

The Newcomer / Fellowship Segment of the Meeting GUIDELINES and OPTIONAL SCRIPT

The Purpose of the Fellowship Portion of the Meeting

- To welcome newcomers to our meeting. (A newcomer is someone new to our meeting; new to ACA; or even new to sharing aloud.)
- To provide the time for members to learn from each other's experience, strength, and hope.
- To hold a space in which we can better get to know one another.

Notes on Our Practices

- Generally, during Fellowship, the rules and guidelines of the SMR meeting apply. The primary exception relates to 'crosstalk'. Often members will ask questions about our meeting or the ACA program. We open the space for others to respond with their experience, strength, and hope.
- Sharing is less structured, though the 'raised hand' method allows everyone to be heard.
- The Greeter can ask for help with keeping an eye on raised hands and the chat.
- For 15 minutes after the meeting, we are focused on the newcomer to our meeting.

Becoming a Greeter

- Observe how other members approach their practice. Reach out to the Service Co-secretaries and ask questions. Attend one of the 'Service on the 7s' sessions and begin a conversation. Go to: <https://www.acamorning.org/sign-up-here-for-service/> to request training.
- Understand that, as the Greeter, you are holding the space for the conversations and assuring that members all have a chance to share. You are not required to supply any answers to any questions. You are welcome to ask others to offer their experience. The group provides support through sharing.
- Do your best to maintain a gentle and respectful space. On the rare occasion that the atmosphere becomes tense, ask for help.
- Observe your relationship to silence. Silence does not need to be filled with talking.

The Practice of the Greeter

1. Arrive at the meeting with a # NG in front of your name. The # can be your Breakout Room number, if you're doing service; a 1 if you are scheduled to be the Greeter; or a 0 if you are offering, unscheduled. The Tech Host will give you 'cohost' designation.
Example: 3 NG Jim R.
2. Jot down the names of those who introduce themselves as newcomers.
3. Announce the Newcomer session at the end of the meeting. (See below)
4. Invite by name those members who have introduced themselves as newcomers
5. Open the session by describing our time together. (See below)
6. Hold the space.
7. OPTIONAL: Consider taking the title of 'Host', if needed.
8. Close the meeting or turn the hosting over to a responsible member of the group.

Strengthening My Recovery, ACA Meeting WEB0120

Optional Scripted Language

The following are words that could be spoken by the Greeter to introduce the Newcomer segment of our meeting. There are two parts – a few sentences to be offered during announcements and a short statement to begin the fellowship after the meeting.

These are offered as suggestions, especially for those who are more comfortable having a script to refer to. Over time, the Greeter may become comfortable using their own language.

DURING THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hello friends, I'm today's Greeter. My name is _____ .

I especially want to welcome today's newcomers: *(mention the newcomers by name)*.

We hold space after this meeting, with the first 15 minutes for newcomers: to learn about the ACA program, our specific meeting, and to get to know one another.

Everyone's invited to stay for this fellowship, to share each other's experience, strength, and hope. Please join us.

AFTER THE MEETING

Welcome friends. Again, my name is _____.

We meet here every day - 7 days a week.

I'd like to welcome our newcomers.

A newcomer is anyone who may be new to ACA, new to this meeting, or even new to sharing out loud.

We hold the newcomer space for about 15 minutes, afterward the conversation may turn toward more general fellowship.

(This would be a good time to note any personal time boundaries - like "I have to leave at 9.")

This is a great time for members to get to know one another and to learn from our experience, strength, and hope.

If there is something you're wondering about, we may help you find some clarity.

As we begin, you can jump in, or if you're more comfortable, you can raise your digital hand.

As more people want to share, we may need to go to everyone raising digital hands.

(The Greeter may ask for help with monitoring the raised hands and chat.)

The floor is now open.