

Restarting/Reopening In-Person Meetings

(Considerations for an informed Group Conscience)

PROTECTING A.A. AS A WHOLE:

“Each group is autonomous,” we often recite when making group decisions. The second part of the 4th Tradition is just as important: *“except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.”* Tradition 1 tells us *“Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.”* **These traditions remind us that we must ensure that our group decisions do not negatively impact our fellow members or A.A. as a whole, and that we as individuals act in ways that ensure our common welfare.**

Traditions 1 and 4 are important, now more than ever. We have to consider the health and well-being of other A.A. members, as well as protect the positive reputation and goodwill of A.A. in the community.

**The Rochester Area Intergroup/Central Office
will be following these guidelines as regards information provided to the groups and members:**

1. At this time NY State does not yet have a timeline for when restrictions on public gatherings will be lifted. Until that happens, Rochester Area Intergroup (Central Office) will not be publishing or distributing any information on its website or through our phone volunteers regarding any "in-person" meetings or group activities.
2. Each group is autonomous and if they decide to start meeting again, before those restrictions have been lifted, that will be something that has to be decided by each group as to when, where and how.

***The next page offers some guidelines regarding the restarting or reopening of your Group’s meeting.
They are suggestions only, being offered as a tool to help us all navigate this challenge.***

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Categories	Items for considerations	Notes
Meeting Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When will the location allow the group to restart. • What criteria has the location established for allowing the group to restart and will additional supplies be necessary. • How many group members will be allowed to attend each meeting. • Will the group have access to the location's kitchen. • Will the group have access to the location's bathrooms. • Will the group be provided access to storage cabinets for books and coffee related items. • Will location opening and closing procedures be the same. • Will additional cleaning procedures and supplies be required. 	
Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What health suggestions and procedures will the group make and how and when will these suggestions be conveyed to the membership. • With limitations on attendance, can the group maintain its current schedule of meetings and meeting content. • If attendance is limited, how does the group determine who may attend. • Does the group continue with Zoom meetings after it reconvenes to provide for the membership not able to attend because of any limited attendance criteria and for members who cannot attend a live meeting, and does the group have the technical capability to provide these meetings on Zoom. • Does the group continue giving the membership the option of donating electronically. 	
Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the group continue to serve coffee. • Does the group continue to allow cake and other sweets to be present. • What procedures can be put into place to eliminate sharing of coffee related items. • Does the Group provide books in the same manner as before or provide reading content in some other format. • Does the group require masks and/or gloves and does it provide either or both. • Does the group supply hand sanitizer. • Does the group pass the basket and collect cash at the meetings. • How will any new cleaning procedures be implemented. 	
Local, State and Federal Health Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the group's restarting procedures comply with all health rules and regulations, including social distancing. 	
Local, State and Federal Legal Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the group's restarting procedures comply with all legal laws and regulations. 	
AA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will restarting procedures conform to AA Traditions and Concepts. 	
Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the group continue to send contributions to AA organizations according to the percentages it is currently using. • Will payments to the location for use of the facility be the same. 	