

## Notes from the Newcomer Greeter Meeting

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July 5, 2022

The objectives of the meeting included discussing the value of a standard introductory statement to begin the Newcomer Session. We also considered the possible content of that statement. And an overarching objective was to simply begin the discussion, finding the opportunity to express our thoughts and ideas, sharing our experience.

Addressing a scripted statement for the Newcomer Greeter, we looked at 4 different subjects that could be included in that statement:

1. Timing – the length of the session
2. Purpose – the goals of the session
3. Definition – who is a newcomer
4. General practices

The Strengthening My Recovery meeting script offers a great model of how to introduce the meeting. It describes what will happen, and when, and in doing so, creates a safe space in which members are supported and supportive. The following are some suggestions for the content of the statement.

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Timing	Note that the Session would last for 15 minutes. Emphasize the boundary and note what will be following the Session. (Pass 'Host' designation to a trained Trusted Servant)
Purpose	It is a time for Newcomer questions We can use problem(s) as an entry into solution The goals are to clear away confusion and gain clarity Tradition 5 – Primary purpose – to carry the message to those who still suffer This is also a way to be of service to others We may assist the newcomer to feel comfortable by creating and holding the space
Definition (very helpful)	'Newcomer' could be self-described New to ACA (3 to 5 years?) New to this meeting New to sharing out loud - NOTE: We could research Newcomer pamphlets and/or the BRB Let's be welcoming/mindful
Practices	Open the floor to re-introductions / initial question Members share by offering their Experience, Strength, and Hope on the topic No need to raise your hand, although, it makes discussion simpler/equitable There is no timing, but be mindful Peer example of participation

While the written statement would introduce the Newcomer session and call out the important and consistent information, a series of bullet-point items for the Greeter to possibly touch on, in their own words, could be listed. This could include anticipated repeat questions.

The document could also outline suggested responses to some challenging situations. It could be helpful to be prepared for certain possibilities. This could include, but would not be limited to things like excessive personal sharing; crosstalk challenges; aggressive behavior or maintaining a respectful space.

We didn't discuss this potential part of the document at this meeting. We may explore these ideas at other meetings.

Another topic for discussion at a later date are the very titles of the position and session. Is 'Newcomer Greeter' still the title we would like to use? And, is it a 'Newcomer Session', or something else? For that matter, does the term 'Parking Lot' capture the spirit of what we are providing after the Newcomer time? Would we consider renaming any of these titles?

The initial meeting was successful. There were about a dozen members in attendance. Everyone had an opportunity to participate. Voice was given to the idea of not having anything scripted at all. On the other hand, the value of having something written to offer the Greeter some grounding was expressed. Of course, the Greeter would not necessarily be obligated to read the drafted statement – it's offered as a tool, a guide. Ultimately it would be easier and more unifying to use the statement, as opposed to having to think of what to say and how to say it each time a member was in the role of Newcomer Greeter.

A subsequent meeting will be planned to take place in the range of 10 days or so. It will be on a different day of the week so as to afford all members a chance to participate.

Jim R.