

Area 25  
Kansas



Vol 60 / Issue 17

grape free press

Spring 2020

# SPRING AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS CANCELED

## WHAT'S INSIDE?

- ▶ Committee Reports
- ▶ Events
- ▶ Birthdays
- ▶ Announcements

How Service Work Has Impacted My Recovery



# COVID-19

Announcements from GSO

Visit [aa.org](http://aa.org) for the most up-to-date information.



[www.ks-aa.org](http://www.ks-aa.org)

## the twelve steps of alcoholics anonymous

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

## the twelve traditions of alcoholics anonymous

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.

# contents

Contact .....	1
Events .....	2
Announcements.....	2
Kansas Area 25 State Conference Flyer .....	3-4
Area Committee Reports.....	5-16
Delegate .....	5-7
Area Chair.....	8
Alternate Delegate .....	8
Alternate Area Chair .....	9
Accessibilities.....	10
Al-anon Liaison .....	10
Chronicler .....	11
CPC.....	11
Corrections.....	12
Grape Free Press .....	13
Grapevine .....	13
Public Information .....	14
Web Chair.....	14
Literature .....	15
Treatment.....	16
How Service Work Has Impacted My Sobriety.....	17
Birthdays.....	18
2020 International Convention Cancellation Announcement .....	19
A.A. Groups Using Digital Platforms to Find Sobriety During Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak .....	21

# contacts

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**Alt. Chair** Bridget B. – [altchairperson@ks-aa.org](mailto:altchairperson@ks-aa.org)

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**Treatment** Susie H. – [treatment@ks-aa.org](mailto:treatment@ks-aa.org)

**Webchair** Sarah D. – [webchair@ks-aa.org](mailto:webchair@ks-aa.org)

# events

Due to the current situation, GFP will not be sharing information on events for the current quarter.

EVENT	WHEN	WHERE
<b>International Convention</b>	<b>CANCELED</b>	Detroit, MI
<b>Kansas Area 25 Assembly</b>	July 17-19	Hilton Garden Salina, KS
<b>Kansas Area 25 State Conference</b>	September 18-20	Hyatt Regency Wichita, KS

# announcements

For online meeting schedules and the most up-to-date information please visit [ks-aa.org](http://ks-aa.org)

63<sup>rd</sup> Annual

KANSAS AREA 25 STATE CONFERENCE  
"A CLEAR VISION FOR YOU"

18-20

SEPTEMBER

2020

at the

HYATT REGENCY

400 W Waterman St • Wichita, KS 67202

(316) 293-1234

\* GROUP CODE FOR RESERVATION: A25

FEATURED SPEAKERS: TBA

FRI.  
18<sup>TH</sup>  
SEP.

## ACTIVITIES:

- GUEST SPEAKERS

SAT.  
19<sup>TH</sup>  
SEP.

- MARATHON MEETINGS

SUN.  
20<sup>TH</sup>  
SEP.

- WORKSHOPS

- HOSPITALITY ROOM

## QUESTIONS:

2020 Conference Chair: Remi K. – 913-278-9981

2020 Co-Chair: Michelle R. – 913-530-6740

2020 Registration Chair: Mike C. – 620-640-5877

Detach and Mail To:

**KANSAS AREA ASSEMBLY**

P.O. Box 1543 • Garden City, KS 67846

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**BADGE INFORMATION:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Group: \_\_\_\_\_

District Number: \_\_\_\_\_

AA    AI-Anon    Alateen    Other

**BADGE INFORMATION:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Group: \_\_\_\_\_

District Number: \_\_\_\_\_

AA    AI-Anon    Alateen    Other

**PRE-REGISTRATION:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Pre-Registration – \$20<sup>00</sup> (\$25<sup>00</sup> *The Door*)

*All Pre-Registrations Must Be Received*

*By September 9, 2020.*

*After September 9, 2020 Registration Will Be \$25<sup>00</sup>.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Alateen Pre-Registration – \$10<sup>00</sup>

I Want To Fund A Scholarship

*(For Those Unable To Afford The Cost Of Admission)*

I Want To Volunteer (We Will Contact You)

Scholarship Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(Make Checks Payable To Kansas Area Assembly)*

I Have Special Needs

# area committee reports

## delegate

---

I have been assigned to the Literature Committee as well as Archives as a secondary Committee and am looking forward to serving as your Delegate for the next two years.

