

Atheists, Agnostics and All Others Group of Alcoholics Anonymous Chairperson's Guide

Note: The chairperson reads the blue text at every meeting. The chairperson reads the red text when there are persons present other than home group members and regular attendees.

Chairperson:

Ask two AA members to be today's readers. One reader is for the Twelve Steps (at all meetings) and one for the Twelve Traditions. Provide them with the text on the pages in the binder.

Welcome to the regular open AA meeting of Atheists, Agnostics and All Others. My name is _____ and I am an alcoholic.

Let's start this meeting with a moment of silence to use as you wish.

(pause)

Thank you.

This is an open speaker - discussion meeting and all are welcome.

We start our meeting with a member sharing for ten minutes or less followed by a group discussion.

- Our speakers sometimes tell what they used to be like, what happened, and what they are like today.
- Our speakers also may introduce a group discussion on a topic relevant to their personal sobriety, to the AA program, or to sobriety and serenity in general.
- We avoid topics likely to lead to controversy.
- We avoid cross talk.
- Sharing multiple times may occur after each member has shared once or deferred.

Please turn off all cell phones and pagers.

This is a place of worship and we are guests. Please respect our meeting place in your words and actions. Please do not use tobacco on church

premises and please do not bring children as there is not an available place for them and topics may be of a sensitive nature.

"Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength, and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution, does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety."

I have asked _____ to read the Twelve Steps of AA.

Reader: *Read the Twelve Steps from the page provided earlier.*

Chairperson: Tradition 7: Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

We ask that visitors and newcomers do not contribute. We use the contributions for rent to the church, to pay for refreshments, for literature, and for donations to AA Intergroup, District __, Area 18, and the General Service Office.

I have asked _____ to read our Twelve Traditions while we pass the basket for contributions.

Reader: *Read the Twelve Traditions from the page provided earlier.*

Chairperson: Are there any newcomers here with less than 30 days of continuous sobriety? If so, please introduce yourself with your first name so that we can get to know you.

Are there any out-of-town visitors?

Is anyone celebrating a sobriety anniversary today?

Are there any AA-related announcements?

Sponsorship and service are vital to recovery. If you are looking for a sponsor, please see anyone now raising his or her hand. If you are interested in service or in joining our group, please see me after the meeting

Today our speaker is _____.

Speaker: *In ten minutes or less, introduce the topic for the group's discussion.*

Chairperson: It's time to bring the meeting to a close. If you need to talk and did not get the chance, try to find someone with whom to talk after the meeting.

Ask for a volunteer to speak and introduce a discussion topic at the next meeting. If one is not forthcoming, select a likely candidate and ask if they will volunteer.

Please remember to respect the anonymity of people you saw here today, and to keep what they said in confidence.

Would all who would care to, join me in a closing circle: "I put my hand in yours and together we can do what we could never do alone."

Keep coming back – it works.

The Twelve Steps

1. We admitted that we were powerless over alcohol, that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of our Higher Power.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to our Higher Power, to ourselves, and another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have our Higher Power remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked our Higher Power to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with our Higher Power, as we understood it, praying only for knowledge of its will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

The Twelve Traditions

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity.
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority, a loving Higher Power as expressed in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.
4. Each group should remain autonomous except in matter affecting other groups or AA as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
6. An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
7. Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
9. AA, as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain person anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions; ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.