

# Coffee Break. April 2020



## FORT WORTH CENTRAL OFFICE

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### ~Central Office Meetings~

The Central Office Steering and COR meetings originally scheduled for April 14 have been cancelled. We will be emailing all reports to the CORs and Steering Committee members the week of the 14<sup>th</sup>.

### ~ COMBINED DISTRICT SIX ~

From : JoAnne N – DCM District 64 and Co-Chair of CD6

The DCMs have decided to cancel "Attendance" at the upcoming April 11<sup>th</sup> CD6 Meeting at Meadowbrook due to the Covid Crisis. As we know, many things are being temporarily put on pause until this thing blows over, including our Area Assembly, District Meetings

and many Groups. Several are doing Virtual Meetings, including our Area Assembly. If this continues, I'm sure we will do the same for our June CD6 Meeting. More will be revealed.

However, in keeping with Tradition 9 which tells us that we can create boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve, we, as Trusted Servants, funded by the Member Groups of CD6, need to continue to report on our activities so that we are all informed.

With that in mind, we need all Standing Committee Chairs, Treasurer, Secretary, and DCMs to submit the reports that they would have given on April 11<sup>th</sup> to our Secretary Terry Lynn G. for distribution to all Trusted Servants at CD6.

To the GSRs, would you include in your reports, updates from your Home Group on how you are handling this crisis, including if and how you are doing your meetings (Canceled, Online, Zoom, etc.). We would love to hear from all of you GSRs because you are an integral part of CD6. In 35 years of CD6 existence, we have never faced anything like this and it's an opportunity for all of us to step up and be creative with our Services in our CD6 area. After all, it's all about helping facilitate "Carrying the AA Message" to

the Alcoholic who still suffers. GSR's, please try to submit to CD6 Secretary, by April 1<sup>st</sup>, if you can, so that people will know how to access your meetings, if you are doing them by electronic means. Thanks Everyone!

Respectfully, JoAnne N.

### ~ District Meetings ~

#### District 64

Committee will be Meeting April the 11<sup>th</sup> at 9am. We will have a virtual meeting using the Go To Meeting format. Contact Mark L for meeting invite link at 817-980-2840 or email [markapollo33@att.net](mailto:markapollo33@att.net)

Please watch for updates for all other Districts and Committees. We will post on Our website as we receive the information. Thank you!

## Recovery

### Step IV

Alcoholics Anonymous pg. 65-67

#### **“Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves”**

“We went back through our lives. Nothing counted but thoroughness and honesty. When we were finished, we considered it carefully. The first thing apparent was that this world and its people were often quite wrong. To conclude that others were wrong was as far as most of us ever got. The usual outcome was that people continued to wrong us and we stayed sore. Sometimes it was remorse and then we were sore at ourselves. But the more we fought and tried to have our own way, the worse matters got. As in war, the victor only seemed to win. Our moments of triumph were short-lived. It is plain that a life which includes deep resentment leads only to futility and unhappiness. To the precise extent that we permit these, do we squander the hours that might have been worthwhile. But with the alcoholic, whose hope is the maintenance and growth of a spiritual experience, this business of resentment is infinitely grave. We found that it is fatal. For when harboring such feelings, we shut ourselves off from the sunlight of the Spirit. The insanity of alcohol returns and we drink again. And with us, to drink is to die. If we were to live, we had to be free of anger. The grouch and the brainstorm were not for us. They may be the dubious luxury of normal men, but for alcoholics these things are poison. We turned back to the list, for it held the key to the future. We were prepared to look at it from an entirely different angle. We began to see that the world and its people dominated us. In that state, the wrong-doing of others, fancied or real, had power to actually kill. How could we escape? We saw that these resentments must be mastered, but how? We could not wish them away any more than alcohol. This was our course: We realized that the people who wronged us were perhaps spiritually sick. Though we did not like their symptoms and the way these disturbed us, they, like ourselves, were sick too. We asked God to help us show them the same tolerance, pity, and patience that we would cheerfully grant a sick friend. When a person offended, we said to ourselves, „This is a sick man. How can I be helpful to him? God save me from being angry. Thy will be done. “ Used with permission of the AAWS, Inc.

