



Closed Meetings

Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon Family Groups, Narcotics Anonymous, and Cocaine Anonymous meetings are generally closed meetings unless otherwise stated. Closed meetings are limited to members and prospective members only.

It is up to individuals to determine if they are "qualified" for membership, based on the following criteria from Tradition 3 of the 12 step groups:

Alcoholics Anonymous: The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Al-Anon: The only requirement for membership is that there be a problem of alcoholism in a relative or friend.

Narcotics Anonymous: The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using.

Cocaine Anonymous: The only requirement for C.A. membership is a desire to stop using cocaine and all other mind-altering substances.

Open Meetings

Open meetings are for anyone who is interested in Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon, Narcotics Anonymous, and Cocaine Anonymous. If a meeting is "open" it will be so designated on the published schedule. Open meetings can be attended by students, professionals, and other non-members interested in learning more about the recovery programs.

The designation of a meeting as "open" does not change the meetings primary purpose of the group.

The Primary Purpose from Tradition 5 of the individual fellowships are:

Alcoholics Anonymous: Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Al-Anon: Al-Anon has but one primary purpose: to help families of alcoholics.

Narcotics Anonymous: Each group has but one primary purpose — to carry the message to the addict who still suffers.

Cocaine Anonymous: Each group has but one primary purpose — to carry its message to the addict who still suffers.

Generally speaking, when attending one 12 step meeting, members do not mention their membership in other 12 step groups during the meeting, to keep the meeting focused on its primary purpose.

If a meeting is not designated either open or closed on a published schedule, it should be considered closed.



Example Closed and Open Meeting Statements:

THIS IS A CLOSED MEETING OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

This is a closed meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. In support of A.A.'s singleness of purpose, attendance at closed meetings is limited to persons who have a desire to stop drinking. If you think you have a problem with alcohol, you are welcome to attend this meeting. We ask that when discussing our problems, we confine ourselves to those problems as they relate to alcoholism.

(The 1987 General Service Conference made this statement available as an A.A. service piece for those groups who wish to use it.)

To Reorder, write to:

General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163

THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

This is an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. We are glad you are all here — especially newcomers. In keeping with our singleness of purpose and our Third Tradition which states that "The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking," we ask that all who participate confine their discussion to their problems with alcohol.

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