

**DISTRICT 11 – AA's PRIMARY PURPOSE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC  
VIRTUAL MEETING AGENDA**

**Thursday, April 2, 2020 – 7:29pm**

**(Switched from Microsoft Team over to Zoom)**

**OPENING:**

- **Quiet time followed by the Serenity Prayer**

*Not voting tonight - this meeting is for information sharing only (for GSRs to take back to their home groups)*

**WELCOME / ROLL CALL:**

- **CLARIFICATION:** This meeting is **NOT** our monthly business meeting; our group conscience voted to cancel April's business meeting and resume with the regular schedule in May.
- These are unprecedented times due to Governor Pritzker's Executive Order to "stay at home" during the Coronavirus pandemic. Our "new normal" has required us to be creative to meet our needs, especially our AA programs. Our Primary Purpose is to stay sober and to help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. Today's meeting is focused first on discussing how to follow AA's 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition while we're homebound during this pandemic. Also on the docket are suggestions to help us and our fellows with our AA programs by sharing the message, tools, meetings and updates with all alcoholics.
- **Who is on this call?**

*Linda W. James P. Pat M. Keith, Georgene, Marlenna, Holly G. Mike M. Kristen, Sean T. Lisa B. Joan, Kate D. Tim, Carrie W. Scott, Kevin K. Dennis P. Earl H. Kenneth, Harry G. Ryan E.*

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**§ 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition for Online Meetings - "Every AA group should be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."**

- Your 7<sup>th</sup> Step Contributions: AA's 7th Tradition Fact Sheet
- GSRs should discuss how to best follow AA's 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition via **group conscience** with their home groups in this new era of virtual meetings
- Here's an article from AA's Box 4-5-9 that shares a member's experience with "Passing the (Digital) Basket on page 3 AA Box 4-5-9 Passing the Digital Basket p 3 Holiday 2017

- Options for electronic 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition collection

- § PayPal - Setting Up a PayPal Account, Sending Money Using PayPal

- § Venmo – How Venmo Works How Venmo Works

- § Credit Cards

- § Cash App

- \*The choice is ultimately up to the group*

*Links provided in email sent out by Kate*

- *Groups can still send checks as usual if they'd like..*
- *Information on payment options can be sent out (CashApp, too)*
- *Sean: district website will lead to GSO website for guidance on the 7th tradition suggestions. Variety of apps available.*
- *Holly: donations received from Old Timer's Brunch*
  - *Treasurer Report will be sent out with current balances*

**§ Access to virtual / online / phone AA meetings in District 11**

- District 11 Online Meetings

- (Only has what we have been told about.)*

- Submit a new remote meeting to D11 website

- Chicago Online Meetings

- AA Intergroup Online Meetings - Global

**§ Sharing **free** tools to use during this stay-at-home directive**

- Free access to 2020 Grapevines
- Free access to Hazelden Betty Ford meditation books - limited time
- Free access to AA Speaker talks

**§ AA in the Community**

- McHenry County Jail – meetings cancelled in early March until further notice

- Steve: Considering ideas of involving the answering service/volunteers for people being released from jail and bringing them to meetings. If you have any reach out to Steve.*

**§ CANCELLED EVENTS DUE TO COVID-19:**

- April 4<sup>th</sup> Pre-General Service Conference Workshop is POSTPONED; when we get a new date, we will share it
- April 19-25 General Service Conference in New York is CANCELLED; new dates not yet known
- April 26<sup>th</sup> 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Luncheon in Rosemont is CANCELLED

- **2020 AA International Convention July 2-5 in Detroit is CANCELLED; 2025 Convention will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, CANADA 2020 AA International Convention Cancellation FAQs 2020 Convention Cancellation Process**
    - *May 9<sup>th</sup> Soberfest FUNdraiser*
- POSTPONED; when we get a new date, we will share it*

**§ Checking in with each other – I know I’m not the only one who tends to isolate during this homestay period. PLEASE reach out to each other. Use those phone lists from your meetings. You may just save someone’s life.**

**OPEN MIC:**

**Ask questions and share important information. 2-minute limit.**

- *Keith: Regarding “Saving a Life”, any word on the status of the answering service committee getting information to the answering service company*
  - *Scott: There is a list of volunteers and standby people, decision was made for the answering service to direct all callers to a volunteer (due to the lack of in-person meetings). The answering service has not been provided the online meeting information. Answering service committee will meet before the next district meeting, all are welcome to discuss a plan of action.*

**INVITATION TO DISTRICT 11’s BUSINESS MEETING:**

**Please join us on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.**

**If the stay home directive is lifted, we will meet in person at First United Methodist Church, 201 West South Street, Woodstock, IL.**

**If we are still on home confinement, we will send out a virtual meeting invitation and post it on the D11 website.**

*Kate: Do we think it would be beneficial to reschedule April’s district meeting? So we can have a meeting prior to May 7.*

*-General consensus is that we do not need an April meeting.*

*Sean: Regarding people crashing Zoom meetings (safety information on district website). Some meetings have experienced vulgar language and material, and other disruptions. There are ways to turn off some features to help with these unexpected interruptions.*

**CLOSE WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT:**

**I am responsible.**

**When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,**

**I want the hand of AA always to be there.**

**And for that, I AM RESPONSIBLE.**