## Unity

### Tradition IV DITORIAL: 4 TH TRADITION

**“With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the trustees of The Alcoholic Foundation. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.”**

“This Tradition, Number 4, is a specific application of general principles already outlined in Traditions 1 and 2. Tradition 1 states, “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 2 states, “For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority--a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.” With these concepts in mind, let us look more closely at Tradition 4. The first sentence of Tradition 4 guarantees each A.A. group local autonomy. With respect to its own affairs, the group may make any decisions, adopt any attitudes that it likes. No over-all or intergroup authority should challenge this primary privilege. We feel this ought to be so, even though the group might sometimes act with complete indifference to our tradition. For example, an A.A. group could, if it wished, hire a paid preacher and support him out of the proceeds of a group night club. Though such an absurd procedure would be miles outside our tradition, the group’s ‘right to be wrong’ would be held inviolate. We are sure that each group can be granted, and safely granted, these most extreme privileges. We know that our familiar process of trial and error would summarily eliminate both the preacher and the night club. Those severe growing pains which invariably follow any radical departure from A.A. tradition can be absolutely relied upon to bring an erring group back into line. An A.A. group need not be coerced by any human government over and above its own members. Their own experience, plus A.A. opinion in surrounding groups, plus God’s prompting in their group conscience would be sufficient. Much travail has already taught us this. Hence we may confidently say to each group, ‘You should be responsible to no other authority than your own conscience.’ Yet please note one important qualification. It will be seen that such extreme liberty of thought and action applies only to the group’s own affairs. Rightly enough, this Tradition goes on to say, ‘But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, these groups ought to be consulted.’ Obviously, if any individual, group or regional committee could take an action which might seriously affect the welfare of Alcoholics Anonymous or seriously disturb surrounding groups, that would not be liberty at all. It would be sheer license; it would be anarchy, not democracy. Therefore, we A.A.s have universally adopted the principle of consultation. This means that if a single A.A. group wishes to take any action which might affect surrounding groups, it consults them. Or, if there be one, it confers with the intergroup committee for the area. Likewise, if a group or regional committee wishes to take any action that might affect A.A. as a whole, it consults the trustees of The Alcoholic Foundation, who are, in effect, our over-all General Service Committee. For instance, no group or intergroup could feel free to initiate, without consultation, any publicity that might affect A.A. Nor could it assume to represent the whole of Alcoholics Anonymous by printing and distributing anything purporting to be A.A. standard literature. This same principle would naturally apply to all similar situations. Though there is no formal compulsion to do so, all undertakings of this general character are customarily checked with our A.A. General Headquarters. This idea is clearly summarized in the last sentence of Tradition 4, which observes, ‘On such issues our common welfare is paramount.’” Bill W. Used with permission of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

## Service

### Concept IV      The A.A. Service Manual pg. 17-18

“Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional ‘Right of Participation,’ taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each discharge.”

“The principle of „Participation“ has been carefully built our Conference structure. The Conference Charter specifically provides that the Trustees, the Directors of our service corporations, (A.A. World Service, Inc. and The A.A. Grapevine, Inc.) together with their respective executive staffs, shall always be voting members of the General Service Conference itself. Exactly the same concept is borne in mind when our General Service Board elects the Directors of its wholly owned active service corporations, A.A. World Services, Inc. and The A.A. Grapevine, Inc. If it wished, the General Service Board could elect none but its own Trustees to these corporate directorships. But a powerful tradition has grown up to the effect that this never ought to be done. For example, A.A. World Services, Inc. (which also includes the A.A. Publishing division) currently has seven directors, only two of whom are Trustees. The other five non-Trustee directors comprise three volunteers, both expert in office management and publishing, and two directors who are paid staff members: the general manager and his assistant. The general manager is traditionally the president of A.A. World Service, Inc. and his assistant is a vice president. For communication linkage, the editor or a staff member of the Grapevine or his nominee is invited to attend A.A. World Services, Inc. meetings. Therefore, the active management of A.A. World Services, Inc. and its publishing division is composed of Trustees whose mission is to see that these projects are properly managed; of volunteer experts who contribute their advice and professional experience; and of two paid office executives who are charged with getting most of the work done. It will be seen that each member of every classification, is a director, and so has a legal vote; that each corporate officer bears a title which, both practically and legally, denotes what his (or her) actual status and responsibility is.

Such a typical corporate business management easily permits a proper degree of voting „participation. “ Every skilled element to do the allotted job is present. No class is let in absolute authority over another. This is the corporate of “participating“ method of doing business, as distinguished from structures so common to many institutional, military and governmental agencies wherein high-level people or classes of people often are set in absolute authority, one over the other.” Used with permission of AAWS, Inc.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **TARRANT COUNTYWIDE**

**\*\*CANCELLED\*\***

### **49<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary, Granbury Serenity Group**

**\*\*CANCELLED\*\***

### **2020 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous**

**\*\*CANCELLED\*\***

### **Spring ACM**

**\*\*CANCELLED\*\***

Please watch for updates for virtual meetings

### **75<sup>th</sup> Texas State Convention**

June 12-14, 2020

Hilton Forth Worth

815 Main St. Ft. Wth Texas, 76102

Our next ZOOM committee meeting will be **Saturday, April 11, 2020 from 2pm - 4pm** via ZOOM (link will be emailed out once it's ready to distribute).

