



Tech @ Atlanta Area AA

NAATW 2020 - AA Technology Comes of Age

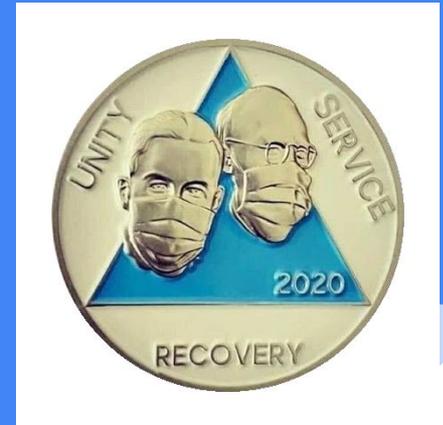
September 12th, 2020

Presented by: "Crispy" Chris M

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Responsibility Statement



“When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that I am responsible.”

Challenges

As technologists, we are in unique positions to serve our AA groups, communities and members.

There are many challenges to doing this successfully, including:

- **Resistance to change - “We’ve always done it this way”**
- **Lack of knowledge - “What if alcohol ad appears?”**
- **Fear - “Our anonymity will be destroyed online!”**
- **“AA Speed” - Technologists are not used to moving so slowly!**

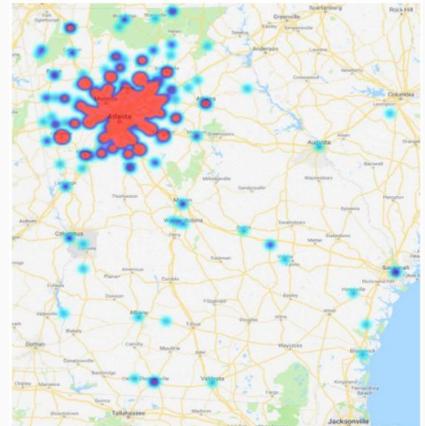
Hotline



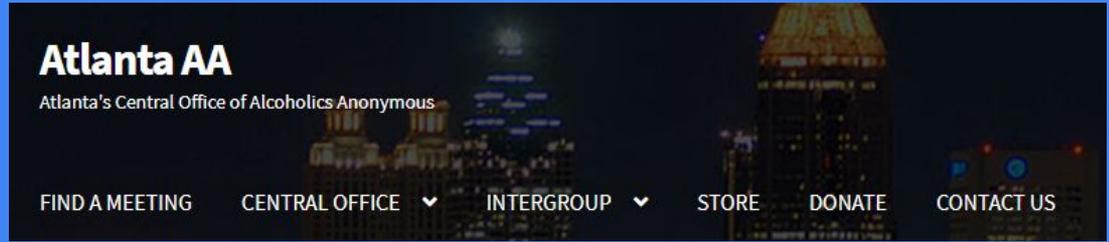
“The primary purpose of the Atlanta Area Intergroup Telephone Committee (the Hotline) is to ensure that an alcoholic who has found a solution to the problem of alcoholism will be there whenever any one of the 5.7 million people in the 18-county Metro Atlanta area calls AA for help after hours.” - [Hotline Committee](#)

Technology in use:

- Paid answering service: Answer the call quickly, qualify, ring volunteers
- G Suite: Monthly announcements and shift schedules via email, Google Sheets with volunteer and shift data, Map API, Hangouts w/ Google Voice
- Text Messaging (Twilio): Reminders for upcoming shifts
- Excel: Statistics reporting - Number of calls, time to answer, where calls are from, missed calls, etc.
- FUTURE? Messaging to coordinate efforts, find immediate 12-step volunteers, etc.



Central Office



Technology in use:

- <https://atlantaaa.org/> - [Wordpress](#)
 - [12-Step Meeting List Plug-In](#) w/ customization for VMs
 - Integration with “[Meeting Guide](#)” app on Android and iOS
 - Google Analytics: Site visit statistics
 - PayPal: Digital Donations *including* Groups, “Faithful Fivers”
- G Suite: Document sharing with committees, Intergroup
- [Tech Soup](#): Tech for Non-Profits - Free/discounted software, services and hardware
- FUTURE: Payment apps for donations?

Was vital for Covid-19: Meeting closings, virtual meetings, keeping members up to date (Covid-19 Page), etc.

This is a virtual Zoom and Audio Dial-in meeting. It DOES NOT meet at a physical location.

To join this meeting, answer the following question: **What is the first name of the founding member of AA whose story appears in Chapter 1 of the Big Book?** (If you do not know the answer, contact the Atlanta Area Hotline at 404-525-3178).

SUBMIT

Meeting Information
Saturday, 7:30 am to 8:30 am

- ✓ Daily Reflections
- ✓ Digital Basket
- ✓ Discussion
- ✓ Literature
- ✓ Open
- ✓ Virtual Meeting

This meeting is open and anyone may attend.



Quarantined and Sober



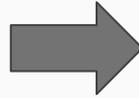
Mornings: Every Day @ 7:30am ET
Evenings: Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri & Sun @ 7:00pm ET

Web Site: <http://quarantinedandsober.org/>

“Self-support begins with me, because I am part of us – the group. We pay our rent and utility bills, buy coffee, snacks and A.A. literature. We support our central office, our area committee, and our General Service Office. If it were not for those entities, many new people would never discover the miracles of A.A.”

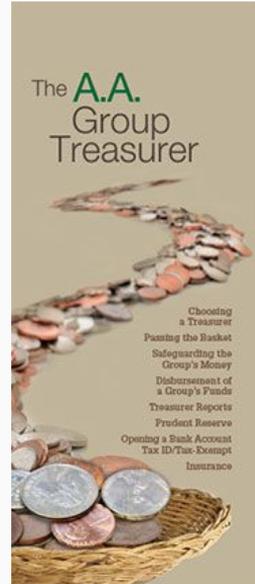
Self-Support: Where Money & Spirituality Mix, p. 5

Digital Payment Platforms



“A number of groups have utilized digital payment platforms to provide opportunities for members to make cashless contributions. There are different payment platforms to facilitate this service and it is up to the group to determine which one to use. Experience suggests that the treasurer is a likely choice to handle digital contributions, though some groups add more than one trusted servant to share the responsibilities or create a new service position to inform the group about digital payment options and assist other group members who are interested in contributing this way.”

The A.A. Group Treasurer, p. 2



Some Popular Platforms



This is not an *endorsement* of any platform, rather we are simply sharing our experience. There are many more platforms available than just those listed here. For example, Apple Pay is popular, but was not included because it only works on iOS devices.

Full deck: <https://atlantaaa.org/2020/07/20/virtual-basket-keeping-aas-7th-tradition-online/>

Closing Suggestion

No single person should sole have control/access over technology, accounts, money, or anything else. This is a program that enables us to live full lives, and during a full lifetime we can expect people to relapse, get sick, lose interest, move away, even pass away. If only single individuals have control/access, the individual may take that with them.

This has played out over and over again in AA's history. Just ask anyone who has been in service for an extended period of time. A number of local groups and our Intergroup are actively minting and recruiting for co-chairs for every chair position for this reason.

That's all, folks!

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Atlanta Area Intergroup Website:

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