

Greetings District 11,

I was reminded today about the story in our *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* where Bill W. referred to concerns that our soldiers being shipped out for the war might not stay sober. During World War II, members of AA were stationed all over the world. Now we must take a minute to remember, these men were members of Alcoholics Anonymous in its infancy. They did not have the technology that we are spoiled with today. The results of that spiritual test are shared on page 38 of the 12 and 12. Bill wrote, "They had even fewer alcoholic lapses or emotional binges than A.A.'s safe at home did. Whether in Alaska or on the Salerno beachhead, their dependence upon a Higher Power worked."

Governor Reynolds posted an Emergency Declaration for the state of Iowa. Under section E. (copied below) she stated mass gatherings of people are prohibited and gave a specific number of more than 10 people regardless of the reason for the meeting. This covers church, recreational, leisure, and spiritual gatherings. She is referring to our meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous. I have attached a copy of a response directly from our General Service Office in New York to this email. GSO directs us to refer to national, state, and local health authorities. **Therefore, it is in our best interest not to hold meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous, especially where there may be 10 or more people gathered.**

The Keyway Lodge Group has suspended their weekly meetings for the time being after talking with the administration of the church where they rent the space. A member will post a note on the door with contact information for someone who may need a meeting and may need to speak with a member. Some meetings are moving to a digital platform and still meeting at the designated time each week. Each group is autonomous and must come together to make their decision together in the spirit of the group conscious. It is also important to comply with the facilities that allow our groups to use their space each week. Your group may choose to close the doors after 10 people have entered the room. Whatever your group decides, post it on the doors and.... please let us know.

There is a myriad of options available to us today during this pandemic. Meetings can be conducted via teleconference, video conference, telephone, or chat. There is an app called *In the Rooms* available for free download which can put you into a meeting immediately. There are various groups via social media which can offer connections to A.A.'s all over the world. We also have our Big Books at home.

If the A.A.'s stayed sober 80 years ago during the great world war, then I am confident we will also make it through this pandemic as long as we rely on our Higher Power. My hope is that you will stay within the comfort of your home and find alternative ways to practice the steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Yours in love and service,
Shannon P
DCM District 11