

Thursday Meeting Format

We have found that consistent use of this format keeps meetings focused on OA recovery, reinforces our program, and encourages unity. It also provides a reassuring feeling of continuity—an important factor in member retention. Each group may modify this format to better suit its needs.

Important Information About the Meeting

Note: Leader please call in **NO** later than 10 minutes before the meeting starts. There are times when you may have trouble getting on. Earlier is better.

WELCOME: “Welcome to the *THURSDAY NOON* Zoom meeting of Overeaters Anonymous.

My name is _____. I am a compulsive eater and your moderator for this meeting.”

SERENITY PRAYER: “After a moment of silence, will all those who wish, 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.

“I will now ask everyone else on the Zoom meeting to mute themselves.” “To share, unmute, and after sharing, please remember to mute. This allows us to have a quiet meeting.”

DIVERSITY POLICY: “As we extend the heart and hand of the OA Fellowship to those who still suffer, let us be mindful of OA’s Unity with Diversity Policy, which respects our differences, yet unites us in the solution to our common problem. Whatever problem you may have with food, you are welcome at this meeting, regardless of race, creed, nationality, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other trait.

FOR NEWCOMERS:

“We encourage you to:

- get a sponsor to help guide your recovery;
- develop a plan of eating and, if you wish, write it down and report daily to your sponsor; and
- read OA-approved literature to develop a working knowledge of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.”

PREAMBLE: “The following is the OA Preamble:

Overeaters Anonymous is a Fellowship of individuals who, through shared experience, strength, and hope, are recovering from compulsive overeating. We welcome everyone who wants to stop eating compulsively. There are no dues or fees for members; we are self-supporting through our own contributions, neither soliciting nor accepting outside donations. OA is not affiliated with any public or private organization, political movement, ideology, or religious doctrine; we take no position on outside issues. Our primary purpose is to abstain from compulsive eating and compulsive food behaviors and to carry the message of recovery through the Twelve Steps of OA to those who still suffer.”

OUR INVITATION TO YOU: *[Ask someone to read “Our Invitation to You,” which includes the Twelve Steps of Overeaters Anonymous.]*

READ THE TRADITION of the month: “Would someone please do service by reading this month’s Tradition from the 12 Traditions of OA?” *[Printed in the back of For Today, Voices of Recovery, or The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous, Second Edition.]*

THE DEFINITIONS OF “ABSTINENCE” AND “RECOVERY” IN OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS:

1. Abstinence: The act of refraining from compulsive eating and compulsive food behaviors while working towards or maintaining a healthy body weight.
2. Recovery: Removal of the need to engage in compulsive eating behaviors. Spiritual, emotional, and physical recovery is achieved through working and living the Overeaters Anonymous Twelve Step program.”

TOOLS: “The OA Tools of Recovery help us work the Steps and refrain from compulsive overeating. The nine Tools are: a plan of eating, sponsorship, meetings, telephone, writing, literature, an action plan, anonymity, and service. Would someone please share on how you are using one of the tools?”

SPONSORSHIP: Sponsorship is one of our keys to success. Sponsors are members committed to abstinence and to the Twelve Steps as a way of life, and can help guide you in working the Steps to recovery.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND SPONSORS: We will now go around the Zoom for everybody here to introduce ourselves. If you are an available sponsor, or are willing to help someone get started in the program, now is the time to identify yourself by saying “I’m willing to sponsor” after you say your name.

“INTRODUCTIONS [Make sure all in attendance have a chance to introduce themselves]

INTRODUCTION of NEWCOMERS: “If you are new to this meeting, returning, or new to OA, we would like to welcome you. Please give us your first name if you care to do so.

We invite you to join us after the meeting to discuss any questions you may have.”

USE “CHAT” ON ZOOM FOR CONTACT INFO: Please go to the “chat” icon on this meeting and text your contact information on our virtual “We Care” list, and indicate if you’re a sponsor. We can also get names and contact information from this list to contact others after the meeting.

TIMEKEEPER: “We also need a timekeeper to do service and give a ‘gentle reminder’ at 3 minutes. Please unmute to volunteer for this service. Try to keep your share from 2 to 3 minutes so that everyone who wishes to share will have time to do so. If you are the person sharing, please acknowledge that you heard the timekeeper.”

GUIDELINES FOR SHARING AT THIS MEETING: “Please limit your comments to your experience, strength, and hope in living with the disease of compulsive overeating. We refrain from cross talk.

Cross talk during an OA meeting is giving advice to others who have already shared, speaking directly to another person rather than to the group, and questioning or interrupting the person speaking or sharing at the time. Your share is very important to us. So, if we cannot hear you clearly, we may stop you to let you know.

“We encourage those of you who are new to the meeting, or who do not often share, to do so today.. Everyone is welcome to share.”

Literature Meeting: “This is a literature meeting. Today we are reading_____, page ____.

Who would like to be the first to read and share?

SHARING: “Who would like to read and share next?”

[Note: If you have noise on the line, it is usually because people are unmuted. Ask people who aren't sharing to mute themselves.]

7th TRADITION: “According to our 7th Tradition, we are self-supporting through our own contributions. In order to contribute to help carry OA's message while we are not able to meet in person, please go to www.Tulsaoa.org and click on the big yellow “Donate” button at the top left-hand corner of the page.

REPORTS: “A group conscience will be held on an as-needed basis and will be announced two weeks prior so all members may attend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

“Who will volunteer to moderate this meeting next week? I will get your email after the meeting and send you a copy of the meeting format, which I will update with the current meeting information.”

Are there any other OA announcements?

CLOSING *[5 minutes before close of meeting]:* “By following the Twelve Steps, attending meetings regularly, and using the OA Tools, we are changing our lives. You will find hope and encouragement in Overeaters Anonymous. To the newcomer, we suggest attending at least six different meetings to learn the many ways OA can help you.

“There are many different types of meetings, all of which are available to support your recovery from compulsive eating. We welcome you to this meeting whenever you would care to attend. There are other virtual (phone and technology-based) and face-to-face meetings that you may find helpful. Information about these meetings can be found on oa.org.

“The opinions expressed here today are those of individual OA members and do not represent OA as a whole. Please remember our commitment to honor each other's anonymity. **Whom you see here, What you hear here, When you leave here, Let it stay here.** Let us all reach out by phone or email to newcomers, returning members, and each other. Together we get better. As OA's responsibility pledge states: Always to extend the hand and heart of OA to all who share my compulsion; for this I am responsible.

“Thank you for asking me to be your leader. After a moment of silence, will those who wish please join us in the *Third Step Prayer*

