

Worcester Area Intergroup



The
Beacon Weekly

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Suite 314
Worcester MA
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(508) 752-9000

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

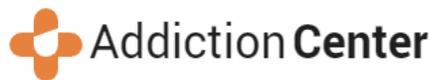
Let us know how
we are doing—
beacon@

Worcester Area Intergroup Presents
VIRTUAL BIG BOOK
JEOPARDY!

July 25, 7pm — 9pm Zoom Meeting ID: 914 816 169 62
Password: JEOPARDY Audience WANTED!
See event info on page 4

The 5 Types of Alcoholics

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), the National Institute of Health (NIH), and the National Epidemiological Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions (NESARC) conducted a national, clinical study derived from various studies on alcoholics. The study found that there are five subtypes of alcoholics...



- Young Adult Subtype
- Functional Subtype
- Intermediate Familial Subtype
- Young Antisocial Subtype
- Chronic Severe Subtype

Continued on page 8

Alcathon Update—WAI/District 25

alcathon@aaworcester.org

See the flyer on page 3

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

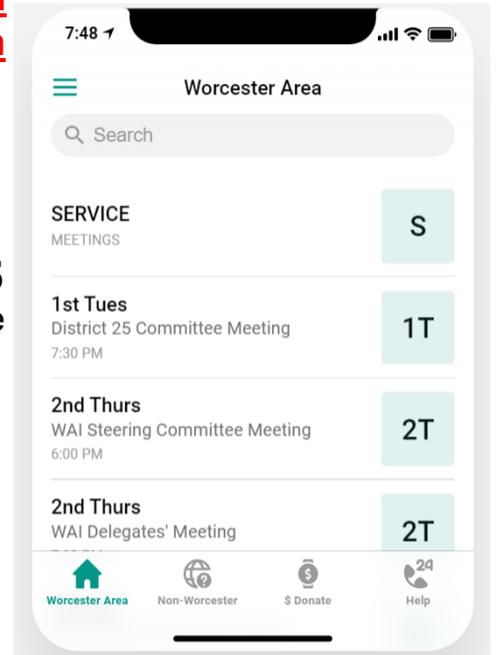
<https://so7ey.glideapp.io/>



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 of which are resuming in-person meetings**. The **center tab** lists local meetings intending to resume, or, meetings which are new.

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



Groups planing to resume in-person meetings, please let Worcester Intergroup know so the WAI list can be updated. The spreadsheet includes a third tab (the **right tab**) 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**

Eastern Massachusetts Central Service meeting list —

[https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/12-](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/12-gRXU_fNZ2ggNxl2KdCbzODwR9mNvVW)

[gRXU_fNZ2ggNxl2KdCbzODwR9mNvVW](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/12-gRXU_fNZ2ggNxl2KdCbzODwR9mNvVW) **350** meetings

PASSWORD protected meetings are highlighted in green. NOTE: Passwords are case-sensitive (please check the Password column).

The HALTline is open 24/7 if you need to talk or have any questions (508) 752-9000

Day	Time (ET)	Meeting Name	Topic/Meeting Format	ZOOM Link	Meeting ID	Password	Phone Number	Notes
Sunday	5:00 PM	Westminster Men's Step It Up	Men's BBSS	https://zoom.us/j/139454238	139 454 238	Sober2020	1 646 558 8656 US	RCA Westminster, MA
Sunday	6:00 PM	Mindfulness in F...		https://zoom.us/j/870951...			558-8656	It all Starts Here Speaker Discuss
				https://zoom.us/j/32050...				Now meeting in person
			Open Discussion	https://zoom.us/j/89876477603?pwd=cW1PM...				
			Open Discussion	https://zoom.us/j/2288748...	452 288 748	None	1 929 436 2866	Individual Zoom account (vs. Int account)
Sunday	7	Captain Andy's AA Mee	3 meetings per day, pm. 7 days per wee	https://zoom.us/j/7332967...	797 733 2967	None	929-436-2866	Also meeting in person
Sunday	7	Shrewsbury Simple Sp	12 Steps and 12 Tra Discussion	https://zoom.us/j/595536968...	595 536 968	None	1 312 626 6799	Also meeting in person outside,

Worcester Area meeting list

Worcester Area Resumed/New

Yellow Highlight — In-Person Meetings Resuming

Non-Worcester Area meeting list





ALCATHON NEWS!

Worcester Area Intergroup/District 25

On **ZOOM!!!**

We will have the Alcathon room open for the full 36 hours, with commitments for 9 hours each day.

If your Group is interested in doing a Virtual Commitment, please email:

alcathon@aaworcester.org

GRAPEVINE Daily Quote

“Truth ... cut the shackles that once bound us to alcohol. It continues to release us from conflicts and miseries beyond reckoning; it banishes fear and isolation.”

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., August 1961, “This Matter of Honesty”, Best of Bill

July 11, 2020





**Saturday
July 25th**

7pm - 9pm

Big Book Jeopardy hosted by
WAI with a **SPECIAL GUEST HOST!**

Calling all alcoholics for a night of sober fun!

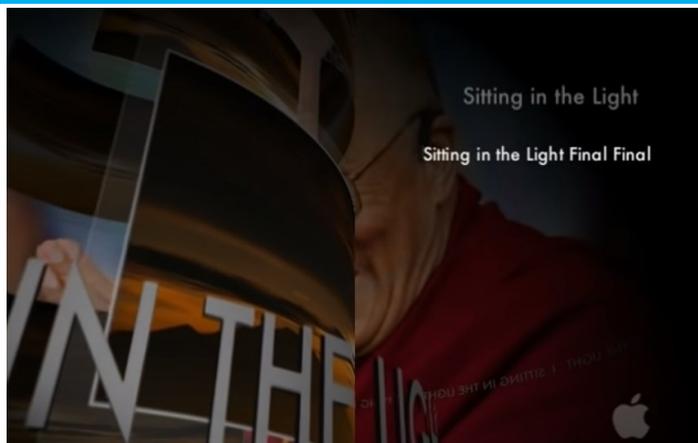
AUDIENCE WANTED:

Come watch the show and gain some
knowledge of the Big Book.

Zoom Meeting ID: 914 816 169 62

Password: JEOPARDY

Contact: social@aaworcester.org



Sitting In the Light

This is a relaxation and meditation video
based on the St. Francis prayer from Step
Eleven in the 12&12.

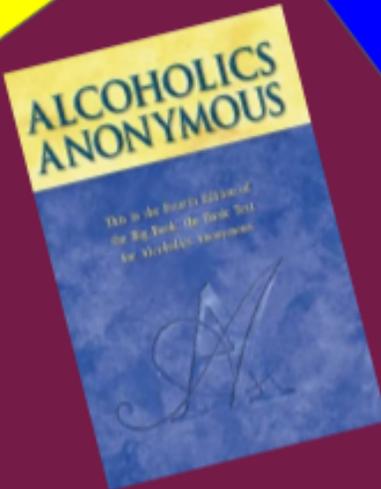
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=A96cLV5E6VY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A96cLV5E6VY)

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. Comments, questions and articles may be directed to *The Beacon Weekly*. All excerpts & Articles reprinted with permission from AAWS and/or *The Grapevine*.



Keeping Worcester area sober since 1974!

GIVE TODAY!



WHY WE NEED YOU MORE THAN EVER.

The Worcester Area Intergroup has relied on bookstore sales and group contributions to keep the service organization running. With the physical store location closed since March and groups meeting online, income is down. We are relying more than ever on member contributions to keep the WAI office open to the newcomer and you! We are so appreciative of the member contributions to date, your contribution is what keeps us going.

TWO WAYS TO HELP:

1. Contribute online or by mail!
2. Shop in the online bookstore!

Worcester Area Intergroup

100 Grove Street, Suite 314, Worcester, MA 01605

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there.



WHAT IS AA?

