

About A.A.

A NEWSLETTER FOR PROFESSIONALS

FALL
2024

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A Resource for the Helping Professional

HOW TO FIND A.A. if You Are a Professional

Professionals who work with alcoholics share a common purpose with Alcoholics Anonymous: to help alcoholics stop drinking and lead a healthy, productive life.

Alcoholics Anonymous is grateful to the many professionals who have supported the A.A. program of recovery. Thousands of us owe our lives to them, and our debt of gratitude knows no bounds. A.A. is in a position to serve as a resource to you through its policy of “cooperation but not affiliation” with the professional community.

As the world keeps changing, A.A. members continue to adapt the ways they reach out to people who are seeking to help the ways they might best cooperate with the professional community in finding recovery resources for suffering alcoholics.

HOW TO FIND A.A.

Professionals can find many A.A. resources online in many formats (read, listen, watch). Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.) has a profile on LinkedIn as well as a YouTube page;

GET IN TOUCH: cpc@aa.org • 212-870-3400 • Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163 • www.aa.org

<https://www.youtube.com/@alcoholicsanonymousworldse1373/featured>. AAWS also supports the free Meeting Guide app and the website of the General Service Office (GSO) of Alcoholics Anonymous, www.aa.org, which offers information about A.A. for professionals who work with alcoholics, as well as for people seeking help with a drinking problem. The international journals AA Grapevine and La Viña (A.A.'s "meetings in print") have Instagram profiles and a YouTube page.

THE MEETING GUIDE APP

With the ever-increasing use of smartphones, the A.A. Meeting Guide app is a free and convenient way to look up a meeting in one's local area with just a few swipes.

the client. The A.A. Meeting Guide App will identify the A.A. meetings near an individual's home or place of employment and provide directions on how to get to the meeting. And there is an option to add the meeting to an individual's calendar. The app also has additional features:

- "News" with the latest from the GSO, where members can stay up to date on news from the Fellowship and announcements to increased engagement with A.A. and recovery.
- "Quote," where anyone can read the "Daily Reflection" for the day. Daily Reflections are a collection of readings that move through the calendar year one day at a time: A.A. members reflect on favorite

utes. Each listing clearly displays the name, address, and time of meetings, as well as what type of meeting it is. Currently, there are almost 125,000 meetings available on the app, with 251,000 monthly active users.

In Your Community: Local Intergroups and Central Offices.

The intergroup/central office is an ideal contact for those in the community seeking information about A.A. and thus, A.A.'s relations with the public and professionals.

Intergroup/central offices exist to serve the local groups in their general area. Each intergroup/central office is autonomous and is part of a network of service outlets and A.A. contacts. Their vital services include maintaining

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The Meeting Guide App provides instant information regarding the time and location of local A.A. meetings. If attendance at an A.A. meeting is part of a case management or transitional plan, the A.A. app can be easily downloaded onto a smartphone or tablet during a meeting with

passages from A.A. literature. Many members use these as encouragement and reminders to help with their daily recovery. This simple-to-use app offers professionals — psychiatrists, counselors, probation officers, and others — a way to steer individuals to meetings within min-

local meeting information, and meeting lists, offering literature for sale for members and groups, and maintaining websites with local information and general inquiries from those seeking help. Many have a 24-hour hotline where someone who is struggling can call for help.

Meeting Guide is a free-of-charge meeting finder app.

The app helps people find A.A. meetings and resources near them. A.A. service entities provide the meeting data for the app. Meeting Guide is available for iOS and Android smartphones.



To find the A.A. Intergroup or Central Office near you, go to <https://www.aa.org/find-aa> and type in your city, province, state, or country, to find the nearest service office. In many cases, if there isn't one listed in your city or town, a nearby office in another part of the state or province will be able to assist you.

Did you know? If your place of worship, community center, or other facility has space available for A.A. members to meet, OR if meetings were previously held in your space but closed or moved, you can let these local Intergroup or Central Offices know that your organization is willing to offer space for members to hold meetings. Many groups and meetings have closed or relocated, and these offices might be able to help them find you and return to in-person meetings.

ONLINE MEETINGS

Given the changing times, in-person meetings are not always an option. Thankfully, there are many different options for online meetings, virtual fellowship, and other accessible support. Online meetings and local intergroups (each with its own website of resources and meeting listings) have been an integral part of the

virtual presence of Alcoholics Anonymous for many years.

