

# Pandemic Update

## Coastal Bend Area AA Meetings

### **NUECES COUNTY (including Corpus Christi) STAY HOME ORDER**

Nueces County Judge Barbara Canales issued a “**Stay At Home**” order beginning at **11:59p tonight** (Thursday, March 26, 2020), **running two weeks until midnight, Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>**. Not as restrictive as a “Shelter in Place” order but it will still impact local AA meetings. The following groups in Corpus Christi have notified CBIA that they are temporarily suspending meetings, in addition to the meetings listed below:

- **Weber Road Nooners Group**
- **CC-Calallen Group**
- **CC-Saratoga Group**
- **Hilltoppers Group**
- **New Phoenix Group**
- **Turning Point Group**

### Coastal Bend Area Online (Zoom) Meetings

- **CC Lucky Ones Group 7P, Mon & Thu** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/436425759>
- **CC Weber Rd Nooners 12N, M-Sat** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2602143828>
- **Victoria Back to Basics 7P, Daily** <https://zoom.us/j/6626211099>
- **CC-Cullen Mall, 8P, Mon**  
<https://zoom.us/j/727048685?pwd=UVRTR2NmMHM5Ym5zRlgzTk9PV1FoUT09>  
Password: 681318
- **CC-Hilltoppers Group M-F 12:00 PM** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9074021032>

With permission of the host, this meeting in Riverview, FL is also available

- **Riverview 5 PM CST Daily Literature Study** Password: 833393  
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/977588714?pwd=aW5HTXJvQVJ5RmF0Y00wYTBkNHRVdz09>

*Note: If you are hosting an online meeting, we would be glad to list it as long as it is sponsored by registered AA Group, is an AA meeting with a start and end time, follows a format approved by the group conscience, follows the 12 traditions (ideally read the traditions in the meeting). Please use the same link (and password if any for each meeting of a group. Call us at (361) 992-8911 during business hours (7:30 – 11:30 AM; 1:30 – 5:30 PM) or email us at [cbia@grandecom.net](mailto:cbia@grandecom.net).*

### Face-to-Face Meetings

#### Corpus Christi

The following groups have temporarily suspended meetings:

- Alanos** (Noon Mon – Fri, 6 P Mon, 8 P Fri, 11 A Sun at Alanos Cottage)
- Flour Bluff Unity Group** (Daily Meetings at the Anchor Club)
- Lucky Ones** (7PM Mon, Tue and Thu at Community of Faith)
- New Life** (8PM Thu at Most Precious Blood RCC)
- New Women’s Group** (7 PM Mon & 11 AM Sat at St John’s UMC)

## Coastal Bend Area AA Meetings (Continued)

### Face-to-Face Meetings (Continued)

#### Corpus Christi (Continued)

The following additional developments are happening:

**All Saints Episcopal** (3026 S Staples) all meetings in **Youth Building**  
*Note: All Saints policy allows no more than 10 people in the Building at a time.*

**Mon Women's Big Book** (7 PM Mon temp. at Jenny Craig, 1406 Airline)  
**Sunset 7 (N Padre Island)** (7 P Mon Wed Fri and 8 A All meetings are on the beach at Briscoe King Pavilion 15820 Park Rd 22)

### Face-to-Face Meetings

#### Portland

The following groups have temporarily suspended meetings:

**Nueces Bay Group** (6:30 PM Mon, Wed, & 7 PM Thu at Trident Club)  
**Jaywalkers Group** (7 PM Tue at Trident Club)

#### Rockport

The following group has temporarily suspended meetings:

**Happy Hour Group** (5:30 PM Meetings Mon, Wed & Friday at Peace Lutheran)

#### Victoria

All meetings have been temporarily suspended except for the following groups which are still meeting:

**Main Stream** (Noon Mon – Thu & Sat at St Francis Episcopal Church)  
**Victoria Women's Group** (6 PM Tue at Grace Presbyterian Church)

#### Victoria Surrounding Area

All meetings have been temporarily suspended except for the following groups which are still meeting:

Coastal Bend Area AA Meetings (Continued)

Face-to-Face Meetings (Continued)

Victoria Surrounding Area

**Flatonia Group** (7 PM Tue & Thu in the Chamber Building in Flatonia)

**Open Arms Group** (6 PM Mon & Thu in Catholic Church in Goliad)

**Palacios Group** (3 PM Sun & 7 PM Thu at Public Library in Palacios)

**Schulenburg Group** (8 PM Mon & Noon Wed in Wolters Park)

**Yorktown Group** (6 PM Sun & Wed at St Paul's Lutheran in Yorktown)

*Note: If you are GSR or another group officer for a group, please let us know if your group has temporarily suspended or resumed meeting or is temporarily meeting in a different location. Call us at (361) 992-8911 during business hours (7:30 – 11:30 AM; 1:30 – 5:30 PM) or email us at [cbia@grandecom.net](mailto:cbia@grandecom.net).*

## CBIA and the Corona Virus Pandemic

### BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

The President and the Center for Disease Control have asked that gatherings of more than 10 people not be held and that we observe personal space of six feet from other people, not touch and frequently wash our hands for 20 seconds, etc. Elderly people and people in other risk groups are asked to stay home. Serving coffee or anything edible is probably not a good idea.

