Virtually A.A.

virtually: *adverb* - For the most part; almost wholly; just about

A.A. has made a quantum leap into the 21st century. Humbly driven by circumstance, we find ourselves in a new reality for online meetings. The speed and fervor with which we have, as a fellowship, accepted this challenge is inspiring to me and evidence that A.A. is capable of rapid change. Who'd have thought?

But the truth is that online meetings are not new and for many remote communities the online meeting has been their recovery lifeline. It's humbling to reflect on that. I know it's taken my gratitude for the luxury of in-person meetings to a different level. Hopefully, we can learn from our remote communities in these unsettling times and draw inspiration from their experience strength and hope.

Recognizing all that is going on, I ask you to do the best job you can to inform me as to the feelings, wishes, attitudes, and ideas of your group with respect to the agenda topics. I understand that to be a heavier than usual lift this year. Getting the attention of your group and then facilitating a sharing session online or by conference call is going to be a new experience for almost everyone. Thankfully, we have more time and the deadline for you to get me your group's conscience is now May 6.

But it is our great responsibility to ensure that A.A. continue. We know, better than most, that isolation kills people. What is important at this time is responsiveness, resilience, and continuity. I will share with you that your General Service Board is inspired by the spirit of A.A. in the moment, which truly shines brightly. That's why we will have a virtual Conference this year as an expression of courage, continuity, and hope.

For the most part, the Conference will continue to do this year, what it was set up to do. In the words of Bill W. in Concept 1: "Under all conditions and at any sacrifice, we would have to sustain those services and the flow of life blood they were pumping into the world arteries of our Fellowship."

Under all conditions and at any sacrifice, let's do this.