

# Home: Our Sacred Place

## CLA Saturday Night 8 P.M. (ET) Meeting Script

REVISED July 2023

(540)792-0194 access code 102163#

### KEY TO FONT COLORS WITHIN SCRIPT

Red text is to guide the moderator; NOT read aloud.

Black text is the script; READ aloud.

Blue text is CLA literature.

### MODERATOR NOTES

Our business meeting is held the second Saturday of each month at 9 p.m. Eastern Time at the close of the recovery meeting. The main purpose of our business meeting is to ensure we have moderators for the following month. See Business Meeting Format, which starts on page 11.

(Moderator starts reading aloud here...) Welcome to the Saturday 8 pm meeting of Clutterers Anonymous, Home: Our Sacred Place. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, a clutterer, and I am the moderator for this meeting. Please join me in the “we” version of the Serenity Prayer.

### SERENITY PRAYER:

God, grant us the Serenity to accept the things we cannot change,  
Courage to change the things we can,  
and wisdom to know the difference.

### OPENING STATEMENT

Many people come to CLA because they realize that they have cluttered their homes. We clutterers have found that no amount of willpower can make us stick to a sensible program of organization for any lasting length of time. In seeking an answer to our problem, we have realized three pertinent ideas:

- (1) That we were clutterers and could not manage our own lives.
- (2) That probably no human power could have relieved our cluttering.
- (3) That God could and would if God were sought.

Thus, rarely have we seen a person fail to recover who has thoroughly followed the 12 Step path of recovery embodied in the Clutterers Anonymous program, which is patterned after that of Alcoholics Anonymous. CLA has an answer for us.

### **PREAMBLE:**

Will someone please volunteer to read the Preamble for CLA? (Pause for a volunteer, if none, continue reading.) The preamble can be found in the blue leaflet (*A Brief Guide*), on the CLA website under the “About” tab, and in the CLA Literature Collection book on page 118 in both the electronic and hard copy versions.

### **PREAMBLE**

Clutterers Anonymous (CLA) is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength, and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem with clutter and help each other to recover. We achieve this as individuals, groups, and a fellowship by practicing our 12 Steps of recovery and by being guided by our 12 Traditions. Each of them embodies a set of principles for living life effectively, inside, and outside CLA. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop cluttering. There are no dues or fees for membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions neither soliciting nor accepting outside donations. Our fellowship is based on suggestion, interchange of experience, rotation of leadership and service. Clutterers Anonymous is not affiliated with any public or private organization, political movement, ideology, or religious doctrine; we take no position on outside issues. Our primary purpose is to stop cluttering one day at a time and to carry this message of recovery to clutterers who still suffer.

Here are the Steps we took, which are suggested as a program of individual recovery: Will someone please read the 12 Steps of CLA? (Pause for a volunteer, if none, continue reading.) The steps can be found in the blue leaflet (*A Brief Guide*) and the Red Booklet (*Is CLA for You? A Newcomer's Guide to Recovery* – page 7). The Steps are also on the website under the “Resources” tab, and in the CLA Literature Collection book on page 122 in both the electronic and hard copy versions.

1. We admitted we were powerless over clutter-that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood God.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory, and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood God, praying only for knowledge of God's will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to others, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

And for our group unity, here are the 12 Traditions. Will someone please read the 12 traditions of CLA? (**Pause for a volunteer, if none, continue reading.**) The traditions can be found in the blue leaflet (*A Brief Guide*), the red booklet (*Is CLA for You? A Newcomer's Guide to Recovery - page 11*). The traditions can also be found on the website under the "Resources" tab, and in the CLA Literature Collection book on page 123 in both the electronic and hard copy versions.

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon CLA unity.
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority, a loving God as expressed in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for CLA membership is a desire to stop cluttering.
4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or CLA as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose, to carry its message to the clutterer who still suffers.
6. An CLA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the Clutterers Anonymous name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
7. Every CLA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

8. Clutterers Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
9. Clutterers Anonymous, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. CLA has no opinion on outside issues; hence the Clutterers Anonymous name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films, television, and all other media.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Now, we will go around the room and introduce ourselves by first name and location. If you are a newcomer to CLA, please let us know so that we can give you a special welcome. There will be time for questions in the Fellowship After Meeting, so please stick around. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, a clutterer from \_\_\_\_\_.

Use either **Format A** for reading from the pamphlet (page 5)  
or **Format B** for speaker meeting (page 6).

## **FORMAT A: READING FROM “HOME: OUR SACRED PLACE” PAMPHLET.**

On Saturday evenings, we read from the purple CLA leaflet entitled “Home: Our Sacred Place” except on the first Saturday of each month, when we have a CLA speaker. (See **FORMAT B on the next page.**) Tonight, we will listen as someone reads two paragraphs of the leaflet and then we will have time for sharing and reflecting on what the paragraphs mean to you.

