

Happy New Year!



January – Covid -19 Pandemic and A.A.

Calling all A.A. members. Every edition of the New Reporter in 2021 will feature an AA pandemic experience and hope – hopefully yours. Write a piece for the New Reporter, email it to newreporter@aa-ac.org and we will include it

The Message from the General Services Office in New York

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 platform. A.A. in the digital age has certainly taken on a new meaning in these challenging times.

We are here to help by providing a list of resources.

- *General Service Office Website*: www.aa.org
- o Videos/Audios https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/videos-and-audios
- o Read/Listen/ASL “The Big Book” and Twelve Steps/Twelve Traditions Book https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/read-the-big-book-and-twelve-steps-and-twelve-traditions
- o A.A. Archives and history https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/archives-and-history
- o A.A.W.S. YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2nfvf9DeDA7QYvLeq4pQ-w>
- *A.A. Grapevine website*: <https://www.aagrapevine.org/>
- o Audio, digital, hard copy resources
- o A.A. Grapevine YouTube Channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI9uFLJ_aXT3-At0PIPWUQ
- *A.A. Online Intergroup*: <https://www.aa-intergroup.org/>
- *Understanding Anonymity*: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-47_understandinganonymity.pdf

Editor's note: 2020 was a different year. We experienced a medical emergency which has affected the way A.A. does business. We have been forced out of doors and into an "appropriate" space from each other. We are wearing masks.

Some have gotten ill and others have died. And here at the *New Reporter*, we are doing something we have never done. Yours truly, your editor, Tony F. is writing an entire edition.

In experiencing this year, and as an editor of this newsletter, I have observed miracles and growth. At first, I thought, when I saw that "closed until further notice sign at our Intergroup office," that A.A. was in trouble. That newcomers would not know how to find us. That we would be unable to spread the message. Oh, how fear comes.

It didn't take long before someone mentioned meetings on Zoom. I started on-line and found a 24-hour meeting in Australia which I attended for week after week. The someone said, "if we can't meet indoors, can we meet outdoors?" Several churches opened their front yards to A.A. and city parks were amenable too. It didn't take long before meetings were being held every day.

And the newcomers! The newcomers! Although many suffer from addictions to other substances, those who have been coming and have been staying clean and sober have had so much to offer! After all these years, I am learning that there is much more to LEARN.

All my fears have been allayed. Even better, this witness has seen miracles happen. A.A. in my neighborhood has grown substantially. People have been getting sober through Zoom. Those who are coming in are carrying the message. We need more room to

hold indoor meetings.

We have been meeting indoors, properly distanced, and, to my knowledge, people have not been getting Covid.

Covid-19 and the things we cannot change

Talk about Powerlessness. Of all the unpredictable events, we get hit with something that has been predictable, historically speaking. Pandemics have been occurring regularly since men began building societies.

That is neither here nor there. But when it comes to the work of Alcoholics Anonymous, Powerlessness struck when the Federal, state and local governments began to address the unknown and invisible enemy. Public gatherings were out, thus the sign on our local Intergroup door.

But there is One who has all Power and it wasn't long before that Power was revealed. Someone said to me "have you heard of Zoom?" I didn't know anything about it, but it didn't take long to get connected. Online meetings were starting all over the world and they were easy access.

A couple of enterprising friends contacted a local church and asked if they would allow meetings in the amphitheater setting on their property. It wasn't long before 30, then 40, and even some days, 60 people were meeting outdoors at 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

The same happened at a meeting on Saturdays that I call my home group. That church has a large field on its property, and soon that meeting, which would ordinarily attract 20 -30 people, was attracting 60 or more regularly in a large circle out in that field.

It is clear from this observer's vantage that A.A. has survived and thrived, through God's Grace.

It is like we always expected: Liquor stores and bars are “essential”

Many businesses and even churches have been shuttered during the pandemic. In Maryland, however, liquor stores remained open and fell into the “essential” business category.

