

NO BOOZE NEWS WE ARE MOVING

East Valley
Intergroup, Inc.
1855 E Southern,
Suite 103
Mesa, AZ 85204
480-834-9033
Fax: 480-964-4639
info@aamesaaz.org
www.aamesaaz.org

We have experienced amazing Group support over the years and have finally outgrown our little office on Broadway. After 26 years at our current location it is time to move on.

East Valley Intergroup's
Central Office
Is Moving to
1855 E Southern Ave. #103
Mesa, AZ 85204

East Valley Intergroup Response to COVID-19 Changes

Wow, so much has happened in the last week. At times it was hard to keep up but activity seems to be leveling off a bit now. One of the main functions of an Intergroup is to be a clearinghouse of information for the local Groups and that has been our main focus these past few weeks. We have been in touch with other intergroup nationwide and have followed their lead on some things.

We have added some helpful links on our website in an effort to keep everyone informed and connected.

Temporary EVI meeting changes page, This is where you can find verified information on meeting changes and suspensions. This page is being updated frequently and most groups have been contacted to ensure accuracy. If your group has had a change that is not reported here please send us an email, info@aamesaaz.org, and we will get it added. And don't forget to let us know when you resume regular meetings. Beware of the rumor mill, Alcoholics Anonymous is alive and well. Of the 600+ weekly meetings in our area about 100 are suspended. The rest are having regular meetings, most with modifications to meet CDC suggestions. Please be respectful of others personal decisions on social distancing.

Online Meeting Info (for Local online meetings) for a directory of local meetings that have gone online.,
Online Intergroup of AA (for online meetings) for a directory of previously existing online meetings,

Update on COVID-19 (Coronavirus) on aa.org a link to GSO notices,

Setting Up Online Meetings: Help! (Shared by the Inter-Group of NY)

ZOOM Protecting Anonymity (Shared by the Inter-Group of NY)

If you are on signed up for 12 step service please try to be available if called. We have received several calls from those who are afraid for their sobriety and the availability of fellowship support. A simple phone call to remind someone they are not alone could make all the difference.

It is amazing how we all rise to the occasion and finding ways to be there for each other. Alcoholics Anonymous is so much more than just a meeting in a room.

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

I not only discovered a thriving AA fellowship online, I became an active member of the Lamplighters group, which quickly became a central part of my AA life. Through Lamplighters, I've made many friends from around the world. I was shown firsthand that groups need not be constrained by geographical boundaries, that the language of the heart can be spoken in cyberspace.

- DENNIS M.

Get Published!

Send your articles, jokes, poems and artwork to Rick T. info@aamesaaz.org

Online Sobriety

She hated computers, but finding AA online forums gave her the courage to return to the program after a long relapse

From Grapevine Online

My story begins in 1991 when I was first introduced to AA. I went to meetings, had a number of sponsors, and actually made it to more than a year of sobriety, but it turned out I wasn't done drinking yet.

Fast forward to the year 2006. My husband and I got our first computer. I didn't like computers at all! I thought that they were going to ruin the world. (Actually, that's still in question.) By this time, I was drinking on a daily basis. I had stopped working a few years earlier, due to other health problems. I had my days and nights mixed up. I drank until 4:30 AM and didn't get out of bed until after 1:00 PM most of the time. My selfishness and self-loathing were taking over—I didn't care if I got out of bed or if I would ever wake up again. Mentally and spiritually I was hitting bottom. But I was still not done the drinking.

But even with my drinking, I was starting to learn and figure out things on the computer. I discovered online forums of people writing back on forth on whatever subjects interested them. I first joined a cat site, since I have always loved animals, cats especially. It was ok for a while but I didn't feel like I fit in with the people on there. Then I joined a paranormal site. There were a lot of interesting things to read on that site, but the people were a bit strange, so that wasn't for me, either.

By now, I was feeling overwhelmingly lonely. I was drinking every day, with no friends anymore, no one to talk to except my husband when he was home from work. I was starting to feel worse and worse, physically and mentally. My days blended together. It didn't matter if it was Monday or Thursday because it was the same thing, day after day. Drink, eat, clean house a little (maybe), go on the computer, and then go to bed. Get up and do it all over again.

