

11:00 am - Sharing Session held virtually; opened with the Serenity Prayer by Coree H. Chair. Our meeting is open to everyone to learn and participate on the topics. Area chair job description was explained and questions answered.

Presentation – Welcoming Newcomers by Will from Area 72 Western Washington → He highlighted the connection of this topic with Tradition Five. He shared some of the benefits of virtual meetings, mainly an opportunity to connect with other alcoholics across the globe, which presents an opportunity to grow our fellowship. He shared that increasing involvement in General Service can be part of this. He shared that we're learning new skills and tools associated with virtual A.A. He posed the question of envisioning what A.A.'s future will look like on a virtual platform and how we're going to do it together. The meeting was opened for Q&A and open discussion:

- Q: What are the techniques you have found to keep newcomers coming back? A: Creating new commitments, such as sponsorship coordinator, greeter, speaker un-muter, waiting room attendant, etc., which has allowed more people to get involved. Emphasizing fellowship before and/or after the meeting. One member shared that her group plays virtual games during fellowship to make it fun, and reach out to newcomers via private message using the chat.
- Members shared that they have been encountering newcomers who have only been to online meetings. One member shared that they have Q&A after the meeting for newcomers.
- Q: Are you coordinating online meetings with the meeting guide app? A: Updating as best they can, but some groups are not updating central offices with information on their group. They've created task force on how to support online meetings. Some groups don't intend to get rid of virtual meetings.
- A member shared how Zoom meetings may be a form of gentrification of AA, and expressed concerns about people living in shelters, asking how others address that? A: Will shared how Committees (e.g., H&I, BTG, etc.) have slowed down as a result of virtual meetings, but some are having discussions about new ways to reach new people (e.g., sharing speaker tapes, online recording, having people call in, working with treatment centers to allow people to join).
- A member asked to hear more about virtual districts. A: Will shared that his area is having discussions about it right now, but they haven't been created.
- A member shared concerns about availability of literature. They don't feel comfortable asking newcomers for their address to mail them, and asked for solutions. A: Virtual links to literature on aa.org. Central Office open on a limited basis to allow members to get literature.

Topic and speaker selection for next month: Group discussed potential topics for next meeting; previously suggested topics: 1) COVID cases rising and how districts respond, 2) how to improve our future, 3) the spirit of rotation, 4) How to General Service and Intergroup work together? Next month's topic → **Spirit of rotation.** Chair will invite a speaker from out of the Area. **Meeting adjourned at 11:50 with the Responsibility Statement**

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah B., DCM Sharing Session Recording Secretary