



# How to Start a Clutterers Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> Meeting

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**LEARN:** Learn about the program by reading CLA literature. Try to attend CLA or other 12-Step meetings, such as open meetings of A.A. (Alcoholics Anonymous).

**SUPPORT:** Find someone to work with you, if possible. It is easier to start a meeting if two or three people are willing to commit to attending regularly for about six months. It is important that the founder(s) take their commitment seriously. When newcomers show up, they need to find the meeting. Putting up signs and directions at the location helps direct people to the room you use.

## **ATTRACTING MEMBERS:**

- Make announcements at CLA meetings
- Display flyers in public places, such as libraries, churches, temples, schools, food markets and health food stores, bulletin boards, hospitals, banks, senior centers, and 12-Step meeting locations.
- Contact local media and place free announcements. Be sure to follow the guidelines of Tradition 11.
- Register with the closest self-help clearinghouse.
- Inform local intergroups of other 12-Step programs. Others to notify, if possible, are professional organizers, therapists, agencies for senior citizens, health departments, and fire departments.
- Get free listings in the small, local weekly newspapers, under “support groups”.

**MEETING SPACE:** Good places include churches of all denominations, temples, schools, hospitals, libraries, banks, public service and/or senior service centers, etc.—*especially ones that rent to other 12-Step groups*. Try to be listed in the organization’s bulletin. Ask what is required regarding rent, key arrangements, insurance, etc. Meetings may also be started in the home of a brave CLA member!

**OFFICERS:** After your meeting is underway, elect officers, such as secretary, treasurer, etc. The treasurer should report monthly on income from contributions and literature donations and expenses, such as rent. Your meeting should maintain a prudent reserve of two months’ rental fees.

**7TH TRADITION:** *We are self-supporting through our own contributions, neither soliciting nor accepting outside donations.* After expenses and the prudent reserve, money can be given to your intergroup, if you have one, and WSO (World Service Organization). These contributions help to keep CLA in operation and to pay for the website, phone service, printing of literature and meeting lists, postage, and production of events.

**SPEAKERS & LEADERS:** Speakers and leaders are CLA members who share their CLA recovery

**CLA WORLD SERVICE:** Register with CLA WSO, and mail us any changes in your contact person or meeting information. We will make referrals to you from all newcomer inquiries from the website, phone, mail, email, etc., as well as from those who are traveling and/or seeking to start a group.

**REACH OUT:** If there are no other CLA meetings in your area, get in touch with other CLA groups across the country. WSO can furnish contact names and addresses.

**ENJOY THE PROCESS:** Share the work as much as possible. Call on WSO for help. Good luck!

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Clutterers Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> World Service Organization (CLA WSO)

Mail: CLA, PO Box 91413, Los Angeles, CA 90009. Phone: (866) 402-6685; recording that lists all meetings

Website: [www.ClutterersAnonymous.org](http://www.ClutterersAnonymous.org)

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