

# Reopening our Meetings: Resources to Support Discussion

## *Using the 12 Traditions as Our Guide*

*Each AA member and AA group may consider reopening differently. This document provides some resources to help us think about reopening after the quarantine. For additional resources, see the Area 30 website at: <https://aaemass.org/area30/>.*

### **An Informed A.A. Group Conscience**

The group conscience is the collective conscience of the group membership and thus represents substantial unanimity on an issue before definitive action is taken. This is achieved by the group members through the sharing of full information, individual points of view, and the practice of A.A. principles. To be fully informed requires a willingness to listen to minority opinions with an open mind. On sensitive issues, the group works slowly — discouraging formal motions until a clear sense of its collective view emerges. Placing principles before 29 personalities, the membership is wary of dominant opinions. Its voice is heard when a well-informed group arrives at a decision. The result rests on more than a “yes” or “no” count — precisely because it is the spiritual expression of the group conscience. The term “informed group conscience” implies that pertinent information has been studied and all views have been heard before the group votes (Source: The AA Group [https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/p-16\\_theaagroup.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-16_theaagroup.pdf)).

### **Safety and Our Common Welfare**

Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward. —Tradition One (Long Form) It is hoped that our common suffering as alcoholics and our common solution in A.A. will transcend most issues and curtail negative behaviors that could jeopardize the safety of anyone attending an A.A. meeting. Nevertheless, Alcoholics Anonymous is a microcosm of the larger society we exist in. As such, problems found in the outside world can also make their way into the rooms of A.A. For this reason, groups and members discuss the topic of safety — to raise awareness in the Fellowship and to seek through sponsorship, workshops and meetings, to create as safe an environment as possible to carry A.A.’s message of hope and recovery to the still-suffering alcoholic (source: Safety Card for AA Groups [https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/f-211\\_SafetyCardforAAGroups.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-211_SafetyCardforAAGroups.pdf)).

### **The Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous (Short Form)**

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.
4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
6. 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.
7. Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
9. A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

*Copyright© 1952, 1953, 1981 by A.A. Grapevine, Inc. and Alcoholics Anonymous Publishing*

## AA Resources

- Area 30 (Eastern Mass) website: <https://aaemass.org/area30/>
- Area 48 guidance on reopening: <https://aahmbny.org/reopening-ad-hoc-committee-report/>
- Baltimore Intergroup of AA guidance on reopening: <https://baltimoreaa.org/announcementspage/>
- GSO: 12 Traditions Checklist: [https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_us/smf-131\\_en.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_us/smf-131_en.pdf)
- GSO: The AA Group [https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/p-16\\_theaagroup.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-16_theaagroup.pdf)
- GSO: Safety in AA [https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_us/smf-209\\_en.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_us/smf-209_en.pdf)
- GSO: Safety Card [https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/f-211\\_SafetyCardforAAGroups.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-211_SafetyCardforAAGroups.pdf)
- GSO: COVID Guidance [https://www.aa.org/pages/en\\_US/update-on-covid-19-coronavirus](https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/update-on-covid-19-coronavirus)
- Grapevine: <https://www.aagrapevine.org>
- Practicing the 7th Tradition in a Virtual Environment - [https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/SMF-223-FAQonVirtualBasket\\_en.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/SMF-223-FAQonVirtualBasket_en.pdf)

## Non-AA Resources (to be helpful only—does not imply endorsement or affiliation)

- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- CDC: Contact Tracing <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/open-america/contact-tracing.html>
- Mass.gov—<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information>
- Digital Contributions—How to set them up:
  - PayPal: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wIAo43FEj-I>
  - Square: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqnKxrMo\\_uQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqnKxrMo_uQ)
  - Stripe: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxJB0QPtcnk>
  - DonorBox: <https://donorbox.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360020293192-How-To-Create-a-Donorbox-Org-Account>

*Area 30 would like to thank the following for allowing us to leverage their experience, strength, and hope into this overall document: Area 30 Districts 15/16, Area 48 ad hoc committee, and the Area 30 Delegate.*

