

2019 FA World Service Business Convention

MOTION – to adopt the revised meeting format Short name: **New Format Motion**

Motion: The World Service Board moves to adopt the revised meeting format (Meeting Guidelines Document 4: Sample FA Meeting Format).

If this motion proposes a change in an already established bylaw, policy, or continuing effect motion, please indicate the *current* wording.

The Sample FA Meeting Format was last updated in June 2017. For reference, see the Continuing Effect Motions Manual, Sample FA Meeting Format (updated in 2017).

The primary changes made in 2017 were updating the tools of recovery to add the phrase “in person” to the “Meetings” tool, add the two new tools of “Gratitude” and “Quiet Time,” and change the wording of the tools of recovery in the meeting format to match the wording of the tools in the “Living Abstinently” booklet.

Please indicate your proposal for the *changed* wording.

See Exhibit 1 – revised FA meeting format, with tracked changes

See Exhibit 2 – revised FA meeting format, clean copy with edits accepted

What is the purpose of this motion?

According to the policies and procedures outlined in the current World Service Board Manual, the World Service Board is directed to review the meeting format every two years. The last revision was completed in 2017. Regular review of the document enables us to implement best practices and incorporate the language and suggestions that have worked well in a variety of settings. Please note that revisions are limited to those parts of the format that are not required by the Continuing Effect Motions Manual and bylaws (see below).

How will it strengthen the effectiveness of WSI/FA service?

FA is well served by a periodic review of our meeting format. For this revision, the entire fellowship was solicited for suggestions. The proposed changes represent careful consideration of more than fifty recommendations for improvement and three fellowship-wide conference calls. The changes were designed to improve the flow of the meeting, eliminate extraneous phrases and instructions, and correct some grammatical errors.

Two changes of note reflect the consensus of the feedback we received:

- We eliminated the instruction about refraining from clapping from the list of meeting disciplines, adding a simple sentence, “We ask that you please refrain from clapping,” in the appropriate place in the selection of meeting format options and after the break. Under the Meeting Format Options, 1. Qualification Meetings, we indicated the language is optional, as many meetings do choose to clap for speakers as a sign of appreciation.
- We indicated that the following language, which appears just after the break in the meeting under the heading Sharing (on p. 18 of the clean copy of the revised format and on p. 20 of the copy with tracked changes), is optional, “Is there anyone who is visiting or has recently reached 90 days, who is working with an FA sponsor, who would like to share first?”

We also wish to highlight these edits:

- The heading “Definition of a Food Addict” has been changed to “Definition of Food Addiction” to be grammatically correct.
- The heading “The Promises of the Program” has been shortened to “The Promises” to align with common usage in AA, as well as eliminate unnecessary language.

This is a suggested template, which we rely upon for consistency at all our meetings. Some meetings may choose to add instructions to address matters such as accommodations for service dogs, those with chemical sensitivities, hearing-impaired participants, etc. The components of the meeting format that may not be modified are noted below.

As mandated by Bylaws Art. IV, § 1 (d) (3), the meeting format must contain the following:

- **The Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions of FA**
- **The Definition of Abstinence**
- **The Definition of a Food Addict¹**
- The requirement that only members of the fellowship with 90 days or more of continuous abstinence in FA, who are working with an FA sponsor, be invited to share.
- The requirement that only members of the fellowship with 90 days or more of continuous abstinence in FA who regularly attend the meeting shall have a voice and a vote at the group’s business meetings.

The continuing effect motions regarding the meeting format adopted in June 2011, June 2012, and June 2017 include the following additional required items in the meeting format:

¹ The current motion proposes changing the title of this reading but not the contents.

· **The FA Preamble, “How it Works,” the Promises of the Program,² the FA Tools of Recovery, announcements of the seventh tradition collection, welcoming the newcomer and identifying available sponsors, and a break approximately midway through for greeting newcomers.** All portions must be identical (with no changes, additions, or deletions) to those found in Meeting Guidelines Document 4: Sample FA Meeting Format.

² The current motion proposes changing the title of this reading but not the contents.