An article in the Baltimore Sun explains: “Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan took the extraordinary step Monday of **closing the state’s nonessential businesses** in an attempt to slow the spread of the coronavirus. The order, notably, **does not apply to liquor stores**, wineries, distilleries and other providers of alcoholic beverages.”

(Governor) Hogan’s order excluded essential or critical industries **as defined by the federal government**. The federal government’s definition of “essential” workers was published last week by the Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

The agency’s guidance on the food and agriculture sectors was broad and designated workers employed by groceries, pharmacies and other retail that sells food and beverage products as “essential.” Agency officials called the list advisory and said it should not be considered a federal directive or standard.

The qualification of liquor and alcohol services as essential might serve to prevent those with substance abuse disorders from seeking urgent medical attention, said Zach Snitzer, co-founder of Maryland Addiction Recovery Center. While the state may have been largely motivated by economic gains, the designation could prevent additional fatalities or emergency room visits, he said.”

Lockdowns, restrictions, and spacing, Oh My!

We all know the A.A. meeting experience. The hugs and handshakes, holding hands at prayer to end the meeting. Under Coronavirus-19, all that was out. Mask wearing came and went and came again. Wash hands, wash hands, wash hands . . .

We have all lived through it and have responded in different ways. For this alcoholic, the antidote to powerlessness is acceptance. I had to accept the governmental interventions. They were going on the best information they had and acting accordingly.

We started spacing ourselves outdoors and then started wearing masks out of doors. We stood separately during the prayer.

Some members kept in contact with the churches to which their meetings were associated. The Intergroup office was on the grounds of a downtown Presbyterian church and the church offered continuing support. Some of the outdoor meetings were supported by local churches as well. At least one local church continued to allow CDA meetings inside throughout.

It was clear that locally, Alcoholics Anonymous had built up a deep reservoir of trust.

As the year wore on and when it started getting colder, some of the churches allowed indoor meetings to resume. It is a safe bet that, here at the end of the year, there is an indoor meeting somewhere every day of the week.

All of this was occurring in tandem with continued availability of Zoom and other on-line meetings.

Did we mention Newcomers?

As an observer and a participant, one of the most fascinating and heartening developments is the number of newcomers and what they add to the program.

I have seen the youngest of the young; women who just escaped from prostitution, drug addicts of all stripes and garden variety alcoholics and addicts as well.

People are getting sober on Zoom and they have much to contribute. The degree of honesty and some of the harrowing stories they tell show this alcoholic that things are still rough out there and that people are attracted to what A.A. has to offer.

One young woman shared that she had spent time as a prostitute in Baltimore. She had been roughed up and expressed her interest in changing her life. She kept coming back and really latched on to the program. At one meeting she shared how people in the rooms reacted when she learned of her previous life. Inappropriately, it seems. It was a joy to tell her that if she stuck around and stayed sober, she would be helping many young women. That is exactly how it turned out.

Three young men who have been able to get and stay sober and although they had different drugs of choice individually, they were attracted to the A.A. message and regularly share about drug use and drinking. Although there was a time when discussion of drug use was frowned upon, these shares are so honest and forthcoming, it just seems natural.

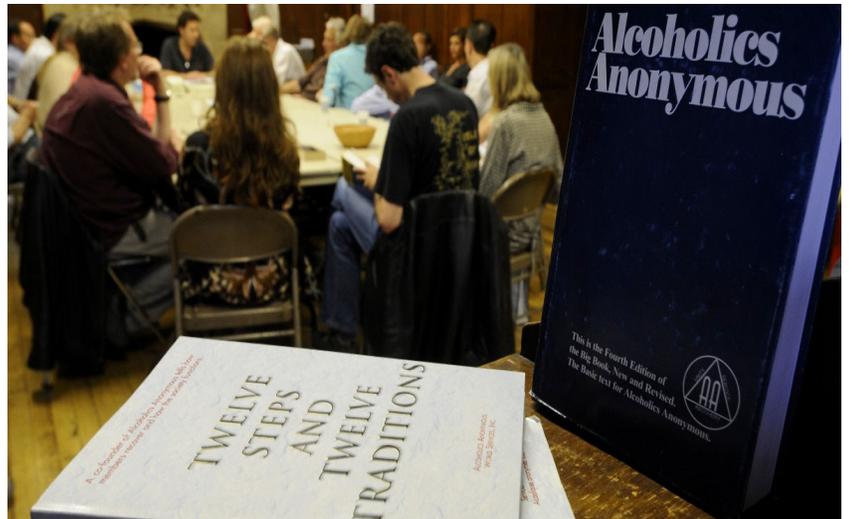
Perhaps the most painful and shocking messages have come from women just coming in. These people come in and share stories of exploitation and grief in the most vivid manner. It is difficult to hear.

