

Beyond Belief Meeting Format

Welcome to Beyond Belief, an agnostics and free-thinkers meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. My name is _____ and I am an alcoholic. This is an open/closed meeting of AA.

A.A. agnostic meetings endeavour to maintain a tradition of free expression, and conduct a meeting where alcoholics may feel free to express any doubts or disbeliefs they may have, and to share their own personal form of spiritual experience, their search for it, or their rejection of it. In keeping with A.A. tradition, we do not endorse or oppose any form of religion or atheism. Our only wish is to ensure suffering alcoholics that they can find sobriety in A.A. without having to accept anyone else's beliefs, or having to deny their own.

We would like to welcome those who are new to A.A., those who are at this meeting for the first time, and those visiting from out of town.

Welcome to all.

I have asked _____ to read the official definition of What is AA.

I have asked _____ to read the Twelve Steps.

I have asked _____ to read Appendix II from the Big Book, on The Spiritual Experience.

[Chairperson identifies as an alcoholic - share for 2 or 3 minutes.]

[Pass the basket for 7th tradition]:

Secretary's announcements:

The Secretary's announcements today will be given by _____.

AA's 7th tradition states that every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions. I will pass the "basket" around so we can pay for rent, literature and other expenses.

Today's meeting is a:

Speaker Meeting:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome _____ who has come along to share her experience, strength and hope with us. [Speaker shares for 10 or 15 minutes. The speaker may choose a theme or use the standard format and share: "in a general way what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now."]

Topic Meeting:

This is a topic meeting. Typically those present select three topics and then each person has an opportunity to share on one or all of the topics.

Living Sober Meeting:

Tonight is a Living Sober meeting. The format of this meeting is to read a chapter from Living Sober followed by open sharing based on the reading. Today we are reading Chapter _____ [number and title].

At Beyond Belief, we would like to give everyone a chance to share for a couple of minutes, but anyone can pass if they like. After everyone has shared, if time permits, anyone who has something to add is welcome to do so.

[Close the meeting on schedule.]

We would like to invite you to join us for coffee and fellowship after the meeting.

We will close the meeting today with the "Responsibility Pledge":

I am responsible When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that I am responsible.