Alcoholics Anonymous is an international fellowship of men and women who have had drinking problem. It is nonprofessional, self-supporting, multiracial, apolitical, and available almost everywhere. There are no age or education requirements. Membership is open to anyone who wants to do something about his or her drinking problem.

WHO CAN CONTRIBUTE?

Contributions are welcome from members of AA. Due to the 7th tradition we cannot accept donations from people who are not members.

WAI COMMITTEES

- Alcathon
- Corrections
- HALTline
- Public Information
- Social
- The Beacon
- Treatment Facilities
- Website / Technology

For more information, to contribute or shop visit aaworcester.org

CALL US 508.752.9000



What Happened to Those Who Left?

A talk by Bill W.

In this brief talk given by Bill W. to the A.A. General Service Conference in New York in 1965, Bill reminds fellow A.A.'ers that "*In no circumstances should members feel that the Alcoholics Anonymous is the know-all and do-all of alcoholism,*" as numerous outside agencies are also engaged in research and helping alcoholics, and that A.A. didn't invent the essential elements of the program, noting that "*All of the basic components of A.A. were supplied by others...*" Bill also cited members who almost prevented preparation of the *Big Book* "because some avowed we did not need it," and "a great outcry" against formation of the General Service Conference.

A.A. members can soberly ask themselves what became of the 600,000 alcoholics who approached the Fellowship during the past 30 years but "who did not stay," Bill W., surviving co-founder, suggested in a moving address to the [General Service] Conference at its closing session.

"How much and how often did we fail all these?" Bill asked. "When we remember that in the 30 years of A.A. existence we have reached less than ten per cent of those who might of been willing to approach us, we began to get an idea of the immensity of our task, and of the responsibilities with which we will always be confronted."

In no circumstances should members feel that the Alcoholics Anonymous is the know-all and do-all of alcoholism, Bill noted, citing the "perhaps one hundred agencies" in the United States and Canada alone that are engaged in "research, alcohol education and rehabilitation."

"We should very seriously ask ourselves how many alcoholics have gone on drinking because we have failed to cooperate in good spirit with these many agencies - whether they be good, bad or indifferent," the co-founder remarked. "No alcoholic should go mad or die merely because he did not come straight to A.A. at the beginning."

"All of the basic components of A.A. were supplied by others, Bill pointed out, "although we drunks certainly did put A.A. together. Here, especially, our maxim should be 'Let's be friendly with our friends.'"

Bill said that at certain great turning points in A.A. history, members have backed away from what should have been "clearly visible responsibilities." He cited the old-timers who almost prevented preparation of the *Big Book* "because some avowed we did not need it," while others shrank from the risks involved. There was "a great outcry" against formation of the General Service Conference, he recalled.

Continued on page 6



What Happened to Those Who Left?

Continued from page 5

There was "a great outcry" against formation of the General Service Conference, he recalled. "There was almost no belief that such a linkage could be effectively forged; even an attempt at such a project would ruin us, many thought."

The spiritual assets of A.A. have "in God's time" invariably come to exceed even such large liabilities, Bill said, "A.A. recovery goes forward on a large scale. Practice of A.A.'s Twelve Traditions has amazingly cemented our unity. Our General Service Office and General Service Conference have made possible a wide spreading of our message at home and abroad.

Our pains and our necessities first called us reluctantly to responsibility. But in the latter years a joyous willingness and a confident faith have more and more permeated all the affairs of our Fellowship."

Fear of negative factors should not deceive members into absurd rationalizations, Bill suggested. "In the fear of accumulated wealth and bureaucracy, we should not discover an alibi for failure to pay A.A. 's legitimate service expenses. For fear of controversy, our leadership should not go timid when lively debate and forthright action is a necessity. And for fear of accumulating prestige and power, we should never fail to endow our trusted leaders with proper authority to act for us."

"Let us never fear needed change," Bill urged. "Once a need becomes clearly apparent in an individual, a Group, or in A.A. as a whole, it has long since been found out that we cannot stand still and look the other way."

From a talk given by Bill W. to the A.A. General Service Conference, New York – 1965



12 Step Videos—The Owl's Nest

'The only time tested and proven solution to addiction can be found in the "Big Book" of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Owl's Nest is not AA, and AA does not endorse The Owl's Nest or any other outside entity. However, if you are struggling with addiction, we hope that you will find these workshops helpful to your recovery'

This page hosts 8 videos, each one addressing either the 12 Steps or a discussion of the disease of alcoholism.

<https://owlsnestrecovery.com/videos/12-step-workshop-videos/>



The 5 Types of Alcoholics

(Continued from page 1)

There is a stereotype in America of a “typical alcoholic,”...

These subtypes are categories based off the age of the individual, the age they started drinking, the age they developed an alcohol dependence, their family history of alcoholism, the presence or absence of co-occurring mental health conditions, and the presence of absence of other substance abuse disorders. They are not meant as a diagnostic to determine if someone is suffering from alcoholism. Rather, they are meant to further the study of alcoholism and guide future research and prevention efforts.

Different types of alcoholics will suffer for different reasons. Some groups may not even realize that their drinking is a problem. Rather, it is just a part of who they are. However, no matter your age, status, or family, alcoholism can create long-term problems that damage your health and relationships, no matter the subtype.

<https://www.addictioncenter.com/alcohol/types-of-alcoholics/>

Carrying the Message Under Any Circumstances

Volunteer work as a sponsor for women in prison showed this European A.A. that “...*you do not need face-to-face contact to carry the message, and more was to be revealed ...*”

Talk about a life beyond your wildest dreams! I am writing this during the lockdown in Milan, and I haven't been to a face-to-face meeting for more than two months – something that would have been unthinkable to me in years past. A friend and fellow member just called to share experience of taking someone through the 12 Steps online, and it occurred to me that it might be helpful to share with [others] too.

My copy of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* is the fourth edition and the foreword says ‘modem-to-modem or face-to-face, AA’s speak the language of the heart in all its power and simplicity.’

<https://alcoholics-anonymous.eu/carrying-the-message-under-any-circumstances/>



Recovery Podcasts

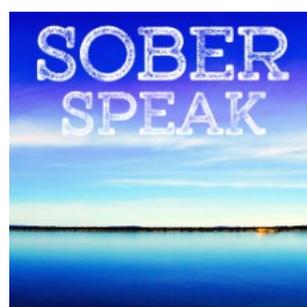
Summer can be a time for great road trips and cruising....nothing makes a long drive go by more quickly than listening to great A.A. speakers deliver a message filled with experience, strength, and hope
(none of these sites are affiliated with A.A. in any way)



Mad Dog Recovery AA Speakers

This site says it offers AA speakers that carry depth and weight. The site offers many speaker recordings—I didn't count them but probably about one hundred of more recordings. Mad Dog speaker recordings are all from Canada—but don't hold that against them.

<https://mادتank10.podbean.com/>



Sober Speak Podcasts

This site has over 140 archived A.A. speaker recordings—

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

<https://soberspeak.podbean.com/>



The Bubble Hour

The Bubble Hour is hosted by Jean M., a sober woman dedicated to breaking down the walls of stigma and denial surrounding the disease of alcoholism.

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



The Recovery Radio Network

The Recovery Radio Network says it brings you twelve step speakers and workshops designed for recovering individuals and the people who support them. This site features a new speaker recording every month, and has an archive recordings going back 10 years.

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



SELF-SUPPORT

The Seventh Tradition states that Alcoholics Anonymous is self-supporting through our own contributions. The contributions help to cover the group's expenses. But the Seventh Tradition is more than simply paying for rent and other group expenses. It is both a privilege and a responsibility of individual groups and members to ensure that our organization, at every level, remains forever self-supporting and free of outside influences that might divert us from our primary purpose.

The monetary amount of each contribution is secondary to the spiritual connection that joins us in unity with A.A. groups around the world.

