

Welcome Everyone!

This is a closed meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous for those who have a desire to stop drinking. This meeting has a time limit of 90 minutes starting at 7:30 p.m.

Recording any part of this meeting is not permitted; thank you.

Let's open this meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

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.**

Is anyone celebrating an AA Anniversary today?

Preamble

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people 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 to achieve sobriety.

Readers for: How It Works, The 12 Steps, and The Twelve Traditions.

How It Works

Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our path. Those who do not recover are people who cannot or will not completely give themselves to this simple program, usually men and women who are constitutionally incapable of being honest with themselves. There are such unfortunates. They are not at fault; they seem to have been born that way. They are naturally incapable of grasping and developing a manner of living which demands rigorous honesty. Their chances are less than average. There are those, too, who suffer from grave emotional and mental disorders, but many of them do recover if they have the capacity to be honest.

Our stories disclose in a general way what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now. If you have decided you want what we have and are willing to go to any length to get it - then you are ready to take certain steps.

At some of these we balked. We thought we could find an easier, softer way. But we could not. With all the earnestness at our command, we beg of you to be fearless and thorough from the very start.

Some of us have tried to hold on to our old ideas and the result was nil until we let go absolutely. Remember that we deal with alcohol - cunning, baffling, powerful! Without help it is too much for us. But there is One who has all power - that One is God. May you find Him now!

Half measures availed us nothing. We stood at the turning point. We asked His protection and care with complete abandon. Here are the steps we took, which are suggested as a program of recovery:

1. We admitted 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 God as we understood Him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him 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 God, as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His 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.

Many of us exclaimed "What an order! I can't go through with it." Do not be discouraged. No one among us has been able to maintain anything like perfect adherence to these principles. We are not saints. The point is, that we are willing to grow along spiritual lines. The principles we have set down are guides to progress. We claim spiritual progress rather than spiritual perfection.

Our description of the alcoholic, the chapter to the agnostic, and our personal adventures before and after make clear three pertinent ideas:

- a) that we were alcoholics and could not manage our own lives;
- b) that probably no human power could have relieved our alcoholism;
- c) that God could and would if He were sought.

THE TWELVE TRADITIONS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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 God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.
4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose: to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
6. An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
7. Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
9. A.A., 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 A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal 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.

Qualify Briefly

Topics for this meeting have been selected from a list provided by Service Material from the General Service Office.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Raise your hand to share Hover your mouse at the bottom of screen to see the task bar. Click on **Participants** - at the right you will see a little blue hand - CLICK on it to see your hand beside your name in the list of participants.

New version: click on "Reactions".

For those on cell phones, *6 will mute/unmute.

Or - by pressing **ALT + Y** at the same time

If you are on an Apple Computer press **OPTION + Y** at same time

Sharing Begins I am going to **MUTE EVERYONE** and call you in the order that you raised your hand.

Sharing Ends **ASK ALL TO UNMUTE**

7th Tradition: We have no dues or fees; we do have expenses. Our 7th Tradition states, "**Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.**" The money collected helps pay for this account and carry the message to the still-suffering alcoholic. Please consider donating what you can, either weekly or monthly.

treasurer@area84aa.org

Are there any announcements pertaining to AA?

Close meeting

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.