

Secular AA Meeting Format

Welcome to _____. My name is _____ and I'm an alcoholic. This is an open (or closed) meeting of AA.

The Agnostic AA Preamble: *AA agnostic meetings endeavor 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 AA 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 AA without having to accept anyone else's beliefs, or having to deny their own.*

[If there are people present that are not recognized...] Is there anyone today who is new to AA, or at this meeting for the first time, or visiting from out of town? Please introduce yourself. Welcome to all.

[The following are typical readings at secular AA meetings. Use them, if your group wishes. Or not.]

- I have asked _____ to read the AA preamble.
- I have asked _____ to read the secular Twelve Steps.
- I have asked _____ to read Appendix II from the Big Book, on The Spiritual Experience.

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.

[If there are people new to AA at the meeting then they should receive special attention from the Chair and those at the meeting. For instance, if it is a topic meeting, the first topic should be Step 1 and Tradition 3.]

Speaker Meeting: It gives me great pleasure to welcome _____, today's speaker. [The speaker shares for 15 minutes and chooses a theme or speaks of her experience, strength and hope.]

Topic Meeting: This is a topic meeting. [Typically those present select three topics and then each person shares on one or all of the topics, as is the case after a speaker – above – has completed a talk.]

Reading(s): Tonight we will have a reading from Living Sober, or Beyond Belief, and/or... And then we will go around the table and share.

We like to give everyone a chance to share for a couple of minutes, so please time your share accordingly. 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 will close the meeting today with the Responsibility Declaration: *I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that I am responsible.*