

Telling Your Story & Talking To Newcomers



a roundtable discussion

hosted by the Working With Others group

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Thursday, October 27, 2011

- the Last Thursday in October -

7:30-9pm at Central Services

14 Sunnen Drive, Suite 144, St. Louis

Speakers & open sharing

on topics including:

- ✓ What makes a good AA story?
- ✓ What's "the AA message"? What's a "drunkalog"?
- ✓ What's identification & why is it important?
- ✓ What about... childhood, drug talk, crimes, sex, other addictions & illnesses, religion, psychology?
- ✓ Is it selfish to talk about myself?
- ✓ How to recognize newcomers & where to find them
- ✓ What do I talk about with newcomers?
- ✓ Replacing insecurity with confidence & purpose

Share your experience!

Learn from the experience of others!

Consider bringing delicious munchies!

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Discussion questions

These discussion questions are just questions – not recommendations. We hope to hear several different viewpoints on each question, and we hope people will explain “why” and not just “how” they do things, so that we can gain insight and refine our own approaches.

Identification and the AA Message

1. What is identification and why is it important? How do we create identification in AA?
2. What is "the AA message"?
3. How did you work the 1st Step? How do you help people with the 1st Step, such as a sponsee or newcomer?
4. How do people work the 12th Step? How do people learn the 12th Step?

Stories

1. What is the purpose of telling our stories in AA? Is it selfish or unselfish? What makes a good AA story?
2. How much do you talk about your childhood and life before active alcoholism? About your illness? About personal issues other than alcoholism? About recovery and your present-day life? What is a "drunkalog"?
3. What do you think is inappropriate in a story, and why? Is it okay to talk about addiction to drugs, food, sex, gambling, etc.? Other people's alcoholism? Family, childhood, religion, education, career, health, finances? Crimes that you or others have committed? Is what you say in meetings protected by law? Are last names okay? Is foul language okay?
4. Do you share your opinions, theories, and conclusions, or just tell your story without commenting or drawing lessons from it? Besides the basic theme of alcoholism and recovery, do you try to touch on any other topics such as fellowship, sponsorship, Steps, Traditions, Big Book, service, AA history, your own defects and growth, or successes and challenges in other parts of your life?
5. Do you prepare before telling your story? Do you use notes? What are some of the mistakes or difficulties you've experienced? What's hard or tricky about telling your story?

6. How do we learn to tell our stories in AA? Is there any guidance in the Big Book, other literature, the Steps or Traditions? Do we have to be in good spiritual condition to tell our story? How early in sobriety can we start telling our stories? Do you feel confident about telling your story? Do you enjoy it?

Talking With Newcomers

1. What is a newcomer? How do you recognize them? Can you pick them out of the crowd? Do you make a special effort to talk with them? Do you actively seek them out? Where/how can you find them?
2. How do you start a conversation with a newcomer? What are some good topics to talk about? How long do you talk to them? What are your objectives when you do?
3. Do you offer newcomers your phone number, or ask for theirs? Do you offer them rides or invite them out for coffee or food? Do you carry a pen to meetings? Do you carry a personal card or business card? Do you give them literature, a Where & When, a newcomer packet, a group phone list? Are there newcomers you avoid, e.g., people of the opposite sex, people much older/younger, people who seem different, people who look dangerous?
4. How do we learn to talk to newcomers? How early in sobriety can we start?