Putting the events of these past few months in the context of the First Step, powerlessness and unmanageability are all around us. The need to explain the disease and to offer "The Solution" from the Big Book is as important as ever.

The message of Alcoholics Anonymous remains vital under the current circumstances. The fellowship was founded during the Great Depression, after all. Stories from the book itself provide accounts of the Second World War. A.A.s stayed sober under incredibly trying circumstances.

It appears that today the fellowship has risen to the occasion once again.

Tony F.



CORONA BEER CHANGES THEIR NAME TO AVOID ASSOCIATION WITH THE CORONA VIRUS OUTBREAK



It's called quarantine coffee. It's just like normal coffee but it has a margarita in it and also no coffee.



@elgangst

I was sitting with my cell phone and my wife watching her show. I asked her for a beer and she said no. Then her cell phone rang in the kitchen and she quickly got up to see what it was. My message said. "Since you're in the kitchen, bring me a beer"... I don't remember anything else. 🤔

YES, I WORK FROM HOME.



HOW DID YOU KNOW?



About + History ^{Advisory}

VIRTUAL 2021 GETTING + STAYING HERE ▾ SOUVENIRS SCHEDULE FAQ CONTACT

IMPORTANT UPDATE - THE 57TH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE WILL BE VIRTUAL - [READ MORE](#)



57TH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
FIRST **VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**

February 18-21, 2021

<https://internationalwomensconference.org/>

NERAASA 2021

February 26, 27 & 28, 2021

The virtual experience, a NERAASA like no other!

Register Here!

**Join the many who will make history at the first virtual
Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly.**

- ◆ Round Tables ◆ Panels ◆
 - ◆ Northeast Regional Trustee Presentation ◆ Delegates' Highlights ◆
 - ◆ Fun & Fellowship ◆
-

NERAASA 2021 will offer participation in English, Spanish, A.S.L. & C.C.

\$21.00

'21 NERAASA weekend!

All A.A. members are both welcome and encouraged to attend!

We are making history!



**Questions: info@nerassa.org
Visit the NERAASA website [HERE](#)**

Register Now!

WAGSA Area Committee Meeting

January 11, 2020—7:00 PM (2nd Monday except July)

Join Zoom Meeting <https://VxUDNWS3VuZ1V0dz09>

Meeting ID: 844 5094 0031

Passcode: 6970mc

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,84450940031# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,84450940031# US (New York)

Questions? Email: chair@area13aa.org

WAIA Monthly Board of Directors Meeting

January 12, 2020—8:00 PM -2nd Tuesday of the month except August

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85864338516?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85864338516?pwd=WGhzcXhwSFpPaEFoOVlrdnY0R085Zz09)

[pwd=WGhzcXhwSFpPaEFoOVlrdnY0R085Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85864338516?pwd=WGhzcXhwSFpPaEFoOVlrdnY0R085Zz09)

Meeting ID: 858 6433 8516

Passcode: 431307

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,85864338516# US (Washington D.C)

CHECK OUT OUR EVENTS CALENDAR

Events are updated
regularly!

