

The Way Out Guidelines

General Group Guidelines

The Secretary is responsible for setting up the chairpersons for the year. They must be home group members.

All home group members are responsible for cleaning up after the meeting and rearranging the chairs.

All home group members are responsible for greeting the newcomer.

Sponsors “suggest” that their sponsees attend the meeting, but they do not have to become home group members.

Home group members donate a dollar for every year sober when they pick up their chip.

At anniversaries, usually the sponsor will get a cake for the sponsee. The home group does not purchase cakes or snacks but encourages home group members to bring snacks at their discretion.

The home group will provide anniversary chips for all home group members.

We are a closed meeting for alcoholics only. After past discussion, we decided there is no reason to ever “open” the meeting.

If a non-alcoholic is present prior to the meeting or at the start of the meeting, it is the responsibility of all home group members to ask the person to step outside the meeting and to direct them to where they need to go.

Chairperson’s Guidelines

Chairpersons follow the meeting format listed in the white binder.

Prior to meeting start, chairpersons should check in the black plastic box to see if there are any anniversary chips for that night. Check with the recipient to see who is giving the chip and give the chip to that person.

Home group members give out the chips.

Home group members review the question.

The home group is comfortable with “silence”. Don’t feel you need to rush to the next question. Sometimes it takes a period of silence for someone to share. After a reasonable

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period of silence, ask if anyone else wants to share on the question and if not move on to the next question.

We do not ask for “burning desires.” At around 8:55pm, just say “this is a good place to stop.”

It is common practice to have someone help you to set up the meeting if you are chairing. The coffee needs to start at least 45 min. before the start of the meeting in order to be ready for the meeting. Coffee directions are in the white binder.

A home group member is designated to be in charge of supplies. Chairpersons are responsible for letting the supplies person know if anything is running low.

The meeting starts with the Serenity Prayer.

The meeting ends with the Lord’s Prayer. The chairperson always starts the prayer. Note: the prayer starts with “Our Father” and ends with “Amen”. No jokes, jigs, chants, hand rituals etc. before or after the prayer.