November 8, 2021

It has been twenty-one months since COVID-19 changed our lives. As most of the world gets vaccinated, there are parts that are still struggling. We hope there is not another surge coming.

The International Service Organization (ISO) of Sex Addicts Anonymous (SAA) encourages groups to consult and consider local and national health guidelines when forming a group conscience about when and how to meet. The ISO will continue to monitor relevant health advisories regarding the pandemic and how it is affecting the ISO office, group meetings, and ISO planned events.

The Board originally voted for the October ISO Conference to be held in-person. Unfortunately, we had the change back to a virtual one when the Delta variant surge happened. We do still plan to have an in-person SAA convention in May 2022.

Some meetings have started to go back to a face-to-face format. Some members have offered suggestions of how groups may address precautions. Remember our common welfare and primary purpose should be our main focus. It is best to talk about these issues at the group level and come to a group conscience of what precautions to take. One suggestion is to avoid handshaking, hugs, and handholding. Another is to have a greeter encourage wearing of masks. It has been noted that many of our older generation members, especially those with underlying health conditions, may want to avoid face-to-face meetings.

Some groups have considered contingency plans in case the group is temporarily unable to meet face-to-face. Plans have included creating contact lists and keeping in touch by phone, email or social media, as well as meeting by phone or online. If a group decides to not hold its regular meeting, it may wish to update the ISO office and their local intergroup. Some meetings have started to meet in a hybrid mode of both face-to-face and on Zoom or another platform. We are working on a better search function for our meeting search.

We do want to remind our fellowship that we have over 300 telemeetings or online meetings each week. Telemeetings are easy to find on the saa-recovery.org site. Just click on the Find A Meeting box and then Telemeetings to get just those listed in chronological order for that day. Another way to see the Telemeeting Intergroup’s meetings is to go to saatalk.info.

We hope this brief sharing is helpful.

“From Shame to Grace”