

SOME DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION:

22.8% OF AMERICANS ARE UNAFFILIATED (ATHEIST, AGNOSTIC, OR NOTHING IN PARTICULAR)

5.9% CONSTITUTE OTHER RELIGIONS

THIS REPRESENTS 28.7% ACROSS ALL AGE GROUPS. AMONG MILLENNIA'S THE FIGURE IS AS HIGH AS 36%

PEW RESEARCH CENTER POLL DATED MAY 12, 2015

A GALLUP POLL PUBLISHED DECEMBER 22, 2017, SHOWS THE NUMBER CLAIMING TO BE "NOT RELIGIOUS" IS 33%

AA meetings offered in a secular setting could potentially attract this underserved population.

There are currently two meetings. The format is open discussion at both.

Atheists and Agnostics in AA
Tuesday 7:30 - 8:30PM
174 Providence Street
(Rte.171)
Putnam, CT
(next to Putnam Supermarket parking in the back)

No Bull Meeting
Saturday 7:30 - 8:30PM
Eastford Town Hall
16 Westford Road
Eastford, CT

Both meeting are wheelchair accessible for entry and restrooms.

**For more information contact:
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Secular AA in CT

"Widening the gateway to recovery for all regardless of their beliefs or lack of belief."



THERE IS A SOLUTION

A MISSION STATEMENT FOR SECULAR AA:

The purpose of a secular meeting is to maintain a tradition of free expression. Here, alcoholics may feel free to express any doubts or disbeliefs they may have, and to share their own personal form of spiritual experience, their search for it, or their rejection of it. Our only wish is to assure suffering alcoholics that they can find sobriety in AA without having to accept anyone else's beliefs, or having to deny their own.

The intent of a secular meeting is not to deny anyone their belief. All are welcome. A significant difference is there are no recitations of "prayers" of any sort. The only readings consist of the AA Preamble, the meeting format, and a closing statement such as the unity statement. As it should be, group conscience is the guide for these decisions.

Secular meetings enforce the ideals of our Third Tradition. Though it is a "specialized meeting" no alcoholic seeking help or fellowship will be turned away.

SOME HELPFUL DEFINITIONS:

Secular - of or relating to the worldly or temporal. Not overtly or specifically religious.

Atheist - a person who does not believe in the existence of a god or any gods.

Agnostic - a person who holds the view that any ultimate reality (such as God) is unknown and probably unknowable, one who is not committed to believing in either the existence or the nonexistence of God or a god. (www.merriam-webster.com)

HOW ARE WE "TRADITIONAL AA"

Our groups maintain the Twelve Traditions of AA. We have GSRs and follow the AA General Service Manual.

The Twelve Steps – Chapter 5 of the Big Book, as an introduction to the steps says "Here are the steps we took, which are suggested as a program of recovery". Aside from "the" steps in the Big Book, there are numerous derivations of almost any flavor you'd like that may fit your particular taste. No one is encouraged, discouraged, or harangued in any way regarding the benefits of working or not working any of these into their program of recovery.

The "Big Book" – There have always been rumblings about updating or rewriting the Big Book. This is not particular to the Atheist or Agnostic. For our particular groups...we don't care and find validity in "The Book" as a historical document written for a noble purpose.

Spiritual Awakening – Some of us prefer the term "psychic change" which was brought about through the fellowship and support of those who came before us, it is every bit as real and valid to us as the spiritual awakening is to those who believe in God.

As Bill W wrote in 1965..."We have atheists and agnostics. We have people of nearly every race, culture, and religion. In AA we are supposed to be bound together in the kinship of common suffering. Consequently, the full individual liberty to practice any creed or principle or therapy whatever should be the first consideration for us all. Let us not, therefore, pressure anyone with our individual or even our collective views. Let us instead accord each other the respect and love that is due to every human being as he tries to make his way toward the light. Let us always try to be inclusive rather than exclusive; let us remember that each alcoholic among us is a member of AA, so long as he or she declares".