Our General Manager, Greg T. released an announcement in December of 2019 regarding the New Communication Service Department that will serve as an internal agency supporting General Service Office, AA World Services, AA Grapevine and the General Service Board.

Clement C. will assume the position of Director of Communications Services. Some of you may remember Clement. He spoke at our 2015 State Conference.

The purpose of this department is to produce and distribute the majority of formal communications inside and outside of the General Service Office, Grapevine, and the Corporate Boards.

### Upcoming Events

The 2020 General Service Conference is **April 19-25 (canceled)** in Rye Brook, NY

The 2020 AA International Convention is **July 2-5 (canceled)** in Detroit, MI. .

Our Southwest Regional Trustee, Jimmy Dean asked the Southwest Regional Delegates if we would be willing to host the Hospitality Room at the International Convention July 2020 as a show of **support, service and solidarity** and the Delegates agreed. Jimmy is asking for volunteers to help in the Hospitality Room and if the 11 Areas in the Southwest Region would contribute to seed money needed.

Area 25 hosted the Hospitality Room at the International Convention in Minneapolis 2000. The Area 25 held a raffle to raise funds. In January 2000 the Assembly approved \$500.00 to be given to the hospitality room at the International Convention for seed money.

At the 2005 International Convention in Toronto, Area 25 worked together with Areas in Southwest Region to Host the Hospitality room. In July 2004 Area 25 approved \$200.00 for seed money.

I will be sending around a sign-up sheet for members in Area 25 that are attending the 2020 International Conference. Please sign-up to help work in the Hospitality Room. Your service would be greatly appreciated.



## In AA World Service & General Service Office

Our General Service Office continues to give the implementation of the new ERP system **top priority**.

Our 6-digit Group Service Numbers have not disappeared as part of the system transition HOWEVER the NetSuite system has new 9-digit group IDs which were assigned to all registered AA groups. This new number is linked to the old 6-digit service ID. General Service Office is asking that our Area / Districts / Groups begin using the 9 digit numbers as soon as possible to assist in this transition. Dennis G., Area 25 Registrar or I will provide you the new group numbers as soon as they are available to us.

The Records Department has worked tirelessly to catch up on shipments of GSR and DCM kits. Our AA World Service accounting staff has employed several part-time people to process contributions so that **acknowledgments** will be generated to groups and members. Please be patient with them as they get caught up during this system transition.

They are still discussing whether to put the "Meeting Finder" on the new website (which will come out early this year). Intergroup and Central Offices have provided input via a focus group and question whether this is a service that should be provided by General Service Office, as the Meeting Finder draws on local websites.

In Corrections there is a new service piece on Bridging the Gap / Temporary Contact has been developed **and** eBlasted to

Corrections trusted servants in the US/ Canada structure.

They have also been discussing a paperless library in Correction Facilities and I believe Missouri is testing this.

Accessibilities has coordinated with Public Information (PI) on our announcement of the new American Sign Language (ASL) translation of the Big Book and its ASL Press Release which is on the [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) website. The Big Book, 12&12, and Living Sober should be available in audio/streaming download in January, 2020. The 12&12 will be available in ASL in early 2020.

**Literature** has numerous Agenda items they are working on which includes:

- The review of recovery literature.
- New as well as current pamphlet updates.
- They are reviewing a draft video of the updated version of "Your General Service Office, The Grapevine and the General Service Structure".

**Under Finance** I would like to note that if you have the capability to do your contributions online, this greatly reduces the "human cost" involved in the transaction as it is the contributor who is keying the data, not General Service Office employees.

I can't cover everything with you today, but look forward to providing you more information in upcoming Delegate Reports.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service!

**Sheri P., P70/A25 Delegate**

# area committee reports

## delegate update

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### **Greetings Area 25 Members,**

I received an email from the General Service Office General Manager Greg T. on 3-20-2020 which outlined the following updates:

- New York State shut down 100% of operations of “nonessential” businesses / organizations on 3-20-2020.
- The General Service Office will be closed for business for an “as-yet-undermined” period of time.
- The GSO has in place a contingency and business continuity plan, which includes 90% of their employee’s teleworking, but there is no support staff in the office located at 475 Riverside Drive.
- They continue to conduct business, and the planning of the General Service Conference. If you must reach someone at the GSO using email may be the best course of action.

I will continue to send you updates as they are made available to me. If you have questions or need further assistance please let me know.

Let us continue to work together to provide our members with the tools we need to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. Thank you for your service!

