

## WHAT KINDS OF **BEGINNERS MEETINGS** WORK BEST?

Many kinds have worked well. They range from small, unplanned, informal discussions, with newcomers doing most of the talking and a different leader each time, to large sessions, prearranged in a series, with one continuing leader giving prepared talks on specific A.A. subjects.

A combination of these two types seems to work best. Groups have found that newcomers' chances of recovery are higher if they can actively take part in A.A. discussions as soon as possible—and that they also need someone with A.A. experience to tell them the essential facts about alcoholism and our program of recovery.

Therefore, many beginners meetings include both (1) a brief talk by the leader, for not more than twenty or thirty minutes in an hour meeting, and (2) discussion by all present.

## WHAT IS A **GOOD GENERAL OUTLINE** FOR THE LEADER?

Many experienced leaders of beginners meetings say that their opening remarks generally cover these points:

1. Welcome to newcomers. (Newcomers are essential to A.A.'s health and growth. In the first few weeks, they will discover that their fresh experiences make them vital links in reaching other suffering alcoholics.)
2. Assurance that newcomers' anonymity will be respected.
3. Explanation that everything the leader or any other member says is only the individual's opinion, that no one can speak on behalf of the entire worldwide Fellowship (or, indeed, of any group).
4. Brief statement of the Fellowship's size and scope.
5. Brief sharing of the leader's own experience, including in condensed form the usual elements of an A.A. talk: identification as an alcoholic (not necessarily *events* while drinking, but *feelings*); how the leader came to A.A.; recovery in the program; knowledge gained from A.A.
6. Comments on any particular topic that, in the leader's opinion, newcomers need or want to know about. (There are suggestions on the following pages.)
7. Information about other local meetings.
8. Recommendation of the A.A. message in print—so that newcomers may take it with them after the meeting in the form of A.A. books, pamphlets, or the Grapevine.

Also, BB pg. 44 plus HANDOUTS } WHERE & WHEN  
A Guide  
vers. pamphlets

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