

*Thank you so much for your service. To ensure a positive, group-conscience approved meeting, please read and adhere to the format. Instructions for the chairperson are in blue highlighted text. Ask for volunteers to read before the meeting begins. Topics should come from AA conference approved literature.*

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## **Back Porch AA Meeting Format**

Welcome to the Back Porch AA Meeting. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am your chairperson. Our co-hosts tonight are \_\_\_\_\_. This is an open meeting, started out of a need for fellowship. All are welcome who have a desire to stop drinking. We ask that what and who you see here stays here. Recording has been disabled. If you wish to chat, please do so respectfully.

Let's begin with a moment of silence & the Serenity Prayer.

**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 read "How It Works" from the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous (p. 58).

I have asked \_\_\_\_\_ to read the 12 Traditions from the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous (p. 562).

Is anyone attending their first AA meeting, returning to AA, within their first 30 days of sobriety, or celebrating an anniversary? If so, please raise your hand so we can welcome you. You can do this by clicking the "reactions" button at the bottom of your screen and raising your virtual hand.

We meet every night at 5:30 p.m. MT. There's a women's meeting every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. MT, a co-ed meeting on Sundays at 8:30 a.m. MT, and a men's meeting on Sundays at 3:30 p.m. MT. Our business meeting is on the 3rd Thursday of the month, immediately following this meeting at 6:35 p.m. MT.

If you need an attendance slip or would like to receive a chip, you can request one on our website. You can also find a link to purchase a Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous or request a scholarship copy if you're unable to afford one.

The Seventh Tradition states that every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions. You may contribute using the link on our new website.

Chairpersons are needed for Back Porch AA meetings. If you're a regular attending member, have 90 days of sobriety, and are working with a sponsor, we invite you to sign up on our website to chair. Are there any AA-related announcements?

We believe in sponsorship here. For those of you looking for a sponsor, please look for someone who has what you want and reach out to them directly or let the group know you are looking for a sponsor. If you have questions about sponsorship or chairing a meeting, stay after the meeting and ask during fellowship.

I have chosen to read \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_. I chose this reading because [share your experience, strength, and hope].

Please keep your shares to 2-3 minutes, focusing on your experience, strength, and hope related to alcoholism. Please avoid cross-talking, which means commenting or giving advice on others' shares. *Call on people to share, or ask for volunteers. Please try to thank others for their shares without commenting, as this can still be considered cross-talk. As the Chair it is your responsibility to steer the meeting in a loving tolerant direction. I.E.- If a person sharing is noticeably intoxicated or offensive, please thank them for their share and recommend they stay after the meeting. When the meeting gets going on a problem rather than a solution-based direction, call on a long timer to bring the meeting back on track.*

Feel free to stay after the meeting to ask questions or to hang out and get to know us.

Let's take a moment of silence for the still sick and suffering. I have asked \_\_\_\_\_ to close us out with a prayer of your choice from AA-approved literature.