*In Love and Service,*

**Sheri P., P70/A25 Delegate**

## area chair

---

Before I get into the business of the Area 25, please know I am praying for everyone's health and safety. These certainly are trying times and we must all come together and trust that our Higher Power will get us through this.

Amidst all of the current events, AA is still thriving in Area 25. Even though our Committee Meetings have been canceled, our Delegate Sheri is working diligently on getting information out to the specific Chairs to obtain feedback for the Virtual GSO Conference in lieu of the Mock Conference we would have had at the Committee Meetings.

As pertaining to the July Area Assembly, let's hope that this crisis will be under control and life will be back to some sense of normality. At the Assembly, we will have a modified version to include the business portion of the Committee Meeting to ensure we get any new business addressed.

Please, everyone be safe and stay healthy so when we all get through this, Area 25 will emerge stronger and with a higher resolve to continue to be of service to our members.

*In Love and Service,*

**Darin H.**

## alternate delegate

---

- Will be attending SWRDA (Southwest Regional Delegates Assembly) in Oklahoma City in March.
- Will be available to help our Delegate with the report after the conference and for any other service requests from districts and groups, just ask.

*In Love and Service,*

**Jon R.**

# area committee reports

## alternate area chair

---

Greetings Area 25! I hope we are all looking forward to getting some warmer weather soon.

A couple of updates and reminders for those of you who attended the Area Assembly in January and for those of you who weren't able to make it.

We met with our contract with the Hilton Garden Inn about the contracts for this year and briefly discussed what they would look like for next year. There is a chance our room rental rate could go up significantly for next year. We will make every attempt to stay at the Hilton but will also be proactively looking for locations for both our Assemblies and Committee meeting location for 2021.

For the remaining meetings at the Hilton in 2020 remember our room rate is \$112 a night. You are always free to stay at another location but in order to make sure you get this rate you have to reserve your room before the cutoff dates listed below. I have also listed the block code they provided but I had difficulty with it on the website when I made my reservations so I just called the Hilton directly and they were able to find it when I told them I was with Kansas Area 25.

April Committee Meeting – block code KAA04 and reservations need to be made by March 3, 2020 (**anceled**).

July Assembly Meeting – block code KAA07 and reservations need to be made no later than June 17, 2020.

October Committee Meeting – block code KAA10 and reservations need to be made no later than September 18, 2020.

Thank you for letting me be of service

*In Love and Service,*

**Bridget B.**

## accessibilities

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We had 9 People in attendance from 6 Districts.

We discussed what all the Area has done in the past 2 years for Accessibilites and the impact on the area. Spent time discussing the ASL meeting for the Deaf Community in District 10. Discussed hearing issues in other meetings in District 19. Recommendations were made to have people to stand to share to project voice, or to use a microphone. One Member discussed using Skype Closed Captioning for Meetings. We also talked about meetings for the home bound. Hope at Home meetings were disbursed. Discussions and questions brought up for Closed Captioning at State Conference.

*In Love and Service,*

**Ben S.**

## al-anon liaison

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The 48th Annual Kansas Al-Anon/Alateen Conference will be held June 12-14, 2020. Please mark your calendars and join us. The venue is the Best Western Wichita North at 53rd North and I-135 in Park City, Kansas.

*In Love and Service,*

**Baylee S.**

# area committee reports

## chronicler

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We had 8 in attendance at the meeting. Five different districts were represented, and they provided updates on their activities. We talked about the duties of the chronicler. What's the difference between a chronicler and an archivist? There was discussion about the group history form and whether a simpler form should be available. We will investigate having a fillable PDF available on the Area website.

In the next several months will be focused on reaching out to DCM's to get group histories for groups that we don't have. I appreciate the opportunity to learn.

*In Love and Service,*

**Heather G.**

## cpc

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- 10 people in attendance from 7 districts: 4, 8, 10, 18, 19, 27 & 30.
- Reported on an Email from GSO surveying areas about starting a conference CPC convention in the near future and would Kansas be interested in hosting.
- Packets for Professionals and Health Care Profession have been assembled, some have been passed out and could be duplicated by groups and districts.
- Digital media platforms such as AA LinkedIn and Youtube are available for short video or PSA dissemination.