One day, I decided to see if Alcoholics Anonymous was on the computer. Yep, there it was. So, I drank and read, drank and read. I actually found somewhere or another online of an audio recording of Bill W speaking at a convention somewhere. I cried listening to that and remembering how it was when I was in AA years before. Then I ended up finding other websites, with recovering alcoholics involved in forums and online meetings. For nine months, I wrote back and forth with these people, while drinking my rum and cokes. They kept telling me to go back to AA, and I kept saying: "No, I'm scared, it didn't work for me." Eventually, in the summer of 2007, I did get the courage to go back to AA. I struggled that whole year and kept drinking every couple of weeks. I couldn't get a month under my belt. But I kept hearing over and over: "Keep coming back" and "Don't give up before the miracle." In January 2008, I picked up a white chip and I haven't had a drink since.

I have a home group and a sponsor, and I've held a few service positions. I truly believe my Higher Power reached out to me through the computer even though I didn't understand it at the time. Today I still go on my forums with my AA friends from all over the US and the world. Some of the people who helped me so many years ago to get the courage to go back to AA are still there. I owe my life to them and Alcoholics Anonymous. So I guess computers aren't that bad after all. I wouldn't be sober today if I didn't have one.

Barb C. Endicott, NY

Words From the Big Book

While our literature has preserved the integrity of the A.A. message, sweeping changes in society as a whole are reflected in new customs and practices within the Fellowship. Taking advantage of technological advances, for example, A.A. members with computers can participate in meetings online, sharing with fellow alcoholics across the country or around the world. In any meeting, anywhere, A.A.'s share experience, strength, and hope with each other, in order to stay sober and help other alcoholics. Modem-to-modem or face-to-face, A.A.'s speak the language of the heart in all its power and simplicity.

PG. xxiv—Forward to the Fourth Edition

Please use the Gratitude With Service form below to volunteer for any of EVI's Standing Committees, such as PI/CPC (Public Information / Cooperation with the Professional Community), Special Events, Literature, Unity, or Phone Volunteers.

We are still in need of more volunteers for the 12th Step call list. Finding someone willing and available to do a 12th Step call can sometimes be very challenging, If you have at least one year of continued sobriety and are willing to make yourself available to the alcoholic who still suffers, please be sure to complete the form provided below and return to the EVI Central Office via fax, mail, e-mail or in person as soon as possible.

EAST VALLEY INTERGROUP — Gratitude With Service form revised 2/09			
Return to: 1320 E. Broadway Rd., Suite 105 Mesa, AZ 85204			
(480) 827-1905 <i>e-maik</i> : <u>info@aam</u>	esaaz.org www.aamesaaz.org		
Date *First Name	Last		
Address	*Phone		
 *City *\$T	*Zip *Gender		
*Sobriety Date Home Group			
e-mail address Alt Phone			
* = required for listin	•		
	(\$12.00 annual subscription fee enclosed)		
Volunteer Service Options	Committees of Interest		
Check only those you are willing to commit time to Check only those you are willing to serve on			
12 th Step List Volunteer Phones Night & Weekend	[] Public Information / Cooperation with the		
[] Weeknights [] Weekends	Professional Community		
[] Weekends [] Weeknights	[] Special Events		
[] Weekdays	[] Literature		
	[] Newsletter (No Booze News)		
[] Office Phone Volunteer [] Unity Committee			
[] Other Office Help	[] Deliver A Meeting		



ROUNDUPS, CAMPOUTS AND CONFERENCES

VERDE VALLEY ROUNDUP POSTPONED TILL

OCTOBER 30 - NOV.1

JACKPOT RANCH, CAMP VERDE AZ

ROCKY POINT SPRING ROUNDUP CANCELED

APRIL 24 - 26, 2020 EL MIRADOR VILLAGE HOTEL ROCKY POINT, MEXICO

TRI-STATE ROUNDUP CANCELED

MAY 14 - 17, 2020 RIVERSIDE RESORT LAUGHLIN NV



FLAGSTAFF ROUNDUP CANCELED

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR.