#### (1) CBIA OFFICE

**We are closing the office until at least until 4/1/2020. Kelly will work from home in the morning and Rob work from home in the afternoon Monday thru Friday.** If someone needs to buy AA literature, Medallions or Chips, they can call us during business hours (7:30-11:30 AM; 1:30-5:30 pm) at (361) 992-8911. The volunteer helpline will answer the phones during the lunch hour, overnight, and on weekends as usual.

#### (2) APRIL BOARD MEETING

**The April CBIA board meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup> will be held by conference call or video conference** so we don't have people traveling from Victoria, AP and Kingsville and we aren't assembling 8 people in our small board room.

#### (3) APRIL QUARTERLY MEETING

**The April Quarterly meeting has been canceled.** The next scheduled Quarterly Meeting will be 7/27/2020. Before July we will re-assess the situation.

#### (4) LET US KNOW ABOUT MEETINGS TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

**Please let us know of changes in the status of meetings** – meetings temporarily suspended or meeting again. We are putting the phrase 'Temp Susp' in the name of the group on our printable schedules, on our meeting data base and the smart phone app Meeting Guide to indicate it is temporarily suspended. Also let us know about Zoom meetings your group has set up – if you want us to publicize it.

## ALTERNATIVES TO FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS

While there is nothing like a face-to-face meeting, many of us need to find other alternatives for the next few weeks or months.

- (1) **Telephone Calls** – Some of us are calling our sponsors or other people in the program more often than we were. Some groups are using telephone trees to stay in touch. Some of us are calling people in the program we were once close to who are now separated by geography.
- (2) **Email** – Some of us are emailing our sponsors or other people in the program more often than we were. Some groups are circulating chain emails. (*Consider submitting something you have written for publication as an article in the **BENDER**.*)
- (3) **Listening to AA Speakers** on CD or MP3 files or on web sites like [www.aa-speakers.com](http://www.aa-speakers.com)
- (4) **Read AA Literature** – The stories in the back of the big book offer some of the benefits of attending a speaker meeting.
- (5) **Attending an on-line or dial-in AA meeting.** There is a link on the CBIA website [www.cbiala.org](http://www.cbiala.org) to the Online Intergroup <http://aa-intergroup.org/>. These meetings were set up for loners – people in remote locations and people who are homebound. *Lately, traffic from people who ordinarily attend face-to-face meetings has been overwhelming this facility.* Beware of other sites that offer alcoholism recovery meetings that are not traditional AA.
- (6) **Starting an on-line or dial-in AA meeting.** It is easier than you think to start an on-line or dial-in meeting. This link <https://www.nyintergroup.org/remote-meeting-listing/help-setting-up-online-meetings/> provides all the instructions you need to start a meeting with **Google Hangout; Zoom or Free Conference Call**. Google Hangout and Zoom are slicker, but Free Conference Call might be easier for someone without a lot of technical skills. It would be a good idea to have this sponsored by an established face-to-face meeting and observe all AA Traditions. DJ in Victoria has offered her technical skills to help do this. Call (361) 484-0365.

# GSO Letter on Corona Virus Pandemic

*(Subsequently the General Service Office has closed as required by New York State.)*

Alcoholics  
Anonymous®  
[www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous

475 Riverside Drive, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10115 / Telephone: (212) 870-3400

Please direct all  
communications to:  
P.O. Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
Fax: (212) 870-3003

March 16, 2020

The General Service Office (G.S.O.) U.S./Canada has been receiving inquiries about how groups should respond to the COVID-19 (coronavirus). Groups and members are concerned about health and safety issues, and are looking for guidance on how to address this question.

The General Service Office is a repository of shared group experience and functions as a resource center for A.A. members and groups who are looking for the shared experience of the Fellowship. Providing guidance on health issues is outside the scope of the A.A. sharing that G.S.O. offers. However, we might suggest contacting your national, state/provincial and local health authorities for appropriate information.

We do have some general experience to share regarding how some groups and members have begun to address this issue. Our collected experience suggests that groups that are unable to meet at their usual meeting places have begun to meet digitally; doing so in a sensible and helpful manner to allow the group to continue keeping the focus on our common welfare and primary purpose.

Some groups that are still meeting in person have shared about 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. Many groups have also made contingency plans in case the group is temporarily unable to meet in person. Regardless of group decisions, each individual is responsible for their own health decisions.

Contingency plans have included: creating contact lists and keeping in touch by phone, email or social media; meeting by phone or online. 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. Many local A.A. entities have added information to their websites about how to change a meeting format from "in-person" to online. Some groups have shared that they are utilizing digital platforms such as *Zoom*, *Google Hangouts*, or a conference call. Some groups have also added a "virtual Seventh Tradition basket" to remain self-supporting and to keep up the services at the group and the A.A. entities that serve them.

Those who may have questions regarding A.A. Anonymity Traditions on digital platforms can review: the Conference-approved pamphlet, [Understanding Anonymity](#) and the G.S.O. Service Material [Anonymity Online and Digital Media](#) and the [A.A. Guidelines on the Internet](#).

G.S.O. has received inquiries about the A.A. events it coordinates throughout the year. Visit [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) for up-to-date information regarding G.S.O./A.A.W.S. coordinated events. Please be assured that the health and safety of attendees is a priority. G.S.O. is closely monitoring relevant health advisories regarding COVID-19 (coronavirus).

We hope this limited sharing is helpful.