*In Love and Service,*

**Jody H.**

## corrections

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- We had 21 people from several districts represented today.
- Discussed the creation of a database of individuals who are certified to take meetings into institutions as we need more people to service the more rural areas of the state.
- District 8 will be the host for this year's Correction Conference. It will be held at Calvary Lutheran Church in Topeka, March 28, 2020 (canceled) from 9AM to 3PM. Lunch will be provided please remember the 7th Tradition as you attend.
- A request for recycled Grapevines to be collected and distributed to those behind the walls was made and the committee will encourage groups to bring them to the committee and assembly meetings.
- The committee will attempt to coordinate information on meetings and contacts for those who are transitioning out of facilities throughout the area. Please let your District committee or the Area Committee if you can assist us in this effort.
- Our yellow can treasurer announced that we spent \$8,000 more on literature than last year, and our balance is \$6,000.

*In Love and Service,*

**Michelle D.**



# area committee reports

## grape free press

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- 4 attendees from 4 different districts.
- Needing submissions for birthdays, memoriams, events, etc.
- Also requested to continue to send in photos of meeting halls. Be sure to include the group and location when submitting. All submissions need to be sent to [gfp@ks-aa.org](mailto:gfp@ks-aa.org)
- Adding an article on the topic of "How Service Work Has Impacted My Recovery". Please submit articles to [gfp@ks-aa.org](mailto:gfp@ks-aa.org).
- Hard copies will continue to be dispersed at Area Assembly/Committee Meetings. Currently bringing 100 copies.
- The digital version will continue to be posted online at [ks-aa.org](http://ks-aa.org)

*In Love and Service,*

**Amanda G.**

## grapevine

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- 7 members representing 6 districts were in attendance.
- One group in Topeka has a Grapevine Meeting known as Language of the Heart.
- We encourage everyone to participate in submitting articles, and stories to Grapevine. Don't forget pictures and jokes as allowed.
- The Grapevine now has a youtube channel, audio books and downloads. Also check out how Kansas is faring in the Subscription Challenge.
- Our Grapevine Chair is available for workshops and Grape-a-thon events hosted by the fellowship. Let her know when your event is planned.
- We regret that the Grape-a-thon planned for Feb 1st in Lawrence was postponed and will be rescheduled. Watch for their announcement.

*In Love and Service,*

**Patty G.**

## public information

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- There were 14 people in attendance, from 6 districts.
- Questions on how to get literature to the people not court ordered:
- A flyer was mentioned as a tool used by one of the groups
- Lisa from district 23 stated she has written letters to the high school and received no response.
- Discussion of PSA on radio stations. District 19 has a message on Wichita City Buses.

*In Love and Service,*

**Sonia F.**

## web chair

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- Attendance: 10
- Discussed contracting of 3rd party Web Service provider.
- Discuss cloud-based Web hosting to improve performance.
- Brett B. to coordinate Meeting Guide activity with DCMs
- Google Shared Drives are to assist Committee and officers with Document Library, simplified sharing, and storage. Need to set guidelines, procedures and training.
- Mail Chimp: the database of emails will be cleaned. A Mailchimp will be sent out asking subscribers if they wish to continue to be on the list.
- Working closely to optimize the Spanish Language Search on the site.

*In Love and Service,*

**Sarah D.**

# area committee reports

## literature

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7 Districts participated 14 total members, Sue P District 19 kept notes, Terry past Area 25 Literature helped us out with his experience as past Literature Chair sharing what the 6 pieces of Literature they recommend groups give newcomers in no particular order:

1. Information on Alcoholics Anonymous (For Anyone New Coming to A.A.)  
(For Anyone Referring People to A. A.)
2. The A.A. Group...where it begins
3. A Brief Guide to A.A.
4. A Newcomer Asks
5. Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.
6. This is A.A. an introduction to the A.A. Recovery Program.

### **Ways Literature Carries the Message**

Each person talked about what their Group gives newcomers: Rhonda District 6 said they give a meeting schedule & Contact phone numbers as well as literature. Brian talked about in Manhattan his group gives a chip/ coin and a hug making sure they know their welcome. Big Books available to purchase. MarkGSR Riley Group shared what they do. Charlie talked about taking Literature to jails especially "It Beats Setting in a Cell". All Groups had Big Books Available. Justin In Pratt talked about meeting schedules and names and phone numbers given to new comers along with newcomers packets. Sue in District 19 talked about a literature Display board featuring a pamphlet of the month they make up for the Groups.

