

Dear Trusted Servants of Oregon Area 58,

We know that many members are excited by the prospect of meeting in-person again. In light of these trying times, we wanted to provide information for groups to **consider** as they move towards reopening in-person meetings. While there is a temptation to rush this process, it is extremely important to have a **group conscience meeting** to plan & decide how reopening a meeting is to happen in a safe and spiritual way.

Oregon Area is not an authoritative body over A.A. Groups, nor does it initiate rules or directives, we ask that groups consider *state mandates and local laws* that have been put in place when making an informed group conscience about how to re-open meetings safely. Other Areas have also created service pieces to aid in reopening meetings. Area 48 in New York has created this [reopening document](#) that combines shared experience, strength, and hope with things to consider when re-opening meetings. They have offered this to groups to use as a reference. Many groups are using this document as a starting point for consideration in their group conscience meetings.

Tradition 4 states that “each group is autonomous” and decisions are made through individual group conscience. The second part of the 4th Tradition is just as important: “except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.” Tradition 1 tells us that “Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.” These traditions remind us that we must ensure that our group decisions do not negatively impact our fellow members or A.A. as a whole and that we as individuals should act in a way that ensures our common welfare. Traditions 1 and 4 are important now more than ever as we consider the health and well-being of both A.A. members and nonmembers, as well as protect the positive reputation and goodwill of A.A. in the community.

As A.A members, we live by spiritual principles in all of our affairs. “The law of the land does not stop at the door of A.A.” A.A must abide by the mandates of local jurisdictions where our groups meet. As an organization and as individuals, we are not exceptions to the law. We ask each group to consult and consider state guidelines in their decisions for reopening meetings ([Oregon COVID-19 Regulations](#)).

At this time, Oregon has issued an executive order and is requiring [everyone to wear masks or face coverings for indoor public spaces](#). Also, the facilities in which we meet may also have their own guidelines. We urge groups to consult their facilities and follow the state mandate to protect our members, our fellowship as a whole, and others with whom we come in contact. Our program of recovery has taught us to be responsible citizens both in A.A. and the world.

It is our hope to continue to provide other information as we trudge this happy road together. These are hard and unprecedented times, but we will prevail. Please continue to reach out if you have additional questions or if we can provide additional support in any way.

Respectfully,
Oregon Area 58 Officers
officers@aa-oregon.org