

Updated March 24, 2020

Coronavirus – COVID-19 – Potential Impact for D.A. Members/Meetings

The General Service Office and the GSB have received a number of inquiries regarding the potential impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on D.A. face-to-face meetings, the General Service Office, and the World Service Conference scheduled for August 2020 in Newark, New Jersey, U.S.

We will follow the guidelines and recommendations provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC, U.S.-based) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE CLOSURE as of March 24, 2020

As a result of Coronavirus (COVID-19), effective noon March 24, 2020, Massachusetts Governor Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, has issued an emergency order for the temporary closing of physical workplaces and facilities until April 7th 2020 for all nonessential businesses/organizations in the Commonwealth. The General Service Office of Debtors Anonymous, located in Needham, Massachusetts is closed, effective March 24, 2020.

As per the order, the General Service Office will continue to do business remotely on a limited basis. Please anticipate that there will be a delay in fulfilling literature orders.

We have limited ability to access and process regular mail. **We ask that you please limit your communication with the General Service Office to email** at office@debtorsanonymous.org.

If you are a member and are considering sending a contribution, please make your contribution through the Debtors Anonymous website. This will be most helpful and appreciated.

Thank you for your patience.

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE – AUGUST 12-16, 2020, Newark, New Jersey, U.S.

At this point, there is no plan to cancel the WSC scheduled for August 2020. However, as we have seen over the past several days, global responses to this situation have been rapidly evolving. The GSB will continue to monitor official sources and will let members know if any changes to the August WSC are determined.

FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS

Administrators of churches, hospitals, and other spaces in several metropolitan areas have recently canceled D.A. and other 12-Step meetings, either for a specific length of time or indefinitely. Members have also wondered whether their group should proactively decide to suspend face-to-face meetings.

All groups are autonomous; D.A. as a whole cannot advise any group toward any single course of action in this matter. Gathering information from reliable professional sources might help contribute to an informed group conscience. Ultimately, it is up to each member and each group to make decisions about attending and holding meetings, considering their own individual and collective health and safety considerations.

The CDC has up-to-date information and suggests the following for prevention, including:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Put distance between yourself and other people.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or use the inside of your elbow when you sneeze or cough.

Your group may want to consider other ways to meet, including remotely, by phone or the Internet. You can make temporary updates to your meeting listing on the world D.A. website at <https://debtorsanonymous.org/meetings>

Some options for setting up conference calls at the regular meeting time might include the following: (This is not an endorsement of any of these services, just some suggestions.)

- FreeConferenceCall.com (and other “free calling” services)
- Zoom (and other teleconferencing platforms)
- Google Hangouts (Chrome app)
- FaceTime (iPhones)
- WhatsApp

A guide to getting your meeting online quickly is available on the D.A. website at <https://debtorsanonymous.org/virtual-meeting-guide>

The list of D.A. meetings that have temporarily moved to teleconference or video conference (in the meeting’s time zone) with access information is available at <https://debtorsanonymous.org/temp-list>

D.A. TELEPHONE AND INTERNET MEETINGS

There are currently many established D.A. telephone, Internet, and Skype meetings. These meetings can be found on the D.A. website under “Find a Meeting” – which lists Telephone, Internet, and Skype meetings.

There is also an Intergroup specifically for telephone meetings: the Debtors Anonymous Telephone Intergroup (DATIG). The DATIG website lists all the current telephone meetings and

may also include additional resources, such as meeting formats and contacts:
<http://www.datig.net/>

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

If you have the desire to incur unsecured debt, reach out for help to others in the Fellowship, or call or email contacts at your local or Regional Intergroup.

Thank you for sharing this information at meetings and with other members. We wish everyone good health and continued recovery in D.A.