

## **How to get your AA meeting listed in Area 70**

One of the most important ways in which AA groups “carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers” is through the weekly meeting or meetings they hold. Meetings offer all alcoholics--long-timers, newcomers, and traveling AA members--a chance to learn more about the AA program and to attain and maintain sobriety.

Thus, each group in Area 70 (the state of Vermont) has the responsibility of ensuring that their group is properly listed so that anyone can find it when they want or need to attend a meeting. There is nothing more frustrating than not being able to find a meeting when one is needed, or to arrive at a location listed in a meeting directory only to find that the meeting is no longer there.

Because Alcoholics Anonymous has several levels in its service structure, there are different kinds of meeting lists. In Area 70, it's important that all groups list their meetings and keep their current meeting information up to date in three places, as follows:

1. All groups should be registered with the General Service Office in New York. This is not actually a meeting list, but does allow members of the group to be in regular communication with the worldwide fellowship and its service bodies. A group registration form can be found on the international web site [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) and downloaded for submission.
2. Each group should also be listed in their general service district meeting list. (All 11 districts in Area 70 either have their own meeting list, or publish a joint list in conjunction with adjoining districts). Requirements for listing and the forms used to do so vary with each district. Contact your District Committee Member (DCM) or District Meeting List Chair for more information.
3. Groups should also be listed on the Area 70 meeting lists, which appear both in print and on the area's web site [www.aavt.org](http://www.aavt.org). This is of great importance, particularly for members from other parts of the state or out of state to be able to find a meeting quickly and easily. Under Area 70 policy, all additions, deletions, and changes to the area meeting list must be submitted either by the DCM of the district in which the meeting takes place, or the district's Meeting List Chair, if one has been elected or appointed, to the Area 70 Meeting List Chair. (A copy of the form is attached to this page).

Why do groups have to list their meetings in three different places? The extra work is necessary for two reasons:

1. Each level of the service structure needs different kinds of information, and thus a different form.
2. Many districts have requirements for listing a meeting that are different from other districts and from the area. For example, some districts require that a meeting be in existence for six months or a year before it can be listed. Others do not.

Most groups find this extra bit of work very worthwhile when they see the number of visitors to their group from other parts of the state and from out of state increase. They know they are doing their best to fulfill AA's Fifth Tradition: "Each group has but one primary purpose--to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."