Area 03 Corrections Conference Canceled

March 20 -21, 2020 9502 W Hutton Dr. Sun City AZ. \$18 Registration

Area 03 Pre-Conference Assembly Canceled

April 3 - 5, 2020 2532 W Peoria Ave, Phoenix (Sheraton Four Points North)

November 2013: How the Universe Works

By: John L. | Pinellas Park, Florida

At two years [sober], I thought getting married would help me to feel better about myself. That only lasted 52 days. She ended up in a psychiatric ward and I sat on my couch with a loaded gun. But I didn't drink.

At four years, I was let go from the company I had been at for 22 years. I didn't drink.

At six years, my alcoholic girlfriend refused to move out of my house and got a restraining order. I moved out. She died of cancer two years later and I didn't drink.

At eight years, I opened a recovery bookstore and thought I could save the world. I lost everything within three years. But I did get to read a lot of books—and I didn't drink.

I have been fired from a very good job, laid off from another, taken a job at a lesser salary—and I didn't drink.

You see, between God and AA I can get through any situation as long as I don't pick up that first drink.

I have spent the past 20 years changing the way I think about myself. I am a student of life just trying to learn how the universe works. The most powerful lesson I have learned is that it all happens inside me. My perception of any situation is in my control—I have a choice about which way my mind will react. I try my best to look for positive solutions; I take my problems to my sponsor or I let my friends at a meeting know what is going on inside me.

One day at a time, with God's guidance, I plan to never drink again. I must always remember, however, that "the monkey may be off my back, but the circus has not left town"—and it never will for this alcoholic.

Reprinted from November 2013 Grapevine.

Meal and a Message Canceled

Saturday, April 25th Doors Open At 5:30pm Speaker At 7:30pm 1525 N Power Rd. Mesa

Sobriety Anniversaries



Name	Date	Days
Dan H		
Richard C	4/23/1979	14976
Harry R		
Frank B		
Bill O		
Carol H.		
Rita H		
Mike F		
Ken L		
Jennifer B	4/20/1986	12419
Willard K	4/1/1907 4/4/1000	1200 4
Kevin F.		
Jeff M.		
Melanie M		
Julie C.		
Sam W		
Erica W		
Dave L		
Larry C		
Tim M	4/4/1991	10592
Larry S	4/7/1993	9862
Dave C	4/28/1993	9862
Peggy H		
Eddie O		
Tom C		
Tammy R		
Michael R		
Jim B		
Michael F		
Scott C.		
Sharon K		
Jeff H		
John B		
Gail H.		
Bart M		
Chris K.		
Rhonda C		
Paul T		
Warren S		
Maegan W		
Christopher M	4/4/2010	3653
Maureen V		
Marna W	4/8/2010	3653
Tommy C	4/15/2011	3288
Guy S	4/29/2011	3288
Jen B		
Heidi W		
Michael S		
Jason H.		
Mary W	4/17/2014	2192
Hailey T	4/22/2014 4/4/2015	
Angie S		
Molly M	4/14/2015 4/14/2015	102 <i>1</i> 1827
Craig P	4/23/2015	102 <i>1</i> 1827
Donald S	4/23/2015	1827
Thura J		
Gamaliel B		
Michael W		
Edie M.		

<u>Step Four</u>~ Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

<u>Tradition Four</u>~ Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

Concept Four At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation," allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion

At Wits End



I have some good news and some bad news. The good news is, the judge ruled court orderd AA is inhumane. The bad news is, he reduced your sentence to waterboarding.



Get Published!

Send your articles, jokes, poems and artwork to Rick T. info@aamesaaz.org

PI / CPC

Canceled for April

(Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community)

Meets 1st Monday's at 7:00pm

235 E Guadalupe Rd. Gilbert

(Gilbert Presbyterian Church)

Come help carry the message at the public level and to professional groups who have contact with alcoholics.

For more information contact:

480 827-1905

EVI Phone Workshop

Canceled for April



Third Friday's at 6:15 pm

Before the monthly business meeting at

2222 S Price Rd. Tempe (Church of the Epiphany)

Or

Workshops can be done at your Group!



For more information Call Beth H

EVI Sponsorship Workshop

10am the 1st Saturday of every other month

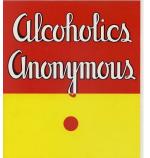
235 E Guadalupe Rd. Gilbert AZ

(Gilbert Presbyterian Church)

Contact: Jerry C.

