

Old Time Akron AA Meeting Introduction

We are gathered here because we are faced with the fact that we are powerless over alcohol and unable to do anything about it without the help of a power greater than ourselves.

We feel that people's religious views (if any) are their own affair. The simple purpose of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous is to show what may be done to enlist the aid of a power greater than ourselves, regardless of what our individual conception of that power may be. We must at first apply some diligence in order to form a habit of depending upon and referring all that we do to that power. By often repeating these acts they become habitual and the help rendered becomes natural to us.

We have all come to know that as alcoholics we are suffering from a serious illness for which medicine has no cure. Our condition may be the result of an allergy which makes us different from other people. It has never been by any treatment (with which we are familiar) permanently cured. The only relief we have to offer is absolute abstinence; the second meaning of AA.

There are no dues or fees. The only requirement for membership is desire to stop drinking. Every member squares their debt by helping others to recover.

We have a way out which we can absolutely agree on and which we can join in harmonious action. Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our program. Those who do not recover are people who will not or cannot give themselves to this simple program. You may like AA or you may not but the fact remains, it works. It is our only chance to recover.

There is a vast amount of fun in the AA fellowship. Some people might be shocked at our seeming worldliness and levity. Though just underneath there lies a deadly earnestness and a full realization that we must put first things first. With each of us the first thing is our alcoholic problem, "To drink is to die". Faith must work twenty-four hours a day in and through us or we perish.

In order to set the tone for this meeting I ask that we bow our heads in a few moments of silent prayer and meditation.

I wish to remind you that whatever is said at this meeting expresses our own individual opinion of today and of this moment. We do not speak for AA as a whole. You are free to agree or disagree as you see fit. In fact it is suggested that you pay no attention to anything which might not be reconciled with what is in the AA big book.