

This Ungodly Hour MEETING SCRIPT

Welcome to the Friday Night meeting of ***This Ungodly Hour***, an agnostic group of Alcoholics Anonymous. My name is _____, and I'm an alcoholic... I have asked a friend to read the A.A. Preamble [-or-] (The A.A. Preamble states) :

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other so 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 to help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

This group of A.A. attempts to maintain a tradition of free expression, and conduct a meeting where alcoholics may feel free to express any doubts or disbeliefs they may have, and to share their own personal form of spiritual experience, their search for it, or their rejection of it. We do not endorse or oppose any form of religion or atheism. Our only wish is to assure suffering alcoholics that they can find sobriety in A.A. without having to accept anyone else's beliefs or having to deny their own.

There will be no closing prayers; instead we will recite the A.A. Slogan: “**Live and Let Live.**”

We meet Friday nights from 11:00 p.m. to midnight, here at Mount Carmel Church. Every fourth Friday is a Living Sober reading. Business meetings are held immediately after our regular meetings on the first Fridays in June & December.

More information on agnostic and other no-prayer meetings in New York City and world-wide can be found at our website: **agnosticAAnyc.org**

This is a closed meeting of A.A., meaning attendance is limited to anyone who has a desire to stop drinking. If you think you have a problem with alcohol, you are welcome at this meeting.

We ask that you do not qualify or share during this meeting if you have used alcohol or any self-prescribed mood changer today, but feel free to speak to the chairperson or to another group member after the meeting.

In keeping with the tradition of A.A. unity, this meeting neither displays nor distributes any altered versions of Conference-approved literature. This includes A.A.'s *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. **Regardless, anyone who qualifies or shares here is free to read from or discuss any form of literature or other expression, as it relates to his or her own recovery.**

Please be courteous while others are speaking. Avoid cross talk, speaking out of turn, or **engaging in any disruptive behavior**. Keep shares brief so all may have time to share.

May we have a volunteer to serve as our timekeeper?

[direct at the timekeeper:] **Thank you.** For the main speaker please keep twenty minutes total time, with five-minute and one-minute reminders; all other shares get three minutes total with a one-minute reminder before calling 'time'.

Everyone, please silence all phones and devices. Thank you.

[MEETING OPTIONS: 1 thru 4]

[1. SPEAKER MEETING]

This is a speaker's meeting. The format is to have a fifteen-to-twenty-minute qualification, followed by a round-robin discussion. Tonight, I ask you to welcome our speaker _____.

[2. OPEN FORUM]

Tonight's meeting is an open forum. This will consist of a round-robin discussion, in a clockwise direction, in which one may share about anything pertinent to his or her recovery. At some point, we will pause for a Seventh Tradition break. Who would like to begin the round-robin? **[if no volunteers, pick someone].**

[3. TOPIC MEETING]

This is a topic meeting. The format of this meeting is to have a member introduce a topic for discussion, with a brief description relating to his or her sobriety, after which we will move in a clockwise direction. Tonight, _____ will introduce the topic.

[4. LIVING SOBER MEETING – EVERY FOURTH FRIDAY]

Tonight, we are having a Living Sober meeting. *Living Sober* is a Conference-approved publication offering sound, rational suggestions for maintaining one's sobriety. Tonight's reading will be from Chapter __, Page __, entitled _____.

The format will be a round-robin paragraph-by-paragraph reading in a clockwise direction, followed by a Seventh Tradition break, and then a round-robin discussion. Who would like to begin the reading? **[if no volunteers, pick someone].**

[BREAK TIME]

We will now practice the Seventh Tradition, which states that each A.A. group is self-supporting through its own contributions. If you are unable to contribute anything, please remember that your being here is much more important than any financial contribution.

- Are there any newcomers to A.A. or to this meeting?
Or visitors from out-of-town who would like to introduce themselves?
- Is anyone counting days one through ninety, who would like to share their day-count?
- Is anyone celebrating an anniversary of ninety days, six-months, a year or more, this month?
- Are there any A.A. related announcements?

It's said that service keeps you sober. Speaking or preparing a topic for discussion is a valuable service to the group and can be an important part of one's personal sobriety program. If anyone would like to prepare a topic, or simply qualify, at a future meeting, please see the chairperson afterwards.

Anonymity is the foundation of our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities. What you see here, what you do here, what you hear here: When you leave here, let it stay here.

At the church's request, we ask that you refrain from conversation in the upstairs vestibule, by the restroom, in the stairway, or outside in front of the rectory and church residences, which are to the left as you exit. If you do congregate outside, please exit to the right and move past the statue of Saint Jude, toward the corner of Havemeyer Street.

May we get a volunteer to clean up after the meeting?

Thank you!

...And now back to the meeting. During the round-robin discussion, please feel free to share anything you need to talk about. **If anyone has a burning desire to drink or engage in other destructive behavior, please raise your hand and you will be heard.**

If it appears that we won't have time for everyone to share, we'll go to a show of hands fifteen minutes prior to the close of the meeting. If we still have time left after everyone's shares, we will open the floor by show of hands.

The speaker (—or topic presenter—) will choose a person to begin the round robin, after which we will move in a clockwise direction

[-OR- for Open Forum or Living Sober formats]

We will continue the round-robin with the next person in the circle and proceed in a clockwise direction.

[CLOSING]

Unfortunately, it appears that we are out of time (and/or people). Many of us have dinner, snacks, or coffee after the meeting. We will decide at that time where we will go. All are encouraged to attend, since getting to know others outside the context of a meeting can be helpful in maintaining sobriety.

I will now (ask a friend to) read a few words from our co-founder, Bill W., from the July 1946 issue of the A.A. Grapevine:

“So long as there is the slightest interest in sobriety, the most unmoral, the most anti-social, the most critical alcoholic may gather about him a few kindred spirits and announce to us that a new Alcoholics Anonymous Group has been formed. Anti-God, anti-medicine, anti-our Recovery Program, even anti-each other—these rampant individuals are still an A.A Group if *they think so!*”

And, I will now (ask a friend to) read the Responsibility Declaration made at the Thirtieth Anniversary International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous:

**I am responsible.
When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,
I want the hand of A.A. always to be there.
And for that: I am responsible.**

We have a great way of closing. All who wish to may join hands and repeat our slogan: **“Live and Let Live.”**

[people join hands in a circle]

Chairperson: “(Alright Folks, lets) **Keep it simple...**”

ALL:

“LIVE AND LET LIVE!”