

Returning to Face-to-Face Meetings:

The Al-Anon Family Groups are autonomous except in matters affecting another group or Al-Anon or AA as a whole. (Tradition 4). As such, the District will not issue directives as to when, how or whether Groups should return to face-to-face meetings. These are Group decisions that members decide.

Our Traditions provide guidance when Groups are faced with making decisions about the resumption of either a full face-to-face meeting or one that offers an electronic or hybrid component. The electronic component or hybrid meeting is one that takes place at the same time together with those participating in the physical location. A Group decision to meet face-to-face with the option of an electronic component is an acceptable Group decision for the Group that is already registered and connected to the service structure where they are located (District 14).

There is currently no deadline as to when Groups must return to in-person meetings for Groups that have registered with the World Service Office as Temporary Electronic Meetings during the pandemic. Even with less restrictions on the horizon, Groups have the time to decide when returning to face-to-face meetings is appropriate for them given their particular Group's preferences and circumstances. However, there are consequences to Groups that ultimately decide to remain solely an electronic meeting without an intention to ever return face-to-face. Such Groups risk losing their affiliation with the District and Northern California Area. You are welcome to contact District14rep@outlook.com for more information about choosing this option.

Groups seek substantial unanimity when discussing Group business. The Group conscience is achieved when all members have access to the relevant information and can discuss the issues in an environment of trust as equals. Within our Al-Anon service structure, the Group Representative is the member's link to the District. The District will provide Group Representatives with resources and information to consider as it becomes available. If your Group does not have a Group Representative, you may contact District14Rep@outlook.com to request copies of the documents.

Tradition One states, "Our common welfare should come first; personal progress for the greatest number depends upon unity." In the spirit of unity provided in Tradition One, Groups consider the needs of all members to reach an informed group conscience and then all members abide by that decision. If changes are made, we ask that Groups update their meeting information on the District website so that members and newcomers can attend. [Complete website form here.](#)

We hope this information proves useful. Let's trust in the process as we move beyond this pandemic.

Thank you for all you do to help friends and families of alcoholics. We are all in this together!