### **The next NETA65 Area Assembly was to be held on April 4, 2020**

*In response to COVID-19 concerns, this Assembly will no longer be held in person. For those trusted servants who made hotel reservations at the Hampton Inn, Mesquite (inside or not inside our hotel room block), the hotel has agreed that they will honor all cancellations with no penalty and for any reservations that were pre-paid, they will be refunding guests for those reservations in full.*

*NETA will be using technology to allow you, the alcoholic members of Northeast Texas Area 65, to still participate in the process of informing our Delegate on the conscience of our groups for the agenda items that will be discussed at this year’s General Service Conference. We will cover all of the agenda items in telephone and/or digital mock committee meetings. More information will be provided for you in the coming days on exactly what that format will be and how you can participate.*

*We will still need as many people to participate as possible to help inform our Delegate.*

PLEASE VISIT [WWW.NETA65.ORG](http://WWW.NETA65.ORG) FOR FURTHER INFO

## ***We have some great news!!***

You can now make contributions and payments **online!**

You can send money directly to your Fort Worth Central Office from your (or your group's) bank account using **Zelle!** You can set this up from your online banking website and send payments straight to the CO bank account. All you need is the email which is [officemgr@fortworthaa.org](mailto:officemgr@fortworthaa.org) and make sure to write in the memo section who it's from and what it's for (and any contact info in you wish) I can then email you a receipt. Please feel free to call me anytime with questions, I will be happy to help!

**zelle**®



*Our 7th tradition is in my thoughts in this time of angst. Our meetings are getting smaller size wise if our local city governments haven't outright shut them down. This will obviously affect the basket. What it doesn't affect in many cases is rent for the home group that will still need paid, literature for the prisons and treatment centers that our trusted servants take with them to pass out when they carry meetings into our local facilities, and most importantly our Central Office and inter groups. We will definitely come out of this downturn in time, but if we all don't figure out a way to support the 7th tradition will our home groups and Central Office survive. Imagine all the restrictions lifted and we finally get to go back to our groups only to find the landlord locked the doors for failure to pay. Worse yet when that still suffering alcoholic calls the Central Office at 10 pm to get the famous "sorry this number is no longer in service". I would hate to see the day either of these becomes a reality. So, all I ask is that each of us try and find an extra \$5 or \$10 bucks to send to the home group and your local Central Office/Intergroup to keep things up and running. Talk to your sponsees about the importance of self-supporting and how we are the financial relief these folks need. I know things are about to get tight, but just consider it and pray on it.*

Anyone can send money to the Central Office with Zelle to [officemgr@fortworthaa.org](mailto:officemgr@fortworthaa.org) or call with a cc over the phone! (check with your groups about possible ways to contribute online or through the mail as well)

We thank you ALWAYS for your continued support and are grateful for each of you!

**"Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."**  
We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for EVERYTHING you do for us! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us at 817-332-3533.

Thank you!  
Erin & EJ

## Frequently Asked Questions....

- 1. Are groups still meeting in person?** Yes some group are still meeting in person. I have spoken with several groups in the area and they have voted to continue with their regular meeting schedule and are following specific restrictions. You can find the group closures on our website under the MEETING APP tab. The ones not marked with 'closure' should be open with regular schedule, although we cannot guarantee they will be meeting. If you know of a group closure that is not listed on the site, please call us and let us know.
- 2. Are there online meetings?** Yes many groups and individuals have created an online platform to hold meetings. Some have the same meeting schedule, and some have a new temporary schedule. You may find this info on [www.fortworthaa.org](http://www.fortworthaa.org) and click the link to right that's titled Fort Worth Online Meetings
- 3. Is the Central Office still open?** In a way, yes. We are very limited on our "in office" hours but continue to work remotely from home and answering the phones 24/7. Groups can schedule a day and time to come purchase literature with Erin. Just call the office 817-332-3533 or cell (Erin) 817-420-3866
- 4. Can we make online contributions?** Yes, you may send money through Zelle to email [officemgr@fortworthaa.org](mailto:officemgr@fortworthaa.org) or you may pay with a CC over the phone by calling either of the numbers above.
- 5. Does the Central Office need volunteers right now?** At this point we have frozen all of our volunteers and volunteer needs for the office EXCEPT answering after hour phones. If you have at least 1yr of continuous sobriety and would be interested in helping with our hotline, just call the office anytime and we will give you information about that. As far as help in the office, we will post on our website when the office opens back up and at that time, we will defiantly need volunteers 😊
- 6. How do we find out updated information on AA related events, assemblies etc (closures, cancellations reschedules, etc)** We will post all updates, as we get, them on our website. If you don't find what you're looking for, You can also check the area website for NETA65 updates as well [www.neta65.org](http://www.neta65.org)  
As always, call us anytime with questions and we will be happy to help in any way!

We hope you and your family are staying safe and healthy! Please don't hesitate to call us if you have any questions or concerns, anytime!

This too shall pass! Hang in there folks!

We will get through this!

### **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**