

Conference 2009, Committee 4, Question 1

Would Conference share experience, strength and hope on 'closed' and 'open' meetings in support of AA's Primary Purpose?

This Committee's shared experience regarding "Closed" and "Open" meetings showed there are benefits in both formats in support of AA's Primary Purpose.

Open meetings provide an opportunity for anyone with an interest in Alcoholics Anonymous to attend, in support of our Primary Purpose.

Closed meetings provide anonymity and confidentiality for anyone with a desire to stop drinking. This Committee shared experience on the misconception of the word "Closed" (closed taken to mean shut or closed down). On that basis this committee recommends that the Literature sub-committee clarify the description of "open" and "closed" meetings in the AA literature and ensure consistency throughout as it is reviewed.

The Electronic Communications sub-committee be asked to display the description of "open" and "closed" meetings as clarified by the Literature sub-committee on the appropriate web pages.

The Committee draws the Fellowship's attention to the: Traditions, Guidelines, the pamphlet The AA Group and that the Conference 1996 decision that the Primary Purpose Card be read at all meetings.

Committee vote was unanimous.