**MODERATOR NOTES:** Usually the entire meeting is devoted to sharing on the two paragraphs of the leaflet that were read. However, if there is a long pause in sharing, ask someone to read the next paragraph.

To allow as many people as possible to share, the time limit for sharing at this meeting is three minutes. The timekeeper will interrupt and give you a gentle reminder at two and a half minutes to wrap-up your thoughts in the next 30 seconds. Please acknowledge you heard the timekeeper by saying, “Thank you!” or “I heard that!”

Who would like to volunteer to be the timekeeper tonight? Thank you \_\_\_\_!

Now to the reading: May I have a volunteer to read from the purple CLA leaflet titled “Home: Our Sacred Place” starting at \_\_\_\_\_ and reading through \_\_\_\_\_. Please read it slowly and read it twice.

Thank you for reading. We will now share until 8:50. You are welcome to share your contact information for bookending and outreach after your share! Please say it twice and slowly. If you do not get a chance to speak during the meeting, there will be time in the Fellowship After Meeting to share.

Also, please be aware that, at this meeting, we do not engage in crosstalk. Crosstalk is commenting on or referring to another member’s share. Nor do we directly address other members in our shares. We ask that you focus your shares on your own experience, strength, and HOPE.

To share, please press \*6 to unmute, and then press\*6 after your share, to mute yourself again.

**MODERATOR NOTE:** If newcomers or others have questions, please ask them in the Fellowship After Meeting at 9 p.m. ET. **Continue the script on page 7.**

## **FORMAT B: WEEK ONE – SPEAKER**

On Saturday evenings, we read from the purple CLA leaflet entitled “Home: Our Sacred Place” except on the first Saturday of each month, when we have a CLA speaker who qualifies.

As tonight is the first Saturday, I would like to introduce our speaker \_\_\_\_\_ who will be sharing their experience, strength, and hope with us for up to 20 minutes.

Before this begins, we need a timekeeper. Who would like to volunteer to be the timekeeper tonight? Thank you \_\_\_\_!

How would you, \_\_\_\_\_(speaker)\_\_\_\_\_, like to be timed?

### Speaker Shares...

### After Speaker Shares:

Thank You, \_\_\_\_\_ Would you like to give us your contact information? If so, please say it slowly and twice with your time zone. Do you have a topic for us to share on tonight?

To allow as many people as possible to share, the time limit for sharing is three minutes. The timekeeper \_\_\_\_\_(name)\_\_\_\_\_ will interrupt and give you a gentle reminder at two and a half minutes to wrap-up your thoughts in the next 30 seconds. Please acknowledge you heard the timekeeper by saying, “Thank you!” or “I heard that!”

You are welcome to share your contact information for bookending and outreach after your share! Please say it slowly and twice. If you do not get a chance to speak during the meeting, there will be time in the Fellowship After Meeting to share.

Also, please be aware that, at this meeting, we do not engage in crosstalk. Crosstalk is commenting on or referring to another member’s share. Nor do we directly address other members in our shares. We ask that you focus your shares on your own experience, strength, and hope.

To share, please press \*6, and then press\*6 after your share, to mute yourself again.

**MODERATOR NOTE:** If newcomers or others have questions, please ask them in the Fellowship After Meeting at 9 p.m. ET. **Continue the script on page 7.**

### **AT APPROXIMATELY 8:50 P.M.**

I want to thank the timekeeper and all who shared. The next segments are for CLA Announcements and our Decluttering Commitments.

### **CLA ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The 7th TRADITION states that “**Every CLA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.**” This nighttime phone meeting has no regular expenses, yet our World Service Organization does, including those for CLA literature, the website, and our toll-free number. Contributions can be made through the link on our CLA website at clutterersanonymous.org.

- CLA literature can be ordered on our website and is available in both hard copy and electronic versions. This literature includes CLA leaflets, books, the CLA newsletter called **CLArity**, CDs and MP3s of some event recordings, as well as **The Newcomer’s Pack**.
- Presently there are two CLA books available through our CLA store. “**Ten Years of CLArity**” and the purple book called “**CLA Literature Collection**.”

For Newcomers who would like an individual welcome or for Clutterers wanting to do service for CLA, email [phonegroups@clutterersanonymous.org](mailto:phonegroups@clutterersanonymous.org).

Our business meeting is the second SATURDAY of the month. All are welcome to attend.

**MODERATOR NOTE:** *Read this IF the **Delegate** position or the **Moderator** position is open.* Currently, the position of **Delegate** (and/or **Moderator**) for this group is open. I will read the description for this/these position/s *(from the CLA website)*:

A **Delegate** is a member elected at the group’s Business Meeting, to represent the group at WSO meetings. A Delegate acts as a liaison between the home group and WSO by communicating information between both. The Delegate attends the monthly WSO meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday and the Monday night business meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday.