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

Some facts:

- Currently about 43.7% of groups contribute to the General Service Office.
- Costs of Services provided by G.S.O. (as of 2018) are approximately \$7.40 per member per year.
- Gross profit from A.A. literature sales account for over 50% of G.S.O.'s revenue.
- Your contributions help ensure the future of our Fellowship worldwide.

Personal thoughts:

- What is the value of your sobriety?
- Does your group know that contributions may be made online at AA.org?
- Gratitude, expressed through contributions, reaches the still-suffering alcoholic.



The WAI Ticker

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.

Step Seven:

“Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.”



Meeting List Changes

Changes to a meeting name, its time, its format or its location, or new meetings and groups closings -

Send all meeting changes to: beacon@aaworcester.org and to:
officemanager@aaworcester.org

For meetings resuming in-person, please submit the ‘Meeting Update Form’ available on the WAI home page



Group Anniversaries

Send Anniversary Info to: beacon@aaworcester.org

Special Events!



- ◆ Big Book Jeopardy — July 25, 7pm — 9pm
⇒ See the flyer on page 3

- ◆ 2020 INTERNATIONAL A.A. CONVENTION—Detroit, A VIRTUAL EVENT
 - ⇒ "Love and Tolerance Is Our Code"
 - ⇒ A.A. Stories (video)
 - ⇒ ‘Carry the Message’ - Public Info, Corrections, and Accessibility
 - ⇒ Available in English, Español, Français, and ASL
 - ⇒ <https://2020convention.aa.org/>



The Seventh Tradition

“Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”

We do have to be practical. A group can hardly hold its regular meetings on a street corner, and an empty basket won't fill a coffee urn. As soon as we become active in a group, we learn how many expenses are involved in making its meetings effective. Then our horizons broaden. What about that intergroup or central office so many of us called to ask for help? Phone companies don't give free service. Beyond our own locality, we learn about the A.A. General Service Office and the work it does for groups everywhere. A.A. activity is self-supporting at all levels, and in every case the responsibility comes right back to us, the individual members, for we are A.A.

Perhaps, especially when we are very new, our contributions clink, rather than rustle. The first members were in the same fix, and it seemed to them that A.A. would need more outside help than the modest gifts then coming in. Their plans required grand-scale philanthropy. (Tradition Six hadn't evolved yet; Bill W. recalled a scheme for “a chain of hospitals.”) But John D. Rockefeller Jr., an early friend said, “I am afraid that money will spoil this thing.” A few A.A.'s had already reached the same conclusion; gradually, this minority became a majority as experience showed that members themselves could provide enough to finance A.A.'s proper aim. In its simplest application, Tradition Seven is easily understood; when we hear about a new A.A. group be-ing started with funds from a Federal antipoverty pro-gram, our quick reaction is “Somebody goofed!” But then we come to “borderline” cases: Groups put on a raffle for the benefit of their central office and invite the public to buy tickets; a hometown paper runs an ad for an A.A. dance and show. Both projects would be routine for any other society. For us, both mean that we've got the hand out again, asking nonmembers for money.

Often, of course, we don't have to ask. A.A. is now high on the worthy-cause list; G.S.O. and groups politely turn down many unsolicited gifts and bequests. In Tradition Seven, there's a note of realism: Handsome gifts may have strings attached. We even put a limit of \$5,000 on the amount members may leave to A.A. in their wills or contribute annually while living, so that none of us can buy influence in A.A., no matter how rich we are.

Money may pose a different problem if a group treasury grows too fat, beyond a prudent reserve. Squabbling over uses for the spare cash, groups have lost their unity and strayed from their purpose. But there's one simple solution that strengthens our unity and advances our purpose: Give the excess to A.A. activities and services....



Worcester Area Intergroup Faithful Fiver Form

The Faith Fiver idea came about when we remembered that we wasted much more than five dollars each month during our drinking days. "When we meet and defeat the temptation to take large gifts we are only being prudent. But when we are generous with the hat, we give a token that we are grateful for our blessing and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with all those who

still suffer." Bill W, *Language of the Heart*

YES, I want to help continue to carry our life-saving message of hope.

I will pay: Annually(\$60) Quarterly(\$15) Monthly(\$5)

Here is my contribution of \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone number (in case of questions): _____

Please make check payable to: Worcester Area Intergroup, 100 Grove St., Suite
314 Worcester, MA 01605

Get The Beacon every month—FREE

A color PDF will be emailed to you— send an email to: Beacon@aaworcester.org



How has lockdown affected addiction, rehabilitation and recovery?

This is a comprehensive article touching on the different effects that COVID-19 has brought about for people in recovery.

"If there is a problem with Zoom meetings in the fellowships, it's that it's silent, the response is silent. That's the difference – you're talking to potentially a vacuum."

"I was [calling] people, an average of one per day, but I was just really missing being in a circle and the power that exists when we're all there"

<https://newseu.cgtn.com/news/2020-07-02/How-has-lockdown-affected-addiction-rehabilitation-and-recovery--RM2DPyWHwA/index.html>



AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

With our focus aimed at understanding how the 7th Tradition can be adapted in the time of COVID-19, it might be helpful to read what Bill W. wrote about it in 1967.

Bill talks about 7th tradition

“A.A.’s far-flung Twelfth Step activities, carrying the message to the next sufferer, are the very lifeblood of our A.A. adventure. Without this vital activity, we would soon become anemic; we would literally wither and die. “Now where do A.A.’s services — worldwide, area, local — fit into our scheme of things?

Why should we provide these functions with money? The answer is simple enough. Every single A.A. service is designed to make more and better Twelfth Step work possible, whether it be a group meeting place, a central or intergroup office to arrange hospitalization and sponsorship, or the world service Headquarters [now the General Service Office] to maintain unity and effectiveness all over the globe. “Though not costly, these service agencies are absolutely essential to our continued expansion — to our survival as a Fellowship. Their costs are a collective obligation that rests squarely upon all of us. Our support of services actually amounts to recognition on our part that A.A. must everywhere function in full strength — and that, under our Tradition of self-support, we are all going to foot the bill.”

Bill W., October 1967 *Grapevine*



**2020 INTERNATIONAL
A.A. CONVENTION—
Detroit**

A VIRTUAL EVENT

<https://2020convention.aa.org/>

Web pages available during
July



The Seventh Step

“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.”)

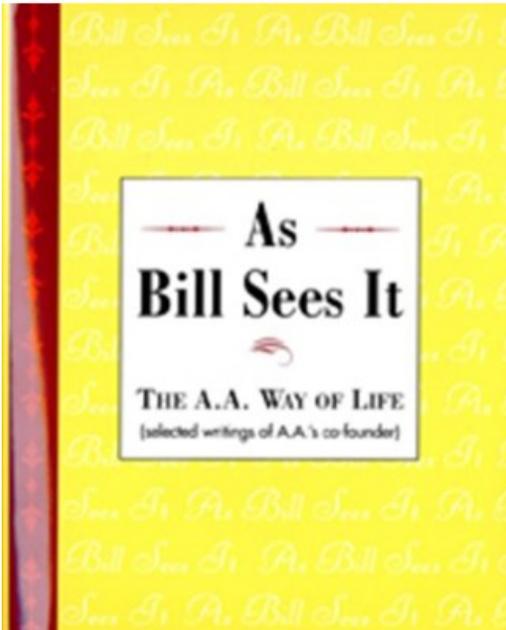
Though that ambitious center failed, some individual members have since founded successful clubhouses, rest farms, halfway houses, etc. The enterprises are run by these A.A.’s and patronized by other members or prospective members. But money and property are involved. Therefore, it has proved wise to 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.



Privileged to Communicate



Everyone must agree that we A.A.'s are unbelievably fortunate people; fortunate that we have suffered so much; fortunate that we can know, understand, and love each other so supremely well.

These attributes and virtues are scarcely of the earned variety. Indeed, most of us are well aware that these are rare gifts which have their true origin in our kinship born of a common suffering and a common deliverance by the grace of God. Thereby we are privileged to communicate with each other to a degree and in a manner not very often surpassed among our nonalcoholic friends in the world around us.

