about how to change a meeting format from “in-person” to a digital platform.

A.A. in the digital age has certainly taken on a new meaning in these challenging times, reminding its members and those searching for help that A.A. is not just a “place,” but exists in the hearts, minds and help offered.

March 23, 2020

Updates—Coronavirus (COVID-19) - General Service Office Closed

Statement from the A.A. General Service Office in New York City

As a result of Coronavirus (COVID-19), New York State has shut down 100% of operations of “nonessential” businesses/organizations. The General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. located at 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY is closed, effective March 20, 2020, until further notice.

A.A.W.S. and A.A. Grapevine staff are “teleworking” until further notice as we continue our commitment to serving the A.A. Fellowship. Although we are available to support our membership and groups, these circumstances limit our abilities to be as effective as we would like. We ask that you please limit any communication with G.S.O. to email or aa.org.

We also have limited ability to access and process regular mail. Once again, it would be helpful, if possible, to email your correspondence. If you are a member and are considering sending a contribution, doing so online would be most helpful. [Make a contribution](#). Thank you for your patience as we all work through these difficult challenges.

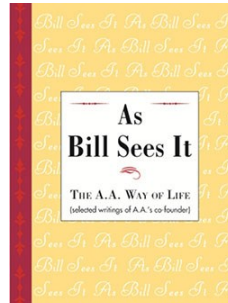
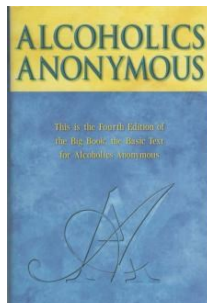
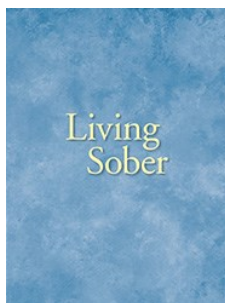
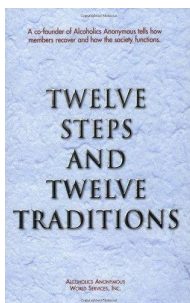
Worcester Area Intergroup Launches New Online Bookstore

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 wonderful resource and starting point for anyone looking to find 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

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

This directory includes well over 100 different Groups (we lost count!)—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.

We suggest you peruse the list of meetings and find one that interests you.



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

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