

Rockford Area Intergroup update

(April 29, 2020)

Nearly all businesses and not-for-profits have had to make adjustments to survive the financial ramifications associated with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Now, Rockford Intergroup has joined them.

With few donations coming from area AA groups and a dwindling prudent reserve, the IG board has approved certain steps to shore up its financial structure while still providing essential services to the AA community.

Office

IG has ended its rental agreement for its current office at 4040 Charles St. Coins, books and pamphlets will be available by calling the Intergroup number. Office equipment and the archives will be put into storage. By storing that equipment, the IG board could quickly resume an office operation if that becomes an option in the future.

Office manager

IG will not be able to afford an office manager at this time.

Phone/answering service/internet

The landline will be disconnected and the internet service and answering service will be stopped at the end of April.

A cell phone will replace the landline. The current number will be moved to the cell phone.

A volunteer will carry the cell phone during the day and early evening. After that time, callers will be directed to the IG website for more information.

The volunteer will check the answering service for calls in the morning. Volunteers will have the phone responsibility for a period of at a time, which yet to be determined.

Hopefully some of the website suggestions listed below will reduce the number of calls to a minimum.

Mail

Donations and mail can still be sent to the Charles street address. A post office box will be rented in the future.

IG meetings

Without an office, the IG meetings will be conducted online on Zoom until the shelter-in-place order is lifted or possibly even longer.

A possible location for an in-person meeting could be the church where the district meets. A meeting just before the district meeting on the same night might be beneficial for both entities for planning area events or sharing information.

Newsletter

The newsletter will be discontinued. An online version could be added to the website at a later date.

Website

Without an office, the website will be the IG's main tool to reach the AA community.

It will feature a current schedule of meetings, including online meetings as some groups will continue those after the pandemic.

A link to the AA meeting finder app and an explanation of how to use is also a must.

Instructions for groups and individuals on ordering coins, books and pamphlets also will be available on the main page.

Another addition will be a portal for newcomers featuring a Q&A about AA, which could be taken from a current newcomer pamphlet. Other intergroups have noted that sometimes the newcomer doesn't want to talk to anyone just yet but seeks more information.

Conclusion

These changes will put IG on solid financial ground for the present time and move it toward a stronger online presence. All of the changes can be re-evaluated after the pandemic passes and life returns to normal.

This is your Intergroup! Please provide suggestions and such help as you feel can best benefit our A.A. community.

Thank you.
Intergroup Board

About Intergroup

Rockford Area Intergroup has officially been in existence as a "not-for-profit corporation" since Dec. 22, 1976. In this nearly 44 years the world has seen difficult times and A.A. has continued to grow and strengthen. Intergroup is dedicated to continuing its purpose: "A central or intergroup office is an A.A. service office that involves partnership among groups in a community — just as A.A. groups themselves are partnerships of individuals. A central/intergroup office is established to carry out certain functions common to all the groups — functions which are best handled by a centralized office — and it is usually maintained, supervised, and supported by these groups in their general interest. It exists to aid the groups in their common purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers." (Source: Central or Intergroup Guidelines; Rev. 9/17)