March 22, 2020

Dear Al-Anon members,

Below offers some guidance from WSO’s staff and the SCWS Group Records Coordinator regarding the current situation with our Area’s meeting situation, given that we cannot meet in person.

**How do I find electronic or phone meetings?**

You have a number of choices:

1. Go to [al-anon.org](http://al-anon.org) and click on the “Meetings” tab. One of the choices is “Electronic Meetings.” On that page is also a link for Phone Meetings. There are close to 300 meetings to choose from!
2. Go to the website of the Al-Anon Information Service (AIS) Office that publishes the directory for the meetings you attend. If you don’t know your AIS Office, we have a list of them at the bottom of this update.
3. Regular members of meetings typically have the contact information of at least one other member of that meeting—or they have a phone list of members who have agreed to be contacted between meetings. Regular members may use the phone list to stay informed about the telemeetings but without broadcasting the specific information to the general public.

**Can Al-Anon members choose to temporarily set up electronic meetings? What is the guideline for creating an online meeting?**

1. Yes, it is okay to temporarily hold meetings in an electronic format in place of face-to-face meetings. We strongly encourage these to be held at the same day and time as their face-to-face versions for the benefit of all members and we would appreciate your assistance in reinforcing this message when you get asked.
2. We are relying on the links of service (i.e., the Group Representative/GR, District Representative/DR, local AIS Office, and SCWS) to reinforce the above messages and other guidance posted by the WSO encouraging members to please check with local offices and local members about virtual meeting information.
3. If someone in your meeting sets up an online/webconference meeting, you can use your meeting’s phone list to inform the regular members of the meeting about that information.

**Should I inform WSO or our Area Group Records Coordinator about electronic meetings?**

Please notify your local AIS/LDC office and/or your District Rep (DR) regarding temporary electronic meetings.
Continue to submit all other (permanent) group changes to our Group Records Coordinator/GRC (Mary) using the SCWS GR-3 on-line form: http://scws-al-anon.org/scwso_forms.php

**Should I use the “Report Problem” feature on the WSO website to report temporary changes?**

NO. Please do not use the “Report Problem” link on the WSO webpage! Contact your local AIS Office with the information about the electronic meeting. All regular meetings will remain “Active” in the WSO database with the expectation that the meetings will resume face-to-face once it is safe to do so.

Please do not “inactivate” groups that are temporarily not meeting. The WSO doesn't have the Staff to manually change all of these records (and our Area GRC doesn’t either!) and we are concerned that some groups may fail to "reactivate" after the pandemic has subsided. WSO hopes to avoid that future problem.

**Do we need to register our virtual meetings?**

No. It is not necessary to register these meetings unless the group decides to make the electronic format permanent. Remember that this is a temporary situation for the vast majority of the virtual meetings that are created during this period. Your registered meeting’s status will remain “Active” in the WSO database in the meantime.

Once groups are able to meet again, please remind members to close the various conference call lines and online platforms.

**Will WSO create a new group “status” meeting for temporary meetings during this time?**

No. There have been requests/suggestions to create a new group status to indicate a temporarily suspended meeting, however, the WSO would not be able to program and test a new feature like that in the time frame needed to respond to this situation.

Instead WSO is relying on the local links of service to reinforce the above messages. Please check with local offices and your Group’s members about alternatives to face-to-face meetings.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can always contact us at:

- groupandmemberconcerns@scws-al-anon.org
- alateen-amiasconcerns@scws-al-anon.org
- preguntasdemiembroshispanos@scws-al-anon.org

Thank you! And be well!

Love in Service, Love in Service, With Gratitude,
Mary M. Donna E. Marcia M.
Area Group Records Coordinator Area Chair Area Delegate

**WSO guidance came from:**

Kerri Kindelan
Associate Director - International Services

Sue Perez
Associate Director - Group Service

**Local Al-Anon Information Service (AIS) offices in California South:**
Central Coast/San Luis Obispo/District 3: al-anoncentralcoast.org
Inland Empire AIS Office: ieanalon.org; AIS Office: 909-824-1516
Kern County/District 6: kernalanon.org (website is being updated)
Los Angeles County AIS Office: alanonla.org
Orange County AIS Office: ocalanon.org
Palm Desert/District 42: alanoninthe_desert.com
San Diego County AIS Office: alanonsandiego.org
Santa Barbara/District 8: alanosantabarbara.info/
Ventura County AIS Office: Their website is in transition. Please contact Ventura Intergroup Chairperson, Dani F., danic1264@aol.com, 210-383-1759

To all Spanish groups in California South/Para todos los grupos hispanos del Sur de California:

Oficina intergrupal hispana del Sur de California, Inc., www.oficinaintergrupalhispana-alan.org
Oficina intergrupal hispana Al-Anon S.D., oficina_intergrupal@hotmail.com (este es el correo electrónico para la oficina, no hay sitio web)