

## **BACK PORCH MEETING FORMAT - CHAIRPERSON INFO**

### **Notes & Links**

*Thank you so much for your service. To ensure a positive, group-conscience approved meeting, please read and adhere to the format. Ask for volunteers to read before the meeting begins. Topics should come from AA conference approved literature (see list below).*

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### **Items to paste in the chat:**

Step Onto the New Back Porch:

<https://www.therealbackporch.com>

7th Tradition Giving:

<https://donorbox.org/the-back-porch-7th-tradition-donation-form>

Attendance Certificate:

<https://therealbackporch.com/help.html#attendance>

Would You like to Chair:

<https://therealbackporch.com/chairpersons-resources.html>

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### **Back Porch AA Meeting Schedule**

Mon–Fri: 5:30 pm

Sat: [8:30 am](#) (women's mtg) [5:30 pm](#)

Sun: [8:30 am](#), [3:30 pm](#) (men's mtg), & [5:30 pm](#)

*All times are Mountain Standard Time*

### **Chairperson Guidelines**

- Call on members to share or ask for volunteers.
  - Please thank members for sharing without commenting on or responding to what was said.  
Examples of neutral responses:
    - Thank you for sharing or We appreciate your share.
    - Thanks for being here today or I'm glad you're here
  - As chairperson, your role is to help guide the meeting in a loving and tolerant direction.
  - If someone sharing appears intoxicated or becomes offensive, thank them for their share and gently invite them to stay after the meeting to talk.
  - If sharing begins focusing more on problems than solutions, consider calling on a long-timer or trusted member to help bring the meeting back to a solution-focused direction.
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### **Chairperson Guidelines**

Books, pamphlets, and audiovisual materials authorized by the General Service Conference that reflect A.A.'s recovery program and provide many choices for meeting topics.

### **Core Conference-Approved Books**

- [Alcoholics Anonymous](#) (The "Big Book")
- [Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions](#)
- [Daily Reflections](#)
- [As Bill Sees It](#)
- [Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers](#)
- [Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age](#)
- [Pass It On](#) (Bill W. biography)
- [Language of the Heart](#)
- [Came to Believe](#)
- [Living Sober](#)
- [Grapevine](#) and *La Viña*: Recognized as the international journals of A.A.

## 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).

Now for some introductions. Is anyone attending their first AA meeting or just coming back after their last drink? If so, please raise your virtual hand using the reactions button at the bottom of your screen so we can welcome you. When called on, please introduce yourself by your first name and sobriety date if you like.

We also invite anyone within their first 30 days of sobriety, or anyone celebrating an anniversary, to raise their hand and introduce yourself so we can welcome you. We will have time for sharing later in the meeting.

For anyone looking for additional meetings or our regular schedule, We have 10 meetings each week. Our full schedule is posted in the chat and on our website.

If you need an attendance slip or sobriety chip, you can request one using the link in the chat. There's also a link there to purchase a Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, or request a scholarship copy if you need one.

The Seventh Tradition reminds us that every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions. Online meetings have expenses that help keep this meeting open. If you'd like to contribute, please use the link in the chat or visit [therealbackporch.com](http://therealbackporch.com).

We're looking for members willing to be of service as chairpersons for Back Porch AA meetings. If you're a regular attending member with at least 90 days of sobriety and working with a sponsor, we

invite you to sign up on our website. Service is a great way to stay connected and give back what was freely given.

We believe in sponsorship here. If you're looking for a sponsor, look for someone who has the kind of sobriety you want and reach out, or let the group know you're looking. If you have questions about sponsorship or chairing a meeting, feel free to stay after and ask during fellowship. Are there any AA-related announcements?

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

**OPEN SHARING AFTER THIS:** I'll open the meeting for sharing. We ask that shares be about 2–3 minutes so everyone has a chance to participate. Please share from your own experience, strength, and hope rather than responding to another person's share. You may hear a gentle timer reminder when it's time to start wrapping up. If you'd like to share, just raise your virtual hand or raise your hand on camera. It can be hard to see raised hands in a large group, so thank you for your patience.

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.