

ATHEISTS AND AGNOSTICS IN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS [PUTNAM, CT] MEETING FORMAT

[DRAFT C; 5/12/2018]

Good evening. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am an alcoholic. Could we begin with a moment of silence?

Welcome to the Atheists and Agnostics in Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. This is an Open Meeting of AA.

[If necessary] We would like to welcome those who are new to AA and those who are attending this meeting for the first time.

We'll begin with the Alcoholics Anonymous Preamble, followed by this meeting's Mission Statement.

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 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.

MISSION STATEMENT: The purpose of this meeting is to maintain a tradition of free expression. Here, alcoholics may feel free to express any doubts or disbeliefs they may have, and to share their own personal form of spiritual experience, their search for it, or their rejection of it. Our only wish is to assure suffering alcoholics that they can find sobriety in AA without having to accept anyone else's beliefs or having to deny their own.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT OUR FORMAT: Please introduce yourself the first time you speak. There is no need to repeat your name each time you speak. At this meeting we encourage courteous and relevant cross-talk. Please be brief in consideration of others. We follow the "Eastford Format," in which we "pass the hat" for attendees to anonymously drop in questions or subjects for discussion. We then pass the hat around and each remove and read one question, give their thoughts on it or "pass." When the Chair feels discussion is complete, the next person pulls a question. Our meeting is announced to be from 8:00 PM to 9:00 PM but group conscience may allow discussion to continue, up until 9:30, with the understanding that some may need to leave at 9:00 for reasons of logistics.

7<sup>TH</sup> TRADITION: Pass a hat before 9:00 in case anyone needs to leave before the meeting concludes.

CLOSING: "The meeting is over. Thanks for coming. See you next week."