<< << << >> >> >>

"I used to be ashamed of my condition and so didn't talk about it. But nowadays I freely confess I am a depressive, and this has attracted other depressives to me. Working with them has helped a great deal."

1. GRAPEVINE, OCTOBER 1959

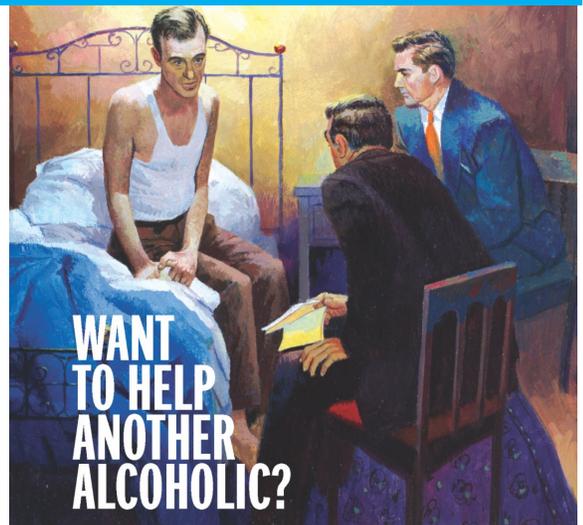
2. LETTER, 1954

3. *Bill would like to say that he has had no depression since 1955.

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





The GRAPEVINE AND LA VIÑA—Carrying the Message



The AA Grapevine, Inc., publisher of the *International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous* and the Spanish language version *La Viña* — monthly publications that share experience, strength, and hope with alcoholics everywhere.

<https://www.aagrapevine.org/>

<http://www.aalavina.org/>

Worcester Area Intergroup’s Online Bookstore

WAI has 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.

As explained on pages 3 and 4 of this *Beacon* issue, you support important local WAI recovery programs when you buy A.A. items from the WAI Bookstore.

WAI’s mission has been supporting recovery in Central Mass. for 46 years.

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



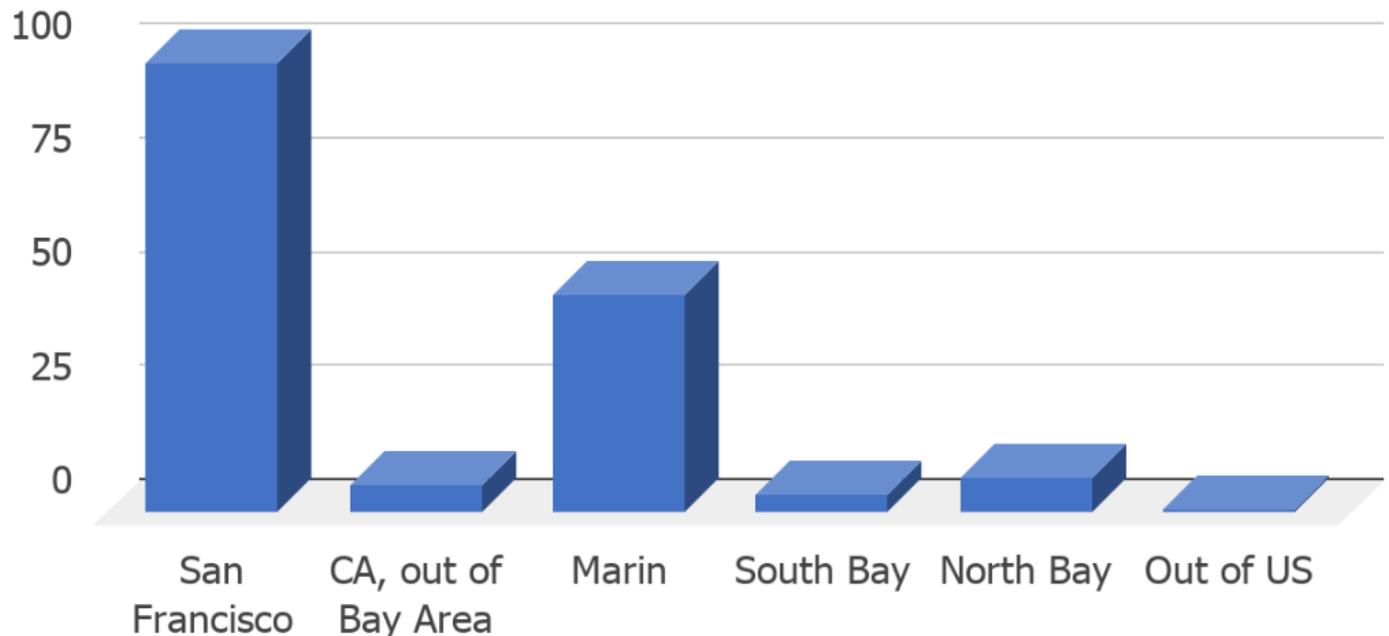
Poll Results from the IFAA June 18 Town Hall

On June 18, the Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, a group that covers San Francisco and Marin County California, held a virtual Town Hall on the issues related to the COVID-19 virus and the resumption of in-person meetings. The group says that about 300 people attended the event. During the event, an online survey was conducted with attendees—the edited results are presented here. Note: while 300 may have attended the event, the result data does not report exactly how many attendees took the survey or answered each question, so the ‘n’ sample size is a guesstimate based on interpretation of the bar graphs.

More here: <https://aasfmarin.org/resuming>



Where is your home group?



Historically, 1/3 of the meetings we list are in Marin and 2/3 are in SF; the attendance ratio was consistent with that.

As indicated, 2/3rds of those taking the survey have their home group based in San Francisco. The sample size for the question looks like it was about 160.

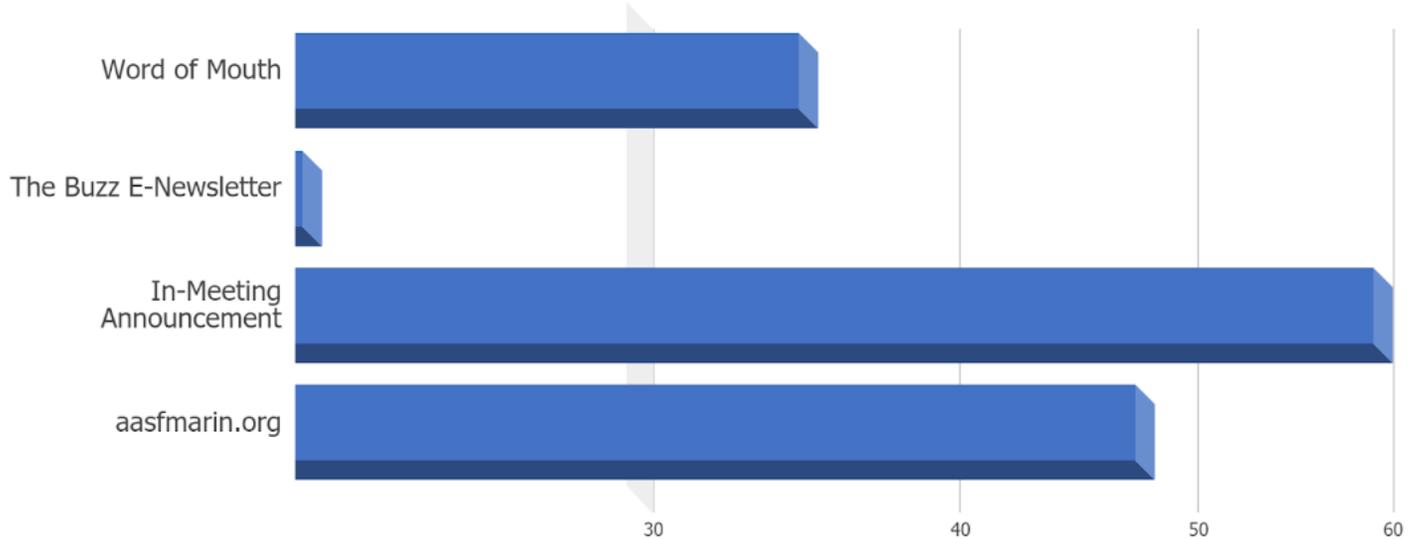
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Poll Results from the IFAA June 18 Town Hall

Continued from page 18

How did you hear about the Town Hall?