HOST GROUP SCHEDULE

May 2nd ~ TBD



EVI Special Events Committee

Meeting held before the Monthly Speaker Meeting

1st Friday of the month

2222 S Price Rd. Tempe

(Church of the Epiphany)

contact: 480 827-1905

Join the

EVI Unity Committee

Meeting at 6:15pm Every 3rd Friday
2222 S Price Rd. Tempe
(Church of the Epiphany)
Contact 480 827-1905

Office Volunteers & EVI Hot Line Phones

4 hour shifts in the EVI office

Call Roxanne for specific

times and days.



EVI Monthly Speaker Meeting

1st Friday of Every Month

Meeting Now At 7:30pm

2222 S Price Rd. Tempe (Church of the Epiphany)

Canceled for April

May 1st ~ Easy Does It

These are subject to change - so keep watching.

Central Office Manager's Report February 21, 2020

In Februarry we received 454 requests for information and assistance. Of those 118 calls were for meeting info, 131 were office visitors and 16 resulted in a good old fashioned 12 step call. Our Google listing also receives steady traffic. Our Google totals for January were 13,117 views, of those 361 visited our website and 49 asked for directions. Our website stays busy too. It had 39,150 visits in the last 30 days.

Moving is still on schedule. We should be open for business at our new location, 1855 e Southern Suite 103, Mesa AZ 85204, on Monday March 30. We will be doing the bulk of moving on the Friday 27th and Saturday 28th. Come down and lend a hand, there will be pizza too.

Good connections of the month: We were able to connect a member with the person who answered the hotline when they called 6 years ago. Maybe its ok to not clear out old files too often. We received a call from the San Carlos Apache reservation and were able to connect them with a local A.A. contact in Globe. We have also updated our contact information for Globe.

AAWS has announced new pricing on all items effective April 15 but we have not received a new price list yet.

I have seen the best in all of us rise to the surface in the last week. Whatever our responses to the current public health issues have been, helping others is still our guiding light. It truly is an honor and a privilege to work for and be of service to our Fellowship.

In the spirit of Tradition Eight, Love and Service

Kim Watkins

Central Office Manager

East Valley Intergroup

EVI CENTRAL OFFICE ACTIVITYFeb., 2020 Meeting Information Calls181......342 General Information93......207 Referred to Community Info0 Business Calls87189 Meeting lists printed......800......1600 Info request via E-mail......44................106 Desk Volunteers-Reg/Sub/None. 23/4/3 Desk Volunteers-Reg HRS YTD......320hrs **Web Stats** Website Visits last 30 days 44,237 YTD 95,511 Google Searches last 30 days 13,708

Meeting List Updates...

Double-check the Intergroup website (aamesaaz.org) to learn which groups are meeting, the clubs that are open, which groups have moved to a temporary location, which groups are meeting online, and which clubs/groups are not available until further notice.

East Valley Intergroup ** NEW ** 1855 E Southern Ave. Suite # 103 Mesa, AZ 85204

General Service Office PO Box 459, Grand Central Station New York, NY 10163

Area 03 Treasurer ** NEW ** PO Box 3691 Gilbert AZ 85299 *Make Check To: AZ Area Committee* District 08-819 PO Box 594 Mesa, AZ 85211

District 08-820 PO Box 20404 Mesa, AZ 85277

District 08 (Maricopa County) PO Box 45066 Phoenix, AZ 85064

Valleywide H & I PO Box 80126 Phoenix, AZ 85060

Example of Group Contributions to A.A. Service Entities

Distribution of funds from groups that support four service entities 10% to District 10% to Area 30% to GSO 50% to Intergroup



Reprinted with permission from A.A. World Services, from the pamphlet Self Support.

