

From the General Service Office 3/20/20

Message to the 70th General Service Conference

Dear Conference members,

If there's anybody in the world who doesn't know, please tell them: New York State has shut down 100% of operations of "nonessential" businesses/organizations today!

The 475 Riverside Drive location of the General Service Office is closed for business for an as-yet-undetermined period of time. We have in place a contingency and business continuity plan, which includes 90% of our employees teleworking, but there is no support staff in the office. In addition, other vendors and suppliers upon whom we depend are experiencing shutdowns. We're all in the same boat, so to speak.

We will not be able to conduct any further planning work even for a scaled-back remote or "virtual" General Service Conference at this time. (We had to cancel a meeting of the trustees' committee today, and the office team is home at present.)

We will communicate further with you when the dust settles and we are able to discern, with the General Service Board, a path forward for the 70th Conference.

A decision regarding the 2020 International Convention in Detroit, based on the new realities all are now facing, is imminent.

In the meantime, we will try our best to keep the lines of communication open, so that you may email (preferable to calls) with questions and concerns you may have as Area delegates and Conference members. We will respond as quickly as is humanly possible, with as much information as may be available at that time.

In the virtual environment, on social media and through electronic communications, we are hearing of much love and a spirit of service being shared in our Fellowship. Groups and members are reaching out to the workers in this office, to local Intergroups and Central Offices, to Area and District committees, with messages of support. We remain in a contingency operations mode to be able to help any and all as best we can.

More to come. Be well and sober and safe, one day at a time.

Yours with an abundance of gratitude,

Greg