

Thursday 8pm - Technical Information

For the Secretary/Chair to read before leading a phone bridge meeting

As the Secretary/Chair for this meeting you will be given a “leader code” that will give you more features on the key pad than other members.

Here is some information that will help before dialing into the meeting once you have been given the leader code.

- 1. Dial the phone number and then use the regular pin number followed by the # sign that everyone else uses.**
- 2. There will be a voice prompt after entering the regular pin # that says “IF YOU ARE THE MODERATOR PLEASE PRESS 1.”**
- 3. Follow the prompt and Press 1.** The word “moderator” and “leader” mean the same thing.
- 4. The voice prompt will again say “PLEASE ENTER THE MODERATOR PIN (Leader Code) number FOLLOWED BY THE # SIGN”.**
- 5. You will join the phone meeting muted after entering the leader code and # sign. Press *1 to unmute yourself and then introduce yourself as the Secretary/Chair of the meeting. Press *0 for a menu of all features.**

Probably one of the most important services you can give as the Secretary/Chair is **to have the highest sound quality** on the phone bridge system. This means without background noise and weak sound quality. **“Sound”** is all we have for the phone meeting to work.

Background noise can be taken as disrespectful or interruptive while members are speaking. As a trusted servant you can guide the meeting without background noise or interruptions to the best of your ability.

Along with your own skills; here are a few tips and a few pieces of information to help you:

- 1. Technically the phone bridge system is built for “only” one person to be unmuted at a time. This of course would include, You (the Secretary/Chair) as well as the Timekeeper to stay muted by using the *1 keys. The timekeeper only unmutes to say “time”. The Secretary/Chair unmutes a few seconds before the member is done sharing to welcome the next share. You can remind the timekeeper to please stay muted except to say “time”. (Only one line unmuted at a time).**

2. **As the Secretary/Chair** (with the leader code) you **are encouraged to use the *5** to clear the line to address the noise. This ensures that members will be able **to speak so their share can be heard**. Then the member can press the *1 keys to continue sharing without the previous background noise. **We call this “Cycling Through”**. (Most of the time people forget to mute and don't know they are not muted). This can be done by saying **“Excuse the interruption, I'm going to clear the line”** and then **press *5 keys**. You then could say, **“Whoever** was sharing please press *1 and begin again,” or **“Whoever** would now like to share please press *1 to unmute yourself.”
3. **Some meetings have multiple readers. The extra unmuted lines will cause the reading to be heard by some but not by other members. Here are some suggestions.**
 1. **Organize the readers so they know the order they will be reading.**
 2. **Then tell the rest of the readers to mute until a few seconds before it is their turn to read.**
 3. **After each member reads remind them to mute again.**
 4. **(AS A Rule of Thumb), just because you can hear does not mean that other members can. These phone meetings have global coverage. Not all phones have equal sound. Only one line unmuted at a time will keep a clear worldwide phone line for everyone during the meeting.**

These 4 technical points can promote safety, warmth and recovery similar to face to face meetings. This was written to assist you to know and understand the phone bridge technical features.

Thank you for taking the time to read these suggestions. **If you need help, just ask. Congratulations on doing service and beginning the flow that opens our heart to what it already knows---that we all need each other.**

**Sincerely,
Your Web Coordinator**

The Meeting Format Starts Now

(This is the part you read out loud)

FORMAT:

Al-Anon's Thursday 8pm Paths to Recovery Meeting

INTRODUCTION:

1. Hi, my name is _____, a grateful Al-Anon member and your secretary for this meeting.
2. This meeting is an hour and a half. And, we will begin the closing at 9:25 EST for members to share their telephone numbers.
3. **Phone Etiquette:**
 - a. Prior to joining the meeting, we ask members to temporarily disable their call waiting by dialing *70 before calling the number to the phone bridge (example *70-1-712-432-8733). If a member does not disable their call waiting, we may hear your conversation or beeping.
 - b. When you dial in, you will start the conference being muted.
 - c. Stay muted at all times unless you are sharing. You can un-mute by pressing your *1 keys. You will hear a voice saying "you are now un-muted". Some phones do not have a long enough beep for the muting and un-muting to happen. You may have to press *1 several times for this function to work. When the voice comes on, you will know that the *1 keys have worked.
 - d. We ask members to use the *1 keys to mute even if they have a mute function on their individual phones. The *1 keys ensures the greatest sound strength for the entire phone line and provides the greatest service to all members of the phone bridge during the meeting.
 - e. Please do not use a speaker phone for sharing or we will all hear an echo. Some speaker phones will not mute even when pressing your *1 keys.
 - f. To hear a menu of all the features--such as volume control or member count--simply press * by itself.
4. Let's open with a moment of silence for those family members still suffering inside and outside of these rooms, followed by the **Serenity Prayer**.

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.

(Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual pg. 10)

READINGS:

5. **Chair/Secretary will read or ask a volunteer to read:** The Suggested Al-Anon/Alateen Welcome. (This can be found in How Al-Anon Works Pg. 8 or Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual pg. 10.)

WE NOW NEED THREE VOLUNTEERS TO READ (From Paths to Recovery Book)

- a. **Preamble to Al-Anon's 12 Steps**, page Roman Numeral Page V
 - b. **Al-Anon's 12 Steps** page 3
 - c. **Tradition** of the month Page 131 and **Concept** of the month Page 245
6. **7th Tradition:** Al-Anon is fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions. Please send your contributions to World Service and state that it is from the Thursday 8pm Meeting Path's to Recovery Meeting, **WSO ID 30521773** or donate at your face to face meetings.
 7. Also at the close of the meeting, we will ask for Al-Anon sponsors and state the meeting schedule.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

8. Are there any Al-Anon related announcements?

[Business Meeting is held the 1st Thursday of the Month]

9. Do we have any Al-Anon newcomers today? Either newcomer to Al-Anon or to this phone bridge? Please give us your first name so we may greet you!
10. Do we have a volunteer on the line today that can stay after the phone meeting and greet newcomers and provide information on the phone etiquette or on Al-Anon?

MEETING TOPIC:

11. Let's go around the globe and introduce ourselves. Hi, I am _____(Name)_____ from (_____State_____)
12. The format for this today is we read the entire, all the pages for the step or tradition or concept. (Pick only one to read: A, B, C, D, or E. Remember: Save time.)

- a. **First Thursday:** Corresponding “**Step**” of the month from Paths to Recovery
- b. **Second Thursday:** Corresponding “**Tradition**” of the month from Paths to Recovery
- c. **Third Thursday:** Corresponding “**Concept**” of the month from Paths to Recovery
- d. **Fourth Thursday:** We read the corresponding page for today out of Al-Anon’s three meditation books (also known as the three daily readers) before we begin our three minute timed shares.
Will someone please read out of;
 One Day at a Time
 Courage to Chang
 Hope for Today
- e. **Fifth Thursday:** Speaker selects the topic and speaks for 15 to 20 minutes

13. **ANONMITY STATEMENT:** In Al-Anon, this is a gentle reminder that we speak from our own experience and ours is derived from living with the effects of alcoholism. We ask those who are members of other anonymous programs not to break their anonymity and to try and identify with the Al-Anon approach for the family illness. Ours is a different experience and calls for a different interpretation.

Secretary repeats topic.

14. **TIME KEEPING:** We have three minute shares. Do we have a volunteer to be our spiritual timer? Would the spiritual timer like to share first?
15. Thank you all for the shares and those who read.
16. Do we have any Al-Anon sponsors on the line?
17. Please call out the name of people you would like to get a telephone number. After the Al-Anon closing would those people please stay on the line and give their phone numbers.

18. CLOSING (Twenty-five minutes after the top of the hour):

Chair/Secretary will read or ask a volunteer to read: The Suggested Al-Anon /Alateen Closing. (This can be found in How Al-Anon Works pg. 380, or page 396. Also, Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manuel pg.22.)