The sample size estimate for responses to this question is about 180.

The results to this question are interesting because a third, 33% or 60 respondents, reported hearing about the virtual Town Hall from an in-meeting announcement, and about 28% read about it via the local A.A. Intergroup web site—aasfmarin.org. About 20% heard it through word-of-mouth—so that old fashioned communications channel is still significant. Surprisingly, only a tiny percentage (less than 5%) heard about the Town Hall event by reading aasfmarin.org’s digital newsletter—”*The Buzz E-Newsletter.*”

The big takeaway for the Fellowship is that A.A.’s pay particular attention to information presented during meetings, that they do use their local Intergroup web site for information/announcements, and that word-of-mouth continues to be a significant source of A.A.-related news. Those findings suggest that A.A.’s hoping to ‘get the word out’ concerning a special event or an important change in say, a meeting schedule, should definitely plan on using several different channels if they hope to successfully reach their fellow A.A.’s with their message—and don’t solely rely on a group’s digital newsletter to ‘get the word out.’

Continued on page 20

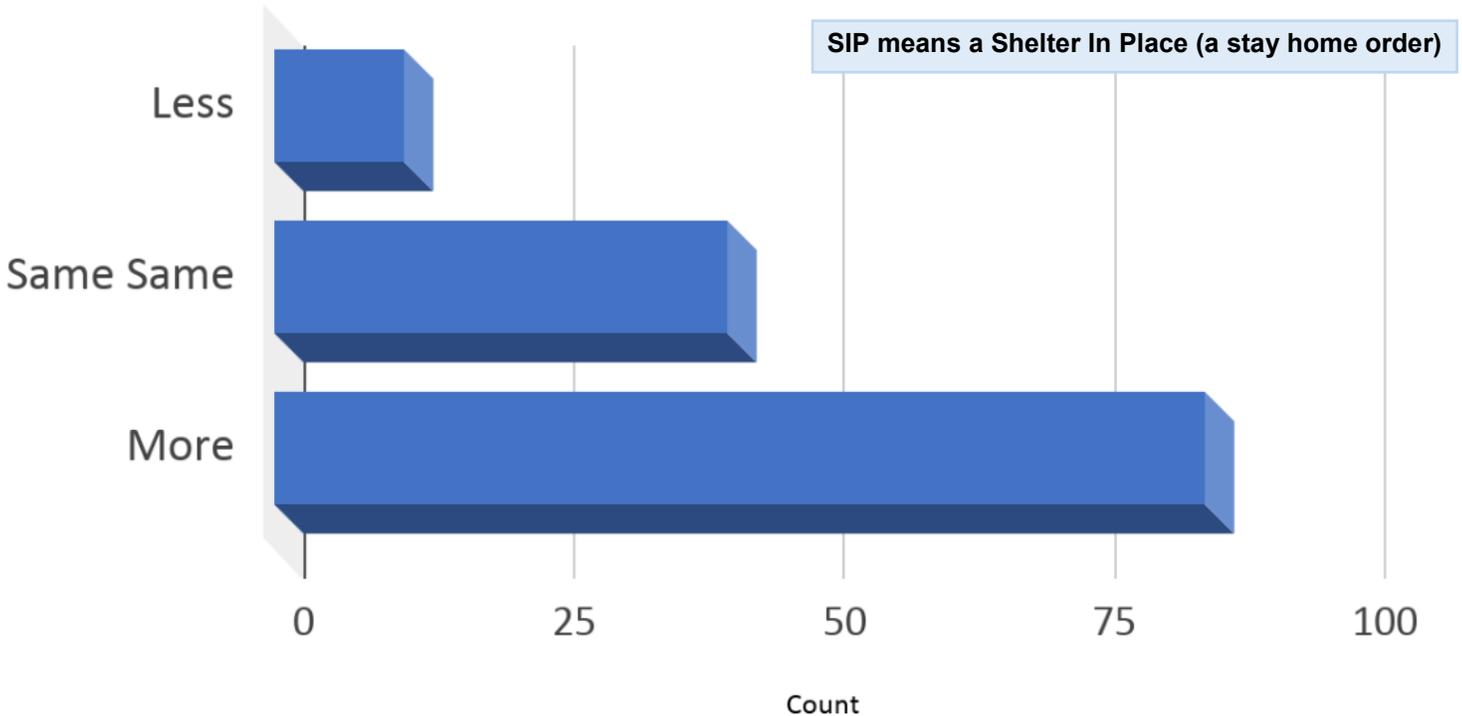




Poll Results from the IFAA June 18 Town Hall

Continued from page 19

Meeting Attendance since SIP began?



The sample estimate for responses to this question is about 136.

This is an important question if you believe that meeting attendance—in any form—is a critical element in maintaining sobriety. The clear preference of the survey respondents—about 65%—was to go to ‘More’ meetings. The respondents who chose ‘Less’ meetings appear to be about 8% of the audience. About 27% of respondents indicated they attended the ‘Same’ number of meetings as they had prior to the virus.

The big takeaway for the Fellowship is that A.A.’s have embraced virtual meetings, and that a ‘stay at home’ order from government officials had only a minor impact in reducing overall meeting attendance.

Of course, increased meeting attendance at virtual groups may be because they are relatively easy and convenient to attend compared to physical groups—no travel is necessary. It is also possible that virtual meetings combined with stay at home orders offers A.A.’s the opportunity to attend meetings they could not have before because of time or distance constraints, or, possibly attend meetings outside their local area.

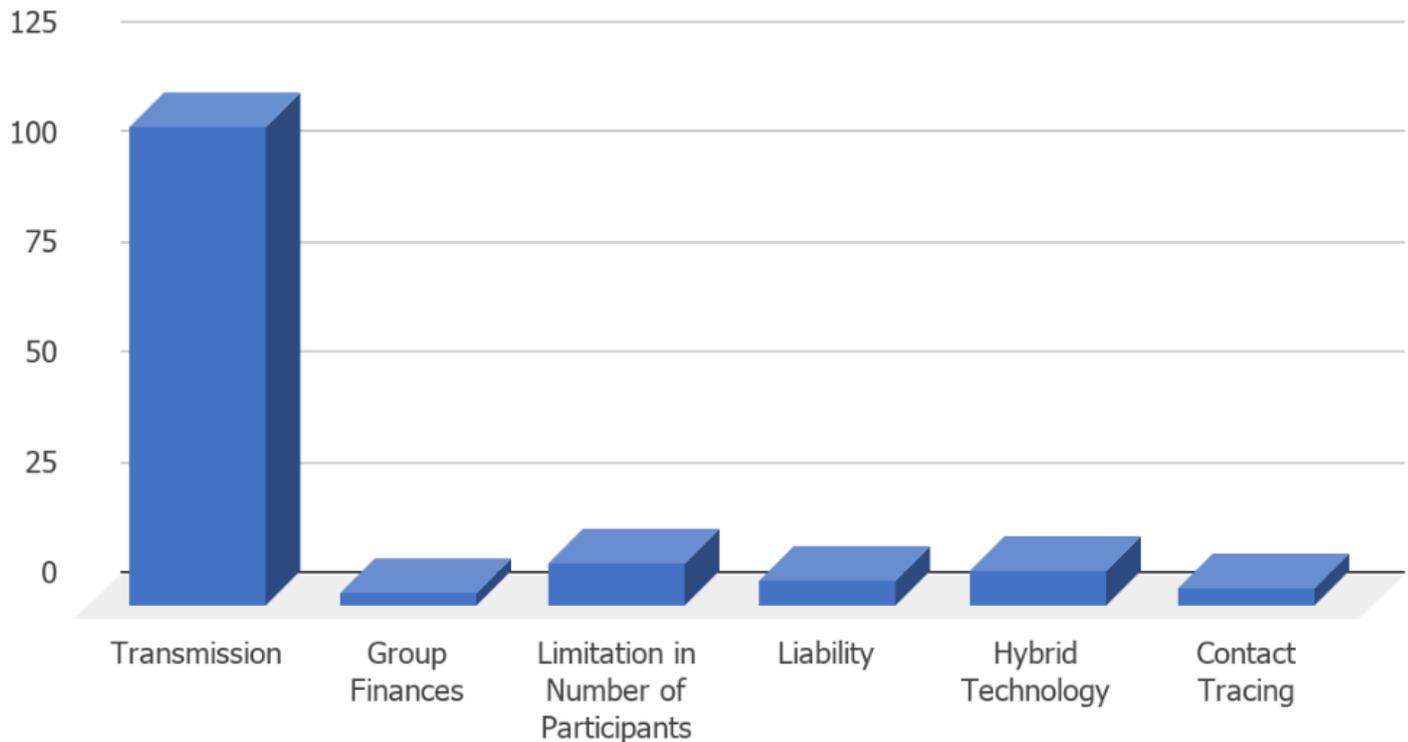
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Poll Results from the IFAA June 18 Town Hall