Many good ideas were shared and we closed with how "Literature has and can carry the message.." "Lone Endeavor" about a man who got a pre-publication multilith copy of the big book in California (far west) Without meeting another member he took the steps got sober an began working with other alcoholics. Literature had carried the message.

*In Love and Service,*

**Geno R.**

# treatment

---

It was nice meeting everyone at the Area Assembly in January and I would like to thank the 6 districts for attending the Treatment Break Out session.

Each district reported on the progress they were making with bringing meetings into treatment centers in their districts and the relationship they have with the administrators of the treatment centers. The majority of the treatment centers are supportive of Alcoholics Anonymous meetings in their facilities

One district has developed a separate contact list for men and women to help with their integration into the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. They also have a treatment committee which works with groups in the district to continue bringing meetings into the facilities.

There was a district that reported having difficulty contacting the treatment facility's administrator so that they could work out a schedule for bringing in meetings.

I shared with the group 2 videos that GSO sent me which are approximately 15 minutes long. One is "Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous" which explains what AA is and is not. The other video is "Young People's Videos". Both of these videos can be downloaded from the AA website.

Literature is always part of the discussion. Which pamphlets would attract the patients into Alcoholics Anonymous? I am currently reading pamphlets and working on a pamphlet packet that patients could take if they so desire. I can also find out what the cost would be for the literature if the districts desire to bring pamphlet packets into their treatment facilities.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at: [treatment@ks-aa.org](mailto:treatment@ks-aa.org).

Thank you for letting me be of service.

*In Love and Service,*

**Susie H.**

# how service work has impacted my sobriety

The reason I came into Alcoholics Anonymous was not unique...to get the heat off. I found myself suddenly facing some serious legal consequences as a direct result of my drinking. I walked into a noon meeting at a group in Dallas, Texas. A woman approached me after the meeting and told me to call her. We started on the steps right away. She had me reading the book, going to meetings, calling her and other women. I remember calling one day in tears (I'm sure it was something earth shattering). She had a solution to my problem. "The meeting starts in an hour so go ahead and go to the group and greet people at the door". I told her my eyes were puffy from crying. Thank God she didn't care. Thank God she knew the solution is service.

I did what she told me to because I was scared to. In an hour, my entire perception had changed. My first, and very simple, introduction to service work. My sponsor and I would drive together every Saturday to a court ordered treatment center an hour south of Dallas. We met for breakfast, made the drive, took a meeting, stayed afterwards to visit with the women, drove back and had dinner. We did that every Saturday for a year. I stayed very busy my first two years of sobriety doing a lot of service work. I am so grateful that early on I was taught that no matter what my problem, the solution is to always get outside of myself.

The service opportunities in Alcoholics Anonymous saved my life. I had a sponsor who was showing me how it saved her life too. She didn't explain to me how important it was to make coffee, stack chairs, lead meetings, hold district and area positions...she showed me. I followed her lead. Service work keeps me accountable to the program, I make new friends from all over the region, I appreciate the work that goes on behind the scenes. When I was new I guess I thought the rent just paid itself and the coffee magically appeared. I had no idea how important business meetings, district meetings and area assembly were in order to carry the message.

What I appreciate most about service is that I will never stop learning. Sometimes when it comes to service I feel like a newcomer. I'm still learning and still willing. And as long as I can stay in that space I feel I have a pretty good chance of staying sober and helping the next alcoholic who walks in the door. That is a gift I didn't even realize I wanted.

*Michelle D.*

*Overland Park, KS*

N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
 TOYS 67890  
 Dec 28

FRIDAY FULL YR!  
 BIRTHM 30 YRS  
 Patty D 30  
 Karen R - 39  
 Johns - 1  
 JAKE 2 yr

BIRTHDAY NIGHT  
 FRIDAY JAN 31ST  
 Food @ 6 Meeting @ 7  
 Connor K. 7-14-19 - 6 months  
 Steve E. 1-20-81 39 yrs  
 Dasha C 1-8-18 2yrs  
 Cindy Lou 1-10-18 2yrs  
 Benda B 4-7-19 9mo  
 Jim S. 1-14-80 40 yrs  
 Chilton F. 1-27-87 33yrs  
 Trant 11-8-19 Bilyu 1-15-19  
 Dodi 12-14-19  
 Martino 10-9-19  
 KURT 11-6-19  
 Steve C. 11-19-19  
 Tiffany P. 4-1-19  
 Neal B. 8-1-19 - 6 months

