

Email from Donna E., SCWS Chairperson, to SCWS List – sent March 14, 2020

Dear Al-Anon/Alateen Members:

Greetings! I hope this finds you well and healthy!

I've attached an "update" from WSO regarding COVID-19 and their recognition that meetings are being cancelled around the country due to the concerns about spreading the virus. The same is happening in our Area, of course.

As stated in the WSO update, "In accordance with Tradition Four, we encourage groups to be flexible in considering alternatives that limit personal contact—anything from linking arms at the closing to temporarily holding the meeting electronically. Groups that choose this latter alternative need not register with the WSO as an Electronic Meeting unless the electronic platform becomes the group's permanent format."

The update suggests that you "notify your local service arms" if you are not able to meet in the scheduled location. Please contact the entity/service arm that publishes your local directory (that is, your Al-Anon Information Service/AIS Office, or Literature Distribution Center/LDC, or District website), to inform them of your meeting's closure.

Please do not contact our Area Group Records Coordinator, as there are over 1,200 meetings in our Area! These temporary meeting closures will not impact your group's registration status, so there is no action she will be taking regarding the closures.

What to do until your meeting re-opens?

There are a number of free online meeting platforms that you and your group's members could use to meet via your phones and/or computers. If you do an online search using "free online meeting platforms," you'll find a number of alternatives.

The WSO update notes that there are Electronic Meetings that you might join. There are also regularly scheduled Phone Meetings. You can find information regarding Electronic Meetings and Phone Meetings at: <https://al-anon.org/al-anon-meetings/electronic-meetings/>

The WSO also has Alateen chat meetings: <https://al-anon.org/newcomers/teen-corner-alateen/try-an-alateen-chat-meeting/>

I hope that this information is helpful. My personal opinion is that as Al-Anon members, we are in a unique position regarding this "crisis" as we are accustomed to "accepting what we cannot change" and "changing the things we can" because we practice these principles on a daily basis. We also know that "this, too, shall pass." May you all stay healthy and serene in the meantime!

Love in Service,
Donna E.
SCWS Chairperson