

Closed and Open Meeting Format

Note: The chairman of each meeting is responsible for putting out literature & signs, having coffee ready, setting the thermostat, etc. The chairperson is also responsible for ensuring that everything is put away, the thermostat is reset, the coffee and supplies are cleaned up, and that the garbage is emptied after the meeting if needed. Anyone is welcome at open meetings, but the chairperson should ask members if anyone objects to letting a visitor attend a closed meeting. Regular Sunday and Tuesday meetings are closed. Speaker meetings are open.

I. Welcome

Welcome to the regular Starkville meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous.

II. Moment of Silence

Let's observe a moment of silence for the alcoholics still suffering followed by the Serenity Prayer.

III. Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.

IV. Chairperson Introduction

Would everyone turn their cell phone off, or to silent mode, and limit sharing to 3 – 5 minutes until everyone has had a chance to share?

V. This is the Alcoholics Anonymous Preamble

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 AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. AA 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 to help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

VI. How it Works

VII. The Traditions

VIII. Promises

IX. Announcements

AA literature is available at our cost for anyone who wants it and pamphlets are free.

X. Acknowledge Visitors and New People

Introduce ourselves if there are either present.

XI. Discussion

Ask if anyone has a problem or step they would like to discuss. If not, select and read a brief topic related to alcoholism that leads to the sharing of experiences by those attending.

XII. Seventh Tradition

AA has no dues or fees, but we do have expenses. Visitors and new members are asked NOT to contribute.

Chairperson Note: Please count the money collected at the meeting and post the amount and your name in the calendar inside this notebook. The money should be dropped into the overnight envelope depository at the Renasant Bank after the meeting (not the next day).

XIII. Sponsorship and Chairing

Starkville AA has members who are willing serve as sponsors. Would everyone who has a year or more of sobriety and is willing to sponsor please raise your hand?

If anyone who has at least 30 days of sobriety is interested in chairing a regular meeting, please speak to the chairperson after the meeting.

XIV. Chips

This AA group gives chips to members reaching different lengths of sobriety. The white chip is for 24 hours of sobriety, after a slip, or for anyone wishing to join this group; one month, red; two months, gold; three months, green; six months, blue; and nine months, purple.

XV. Closing

The anonymity of each member of AA is a prized possession over which they alone have control. It is their right to break this anonymity in public or in private. We therefore ask that you respect this right by not discussing by name in public those in attendance at this meeting. However, feel perfectly free to discuss any ideas or thoughts you may have gained here tonight.

Close the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.