If you would like to
submit an event, send an
email to events@aa-dc.org.
A pdf flyer may be attached

222	930 Club AA at CUA	60	Crapshooters Creative Arts Crossroads of Recovery	660	Good News Beginners Good Shepard Greenbelt Step
140	AA & Family Issues	120	Daily Reflections, NW	150	Growing Group
10	Addison Road Adams Morgan Meditation	74	Daily Reflections, SW Daily Reflections, UnityPI		Happy, Joyous & Free Help Wanted High Noon
149	All Are Welcome	98	Darn Good Big Book		High on the Hill
105	Anacostia	890	Darnestown Men	60	High Sobriety
360	Andrews Armed Forces	45	Day by Day	300	Hill Lunch
204	As Bill Sees It, NW	60	Deanwood Women Rap Double Dippers	45	Hope Fellowship
300	As We Understood Him Aspen Hill 5th Chapter	100	Dupont Circle Club DC Young People	120	Hope/Oxon Hill
131	Aspen Hill Phoenix Mon. Aspen Hill Phoenix Fri.	283	DCC Noon	551	How It Works G'burg
238	Attitude & Action Attitude Adjusters	78	DCC Women Fri.	50	Hyattsville Discussion
540	Back to Basics Barnesville Beginner Basics (DCC/Wed)	61	DCC Tues. 6PM	1092	Hyattsville Hope
	Beginners & Winners	1185	DCC—930 Club Del Ray Acceptance	127	Informed Group
120	Beginners are Winners	1345	Del Ray club District 2	400	Into Action, Germantown Investment Irreverent Women Jaywalkers
50	Beltsville	365	Divine Intervention Dunn Drinking Dunrobbin 8AM Men's Big Book	1252	Just Before Noon Just For Today
140	Brightwood Brookland	310	Early Times	1560	Kensington Big Book
1034	Broad Highway	1415	Epiphanies	1020	Kensington YP Step Study
3238	BYOL	320	Ex Libris Faith Fellowship	68	Keys to Kingdom
100	BYOL (NonSmoke)	175	Faith Group	460	Kid Friendly Big Book
821	Burtonsville Big Book	120	52 Pick-Up	119	Kingman Park King Str. Recovery
108	Campus Noon Capitol Heights	1200	Fireside Spirituality	710	Language of the Heart Landover Discussion
589	Capital Hill Carmody Hill Group Cedar Lane Women	176	Foggy Bottom	110	Lanham-Seabrook Last Chance
60	Change of Life Cheltenham	95	Foglifiers	900	Laurel Recovery
100	Chestnut Lodge Outreach	313	Forestville Primary Purpose	420	Leisure World Noon
969	Chevy Chase Group Chinatown Big Book Chinatown Men's	60	14 Promises Fourth Dimension Free Spirits	420	Leisure World Big Book Let Go Let God
90	Clarksburg AA	221	Friday Night Fun Too Friday Night Big Book	90	Life Is Good Life Saver/Big Book
230	Cleveland Park Clinton 45 Plus Clinton Day		Friendly Bunch Friendship	100	Little House
180	Clinton 6:30 Clinton Sunday Night	420	Gaithersburg Beginners Gateway	56	Lit Womxn
160	Coffee & Donuts Colesville Sunday Nite	285	Gateway/Wednesday Gay 18 New Castle	20	Living Sober by the Book Living Sober Unity Place
312	College Park	346	Gay Group	85	May Day Meance to Serenity
3023	Cosmopolitan	900	Georgetown	1118	Men of Dupont
		480	Glenarden	174	Men In Recovery Men's BS Session
		1096	Glen Echo	20	Merry Miracles
				827	Messengers

