

Update on Covid-19

As you know Washington State has been identified as the epicenter for the Covid-19 virus also known as coronavirus. The General Service Office has posted a letter regarding inquiries about how groups should respond to the virus. It states, "Groups and members are concerned about health and safety issues, and are looking for guidance on how to address this question". I would encourage you to go to <https://www.AA.org/> website and read the letter in full.

I am including several paragraphs that I think addresses some questions you might have from your groups. .

"Some groups have discussed making changes to customs at their meetings. Some examples have included: avoiding shaking hands and handholding; making sure meeting hospitality tables are sanitary; or suspending food hospitality for the time being. Regardless of group decisions, each individual is responsible for their own health decisions."

"Some groups have considered contingency plans in case the group is temporarily unable to meet in person. Plans have included: creating contact lists and keeping in touch by phone, email or social media; meeting by phone or online. Providing members information for the A.A. Online Intergroup (www.aa-intergroup.org) may serve as an additional helpful resource. If a group isn't holding its regular meetings, they may want to communicate this to local A.A. resources, such as the district, area and intergroup or central office."

We should begin practicing these new customs of avoiding personal contact as much as possible and covering our coughs with a tissue or our sleeve since we have several events during March. The Area will continue to bring you updates regarding coordinated events. We are concerned with the health and safety of all attendees.

Area Committee
Panel 70