District 08-818 PO Box 12044 Tempe, AZ 85284

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS



GROUP	Feb.	YTD
11th Step Candlelight		\$0.00
2121 Beginner Workshop		\$0.00
417 Group		
A Vision For You Group		
ABC GroupAhwatukee Group		
Ahwatukee Nooners		
Ahwatukee Saturday Men's		
Ahwatukee Women's Group		
Arbor Daily Noon Group		
Atitude Adjustment Ahwatukee		
Attitude Adjustment CG		
Attitude of Gratitude		
Bloopers		
Bootstrap Men's		
Both Books		
Bottom of the Bottle		
Breakfast Club		
Busted Ego		
By The Book		
Chandler Wen's Stag Group		
Chandler Women's Big Book Grou		
Cold Coffee Group		\$0.00
Common Solution		•
Common Thread		•
Copper Basin Group		
Courage To Change Depth and Weight		
East Valley Men's Stag		
East Valley Veterans		
Easy Does It Group	\$88.87	\$177.74
Eye Opener Group		
Family Recovery Group		
Feelings & SolutionsFill in the Blank		
Firehouse Meeting		
Florence Group		
Friday Night BB, Step Study		
Friends Of Bill W		
Get It Together		
Gilbert Gals		•
Gilbert Group Gold Canyon 12 X 12 Group		
Good Ol' Back to Basics		
Grateful Dames		
Grateful Girlfriends		\$0.00
Gratitude Group		
Great Start		
Gut Level		
Happy Hour @ Sunbird How It Works		
Keepin It Real Ladies		
Last Resort		
Life In The Big Book		\$0.00
Livin Life		
Maricopa 12 X 12		
Maricopa Group Mid-Morning Group		
Morning After Group		
Name In The Hat		
New Beginnings		
New Hope Group		\$0.00
New Spirit Group		
No Name AA Group		
Not A Glum Lot Opportunity Knocks		
Page A Day		
I		

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Pioneer Group	\$50.00	\$130.00
Price Is Right		\$0.00
Primary Purpose Group	\$300.00	\$300.00
Prime Time		
Progress Rather Than Perfektion		•
•		
Putting God First		
Queen Creek Nooners		•
Re-Awakening Group		\$0.00
Remember When		\$0.00
Renewed Spirit		\$0.00
Rising Spirit		\$0.00
Road To Recovery	\$1.238.85	\$1.762.75
Rock Solid		
San Tan Men's		
		-
Second Chance Group		
Seniors In Sobriety-Tempe disbanded		
Serenity At Six		\$0.00
Shade Tree		\$150.00
Sisterhood Of Solutions	\$151.68	\$151.68
Sobriety is Gold		\$400.00
Sobriety Rocks		-
Society Group		
Solutions Group		-
Some Are Sicker Than Others		
Southeast Valley Stag		
Spirited Women		\$62.75
Step By Step Group		\$117.16
Stepping Stones		
Sunday Afternoon Step		
Sunday Night BB Step Study		
Sunday Serenity Seekers		
Sun Lakes Women Serenity Seeker		
Sunland Serenity Seekers		
Sunset Group		\$0.00
Tempe Group		\$100.00
Tempe Nooners		\$50.00
Tempe Sunrisers		
Tempe Young People		
The Library		
-		
The Real Thing		
The Way Out Group		
Thursday Night Step Group		
Tuesday Night Steppin Out		\$0.00
Tuesday's Trudgers		
Tumbleweeds Group		
Upon Awakening		
We Ain't Dead Yet		
	•	•
We Agnostics		
We Can Group		
Wednesday Night Step		
Wednesday Night Winners		\$0.00
Welcome Home		\$0.00
West Chandler Men's		\$0.00
Who's Driving Your Bus?		
Wolf Pack Group		
Women in Gratitude		
		•
Women in Solution		-
Women in Touch		
Wonder Women		
*Anonymous Groups		\$200.00
OTHER GROUPS/COMMITTEE	<u> </u>	
Apache Lake Campout		\$0.00
AZ AA Women's Conf		
Dist 08-818		
		-
Dist 08-819		
ASCYPAA		\$0.00
Group Totals	66,652.80\$	13,074.35
EVI Committees		
Individual Contributions		
GRAND TOTALS		14,260.74
(*Group contribution with no group name list		

