

MONDAY (BIRTHDAY) BEGINNER MEETING *(Last Monday of the Month)*

12:00 Good afternoon, my name is _____ and I am an alcoholic. Welcome to the Three Legacies Group of Alcoholics Anonymous. We meet Monday through Wednesday in this room at noon. For more information about our meetings or our group, please see a home group member. Would home group members please raise their hands? Today is an Open Beginners Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. Please silence cell phones at this time. Please don't park in the school parking lot and if you are parking in the neighborhood around the church, be aware of the posted signs for Neighborhood Parking only. Parking is permitted at the Church. Please dump out all liquids from cups in the sink before throwing them in the garbage. I'm passing a clipboard around with upcoming announcements, events and flyers. Please feel free to look through and take a picture of any fliers you are interested in.

The purpose of this Beginner Meeting is to introduce A.A.'s program of recovery to all who are interested in learning more about what A.A. is. We will introduce some information and terminology that we believe would be helpful to anyone who feels they may have a problem with alcohol. Then we will hear some sharing from some members of A.A. To consider the nature of the alcoholic illness, as we understand it, would _____ please read from **More about Alcoholism** starting on page 30 of the Big Book.

Only you can decide whether you want to give A.A. a try. We who are in A.A. came because we finally gave up trying to control our drinking. If you feel that you are in trouble with alcohol and would like to quit drinking for good, we suggest you start by getting the following three things:

1. The Book "Alcoholics Anonymous" - The first 164 pages of this book contains the program of recovery. Feel free to ask the Chairperson at any A.A. meeting to help you get a copy of the book. They cost around \$15. You will also hear the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* most frequently referred to as the "Big Book".

2. A Sponsor - A sponsor in A.A. is someone who has recovered through the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous as outlined in the Big Book and is willing to take someone else through the same work.

3. A Home Group - Most A.A. members attend many different meetings but belong to one group that they call their "*Home Group*". This is the group where they accept service responsibilities. With membership comes the right to vote on issues that affect the group and might also affect A.A. as a whole. As with all group-conscience matters, each A.A. member has one vote; this is voiced through the home group.

You may hear some other terms that may seem confusing at first as well, such as:

Outside issues: *"Experience with alcohol is one thing all A.A. members have in common. It is misleading to hint or give the impression that A.A. solves other problems or knows what to do about drug addiction."* We all come in with many different problems

in addition to alcohol. But our common problem with alcohol is what unites us. Politics, medical advice and religion are considered outside issues as well. We share only our experience, strength and hope as it relates to Alcoholism, otherwise the meeting gets diverted from its Primary Purpose.

Crosstalk: This term can be confusing because it's defined in different ways depending on the group. Some common descriptions of crosstalk include:

- Speaking "at" someone in your share, instead of to the group
- Offering advice or an opinion on someone else's situation or share
- Using "You" or "We" statements, instead of sharing in the "I" or "Me"
- Unsolicited feedback or advice

Avoidance of crosstalk is a courtesy, not a Tradition. Some Groups allow for Crosstalk and others discourage it.

This is an Open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. While Closed meetings are for A.A. members only, nonalcoholics are welcome to attend open meetings **as observers**. Do we have any Non-Alcoholic guests visiting today? Family members, Friends, anyone from the professional community or other 12 Step fellowships? If so, we would like to welcome you. Do we have any new people with us today in your first, second, or third meeting ever who think you may have a problem with alcohol? If so, feel free to raise your hand and introduce yourself. ***(Welcome the newcomer and let them know that a Newcomer Rep will get them a newcomer packet)***

If there are any A.A. members here today for your first time visiting the Three Legacies Group please tell us your name and the name of your home group so that we can welcome you. Do we have any sobriety anniversaries or milestones that we can acknowledge today?

To detail the Solution we have found, would _____ please read the **12 Steps** of A.A.'s program of recovery from page 59 beginning with "*Here are the steps we took*" ending with Step 12.

Today we celebrate birthdays/milestones by asking Home Group members that have annual birthdays to share their experience, strength and hope for about 5 minutes. I will now turn the floor over to our birthday celebrants _____.

Thank you for getting us started today _____. We will now pass the basket to observe the 7th Tradition. If you are new to A.A., or just visiting our group, you are our guest and there is no need to contribute. The 7th Tradition states clearly that: ***"The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members."*** The money we contribute is used for rent, coffee, supplies, literature, and to carry the message to alcoholics outside of our group through the General Service structure. I will now be calling on people to share. With respect to Traditions 6 & 8 we ask anyone who is in attendance today as part of your employment with the Treatment industry to please refrain from participating today if you are here with a client. For those called onto share, please share about the topic from what was read

today. Please keep your shares to around 3 minutes. If you make it to 3 minutes, you will hear the timer. The timer doesn't mean to shut up, it just means to start wrapping it up. The topic today comes from page_____.

12:45 The floor is now open for anyone who hasn't yet had the opportunity to share and would like to. We ask that you share about what was read today from pages _____ and keep your share to 3 minutes. Please raise your hand and I will call on you to share.

12:55 That's all the time we have today. I would like to thank all who were in service to the meeting today. Our group believes strongly in the meeting-before-the-meeting and the meeting-after-the-meeting. We open the meeting room at 11:30 and will stay open as long as two or more are here. Please join us for fellowship. We have A.A. literature for sale at cost. Please see one of our elected trusted servants to purchase what you need. Would trusted servants please raise your hands? If you don't currently have a sponsor, you are welcome to stay after this meeting and talk with some of our members. A sponsor is someone who has recovered through the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous outlined in the Big Book, and is willing to take someone else through the same work. Members usually attend a variety of different meetings, but have one Home Group. The "*Home Group*" is where A.A. Members accept service responsibilities. If you don't already have a Home Group and you would like to join ours, you are welcome to attend the business meeting on the first Tuesday of next month directly following the meeting. We would love to have you. If you would like to learn more about our group, our meeting formats, or our bylaws, please visit our website at ThreeLegaciesGroup.org You will find everything you need and more on our website. Also feel free to check out our speaker archives by clicking on the "**Listen to past speakers page**".

Please stay after the meeting today to help us celebrate our birthdays/milestones with cake and coffee. Do Three Legacies Group trusted servants have any announcements?

With respect to this being a Beginner Meeting, I have asked ___ to read "**What is A.A.**".

After a moment of silence for the alcoholic who still suffers I will lead us out with the **Serenity Prayer**.