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R  
 12345 67890  
 Noon Chair Lenayk Jan 25  
 Woody D 29 yrs  
 Ethgh 1  
 Anthony S. 1  
 John A. 22  
 John G 1  
 David H 25  
 JoT. 6  
 MATH 1  
 Lisa B 3

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
 12345 67890  
 Noon Chair Lenayk FEB 29  
 Jen 23?  
 193 yrs  
 Wayne 36  
 Ken M 21 Lisa  
 Lauren B 14 3yrs  
 SASHA 2  
 TANNIE 7  
 KYLE 40  
 PAT 47

# birthdays



**2020 International Convention, July 2-5, Detroit, Michigan, is Canceled  
Announcement by Michele Grinberg, Chair of the General Service Board of A.A.**

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the cancellation of the 2020 International Convention in Detroit, July 2-5.

We know that this is a disappointment to our Fellowship, as every five years we look forward to celebrating sobriety, the Alcoholics Anonymous program of hope and recovery, and meeting dear friends, old and new, from around the world.

Planning for the International Convention started in 2008 when Detroit was chosen to host the 2020 event. From the moment the city was selected, local leaders extended a warm welcome to A.A., and the event was representative of Detroit's own rebirth as a great convention city. The excitement shown by the A.A. community and the people of the greater Detroit area was seen throughout the 12-year planning process. We experienced a phenomenal response from local A.A. members ready to volunteer and welcome members from all over the world to the International Convention. The appreciation and welcome we received from the Detroit community, including their desire to share the city with the A.A. Fellowship, has been especially warm and overwhelming.

For many weeks, the General Service Board, directors, management team and planning partners for the International Convention have been monitoring the public health announcements in real time as daily life continues to change for every citizen across the globe.

This is not a decision that is taken lightly. However, because of our numerous concerns related to the health and safety of our attendees, especially if 50,000 of us were to gather in Detroit in early July, we are confident it is the correct decision at this time. It has become clear that proceeding with a Convention of this magnitude in Michigan at that time is an unacceptable safety risk because of the uncertainty of the disease spread and containment. These are unprecedented times, impacting travel possibilities and requiring restrictions on large mass gatherings. For all of us, the health and well-being of our community comes first.

Due to the size and scale of the International Convention, the necessary contracts and work which must be started now, as well as travel arrangements, hotel availability, and Michigan's Statewide shutdown creating more uncertainty and inability to move forward on convention production, we are called to make a decision now.

We want to share clearly that we have made this determination based on the facts available today and, most importantly, based on the sense of responsibility and genuine care we feel for all our attendees, as well as for the citizens of Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Canada.

We have thought long and hard in these past few weeks, consulting in depth with our planning partners, staff and the Detroit community before making this decision. Our theme "Love and Tolerance is our Code" has never felt truer, nor more important in these times of uncertainty. We remain grateful for your love and support. We look forward to a large and happy gathering of our Fellowship in Vancouver, British Columbia in 2025.

While the decision to cancel our International Convention is a difficult one, it is important to remember that Alcoholics Anonymous is not a place or an event; it exists in the hearts, minds and help freely offered. A.A. groups and members across the globe continue to focus on our primary purpose of carrying a message of hope and recovery; and with our shared code of love and tolerance, may we continue for so long as we are needed.

Sincerely,

Michele Grinberg

Chair, General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous



El amor y la tolerancia son nuestro Código • Love and Tolerance is Our Code • L'amour et la tolérance, voilà notre code

### Cancelada la Convención Internacional de 2020 2-5 de julio, Detroit, MI

#### Anuncio por Michele Grinberg, presidente de la Junta Oficina de Servicios Generales de A.A.

Es con gran pesar que anunciamos la cancelación de la Convención Internacional de 2020, los días 2-5 de julio en Detroit, MI.

Nos damos cuenta de que esto es un gran desencanto para nuestra Comunidad ya que cada cinco años esperamos con gran ilusión celebrar la sobriedad, el programa de recuperación de Alcohólicos Anónimos y la oportunidad de ver nuestros queridos amigos, nuevos y viejos, que provienen de todas partes del mundo.