Continued from page 21

What is your primary concern about returning to in-person meetings?



The sample size estimate for responses to this question is about 141.

The results to this question are simple and compelling—nearly 80% of respondents seriously fear contracting COVID-19 from any resumption of in-person meetings. Of the five other answer choices offered, limiting the number of participants was the most significant objection raised, though it appears to have garnered less than about 7% of the overall sample.

The big takeaway from these results for the Fellowship is just as simple and compelling—that resumption of physical A.A. meetings is not likely to be welcome (or successful) until a high degree of confidence in the safety of attending such meetings can be assured or proven. This finding has major implications for those responsible for deciding when to resume in-person meetings: they will not likely be successful until the fear of contracting the virus has been eliminated by effective public health measures, which also means that they probably will not resume in widespread fashion until at least 2021.

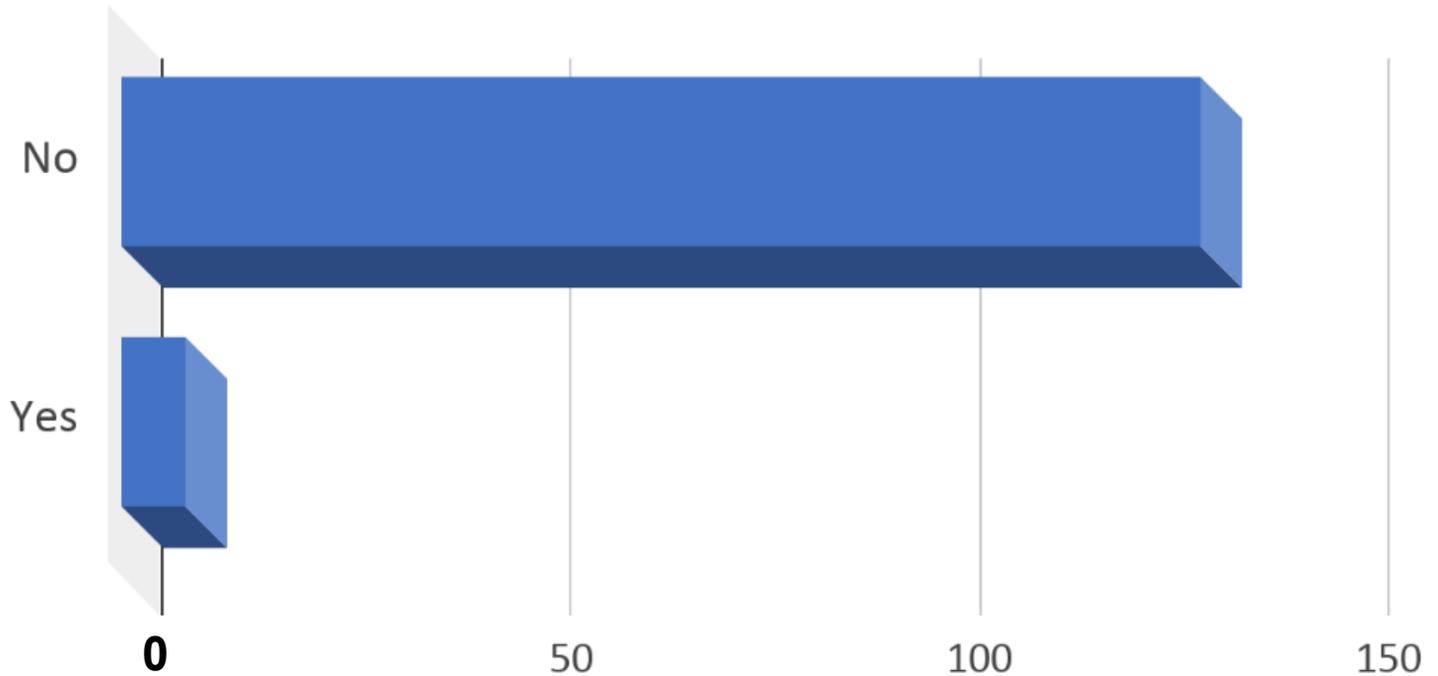
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Poll Results from the IFAA June 18 Town Hall

Continued from page 21

Are you comfortable attending in-person meetings with those not wearing masks?



The sample size estimate for responses to this question is about 142.

The answers to this question are also clear and convincing—over 90% of respondents are very fearful of contracting COVID-19 in a physical meeting from anyone not wearing a mask.

The big takeaway for the Fellowship is that any resumption of physical A.A. meetings in which the primary protection strategy from virus contraction for attendees is requiring masks be worn will not likely succeed.

As we found in the last question, any plan to resume physical meetings is premature until a high degree of confidence in the safety of attending those meetings can be assured. This finding again suggests that in-person meetings are unlikely to resume in 2020.

