

Group Business Meetings

Group business meetings are held to share information and to include all group members in the activities and concerns of the group. Decisions a group makes are determined by an informed group conscience.

The group business meeting is an opportunity for members to share their ideas to increase group membership, express concerns, plan special meetings or projects and discuss other group business—such as changing the group name, Current Mailing Address (CMA), group phone contacts, the meeting time and place, finances, meeting format, open or closed meeting status, District and Area matters and other topics suggested by members of the group.

Business meetings are also an opportunity to identify and discuss solutions to group problems such as: gossip; dominance; the need for additional group service positions; rotation of leadership; inappropriate behavior of a member and any other matter that affects group unity. The guiding principles for business meetings are the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts of Service.

Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2018-2020

Time Frame: 10 Minutes

Meeting Agenda

Reports/Announcements from:

- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Literature
- Alternate GR or Information Services Representative
- Group Representative

Old Business

New Business

Tradition Two: For our group purpose there is but one authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants—they do not govern.

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What is a Group Conscience?

Group Copy

The group conscience is the will of the group. The guiding principles for the group conscience are always the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts of Service. It may be helpful for the group to review these principles prior to any group discussions. Some simple group decisions may be decided quickly; however, others may take time. It is by taking the time necessary to hear from all members who want to participate that a group conscience evolves.

In order to make an informed group conscience decision, members need access to all the information about the issue they are being asked to discuss, they need clarity on what their discussions hope to accomplish and they are asked to trust each other's motives and capabilities. By sharing information as equals, taking time for discussion, and maintaining principles above personalities during the discussions, groups are often able to reach unanimity in their decisions. If unanimity is not reached in the allotted timeframe of the meeting, discussions may continue at another time. Once a group conscience decision is made, the entire group supports the decision.

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General Guidelines for Taking a Group Conscience

- * Issue brought to group
- * Discussion/information gathered for 3 consecutive meetings
- * Member makes a motion
- * If the motion receives a Second, the group will take a vote
- * Vote--Show of hands (or closed ballot) IN FAVOR, OPPOSED, ABSTAIN.
- * If majority are in favor, motion is carried.
- * Once a group conscience decision is made, the entire group agrees to support the decision.

Many groups request that only members who regularly attend the meeting vote at the group business meeting. Members who regularly attend more than one meeting may want to consider at which meeting to vote on district or Area matters, keeping in mind that our principles are spiritual, and voting on an issue more than once could be viewed as trying to control or influence the outcome.

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