Se inició la planificación para la Convención Internacional en 2008, año en que la ciudad de Detroit fue seccionada como anfitriona del evento. Desde el mismo momento en que se seleccionó la ciudad, los líderes locales nos han dado una calurosa bienvenida, y el evento se ha visto como una vívida representación del renacimiento de Detroit como una gran ciudad sede de convenciones. A todo lo largo del proceso de planificación, de doce años de duración, hemos visto claramente el entusiasmo de la Comunidad de A.A. y la gente del área metropolitana de Detroit. Tuvimos una tremenda reacción positiva de parte de los miembros de A.A. locales, listos para ofrecerse como voluntarios y acoger a los miembros venidos de todas partes de mundo a la Convención Internacional. El aprecio y calurosa acogida que la comunidad de Detroit nos ha dado y su deseo de compartir su ciudad con la Comunidad de A.A. nos han sido especialmente cariñosos y conmovedores.

Durante muchas semanas la Junta de Servicios Generales, los directores, el equipo administrativo y nuestro contratado organizador de eventos hemos seguido muy de cerca las advertencias más recientes de salud pública a medida que la vida diaria ha venido cambiado para cada persona en todas partes del mundo.

Esta decisión no se ha tomado a la ligera. No obstante, debido a nuestras numerosas inquietudes relacionadas con la salud y seguridad de los asistentes, especialmente si 50,000 miembros se reunieran en Detroit a principios de julio, creemos firmemente que hemos tomado la decisión correcta en este momento. Se ha puesto bien claro que celebrar una Convención de esta magnitud en Michigan en esas fechas generaría unos riesgos de seguridad inaceptables, debido a la incertidumbre relacionada con la propagación y contención de la enfermedad. Vivimos en un tiempo sin precedente, una situación que tiene impactos en las posibilidades de viajar y que hace necesario imponer restricciones en reuniones y concentraciones públicas de gran magnitud. Para todos nosotros, la salud y bienestar de nuestra comunidad tienen prioridad.

Al tener en consideración el tamaño y escala de la Convención Internacional, los contratos que supone y los trabajos que se tendrían que iniciar ahora, así como los preparativos de viaje, la disponibilidad de habitaciones de hotel y el cierre a nivel estatal del estado de Michigan, que crean cada vez más incertidumbre, y la imposibilidad de salir adelante con la producción relacionada con la convención, nos es necesario tomar una decisión sin demora.

Queremos explicarles con toda claridad que hemos tomado esta decisión basándonos en la información actual y los datos disponibles hoy y, de suma importancia, en el sentido de responsabilidad y la auténtica preocupación que sentimos por todos los asistentes y por los residentes de Detroit, Michigan y Windsor, Canadá.

Hemos pasado las pasadas tres semanas reflexionando larga y detenidamente sobre este asunto, consultando detalladamente con los contratados organizadores del evento, con el personal y la comunidad de Detroit antes de tomar esta decisión. Nuestro lema: "Amor y tolerancia son nuestro código" nunca nos ha parecido más acertada ni más importante que en este tiempo de incertidumbre. Seguimos sintiéndonos muy agradecidos por su amor y su apoyo. Quedamos a la espera de una gran y jubilosa reunión de nuestra Comunidad en Vancouver, Colombia Británica en 2025.

Si bien es difícilísimo cancelar nuestra Convención Internacional, es importante recordar que Alcohólicos Anónimos no es un sitio ni un evento; existe en los corazones y en las mentes y en la ayuda que se ofrece libremente. Los grupos de A.A. de todas partes del mundo siguen enfocándose en nuestro objetivo primordial de llevar un mensaje de esperanza y recuperación; y con nuestro código compartido de amor y tolerancia continuemos haciéndolo mientras se nos necesite.

Sinceramente,

Michele Grinberg

Presidenta, Junta de Servicios Generales de Alcohólicos Anónimos

## A.A. Groups Using Digital Platforms to Find Sobriety During Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak

### Virtual Meetings, Email, Phone, Social Media Allow Message of Recovery to Carry On — “ONE DAY AT A TIME”

**March 23, 2020**

**Contact: [pressinfo@aa.org](mailto:pressinfo@aa.org)**

A.A. Groups Using Digital Platforms to Find Sobriety During Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak The General Service Office (G.S.O.) of Alcoholics Anonymous for the U.S./Canada functions as a repository for A.A. members and groups who are looking for shared experience from the A.A. Fellowship. As the global situation related to Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to develop, G.S.O. is fully committed to its role as an important resource center to help navigate this unprecedented public health emergency.