19. Before we close are there any available Al-Anon sponsors on the line? Would you like to give your phone number now?

20. **Please call out the names of members** you would like telephone numbers from after we close the meeting, after the Al-Anon declaration.
21. **Secretary/Chair will ask members** to unmute and join in saying the Al-Anon Declaration which can be found in Paths to Recovery Roman Numeral 1X() or the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual Pg. 22.

After the Closing:

22. **Telephone Numbers:** Hello is _____ still on the line? Would you like to give out your phone number? What is your time zone? When is the best time to reach you? Is it safe to leave a message if you are not home?

MEETING SCHEDULE

Meeting schedule and phone bridge information can be accessed on the web at www.alanonphonemeetings.org. Format changes, determined by the group conscience of each autonomous meeting, can be emailed to alanonphonemeetings@yahoo.com. As per group conscience, proposals for new **meetings** and format drafts ideas need to be brought to the Group Conscience Meeting on the 4th Saturday of every month at 1:30 EST.

All Eastern Time Zones on the same number and pin as you dialed in for this meeting.

8am	Saturday and Sunday
9am	Weekdays (Monday thru Friday)
11am	Sunday
Noon	Monday ----- Saturday
2pm	Sunday
4pm	7 days a week
6pm	Saturday
8pm	7 days a week
10pm	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday
12 midnight	Thursday

23. We, Now open up a space for people to announce other Al-Anon meetings with different phone numbers and pin numbers. Do we have anyone that would like to announce a different Al-Anon meeting?

Does anyone want the more detailed (books read and type of format) version of the meeting schedule?

Secretary/Chair turns the meeting over to the member who is staying on the line to answer questions about the Al-Anon phone meetings or to explain the phone etiquette.

All Eastern Time Zones

8:00am

Sunday, Early morning Rise & Shine Step Study

Saturday Early Morning Speaker Meeting

9:00am

Monday 3 Daily Meditation Books ODAT/Courage to Change/Hope for Today

Tuesday Step 1 How Al-Anon Works/12 and 12/ Paths to Recovery/ 3 Meditation Books

Wednesday Step 2 How Al-Anon Works/12 and 12/ Paths to Recovery/ 3 Meditation Books

Thursday Gratitude 3 Meditation Books

Friday Step 3 How Al-Anon Works/12 and 12/ Paths to Recovery/ 3 Meditation Books

11:00am

Sunday Step/Tradition/Concept/3 Mediations Paths to Recovery

12:00 Noon

Monday Day A Topic from the 3 Meditation Books

Tuesday Al-Anon 12 & 12

Wednesday From Survival to Recovery

Thursday Al-Anon's 3 meditation Books

Friday Speaker Meeting

Saturday Hope for Today Meditation Book

4:00pm

Monday Beginners Meeting 3 Meditation Books/How Al-Anon Works/Beginners Pamphlet

Tuesday 10th Step How Al-Anon Works/12 and 12/ Paths to Recovery/ 3 Meditation Books

Wednesday 11th step Guided Mediation Paths to Recovery/ How Al-Anon Works/3 Med

Thursday Slogans How Al-Anon Works/3 Mediation Books

Friday 12th step

8:00pm

Monday From Survival to Recovery

Tuesday Topic discussion from 3 meditation books

Wednesday Beginner's meeting How Al-Anon works

Thursday Step/Tradition/Concept/3 Mediations Paths to Recovery

Friday How Al-Anon Works

Saturday Speaker meeting

Sunday Steps and Traditions How Al-Anon works

10:00pm

Monday 4th Step WRITING Workshop Blue Print for Progress

Tuesday LGBTQ Discovering Choices

Thursday 4th Step WRITING Workshop Blue Print for Progress

Saturday Traditions Meeting How Al-Anon Works/Paths to Recovery

12 midnight

Thursday 3 Daily Readers 3 Mediations Books