**GEORGETOWN GROUP DISCUSSION MEETING FORMAT**

**Revised July 25, 2022**

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Chairperson Responsibilities (Not to be Read Aloud).

* When introducing the topic please take 2-3 minutes. Keep it short and concise. Use conference approved literature only.
* Limit members’ sharing to 2-3 minutes. After that time, say thank you and move on to another member.
* Members share only **ONE TIME** during a meeting. There is no “double dipping.”
* After introducing the topic, please do not participate in the discussion. Please **CHAIR DON’T SHARE.**

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**Start the Meeting:**

* Chairperson introduces themself and gives sobriety date.
* Open the meeting with: To remind us of why we’re here, and to focus our thoughts on that purpose, please join me in a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

**Read the 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 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 help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

Give description of meeting, **open or closed**.

* **OPEN**: This is an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. All are welcome.
* **CLOSED**: This is a closed meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. Attendance at closed meetings is limited to persons who have a desire to stop drinking. If you think you have a problem with alcohol, you are welcome to attend this meeting.

Please refrain from crosstalk during the meeting (crosstalk is defined as interrupting the person sharing, providing feedback, advice, judgment on what someone has shared, rather than addressing the group with your own experience.) We ask that all who share confine themselves to problems relating to alcoholism. Please limit sharing to 2 or 3 minutes so more can share.

* Please silence your cell phones.
* Announce that coffee is $.50 a cup and water $.50 a bottle.
* Identify the male and female newcomer contacts.
* Ask if there are any visitors or newcomers would like to introduce themselves.

**Offer a desire chip while reading:** I would like to offer a desire chip. This is an outward symbol of an inward desire to stay sober for 24 hours. Would anyone like one?

**Ask if anyone is celebrating 30, 60, 90 days, 6 or 9 months of continuous sobriety. (Hand out chips to those celebrating any of these milestones.)**

* Ask if anyone is celebrating an annual birthday. They will be recognized at birthday night which is celebrated the last Friday of the month at 8:00 PM.

**Have someone read “How It Works” USING THE BIG BOOK pgs. 58-60. (NOTE: If possible, have a newcomer read this.)**

* I have asked \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to read How It Works **using the Big Book** pages 58-60.
* Chairperson will read the tradition of the month.

**INTRODUCTIONS**:

Go around the room and have meeting participants introduce themselves giving their sobriety date if they so choose.

* **IMPORTANT NOTE for CLOSED** **MEETINGS.** If someone introduces themselves as an addict or having any other issue, the chairperson must ask if they have a desire to stop drinking or think they may have a problem with alcohol. If they do NOT have one or the other, the chairperson should ask a member with much sobriety to take the person out of the meeting and discuss with them the requirements for attending **CLOSED** meetings.

**Introduce the topic using AA Conference Approved Literature Only:**

* **BRIEFLY** **INTRODUCE THE TOPIC. THIS SHOULD TAKE NO LONGER THAN 2-3 MINUTES** TO ENSURE MEMBERS HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO SHARE. THE LAST 15 MINUTES OF THE MEETING SHOULD BE OPEN SO THAT ANYONE WHO WANTS MAY SHARE.
* Pass the basket **HALFWAY THROUGH THE MEETING** and remind everyone that our 7th Tradition states, “Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.” A $2 or $3 contribution is encouraged. If this is your first meeting, it’s on us.

**PLEASE NOTE. START THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING AT LEAST 5 MINUTES BEFORE THE SCHEDULED MEETING END TIME.**

* Offer another desire chip.
* Remind members of the service opportunities on the whiteboard.
* Literature on the shelf is available for purchase. If you wish to purchase literature, please see the chairperson after the meeting.
* Read announcements for events taking place in the next 30 days. For all other announcements have people look at the bulletin boards. Also ask for any other AA-related announcements.
* **Ask for a show of hands of those willing to be sponsors.**
* Please clean up behind yourself.
* “Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.” Who you see here, what you hear here, when you leave here, let it stay here.
* Close with the Lord’s Prayer.

Approved: September 10, 2022