Financial Statements Page 9

BALANCE SHEET February 29, 2020

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT February 2020

Assets	
Current Assets	
Checking	4,226.62
Prudent Reserve (Savings)	33,432.99
Accounts Receivable	1,100.00
Inventory Asset	25,492.96
Undeposited Funds	1,598.51
Fixed Assets	
Cash On Hand	50.00
Office Equip/Furnishings	22,538.00
Depreciation	(-22,538.00)
Total Assets	\$70,933.44
Liabilities & Equity	
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	0.00
Visa Credit Card	37.13
Payroll taxes	195.44
Total Liabilities	\$232.57
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	43,778.94
Retained Earnings	24,503.74
Net Income	2,418.19
INCC II/COII/C	2,410.17
Total Equity	\$70,737.48
Total Liability & Equity	\$70,933.44
• •	

30 Group contributions totaling 3 Individual contributions totaling	\$6,652.80 \$860.00
Intergroup Business Meeting & Service Committee's 7th Tradition	\$112.39
Total Contributions	\$7,625.19
Total Income	\$14,025.39
Less total Cost Of Sales	\$3,784.01
Gross Profit	\$10,241.38
Less total Expenses of	\$10,277.99
Net Feb. Loss	(\$36.61)
<u>YTD 2020 Gain</u>	\$2,454.80

The current Prudent Reserve balance is \$33,432.99 The Prudent Reserve has been established for 2020 in the amount of \$27,817.34

Please call me with any questions or comments regarding the financial statements.

Grateful to be of service, Ron S. EVI Treasurer fullflight@cox.net

Traditions Checklist

Tradition Four: Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.

- 1. Do I insist that there are only a few right ways of doing things in AA?
- 2. Does my group always consider the welfare of the rest of AA? Of nearby groups? Of Loners in Alaska? Of Internationalists miles from port? Of a group in Rome or El Salvador?
- 3. Do I put down other members' behavior when it is different from mine, or do I learn from it?
- 4. Do I always bear in mind that, to those outsiders who know I am in AA, I may to some extent represent our entire beloved Fellowship?
- 5. Am I willing to help a newcomer go to any lengths—his lengths, not mine—to stay sober?
- 6. Do I share my knowledge of AA tools with other members who may not have heard of them?

EVI Reps & Trusted Servants,

I typically don't submit a written report, but these are not typical times we are experiencing at the moment (plus we need to fill some pages for the newsletter... ha). Some of what I report here may be touched on in other reports as well, but here is my take on some of the amazing things happening at the East Valley Intergroup:

Kim and our outstanding volunteer staff have been working tirelessly over the past week or so to address inquiries regarding the status of meetings and events around the East Valley. In addition, EVI has just added a section to the website for online meeting info, as well as a previously established link to known meeting changes & suspensions (see EVI website for details). Please email the office with any meeting updates you may have (including meetings that are still meeting in person), as well as any online meetings you'd like to list. If your group is fortunate enough to still be meeting in person, please be sure to observe social distancing practices, and adhere to any local and/or national guidelines on gatherings.

I hope you are all staying safe, sober, and are still able to carry the message to newcomers and engage with other alcoholics however that may look these days (we are quite a resourceful bunch in these situations). Along those lines, if you are hosting and/or participating in online meetings, please consider our Tradition of Anonymity. Here are some valuable guidelines from the NY Intergroup regarding Zoom privacy settings: https://www.nyintergroup.org/remote-meetings/note-on-anonymity-for-zoom-meetings/

In the midst of the unprecedented circumstances of late, the EVI office has remained open and will continue to be open during normal business hours until further notice. Many Central/Intergroup Offices across the country have closed indefinitely, but our doors are open, and most importantly, our phones are being answered 7x24 by a sober member of AA. Alcoholics Anonymous in the East Valley is alive and well thanks to our amazing volunteers and trusted servants like you!

On a brighter note, the EVI office will be moving to a new larger and more convenient location near Southern Ave & Gilbert Rd over the course of the next few weeks! More to come on this shortly...

Please feel free to contact the EVI Office or a Steering Committee member with any questions or comments you may have. And finally, if you or anyone you know is struggling in these times of uncertainty, please keep the EVI 24 hour Hotline number handy – (480) 834-9033.

In Gratitude & Service,

Tom N.