Continued on page 23

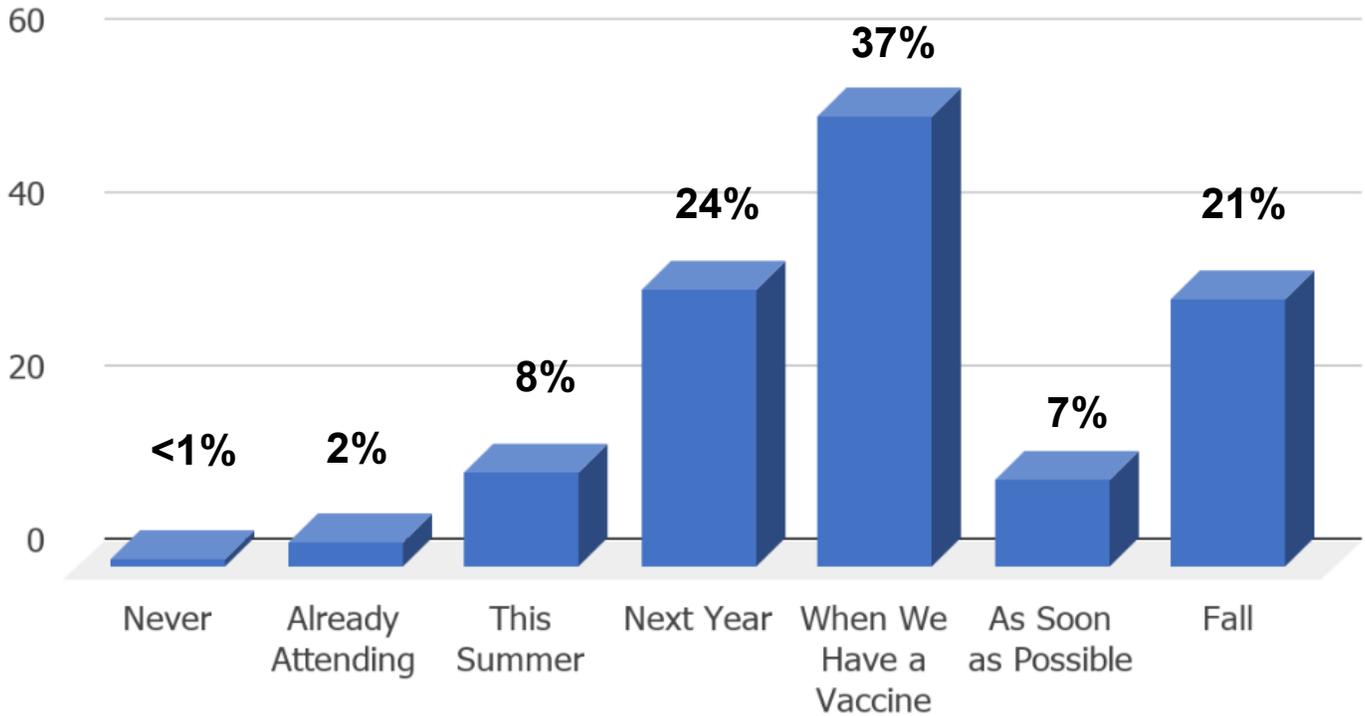




Poll Results from the IFAA June 18 Town Hall

Continued from page 22

At this point, when do you think you will return to in-person meetings?



The sample size estimate for responses to this question is about 134.

The large number of answer choices prompted the addition of the percentage for each choice to the bar graph table—

The most popular choice among the 7 selections presented to survey respondents was “*When we have a vaccine*” at 37% of the audience—which means that these respondents have no fixed horizon for returning to physical meetings—they will wait until it is safe. The second most popular selection, ‘*Next Year,*’ at 24% reinforces the overall impression that many A.A.’s don’t expect to return to physical meetings anytime soon. A combined 29% - or nearly a third—think they will return to physical meetings this summer or in the fall. A combined 3% of respondents indicated that they have already returned to in-person meetings, or, don’t ever expect to return to them at all.

[NOTE: these percentages were calculated based on visual estimates of the numerical value of each answer represented as a percentage of the whole. The percentages added to the graph were not included by aasfmarin.org and they are not responsible for these representations or any errors therein.]

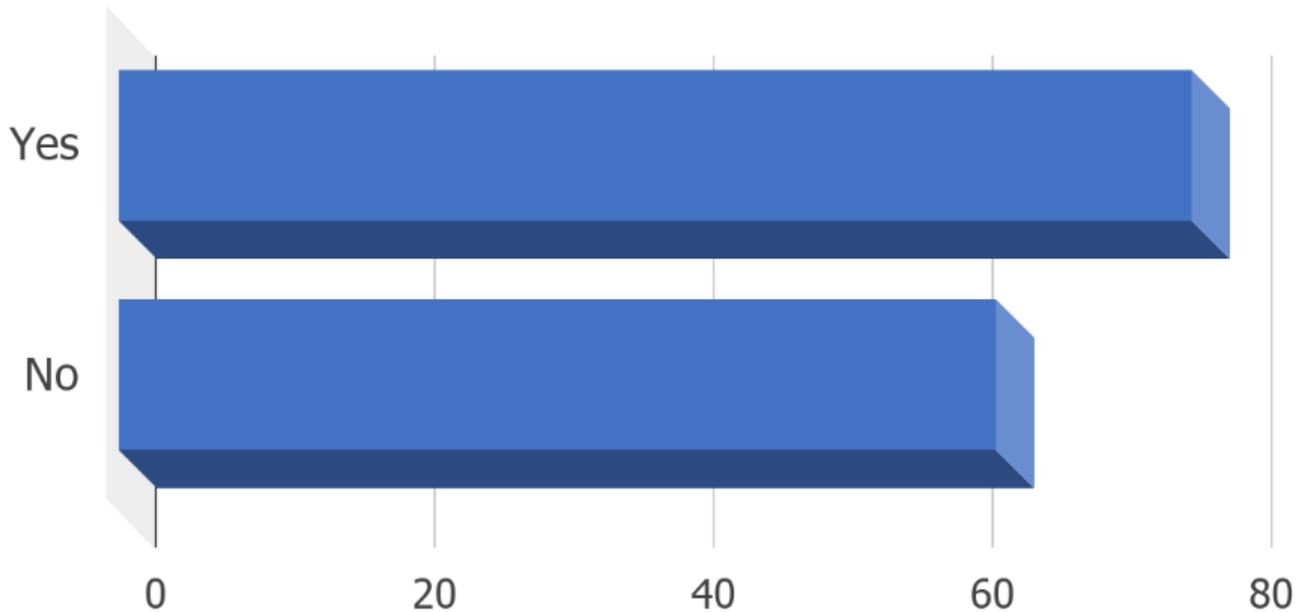
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Poll Results from the IFAA June 18 Town Hall

Continued from page 23

Has your group started talking about returning to a physical meeting space?



The sample size estimate for responses to this question is about 140.

When asked if the respondent’s group has discussed resuming physical meetings, a majority—about 54% - indicated that they had such discussions. The remainder, about 46%, said that they had not discussed resuming physical meetings. The nearly equal choice selections of the survey takers presented with a simple Yes or No may not tell us much, except perhaps that a majority have considered it—which is notable, but perhaps more notable is that nearly half have not discussed it—another indication that these respondents don’t expect to have to tackle that issue anytime soon.

Continued on page 25

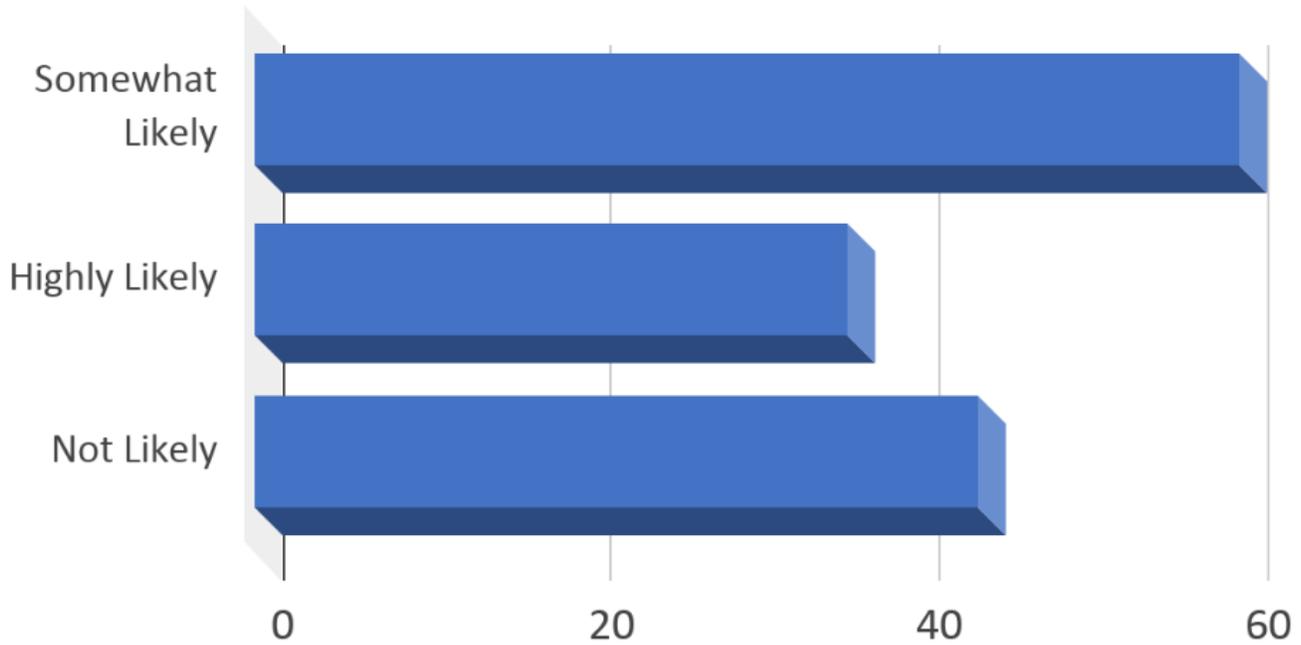




Poll Results from the IFAA June 18 Town Hall

Continued from page 26

How likely are you to go to a meeting that implements Contact Tracing?



