

2022.08 Proposal to Separate Onsite and Online JFT Groups:

At a recent (7/23) Onsite Steering Committee Meeting of the JFT 6 am and 7 am onsite meetings, a unanimous vote was taken in support of separating the onsite and virtual JFT meetings into two AA groups. The Onsite Steering Committee requested that this recommendation be brought forward to the whole JFT group for consideration by the group conscience.

Background on what led to the proposal:

As you know, the virtual expressions of our group were begun as a service to our onsite members when the pandemic started. The virtual meetings continue to include long time members original to the onsite meetings and have expanded to include those from as far afield as Vermont, Thailand and many places in between.

These four expressions of our one group have made our structure, roles and processes larger and more complex and each group has developed its own culture and operational norms. At a high level, these are the main challenges we are facing:

1. Complexity of structure
2. Difficult communications; technology needed
3. Different cultures and operating norms
4. Role and process confusion
5. Representation
6. Impact on anonymity with use of web camera technology

We are not unique. In fact, many AA groups are going through this very thing. There is also AA Guidance provided on these types of issues.

Other concerns named

- Safety and Access
 - onsite members expressed concerned about web security and anonymity; and those who do not have comfort or access to tech;
 - virtual members identified health (exposure to covid) and safety concerns with onsite experience; and the value of online access for hearing, vision, and physical disability; those who do not have transportation or child care for kids at home
- Work/Effort to separate
- Concerns about filling the jobs

Practical/logistical matters that will need to be address (Identified so far):

- Financials
- Tax ID
- Bank acct
- PayPal
- Contact Lists

- Website?
- Register a group an dID with AA
- Group name
- District GSR / representation
- Secretary, Treasurer and Clerk (Groupwide roles)

The pulse of the approximately 40 members of the Joint Virtual Steering Committee in attendance at the August 27 2022 Meeting was that it made sense to separate the groups and there was general support for the proposal.

Next Steps: Guided by AA's traditions and the AA process for discerning group conscience JFT will address this proposal to separate into two groups at the regular JFT Group Business Meeting scheduled for Saturday, September 24, 2022 (8:15 to 10:15 am); onsite at St. Camillus and Online via the 7 am virtual meeting link.