**OPEN DISCUSSION MEETING FORMAT**

**Read:**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I’m an alcoholic. I’d like to welcome everyone to the Love & Service Group of Alcoholics Anonymous. Will you please help me open the meeting with a moment of silence to do with as you wish?

This is an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous and we are glad you are all here; especially newcomers. In keeping with our singleness of purpose, we ask that all who share confine their discussion to alcoholism. If you are unsure if you are an alcoholic, we have literature on the back table that can help you decide. If you wish to join this group, please see our Membership Chair \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ after the meeting. Our business meeting is held in this room on the first Saturday of the month at 5:30pm and all are welcome. If the first Saturday falls on a holiday weekend or is during the convention, the business meeting is moved to the second Saturday of the month at 5:30pm.

The Love & Service Group encourages Sponsorship. We have found through our experience that helping other alcoholics with the 12 Steps is vital to our own continued sobriety. If you currently do not have a sponsor, this group encourages you to read this pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.” We also ask that anyone available to sponsor another alcoholic please raise your hand at this time.

**Readings:**

* What is AA? (Preamble)
* The 12 Steps
* The 12 Traditions
* The Concept of the month

**Read** (and pass the baskets):

When we pass the baskets, all contributions we receive go to support A.A.’s single purpose, which includes contributions to this church for use of this room , our General Service Office, Central NY AA, District 800, Intergroup, as well as literature and supplies for this meeting. We ask that you only give if you can, and that only A.A. members contribute, as we are fully self-supporting through our own contributions.

* + Not to embarrass you, but to welcome you:
    - Is there anyone within their first 3 months of sobriety that would like to introduce themselves?
    - Is there anyone new to this meeting or from out of town?
    - Do we have any non-alcoholic visitors or students?
      * If you smoke, please dispose of cigarette butts properly using the cigarette disposal receptacle provided in the parking lot. Please keep smoking and use of e-cigs around the white fence where the butt can is located. Please do not smoke in the handicapped parking area or along the sidewalk. Also, please don’t use e-cigs in the church.
      * Please do not park in front of the white shed as it is not church property & let’s remember we are guests here at the church and we should be respectful of our neighbors.
      * Please make sure to silence your cell phones.
      * We have a bulletin with service related A.A. announcements that we encourage you to check out after the meeting.
      * Can we have Literature/Grapevine report?
    - *Pause for report*
    - We have literature for sale at cost and pamphlets and grapevines free for the taking – if you’d like to purchase literature, please see \_\_\_\_\_\_(literature rep) after the meeting.
    - Are there any A.A. related announcements?
    - Intergroup committee of the month?
    - Here at the Love & Service Group, we celebrate anniversaries and the power of God through the 12 steps with a coin and a hug. We recognize 24 hours, monthly, and yearly anniversaries. Is anyone celebrating an anniversary? ( Hand out Birthday envelopes to those with year or more)
    - In celebrating your anniversary, please consider contributing to our local intergroup and GSO. Giving back in this way expresses gratitude and makes the A.A. message available to the newcomer.

**Formats**:

* + This is an hour and a half meeting & we have different formats each week.
  + First Saturday of the month is a Tradition/Concept meeting coinciding with the month.
  + Second Saturday of the month is a Topic Discussion (upstairs) and a First Step (downstairs).
  + Third Saturday of the month is a Step Meeting coinciding with the month (upstairs) and a First Step (downstairs).
  + Last Saturday of the month is a Speaker Meeting that is ASL interpreted

**Read:**

This group offers a First Step Meeting downstairs. First Step Meetings typically focus on early sobriety and the beginning of a spiritual journey. We’ll now take a quick break for coffee and those wishing to join the First Step Meeting can do so now.

Read:

This is an open discussion meeting. Please be considerate when speaking so that all members have a chance to share. In keeping with our group conscience, we ask that only alcoholics and those with a drinking problem participate in the discussion.

*At 9:25 PM, ask for a burning desire if anyone didn’t get to chance to share.*

*At the end of the meeting give someone the Big Book opened to page 164.*

**Read**:

It is the conscience of this group to close this meeting with a reading from page 164 of the Big Book, followed by a moment of silence and the serenity prayer.