May 25, 2020

The International Service Office of SAA (ISO) continues to receive calls regarding how the COVID-19 (coronavirus) may be affecting the ISO office, group meetings, and ISO planned events. Most of the staff are working remotely and answering calls to the office, but we do keep minimal staff in the office processing orders.

At this time, we understand that many SAA groups have temporarily shifted to an electronic meeting format. The Board decided to postpone the annual ISO Convention in May for one year. A decision about whether to have the annual meeting of the ISO Conference in October face-to-face or electronically will be made by the first week of August. The ISO is closely monitoring the relevant health advisories regarding the pandemic.

While the ISO cannot offer advice on public health issues, we are ready to assist groups and members in any way we can. However, even in a time of unprecedented disruption, we must keep our focus on the primary purpose of our groups and the mission of the ISO. Maintaining safety of our members is best discussed and decided by group conscience.

In the final analysis, each individual is responsible for his or her own health decisions. Some groups have implemented contingency plans until they are able to meet face-to-face again. Creating contact lists to keep in touch by phone, email, or social media, and meeting by telephone or online are among the measures currently being used.

As a reminder, there are 140 tele-meetings each week listed on our website at saa-recovery.org/meetings/. Telemmeetings are currently displayed as default when you click on “Find A Meeting”. If you need contact information for a specific local meeting, first click the “Local” tab to display only local meetings and then click on the specific meeting’s “Contacts and More”.

During this unusual time of unprecedented, dynamic change, the local contacts are best able to provide the latest information about their specific meetings.

Until things return to normal, be safe, stay connected, and continue to work your program of recovery.

“From Shame to Grace”