



Online Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous®



www.aa-intergroup.org

Purpose and Membership

The Online Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous (OIAA) is a service entity operating on behalf of online AA® groups. It is self-supporting through contributions of AA groups and members. OIAA assists online groups in their primary purpose of carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. OIAA is a nonprofit corporation, formed on February 24, 1996, organized and existing under the laws of the state of New Jersey.

The OIAA Assembly meets continuously by email. Any AA member may join OIAA and participate in discussions. However, voting on OIAA business items is limited to registered online AA groups, acting through their representatives, and current officers and standing committee chairs, who are elected by the Assembly.

OIAA also maintains "The Open Forum" for informal discussions.

Activities and Services

12th Step Committee

The OIAA 12th Step Committee (Steppers) responds directly, by email, to those searching for help with a drinking problem. Fluent in many languages, scores of AA members from around the world provide 24-hour assistance. Response time is usually almost immediate.

Email links to the Steppers can be found on the OIAA web site as well as on an increasing number of AA sites around the Internet. Inquiries by AA entities, including intergroups, districts, and areas, wishing to utilize this service are encouraged.

International Events Calendar

OIAA maintains an online calendar of AA conventions and General Service Area and Intergroup events around the world. An online submission form is available on the OIAA web site.

Contact OIAA

The OIAA web site is located at <http://www.aa-intergroup.org>

Email links for all OIAA officers and committees can be found on the web site. If you have immediate questions, please write to the OIAA Chair at oiaa_chair@aa-intergroup.org.

Real-time and Email Meeting Directories

OIAA maintains directories of real-time (text, audio, and video) and email meetings on its web site. At this time, OIAA does not maintain lists of face-to-face meetings nor does it provide hyperlinks to web sites other than AAWS and The Grapevine.

In addition to English-language meetings, there are currently listings for online meetings in numerous other languages, including Danish, Finnish, French, German, Hungarian, Norwegian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Swedish.

Men's, women's, gay/lesbian, blind, and deaf/hard-of-hearing meetings are also available.

Groups or meetings need not be OIAA members to be listed in the directories.

Unity Committee

An important communication vehicle is the OIAA Unity Committee, which is charged with communica-

Who Can Access AA Online?

Anyone with a computer, a modem, and an Internet connection now has easy access to AA. Many thousands of members use online AA to supplement their face-to-face meetings, service, and fellowship (or vice versa). The Internet also is proving invaluable to people living in remote communities or foreign countries; people who cannot easily access regular meetings, such the deaf, deafened, hard-of-hearing, or blind; people who are homebound; members of the military serving overseas or at sea; shift workers; and parents with small children.

tion with other AA service entities, such as intergroups, districts, areas, regions, and AAWS and The Grapevine.

Public Information and Cooperation With the Professional Community Committees (PI & CPC)

The OIAA PI Committee answers requests for general information about AA. It also handles many requests each month from AA members looking for meetings (both online and face-to-face). The Literature Committee is a subcommittee of PI.

The CPC Committee responds to inquiries from educators and professionals.

Both committees maintain sections on the OIAA web site that include basic AA information; links to pamphlets on the AAWS, Inc. web site; and online information request forms.

Convention Committee

The Convention Committee plans OIAA participation at International Conventions and, as finances permit, at local conferences, round-ups, and other events.

Other Operating Committees

Additional OIAA committees include the Policy & Admissions Committee, the Finance Committee, and the WWW Committee.

OIAA Publications

OIAA has developed several informational pieces, available in Adobe PDF format, that provide an overview of OIAA, online AA, and how to start an online AA group. (OIAA does not publish or distribute publications to which others hold the copyrights, including materials copyrighted by AA World Services, Inc.)

Frequently Asked Questions

The OIAA web site includes a Frequently Asked Questions page for general information about Alcoholics Anonymous online. Topics include:

- What is online AA?
- What is an email group and how do I join?
- How do I join a real-time group?
- How is my anonymity safeguarded online?
- What is “Netiquette”?

A Brief History of OIAA

The Living Cyber Committee (LCC) was formed in March 1994 to coordinate the hosting of a hospitality suite at the 1995 International Convention in San Diego. Alcoholics from all corners of the online community — bulletin boards, commercial online services, and the Internet — joined in the effort.

Prior to the convention, the LCC endeavored to communicate its existence, purpose, and activities to all known online AA groups through a web page. Flyers providing information on how to find and contact AA online were developed, printed, and distributed at the convention. The LCC expanded its efforts to include a link to the online fellowship for those who could not attend the convention in person. Three computers were set up in the hospitality suite. Throughout the convention, the computers remained connected to the Internet and to alcoholics around the world.

The Living Cyber Suite provided a gathering place for members of online groups to meet each other in person, often for the first time. Visitors to the suite had an opportunity to connect to the online Fellowship. Those unable to travel to San Diego were able to “virtually” attend the convention through the suite. Two major email AA groups, several AA groups from the major online service providers, and an AA group that met on an Internet Relay Chat channel participated in uniting those alcoholics from all over the world with the visitors in the suite.

Following the convention, the LCC was to be dissolved. However, the participants, now fully aware of the tremendous potential of a unifying service structure, invited all online AA groups to send a representative to the committee. Together, they decided to form an Intergroup that would continue to serve the online AA groups. The Online Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous was established in February 1996, and it now serves scores of online groups with a combined membership numbering many thousands.