

NEW GROUP FORM

GSO NEW GROUP LISTING GUIDELINES / FORM *U.S. and Canada*

Thank you for wanting to list your group with the U.S./Canada General Service Office (GSO). It is the practice of the GSO to list groups and not meetings. Listing provides a wider opportunity for communication between your group, GSO, and the General Service Structure which will help the alcoholic who still suffers. Before filling out the new group form below, here are a few good things to know:

- **This form is for the U.S./Canada Service structure.** The U.S./Canada structure is just one of many A.A. entities around the world. If your virtual group is based outside the U.S. and Canada, we suggest that you contact the office in that country. If your group is based outside the U.S./Canada or your group has no geographic location, and you wish to communicate with GSO you can contact the GSO International desk.
- GSO is often asked, "Will filling out this form ensure my group appears in local meetings lists?" **The answer is no.** This form is only so that communication can flow between your group and the U.S./Canada Service structure (your district, your area, and your GSO). Please contact the local A.A. entity that publishes meeting lists such as your local intergroup/central office, district, or area. Many of them also share information with the Meeting Guide App.
- **This form asks groups to designate their preferred district and area.** The U.S./Canada structure is comprised of 93 geographic areas and each area is made up of a number of districts. In-person (including hybrid) groups generally use geographic proximity to decide their district and area. It varies for virtual groups since they are non-geographic in nature. If a group originated in a locale and feels rooted there the group may want to approach the local district about participating. Recently some areas have created non-geographic districts for virtual groups. If a group does not designate a preferred district and area, the default option will be using the location of the group's primary contact.
- **Area Registrars are often a crucial first point of contact for A.A. groups.** Area registrars develop and maintain records of all groups in their area through Fellowship Connection, a user-friendly interface that facilitates information sharing between areas and GSO. Your group's information will be entered into Fellowship Connection and is available to your area delegate and district committee member (DCM). Contact information for your area registrar and other trusted servants can be found on your area's website. List of area websites.
- **Experience shows it's best if a group has a good start before asking to be listed.** Many groups wait until they've been meeting for a month or two before filling out this form. The pamphlet "The A.A. Group" can be a helpful guide to groups and covers four main areas: what an A.A. group is; how a group functions; group relations with others in the community; and how the group fits into the structure of A.A. as a whole.
- **GSO lists A.A. groups and not meetings.** Shared experience is that holding A.A. meetings is one function of a group. An A.A. Group is a meeting that participates in the General Service Structure and provides Twelfth Step services that extend beyond the regular meetings times.
- It is good to keep in mind the long form of Tradition Three: "Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence, we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation."
- **The form asks for a primary contact.** Often groups choose their General Service Representative (GSR) as the group's primary contact, but any group member can serve as the primary contact if they can provide a current email address. An email allows GSO to send the group helpful information and acknowledgements of group contributions quickly and at no cost. A group can also set up a group email address and use that for group correspondence.
- **Being listed with the GSO is not an official sanctioning of a group.** A group listing does not constitute or imply an approval or endorsement of any group's practice of the traditional A.A. program. Tradition Four says, "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole." Hopefully every A.A. Group adheres closely to the guiding principles of the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. The GSO neither monitors nor oversees the activities or practice of any A.A. group.
- **Each new group is subject to a 30-day pending period according to a 1990 Conference advisory action.** Once complete information is logged by GSO or the area registrar, your group will enter a 30-day pending period to give your delegate and DCM an opportunity to welcome your new group. After the pending period a digital Group Handbook will be emailed out (in addition your group can opt in to be mailed a print version of the Group Handbook on the form below.) The Group Handbook and many other helpful resources are also available for download on www.aa.org. The link below offers more information on how groups and members participate in A.A. service beyond their group: <https://www.aa.org/participating-in-aa>

A.A.'s Traditions suggest that a group not be named after a facility or member (living or deceased), and that the name of a group not imply affiliation with any sect, religion, organization or institution.

Virtual Groups are encouraged to check with their Area Registrar regarding their preferred Area and District. List of Area Websites on aa.org

AREA #: _____ DISTRICT #: _____ GROUP START DATE: _____

GROUP NAME: _____ NUMBER OF MEMBERS: _____

GROUP MEETING LOCATION (ADDRESS OPTIONAL): _____

If your Virtual group does not have a specific City/Town or State/Province the Primary Contact's City/Town and State/Province will be used.

CITY/TOWN: _____ STATE/PROVINCE: _____ COUNTRY: _____

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH | SPANISH | FRENCH TYPE/FORMAT: IN PERSON (including hybrid) | VIRTUAL (including phone)

Does your group meet in a hospital, treatment center or detox center setting? Yes No

If yes, is it open to A.A. members outside the center? Yes No

Note: Contact information provided is used by GSO and AA Grapevine for purposes of A.A. service communication and is shared with your Area Committee.

PRIMARY CONTACT

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY/TOWN: _____

STATE/PROVINCE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____ COUNTRY: _____

E-MAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR) — Your Group's Link to A.A. as a whole https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-19_gsr/pdf

"The GSRs of the U.S. and Canada are the very foundation of our general service structure. Through the GSR, you can make your group's voice heard at district meetings, at area assemblies, and eventually at the General Service Conference.

GSR ALTERNATE GSR MAIL CONTACT (Please check one)

To opt in to be mailed a print version of the Group Handbook please check

▶ Digital Group Handbook: <https://www.aa.org/conents-group-handbook-list>

▶ To sign up for digital delivery of Box 4-5-9 at no charge visit: <https://www.aa.org/box-459group-handbook-list>

THREE WAYS TO RETURN THIS FORM TO GSO:



GSO POSTAL MAIL

A.A. World Services, Inc.
Grand Central Station
P.O. Box 459, New York, NY 10163



GSO EMAIL

memberservices@aa.org



LOCALLY

Email your Area Registrar
List of Area Websites on a.a.org