

Back Porch AA Meeting FORMAT

Thank you so much for your service. To ensure a positive, group-conscience approved meeting, please read and adhere to the following. Instructions for chairperson found in blue highlighted text.

Welcome to the Back Porch AA Meeting. My Name is ____ * and I am your chairperson.

When you sign in, please use your first name and last initial to protect your anonymity if you wish. This is an open meeting and it was started out of a need for fellowship.

All are welcome who have a desire to stop drinking. Please mute yourself while others are speaking. We ask that what and who you see here stays here. Recording has been disabled and we ask that if you wish to chat that you do so respectfully and in keeping with our singleness of purpose. Our singleness of purpose is to stay sober and help others stay sober using the program of action found in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, commonly referred to as The Big Book.

Let us open with a moment of silence and the serenity prayer to remember why we are here.

Serenity Prayer

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

AA 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.

I have asked _____ to please read "How it Works" from the Big Book of *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

I have asked _____ to read our 12 Traditions.

Is there anyone attending their first, second, or third AA Meeting? If so, would you please introduce yourself to the group using your first name only so that we may welcome you.

Is there anyone in their first 30 days of sobriety? Please introduce yourself, so we can welcome you.

Are there any AA Anniversaries from 30 days to multiples of years?

This meeting is here 7 nights a week at the same time: 5:30 p.m. MT. We have a ladies meeting weekly on Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. MT. We have a co-ed meeting on Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m MT, and a mens meeting on Sundays at 3:30 p.m. MT. The next steering committee meeting will be _____, monthly on the third Thursday of the month at 6:35 p.m. MT.

If you need an attendance slip, a desire chip, or a copy of the big book of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, you can request one at <https://www.backporchmeetings.com>. Scholarship big books are available if you cannot afford one, and that option is also available on our website.

Seventh tradition. We observe the seventh tradition and are self-supporting through our own contribution. You may contribute on Venmo using @backporchmeetings, or PayPal on our website.

Chairpersons are needed for Back Porch AA meetings. If you are a regular attending member, have 90 days of sobriety, and are working with a sponsor, we invite you to sign up on the website to chair.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084aafa92da0fe3-530chair>

We believe in sponsorship at this meeting. This is when one member who has recovered from Alcoholism and has done the steps shows another alcoholic how he/she did it, using the steps

as in the Big Book of *Alcoholics Anonymous*. For those of you looking for a sponsor, please look for someone who has what you want and reach out to him/her directly or let the group know you are looking for a sponsor. For those of you available to sponsor, please let us know in the chat.

Are there any other group announcements for the good of AA?

(Instructions for the chairperson-do not read this part)

The chairperson will ask for volunteers to share, or call on people to share. The Chairperson will have prepared a topic using AA-approved literature.

Chairperson reads aloud again:

I have chosen to read _____ from _____. I chose this reading because _____
(share your experience, strength, and hope).

Please be mindful of the size of the group, and keep your shares to 3-5 minutes or less, so that others may share. Keep your shares about your experience, strength and hope as it relates to alcoholism. Please respect others. We ask that you keep from using excessive profanity as a sign of respect for people's spaces and please do not cross talk. Cross talk is defined as commenting on another person's share or advice giving.

Call on people to share. Thank people for their shares. Pick the next person to

share. End of the meeting wrap up with:

Please stick around after the meeting for more fellowship.

I would like to ask _____ to close us out with a prayer of your choice found in AA-approved literature. *(Please don't assume that the person will know the Lord's prayer. If you are not sure of a prayer, the Serenity Prayer can be used)*