If an alcoholic is unable to attend physical meetings, a wide variety of online meetings are available. Many meetings are held on virtual platforms, video-conference, chat, bulletin boards, and other platforms. In addition, there are email meetings where an email is sent out on a specific topic; chat (text) meetings that include a live chat following the same format as a face-to-face meeting; discussion forums or message boards where a topic is posted and group members post in return (these are active 24/7); and the telephone, where meetings are conducted via a conference-call format.

Similar to a regional or city intergroup, the Online Intergroup of A.A. lists meetings in many languages and formats held around the world. <https://aa-intergroup.org/meetings/>. While not affiliated with the GSO, they provide a valuable resource for those seeking help.

LONERS-INTERNATIONALISTS MEETING (LIM) CORRESPONDENCE SERVICE

From time to time, the CPC desk receives inquiries such as: "My client is homebound and cannot get to a local meeting," or "My client doesn't have access

to a computer and lives in a remote area," or similar requests. There is a solution. For over seven decades A.A. has provided what we call the Loners-Internationalists Meeting Correspondence Service, a confidential bimonthly bulletin sent to those individuals as well as seafaring members who are between ports for long periods, and any member who is unable to attend meetings for a variety of reasons. For more information, contact the LIM service desk at: <https://www.aa.org/loners-internationalists-correspondence-service>.

These are just some of the ways A.A. can help professionals connect their clients and patients with A.A. in their community and across the globe., just like in 1935 when a traveling stockbroker called a professional in the town he was visiting, to inquire about any alcoholics known in that town so that they might help each other. That professional ultimately connected him with a local doctor who was known to be struggling with his drinking, and thus the birth of A.A. occurred a few days later when those two met and helped each other. Little has changed as this practice continues today, with one alcoholic helping another alcoholic to stay away from that first drink.

If you would like more information on these and any other A.A. resources for professionals, visit the For Professionals page of the GSO website, <https://www.aa.org/aa-for-professionals> or contact the CPC desk at cpc@aa.org. ■

HIGHLIGHT

2025 International Convention Update

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR IC2025

In 2025 we will celebrate A.A.'s 90th Anniversary at the International Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Convention registration and housing reservations are currently available [online](#).

The convention theme is "Language of the Heart" and takes inspiration from Bill W.'s reflections on A.A. around the world. In the November 1972 issue of *Grapevine*, Bill W. reflected on his first visit to A.A. overseas with his wife Lois in 1950. "As we journeyed from land to land, we had the same magnificent adventure in kinship over and over again," he wrote. "Everywhere, everywhere, it was the same. This was something much greater than people cordially meeting people. This was no merely interesting comparison of mutual experiences and aspirations. This was far more; this was the communication of heart to heart in wonder, in joy, and in everlasting gratitude. Lois and I then knew that A.A. could circle the globe—and it has."

CONNECTING MEMBERS ONLINE

The 2025 International Convention will offer opportunities to participate online for those who cannot attend the event in person and make available a recording of the three big meetings.

- **Register for the Virtual Session Program Track.** This is a two-day, eight-session online program track. The sessions will be livestreamed as they take place and will not be available for purchase after the Convention. Cost is \$35 (USD). We are planning to incorporate interactive sharing into part of the sessions. Register [here](#) or print and mail the registration form.
- **Purchase the 2025 International Convention Three Big Meetings Video.** The video will be an anonymity-protected recording available for viewing post-Convention. Cost is \$60 (USD). Purchase [here](#).

FAQ: HOW DO SPEAKERS GET CHOSEN FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION?

A frequently asked question about the International Convention is how the speakers are chosen. In September, a form was distributed to the U.S./Canada General Service Conference members (i.e., delegates and trustees), central offices and intergroup managers, international GSOs, and World Service Meeting delegates requesting suggestions for speakers.

Members who are registered or plan to register for the Convention can be considered as possible speakers. The selection of speakers is through a group-conscience process, keeping in mind that we strive to include speakers who have not spoken at previous Conventions.

We anticipate receiving many suggestions for speakers for the 2025 International Convention and will likely receive more names than we have speaking slots to fill. We may need to "go to the hat" to choose speakers on panels who represent a cross-section of the Fellowship. Anyone selected as a speaker will receive an invitation sometime in early 2025. (Please note that the final panel topics/themes are developed and chosen by the Convention planning team.)

Our hope is that speakers will come prepared to celebrate the miracle of A.A. and inspire others with their stories of recovery and sharing the language of the heart.

QUESTIONS?

Please visit the 2025 International Convention [webpage](#) for the latest information. And check out our IC 2025 FAQs, which are regularly updated with information on Convention-related topics, including an update on volunteering at the Convention. ■