

## **Sharing Session – Meeting Script**

### A Suggested Meeting Format for a Group Conscience Sharing Session on Agenda Topics

#### **1. Introduction**

“Welcome to the group conscience meeting of the \_\_\_\_\_ group of Alcoholics Anonymous. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am an alcoholic.”

#### **2. Serenity Prayer**

“Will those who wish to, please join me in the Serenity Prayer: ‘God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.’”

#### **3. Readings**

“Thank you for letting me serve as your General Service Representative. In this role I am the link between our group and AA as a whole. I do this by taking our group conscience to our delegate from Northern California who will represent us at the General Service Conference in New York. It is at the Conference where decisions affecting AA as a whole are made. It is only through our participation that the Conference can truly be informed and act in the best interests of AA as a whole, our members, and those yet to come.”

“I have asked \_\_\_\_\_ to read excerpts from the pamphlet ‘The AA Group’”

#### **4. Establishing Expectations for Sharing Session Format**

“The purpose of this meeting is to conduct a sharing session on a few Agenda Topics with the aim of obtaining a group conscience for each item. The way it works will go like this:

- First, we read the Agenda Topic and ‘What the Delegate Needs to Know?’
- Then there is an opportunity for clarifying questions.
- Then we go around and each person shares their conscience for 90 seconds.
- Once everyone has shared, we will go around again this time for 60 seconds each. This is the opportunity to add to your thoughts or change your mind. Feel free to pass on the second round.
- Finally, if it seems useful, we may vote by a show of hands.
- Then I will give a brief overview of what I heard to make sure my summaries will be accurate.

“A few things to keep in mind:

- Please stick to your own experience on the topic – you are meant to share what *you* think and feel.
- If your opinion has already been shared, you can simply say you agree rather than repeating it.
- I encourage everyone to participate; all viewpoints are welcome.

“Any Questions about the process of what we’re doing right now? ...

“Let’s begin with the first Topic ...”

#### **6. Wrap Up & What to Expect Next**

“Thank you all for your participation. I will consolidate your voices into a summary of our group conscience on each topic. I will be taking these to the Delegate in April. The Conference is in May this year and I will be able to report back to you in June about the decisions that were made on the topics.”

#### **7. Closing**

“Thank you for coming. To close the meeting, let us have a moment of silence for the next generation of alcoholics – may they be able to find what we have found; followed by the Responsibility Statement.”

## INFORMED GROUP CONSCIENCE

“The group conscience is the collective conscience of the group membership and thus represents substantial unanimity on an issue before definitive action is taken. This is achieved by the group members through the sharing of full information, individual points of view, and the practice of A.A. principles. To be fully informed requires a willingness to listen to minority opinions with an open mind.

On sensitive issues, the group works slowly--discouraging formal motions until a clear sense of its collective view emerges. Placing principles before personalities, the membership is wary of dominant opinions. Its voice is heard when a well-informed group arrives at a decision. The result rests on more than a 'yes' or 'no' count--precisely because it is the spiritual expression of the group conscience. The term 'informed group conscience' implies that pertinent information has been studied and all views have been heard before the group votes.

The entire structure of AA depends upon the participation and conscience of the individual groups... AA is shaped by the collective voice of its local groups and their representatives to the General Service Conference, which works towards unanimity on matters vital to the fellowship.”