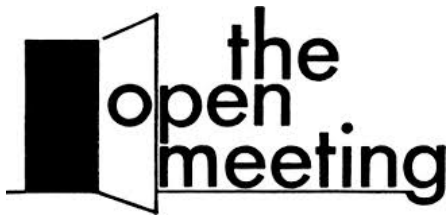


Technology & AA Workshop
Safety / Anonymity Panel

1. It IS possible to remain anonymous with technology and AA.
"But we are on camera!" Yes, but we are *available to the newsperson at the appropriate level.*

Eleventh Tradition - "*We need always maintain personal anonymity AT the level of press, radio, and films*" [Emphasis on the "at"]

In order for us to be available to the newcomer online, we are available at the public level - **not overly available and not overly private**. What's overly available? An example of this is posting on a non-AA website and/or a non-private website, the password to a closed AA meeting. This decision is reached in a group conscious. What's overly private? How do we handle anonymity and safety when there are zoom bombers crashing our meetings, saying and doing horrible things?



We cannot do it alone. For an Open meeting we take a group conscious to outline the settings, finances, and subcommittees who work together weekly to ensure the safety of the group. This subcommittee may change meeting settings to accommodate software updates and group experiences, in order to keep our group safe.

The group conscious, and the subcommittees, may make a few members upset. An example of this are members who want the chat "open" during the meeting, but safety settings may direct the group conscious to "close" the chat during the speaker. Not everyone agrees with the group conscious, but that is our responsibility and our spiritual guide, so that is what we do. **We utilize AA-approved resources relating to privacy settings and meeting controls. We rotate volunteers to be co-hosts and meeting monitors, and have found that the more we involve other group members, the more safe our meeting becomes.**

I use an anonymous email for our group to distribute information with the **BCC** feature. For example, meeting slips are "signed" via email at Oldtownspeakers@gmail.com, and announcements are emailed to this address. Meeting information is distributed online within our traditions, and these emails do not contain any personal information of any members, including the commitment holders and myself.



For a Closed meeting, we use the group conscious, and the meeting settings may be more private. For example, a Closed meeting may elect to use a waiting room, attendees may be asked to name themselves by their first name/last initial. If one is unwilling to do this, they may not be admitted to the meeting. This is a group conscious decision. Closed meetings may choose to "lock" their meeting, based on a well discussed group conscious.

The emphasis of these decisions are based within the Twelfth Tradition - "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principals before personalities."

2. Here are the steps I've taken to support my anonymity and safety within technology and AA

a. I use my first name, last initial to identify myself. I do not use a personal photo for my profile for AA meetings. Currently, I have Dr. Bob's Prescription as my photo when I am in an AA meeting. I do not post on non-private social media about my AA meetings. I share the meeting ID's and passwords of meetings with new women I am trying to help, I tell them "I will be there" and I look for them. I do this where I know the meeting settings are safely in place, as I've been to those meetings before.

b. I attend the same meetings regularly, I'm aware of their privacy settings, and I act the same way in the online format as if I am there in person. **If I am attending an unfamiliar meeting online, I am more cautious about my settings. I may leave that meeting if I feel unsafe or if the proper settings are not in place for privacy. And if attending an unfamiliar, large, open, meeting. I leave my camera off.**

c. I practice the group conscious. Being a secretary or chairperson of a group can feel like the weight the whole group is on my shoulders, this can be incredibly stressful, so I practice the group conscious and do not make decisions alone. And I practice the spirit of rotation! After the commitment is up, I pass the controls to the next person. What a relief!

Understanding Anonymity



"Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities."

This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature.