

Back to Basics A.A. Groups

Summary of Suggested Guidelines

These suggestions for conducting Back to Basics A.A. Beginners' Meetings are based on numerous conversations held from 1997 through 2008 with members of the A.A. service structure who provided their insight on how to best implement this "original" 1946 A.A. meeting format, plus feedback from the thousands of A.A. members who have had great success conducting these A.A. meetings. Even with these suggestions, it is still up to the members of each A.A. group, based on their group conscience, to decide how they will conduct their Beginners' Meetings, using the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous as their guide.

1. At the presenters table, use a Back to Basics A.A. Meeting Leader Guide or Guides to conduct the four, one-hour sessions. The Meeting Leader Guide contains an A.A. meeting format that has the same G.S.O. "conference approval" as every other format used to conduct A.A. meetings.
2. In addition to the Meeting Leader Guide or Guides, display a copy of the Fourth Edition of the "Big Book" of Alcoholics Anonymous at the presenters table. Announce that this is an A.A. meeting and you will be using the "Big Book" to take people through the Steps.
3. At the presenters table, please do not read from the "yellow book" during these A.A. meetings.
4. Explain to everyone attending the Back to Basics A.A. Beginners' Meetings that this is the A.A. format used by many of the A.A. pioneers to achieve the remarkable recovery rates experienced during the "early days." We are seeing similar recovery rates today for those willing to remain actively involved with the Beginners' Meetings for a minimum of ninety days, either by taking the Steps, guiding others through the Steps, or leading the meetings.
5. Register your group with the General Service Office in New York City and with your local Central or Intergroup Office.