

Thank you for wanting to list your group with the U.S./Canada General Service Office (G.S.O.) It is the practice of the G.S.O. to list groups and not meetings. (more information pertaining to groups versus meetings is provided below.) Listing provides a wider opportunity for communication between your group, G.S.O., and the General Service Structure which will help the alcoholic who still suffers. Before filling out the attached new group form, here are a few good things to know:

**This form is for the U.S. groups only.** Contact a local area registrar for more direction

G.S.O. is often asked, "Will filling out this form ensure my group appears in local meetings lists?" **The answer is no.** This form is only so that communication can flow between your group and the U.S./Canada Service structure (your district, your area, and your G.S.O.) Please contact the local A.A. entity that publishes meeting lists such as your local intergroup/central office, district, or area. Many of them also share information with the [Meeting Guide App](#).

**This form asks groups to designate their preferred district and area.** The U.S./Canada structure is comprised of 93 geographic areas and each area is made up of a number of districts. In-person (including hybrid) groups generally use geographic proximity to decide their district and area. It varies for virtual groups since they are non-geographic in nature. If a group originated in a locale and feels rooted there the group may want to approach the local district about participating. Recently some areas have created non-geographic districts for virtual groups. If a group does not designate a preferred district and area, the default option will be using the location of the group's primary contact.

**Area Registrars are often a crucial first point of contact for A.A. groups.** Area registrars develop and maintain records of all groups in their area through Fellowship Connection, a user-friendly interface that facilitates information sharing between areas and G.S.O. Your group's information will be entered into Fellowship Connection and is available to your area delegate and district committee member (DCM). Contact information for your area registrar and other trusted servants can be found on your area's website.

**Experience shows it's best if a group has a good start before asking to be listed.** Many groups wait until they've been meeting for a month or two before filling out this form. The pamphlet ["The A.A. Group"](#) can be a helpful guide to groups and covers four main areas: what an A.A. group is; how a group functions; group relations with others in the community; and how the group fits into the structure of A.A. as a whole.

**G.S.O. lists A.A. groups and not meetings.** Shared experience is that holding A.A. meetings is one function of a group. An A.A. Group is a meeting that participates in the General Service Structure and provides Twelfth Step services that extend beyond the regular meetings times.

It is good to keep in mind the long form of Tradition Three: "Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence, we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation."

**The form asks for a primary contact.** Often groups choose their General Service Representative (G.S.R.) as the group's primary contact, but any group member can serve as the primary contact if they can provide a current email address. An email allows G.S.O. to send the group helpful information and acknowledgements of group contributions quickly and at no cost. A group can also set up a group email address and use that for group correspondence.

**Being listed with the G.S.O. is not an official sanctioning of a group.** A group listing does not constitute or imply an approval or endorsement of any group's practice of the traditional A.A. program. Tradition Four says, "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole." Hopefully every A.A. Group adheres closely to the guiding principles of the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. The G.S.O. neither monitors nor oversees the activities or practice of any A.A. group.

**Each new group is subject to a 30-day pending period according to a 1990 Conference advisory action.** Once complete information is logged by G.S.O. or the area registrar, your group will enter a 30-day pending period to give your delegate and DCM an opportunity to welcome your new group. After the pending period a digital Group Handbook will be emailed out (in addition your group can opt in to be mailed a print version of the Group Handbook on the attached form.)