East Valley Intergroup

Steering Committee Chair

tom.nevarez@gmail.com

480-788-0097

www.aa.org

Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous

475 Riverside Drive, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10115 / Telephone: (212) 870-3400

Please direct all communications to: P.O. Box 459 Grand Central Station New York, NY 10163 Fax: (212) 870-3003

March 19, 2020

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

It is important to note the G.S.O. is not an authoritative body over our groups, nor does it initiate rules or directives, as each A.A. group and entity is autonomous and decisions are made through its 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, we do have some general experience regarding how some A.A. groups and members have begun to address this issue. Many are following "social distancing" guidelines established by local, state, provincial, and federal officials, while at the same time maintaining their recovery and attending digital A.A. meetings.

By attending digital meetings, groups 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 space. Some groups have shared that they are utilizing digital platforms such as Zoom, Google Hangouts, or conducting conference calls.

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

Twelve on 12 Page 12

Reach Out and Touch Someone

Separated by many miles, these AAs had a three-way meeting over the telephone

Grapevine AUGUST 1995

I was nervous. I had been to nearly two thousand Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, but this was going to be one of the most unusual. It would be small; there were only three of us. I'd known Chuck for years, but I'd only met Vicki once. Was this thing really going to work?

Vicki had been sober for years and was very active in AA. Recovering from a physical illness, she'd been home from the hospital only a short time and had been given strict orders to take it easy. When I had phoned her to set up the meeting time, she frankly said that she really needed one.

I dialed Chuck's number. It was chaos at his place. People were working on repairs to his house after a burglary. At first he wanted to postpone the meeting, but he decided to move into the back room and give it a try. I pressed down on the receiver button and heard the reassuring three beeps. I called Vicki. When she answered the phone, I pressed down again. All right! We were separated by miles, each in our own homes, but all three of us were on line together.

After brief introductions, we got started. We opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. As I read the Preamble, I began to settle down. Soon I wasn't nervous anymore. I asked Chuck to read the beginning of "How It Works." Vicki read the Twelve Traditions on page 564.

We were concerned that when a person is sick, there might be a natural tendency to focus on that particular illness rather than on recovery from alcoholism, so we had worked up a meeting format based on a Big Book study group we went to. To reduce the temptation to cross talk, we had a line in the format that said: "Each person is encouraged to speak once on the selection. Please do not speak twice until everyone has had an opportunity to share." Having a clear format and keeping the meeting firmly anchored to the Big Book helped us stick to our primary purpose. We wanted it to be as much like a face-to-face meeting as possible. About the only thing we couldn't do in the usual way was pass the basket.

I read a couple of paragraphs from "More About Alcoholism." I asked Chuck to comment, then Vicki and I each took a turn. We all had a chance to add a P.S., and we closed with a familiar prayer.

The meeting had lasted about half an hour. There was a short "meeting after the meeting." We all remarked how much like a regular AA meeting it was. It was definitely not the same as when two people are talking on the phone.

When I told them I would be writing to the Grapevine, Vicki and Chuck asked me to include some of their thoughts. Chuck said, "Maybe the original motive was to help Vicki, but that day I really needed a meeting. I had a terrific resentment about my house being robbed. For that half hour, I was able to be someplace else." And Vicki said, "Just talking about it brings a tear to my eye. It was a godsend. I couldn't drive, and I hadn't been to a meeting for. . .well, too long. Isolation is dangerous for an alcoholic."

In the years since that first one, we've held phone meetings for a lot of different reasons. Some of us were recovering from physical ailments and soon made it back to regular meetings. Others have been homebound for months or years. We haven't used the phone meeting with someone who is very new; for them, no doubt, a face-to-face meeting is best. But for AA members who have been around a while, we've found that a phone meeting can sometimes be better than a visit for people who are sick. Getting themselves and their homes ready for visitors can be too much for them.

As for me, the phone meetings have been great. I look at them as another payment on the insurance against a slip. It has meant a small, fixed, monthly charge on my phone bill, but I get unlimited local three-way calls. I think it's worth it to be able to have a meeting any time I need one. Getting drunk would cost me a lot more.

Recently, because two of us have three-way calling, we had a four-person meeting. I found it helped to visualize them sitting at a table with me. We just took turns going around the imaginary circle.

Writing that last sentence just now made me think of a sentence at the end of "Bill's Story" in the Big Book. I looked it up and it says: "Each day my friend's simple talk in our kitchen multiplies itself in a widening circle of peace on earth and good will to men."

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