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

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

A.A. groups and members are also creating contact lists, keeping in touch by phone, email or social media. Many local A.A. central/intergroup offices and area service structures 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, reminding its members and those searching for help that A.A. is not just a “place,” but exists in the hearts, minds and help offered.

For the most up to date meeting information, please visit “A.A. Near You” for local A.A. resources: [https://www.aa.org/pages/en\\_US/find-aa-resources](https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/find-aa-resources)

Anyone who may be seeking help with a drinking problem may visit [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) for information about A.A.

Options for meetings online: [https://www.aa.org/pages/en\\_US/options-for-meeting-online](https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/options-for-meeting-online)

For information on the A.A. Online Intergroup <https://www.aa-intergroup.org/>

Understanding Anonymity: [https://www.aa.org/pages/en\\_US/understanding-anonymity](https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/understanding-anonymity)

# Los grupos de A.A. utilizan plataformas digitales para encontrar la sobriedad durante el brote de coronavirus (COVID-19)

## Reuniones virtuales, email, teléfono, y las redes sociales les hacen posible seguir llevando el mensaje — “UN DÍA A LA VEZ”

**Marzo 23, 2020**

**Contactar: [pressinfo@aa.org](mailto:pressinfo@aa.org)**

La Oficina de Servicios Generales de Alcohólicos Anónimos (OSG) sirve de depósito de experiencia compartida para los miembros y grupos de A.A. que deseen aprovecharse de la experiencia compartida de la Comunidad. Según va evolucionado la situación global relacionada con el Coronavirus (COVID-19), estamos plenamente comprometidos a seguir funcionando como un centro de recursos y experiencia compartida para ayudarles a navegar esta emergencia de salud pública sin precedente.

Es importante recalcar que la OSG no es un organismo rector con autoridad de promulgar reglas o directrices, ya que cada grupo y entidad de A.A. es autónomo y llega a tomar sus decisiones por medio de su conciencia de grupo. La orientación sobre asuntos de salud queda fuera del ámbito de lo que puede ofrecer la OSG de A.A. A quienes tengan dudas o inquietudes relacionadas con la salud y seguridad les sugerimos que se pongan en contacto con las autoridades sanitarias a nivel nacional, estatal, provincial o local para obtener la información deseada.

No obstante en cuanto al brote global disponemos de cierta experiencia general que podemos compartir en relación con la manera en que algunos grupos y miembros están empezando a hacer frente al problema. Muchos grupos están siguiendo las directrices referentes al “distanciamiento social” establecidas por los oficiales locales, estatales, provinciales y federales y al mismo tiempo manteniéndose enfocados en la recuperación y facilitando reuniones digitales.

Asistiendo a reuniones digitales, los grupos pueden mantenerse enfocados en nuestro objetivo primordial: llevar el mensaje al alcohólico que aún sufre. Muchos grupos han informado a las oficinas o los servicios de teléfono rojo locales si no se están reuniendo temporalmente en su acostumbrado local. Algunos grupos nos han dicho que están utilizando plataformas digitales como, por ejemplo, Zoom, Google Hangouts, o una conferencia telefónica.

Algunos grupos han creado listas de contacto, y se están manteniendo en contacto por teléfono o email o por las redes sociales. Muchas oficinas centrales e intergrupales locales y muchas áreas han añadido información a sus sitios web sobre cómo cambiar una reunión “en persona” a una reunión en línea.

A.A. en la era digital sin duda ha cobrado un nuevo significado en estos tiempos desafiantes recordando a los miembros y a los que busquen ayuda que A.A. no es meramente un lugar físico, sino que existe en los corazones y en las mentes y en la ayuda que se ofrece.

Para información actualizada sobre las reuniones, visite A.A. cerca de usted para recursos locales: [https://www.aa.org/pages/es\\_ES/find-aa-resources](https://www.aa.org/pages/es_ES/find-aa-resources)

Cualquier persona que busque ayuda para solucionar un problema con la bebida puede visitar [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) para obtener información acerca de A.A.

Opciones de reunirse en línea: [https://www.aa.org/pages/es\\_ES/options-for-meeting-online](https://www.aa.org/pages/es_ES/options-for-meeting-online)

Información acerca del Intergroupo en línea de A.A.: <https://www.aa-intergroup.org/>

Comprendiendo el anonimato [https://www.aa.org/assets/es\\_ES/sp-47\\_understandinganonymity.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/es_ES/sp-47_understandinganonymity.pdf)



[www.ks-aa.org](http://www.ks-aa.org)

