

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About Mendocino County Remote Meetings

During COVID-19 Shelter-In-Place

I. ATTENDING MEETINGS

1. **Q. If the County is ordered to Shelter-In-Place, how can I attend an AA meeting?**
A. *In Mendocino County there are teleconference meetings and Zoom video conference meetings being offered. [This is the link to the current schedule of remote meetings.](#)*
2. **Q. Is there any cost to access teleconference meetings or Zoom meetings?**
A. *No, it is free to access either type of meeting. For video meetings, Zoom must be downloaded to your computer, smartphone or tablet first, but it is free to do so.*
[Zoom for desktop](#)
[Zoom for iPhone/iPad](#)
[Zoom for Android](#)
3. **Q. I don't have a computer or smartphone, and/or internet (or my internet is unreliable). What can I do?**
A. *Teleconference calls do not require a smartphone or an internet connection. Zoom meetings also have a call-in option that does not require a smartphone or an internet connection.*
4. **Q. I want to use Zoom, but what if I am uncomfortable being on video?**
A. *The call-in option can be used for voice only, or once inside the Zoom virtual meeting room, your video can be turned off/on.*
5. **Q. How can I protect my anonymity when using Zoom?**
A. *When setting up your profile in Zoom, you can set your name to display only your first name (and last initial if desired). Also choosing to have your video turned off is an option.*

II. HOSTING ZOOM MEETINGS

6. **Q. I'd like to host an AA meeting on Zoom. How do I get started?**
A. **1)** *Download Zoom App, deciding which version you will need here; [Plans and Pricing.](#) To learn the controls for Zoom and best practices, follow the directions in the following links to ensure proper settings: [Zoom Security Guide](#), [Anonymity Guide.](#)*
2) *When you click the option to host or schedule a new meeting, Zoom will generate a Meeting ID (best to select Personal ID so it will remain the same for our schedule if*

you intend to do a recurring meeting). You will be assigned a set of numbers that is either 9 or 10 digits. Meeting participants need this ID to join your meeting.

7. Q. Why did my meeting get cut off after 40 minutes?

A. Unless you upgrade to a plan above Basic, any meeting with more than two people will be limited to 40 minutes. Zoom Pro for \$14.99/month can allow up to 100 participants with no time limit, and no limit of meetings per month.

8. Q. Ok, I'd like to get Zoom Pro. Does Intergroup pay for this?

A. No, Intergroup is not providing Zoom accounts. So far individuals are purchasing their own plans, and making arrangements with their groups for reimbursement if requested.

9. Q. I have a Meeting ID. How do I get my meeting onto the local schedule?

A. **1.)** To be listed, the following information is needed: City of Origin, Group Name, Day(s) and Time(s), Meeting Format (Book Study, Discussion, etc.), Meeting ID, and the phone number for the call-in option (our time zone is indicated by the location of San Jose).

2.) Email this information to: [Mendocino County Remote Meeting List](#). Local meetings will be added to the spreadsheet which is also posted on the Mendocino Inland Intergroup website at aaukiah.org.

10. Q. I have heard there are a lot of settings on Zoom that need to be changed if I want to host an AA meeting. Do I really need to do all that?

A. Although each meeting is autonomous, the following links [Zoom Security Guide](#), [Anonymity Guide](#) (see question 6) will suggest settings that will safeguard the virtual meeting space and keep our AA meetings in alignment with our Traditions of anonymity on digital platforms.

11. Q. What is "Zoom Bombing" and "Trolling"? Can my meeting really get hacked?

A. **1).** "Zoom Bombing" is a slang term that describes a meeting being invaded by disruptive people who are taking advantage of lax or default Zoom security settings and flooding the meetings with obscene and annoying rhetoric.

2.) We are not literally being hacked. We are just not setting up our Zoom meetings correctly to avoid getting "trolled". The good news is, that we can definitely create a secure meeting by taking some simple steps.

3.) The importance of these settings cannot be stressed enough.

12. Q. Can I host a meeting from my phone?

A. Yes. However the controls are different from the desktop version. Also, changing the default settings from the Zoom App is limiting, and needs to be done from the settings tab in your profile on the actual website from your internet browser.

<https://zoom.us/profile/setting>

13. Q. How do I collect 7th Tradition?

A. It's up to each meeting how to best get money to the group's bank account. Some groups have been using digital pay spots such as Venmo, PayPal or Apple Pay, and later

transferring funds to the appropriate person. Some people prefer to send a check in the group's name and mail it directly to the treasurer.