



Summer Newsletter

July 2020

Ohio Valley Intergroup

As We Return

By Chris J.

For many of us in recovery, we experience our meetings are a place of healing, acceptance, safety, and mutual respect. While we normally experience “safety” through anonymity, which protects us from identification as sex addicts, we now must pursue safety from the COVID-19 virus.

After temporary closure, some meeting facilities have begun to open their doors once again to recovery groups. As we return to the old “brick-and-mortar” meeting place, let’s take a moment to think about safety and maybe some of that “mutual respect” for others and for the facilities that provide our meeting space.

Below are some thoughts for running a safe meeting in the time of COVID-19.

Before reviewing them, please consider the following:

One: First, check with the owner of the meeting space as to their requirements for the group to return.

Two: A group conscience should take place to consider whether the group wants to return and if so, what requirements they and the facility place upon safety and cleanliness.

Arriving for a meeting: early arrivals should be ready to wipe the door handle/knob with a disinfectant wipe or simple paper towel with 70% Isopropyl Alcohol if disinfectant wipes are not available. Other items to clean as you approach them

would be light switches, handrails on steps, tables, chairs, or other high-touch areas. Meeting goers should be encouraged to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer that can be provided.

During the meeting: Consider using chairs in a circle where each chair is at least six feet apart. A table could also be used with six-foot spacing but would require disinfecting before use. Wearing of masks is recommended. In fact, some facilities require it of all people who make use of their space. In lieu of groups providing snacks and beverages, we suggest each group member bring their own beverage or snack for self-consumption. Those giving the Seventh Tradition can put cash directly into a basket at the beginning or end of the meeting, instead of passing one around.

After the Meeting: A six-foot spaced “serenity circle” is better than the usual, hugs, handshakes, or arms on shoulders for now. Chairs owned by the facility should be cleaned as they are put away and any drink/snack containers should be taken with the individual who brought them and be disposed of at home. Any tables used should be wiped before leaving as well as any light switches, door handles, or anything commonly touched.

Last Suggestion: Does your group use a plastic tub for literature, coffee, and meeting materials? Why not “devote a tote” to cleaning materials? A small plastic tote could store a few cleaning items like a

roll of paper towels, a bottle of 70% alcohol, a can of disinfectant spray, and a bottle of hand sanitizer if available. The first arrival(s) to the meeting can get out the tub and begin to clean as recommended above before others arrive.

So, when it comes to “practicing principles”, perhaps we can all practice cleanliness.

Be well!

“What can I do to take care of myself today? – SK, Answers in the heart, July 3rd”

Upcoming Events:

- **SAA Women’s Intergroup 2020 International Women’s Retreat** – This FREE event will take place exclusively via Zoom, with keynote speakers, workshops, and breakout rooms! Mark your calendar’s for August 8th and 9th and be on the lookout for more registration information. If you are interested in Volunteering, email Deb in WV at saa.women.retreat@gmail.com.
- **Indianapolis Fall Retreat** – Planning is underway for the 2020 Fall retreat. Stay tuned for more info!

Area Activation Meeting

The first Area Assembly for Area 14 was held at 6:00 p.m. , June 22, 2020 using Zoom. Seven GSRs were in attendance.

The primary goal of this meeting was to elect officers for the Area Assembly. Officers were elected as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Term</u>
Joe C.	Chair	2 years
Kevin H.	Vice-chair	1 year
Chris J.	Secretary	1 year
Jerry S.	Treasurer	2 years

The one-year term limit for Vice-Chair and Secretary is only in effect until 2021. This allows a staggered rotation of officers, whereby only two positions are up for election each year. All future officer terms will hold two-year terms unless future bylaws change the process.

The election of a Delegate was tabled until the next assembly.

All motions for the upcoming ISO Conference must be submitted to the ISO by June 30th. The formal motions will be published to the Areas in July. Joe C. will call the next Area Assembly after the motions have been published.

*As a reminder, our Area Assembly votes on behalf of all meetings in the Ohio Valley Area in matters concerning SAA as a whole. If you would like your group’s voice to be heard, select a Group Service Rep to represent your meeting at the Area Assembly.

<https://saa-recovery.org/iso/gsr-registration-form/>