The sample size estimate for responses to this question is about 140.

The responses to this question reveal that a majority of A.A.'s surveyed (68%) do put considerable faith in technology to provide possible protection from contracting the virus in a physical meeting. These findings may be a bit of a surprise, but it is also worthwhile to recognize that San Francisco and the Bay Area have one of the highest rates of internet connectivity, and, are probably a technology savvy population compared to America at large. That audience slant could explain why these respondents are willing to consider a technology-based solution to making physical meetings safe enough to consider attending. Still, about a third of survey responses indicated that contact tracing would be unlikely to convince them to resume attending physical meetings.

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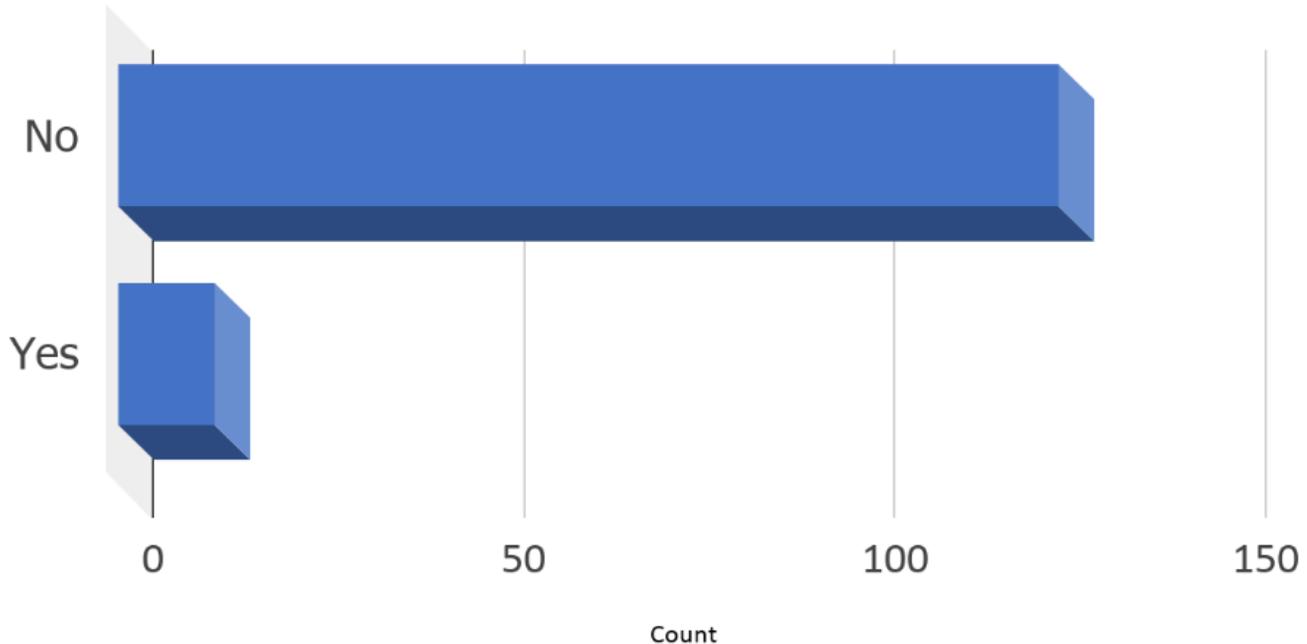




Poll Results from the IFAA June 18 Town Hall

Continued from page 27

Have you been to a Hybrid Meeting?



The sample size estimate for responses to this question is about 140.

The responses to this final question reveal that an overwhelming majority of A.A.'s surveyed (~90%) have not attended a hybrid meeting. While launching hybrid meetings has been a topic of discussion among A.A.'s for several months now, there are a number of technology and physical co-ordination hurdles to be overcome before such a meeting design is likely to be widely adopted.

The caveats for accepting these survey results as conclusive of how all U.S. A.A.'s feel are many, including:

- This is only one survey
- The survey shows the attitudes of respondents from a single metropolitan area
- The sample size is probably too small to adequately represent the number of A.A.'s in the San Francisco metro area
 - This survey only questioned A.A.'s that attended the virtual 'Town Hall'
- The survey obviously did not gather the attitudes of local A.A. members who don't attend virtual meetings or events.

The above noted, what the survey does is offer a glimpse into the thinking of some A.A.'s concerning the challenge of resuming physical meetings—a goal that many A.A.'s feel strongly about achieving.



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 7/11/20)

<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



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 33



Online Intergroup—Online Meetings Directory

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



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

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

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.



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



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

Google Play and the Google Play logo are trademarks of Google LLC. The App Store and iOS are registered trademarks of Apple Inc.

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



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

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



Of course, these stone-age paper sheets work just fine also.....

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 for adding a digital 7th

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

Many thanks to our fellow A.A.’s for continuing to support WAI’s mission of service to alcoholics in Central Massachusetts.

GRAPEVINE Daily Quote

July 10, 2020

“As faith grows, so does inner security.”

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., January 1962, *“This Matter of Fear”, Best of Bill*



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

*“The healthy person finds happiness in helping others.
Thus, for him, unselfishness is selfish.”*





Virtual

5th Annual Unity & Service Conference

"Applying our 12 Traditions & 12 Concepts to Real Life"

**September 5-6, 2020 (PDT)
Labor Day Weekend
Concord, CA, USA**



**Pacific
Daylight
Time Zone**

Saturday, September 5

Sunday, September 6

Welcome!

Serenity Prayer & Kickoff

8:45 am

9:00 am

Memoirs of a Judge that Nudged

*Rogelio Flores, Santa Barbara, CA
Retired Judge & Past Class A Trustee*

Contempt Prior to Investigation?

**The 12 Concepts -
"A Spiritual Experience"**
Jennifer D., Wilmington, NC

10-Minute Tradition or Concept Vignette Before Each Main Speaker

10:30 am

Service Panels

Panel 1 - **Young People**
Panel 2 - **Bridging the Gap**
Panel 3 - **Corrections (H & I)
Q&A**

Service Panels

Panel 1 - **Public Info & Cooperation with
Professionals**
Panel 2 - **Intergroup/Hotline**
Panel 3 - **General Service**
Panel 4 - **Sponsorship
Q&A**

12:00 pm

Break

12:30 pm

**Finance & Romance
in AA's Digital Age**

Jennifer D., Wilmington, NC

**Anonymity and Outside Issues:
Right vs. Responsibilities**

Roger W., Vine Grove, KY

10-Minute Tradition or Concept Vignette Before Each Main Speaker

2:00 pm

The Three Legacies and Relationships

Chuck & Beth H., Cary, NC

10-Minute Tradition or Concept Vignette
from an AI-Anon Speaker

*This 2 Hour and 15-Minute Session Includes
a 15-Minute Break at 3 pm Before Concluding at 4:15 pm*

Ask It Basket with Speakers

*Rogelio, Jennifer, Don, Roger,
Chuck & Beth*

3:00 pm

Break

Close with Responsibility Statement

4:30 pm

**Unity vs. Conformity
in the Home Group**

Don L., Bellingham, WA

10-Minute Tradition or Concept Vignette to Open

6:00 pm

Close with Responsibility Statement

Online-Only Event!

Space is Limited.....

Pre-Registration Encouraged!



Registration Link & Contact Info: Unityandserviceconference.org

925.222.5639



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