315	Mideast	2364	P Street	124	Steps To Sobriety
3267	Midtown	120	Palisades Mon. Nite		Step II Group
183	Misery is Optional	160	Petworth	180	Sunday Men's Step
40	Mitchellville		Phoenix Group/DC	2868	Sunday Morning Breakfast
350	Monday Winners		Pool'ville Pot Luck	175	Sunday Morning Joy
144	Mo.Co. Women	600	Potomac (Step/Tradition)	30	Sun. Morning Reflections-UP
308	Monday Nite Women	950	Potomac Eye Openers	1080	Sunrise Sobriety
927	More Peace of Mind	100	Potomac Village	651	Sunshine, G'burg
59	Montrose Gay	746	Primary Purpose Gay	150	Sursum Corda
143	Moving into the Solution	720	Progress Not Perfection	165	Survivor's
	Mt. Rainer	419	Promises Promises	260	Takoma Park Necessity
	Nativity	90	Prospect		Takoma Rush Hour
137	Navy Yard Nooners	269	Queer Women	100	Tenley Circle
346	Neelsville Beginner		Quince Orchard		The Away Group
243	New Hope	1402	Radicals		There is a Solution
	N.E. New Hope		Read & Speak	74	TGIF
380	NE Sunrise	120	Riderwood Bills	50	Thurs. Morn. Reset
131	Never Too Late		Room with a View	97	Triangle Club
	Never Walk Alone		Sat.Afternoon/2PM/UP		Twelve Point Bucks
929	New Avenue	60	Sat Morn Fire Barrel		Unity Noon
600	New Beginnings NW	175	Saturday Morning Steps	282	Unlovely Creatures
84	New Beginnings/Pool'ville	645	Saturday Night Happy Hour		Upper Marlboro Big Book
300	New Beginners SW		Saturday Night Special		Upper Marlboro Step
99	New Stomping Ground	360	Scaggsville	347	Uptown
120	New Unity Gay		Second Chance	71	User Friendly
140	No Exclusion	30	Serendipity		Victory Lights
	No Hard Terms	120	Serenity House		Vision for You
160	Norbeck Women Fri	878	Serenity	114	Waters Landing
388	Norbeck Women Wed		Shepherders	1180	We Care
	Norbeck Step	275	Silence is Golden	101	Wednesday Nite Winners
239	NW Metro	67	Silver Spring Beginners BB		Welcome Group
277	Nuts & Bolts	2570	Silver Spring	50	West Side Men
20	Oasis Women's BB		Silver Spring Women	150	Westside Women
5	Old Fashion	200	Simplicity	522	What's Happening Now
138	Olney Farm		Simply Sober	50	When All Else Fails
350	On the Circle	220	Singleness of Purpose		White Oak Steps &Traditions
120	On the Move	1253	Six & Seventh Step	168	Women's Lit (180 Club)
	One Day at a Time	115	Soapstone	1423	Yacht Club
	One Day at a Time/R'ville		Sober & Alive	200	Yeas & Nays
	One Day at a Time/	150	Spiritual Hilltop		
G'burg	One Day at a Time/	100	Sobriety Sister		
	One Day at a Time/	564	Southern Sobriety	609	Birthday
Lanham	One Day at a Time/	2075	Spiritual Awakening	319	Faithful Fivers
180	One Hour Back	98	St, Barnabas Womens wrap	59,800	Individuals
464	180 Group		St. Camillus	200	Memorial
680	Open Arms		St. Mary's Gay		
54	Out Of the Woods		St. Francis		
200	Path to Healing		Starting Over (SS)		
			Starting Over Gaithersburg		

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<https://aa-dc.org/new-reporter>

To receive an email with the link each month, sign up using this form :
<http://eepurl.com/U30BT> or email **newreporter@aa-dc.org**



Have a story about your recovery in AA? Tell us your stories about how you're saying sober in these difficult times.

Why not share it with all of us? If you'd like to contribute to the *New Reporter*, please send in your material to:

newreporter@aa-dc.org



Day

Years

January 3	Lauren	New Hope 123	2 Years
January 24	Maria F.	New Hope 123	28 Years
January 24	Joe J.	Fremont, NC	44 Years

THINGS WE CANNOT CHANGE

Anniversaries should be called into WAIA (202) 966-9783 as early as possible, by the 1st of the preceding month at the latest.

The **NEW REPORTER** is a monthly publication of the W.A.I.A., Inc., 4530 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20008. Printed Subscriptions are \$15.00 per year and Digital Subscriptions are **FREE**. Articles and event information are encouraged from members of the Fellowship and its friends.

VOLUNTEER

**Guess who it really Helps?
Call 202-966-9783**

Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Washington Area Intergroup Association or A.A. as a whole.

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JANUARY 2021