A **Moderator** leads the meeting by adhering to the group’s meeting Format, which is found on the website. A moderator facilitates the meeting to be safe, respectful, and supportive of all members.

If any member is interested in this position, please contact me \_\_\_\_\_ *(Moderator gives their own contact information)* or please attend our next Business Meeting, which is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month.

Are there any other CLA announcements? Please keep it brief.

**MODERATOR NOTE: Share if anyone asks for address information.**

CLA toll-free #: 1-866-402-6685

CLA WSO address: Clutterers Anonymous World Service Organization Inc. (CLA WSO), 184 S Livingston Ave., Suite 9-203, Livingston, New Jersey 07039 USA.

The toll-free number and mailing address are also on the bottom of each web page.

**DECLUTTERING COMMITMENTS AT APPROXIMATELY 8:54 PM**

Before we close the meeting, we take time for members to share a decluttering commitment concerning something that you would like to complete in the next few hours, the next day, or the next week to make your home a more sacred place. Please keep the statement of your commitment to 30 seconds or less. Thank you.

**CLOSING AT 9 PM**

In closing, "Talk to one another, reason things out with someone else, but let there be no gossip or criticism of one another. Instead, let the understanding, love, and peace of the program grow in you one day at a time."

Will you please join me in closing with the "short" version of THE CLA ORGANIZED LIFE SERENITY PRAYER.

God, grant me the serenity of an organized life with leisure time,  
The courage to change my habits to ensure these joys,  
And the wisdom to be flexible.

Before we begin the Fellowship After Meeting where Newcomer questions will be answered, please join me in a Moment of SILENCE. (20-30 seconds)

**KEY TO FONT COLORS WITHIN SCRIPT**

Red text is to guide the moderator; NOT read aloud.

Black text is the script; READ aloud.

Blue text is CLA literature.

**Before signing off, the MODERATOR needs to:**

1. If tonight is the **second** Saturday, complete the Business Meeting first using format starting on page 11.
2. Before signing off, **welcome** people to the Fellowship After Meeting and lead the Serenity **prayer**.
3. Read the Fellowship Statement

## **FELLOWSHIP AFTER MEETING FORMAT**

Welcome to our Fellowship After Meeting. Please join me in the “we” version of the Serenity Prayer.

God, grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change,  
 Courage to change the things we can,  
 And wisdom to know the difference.

### **FELLOWSHIP STATEMENT**

Please respect our CLA Traditions and keep the focus on CLA related issues only. We do not interrupt each other, nor do we express anger or dissatisfaction toward another member. To create an inclusive sense of community, please invite and welcome each other to participate in CLA related discussions. And while we are more relaxed in our Fellowship After Meetings, please be mindful of the CLA Code of Conduct. By doing this, we express gratitude and appreciation to all members, while we focus on positive progress and hope.

Ask “Is the Fellowship After Meeting Moderator on the line?” If so, turn the meeting over to the Fellowship After Meeting moderator.

(If the moderator cannot stay, ask for a volunteer to moderate. If no one volunteers, say...) Now is the time for the Newcomer. Would somebody please answer any of the Newcomer’s questions as I am unable to stay. Please use the Round Robin format, if necessary. Good night. 😊

### **SUGGESTIONS FOR FELLOWSHIP AFTER MEETING**

- Invite Newcomer’s questions.
- Invite exchange of contact information.
- Invite brief (20-30 second) commitments of a Focused Action to complete within a stated period (the next 30 minutes, the following day, or the coming week).
- Invite individual sharing. (Give gentle reminder at 4 minutes.)
- Invite suggestions for CLA related topics, no outside issues.
- Invite readings of CLA approved literature. (Give gentle reminder at four minutes); no outside literature.

### **SUGGESTIONS FOR DEALING WITH CHAOTIC/OUT OF CONTROL MEETING**

- Call a moment of silence. Announce: “We will now have a moment of silence!”
- Lead Prayer, say “Please unmute and join me as I start The Serenity Prayer.”
- Remind people to stay in the solution!
- Remind members to avoid cross talk and to put principles before personalities.
- Read the Code of Conduct (on website – “Resources” tab).

### **CLOSING FELLOWSHIP AFTER MEETING**

Please join me in the “short” version of THE CLA ORGANIZED LIFE SERENITY PRAYER.

God, grant me the serenity of an organized life with leisure time,  
The courage to change my habits to ensure these joys,  
And the wisdom to be flexible.

## **BUSINESS MEETING FORMAT**

This is the **second** Saturday of the month. It is now time for our business meeting. Who is willing to be of service to facilitate tonight's meeting? Who is willing to take brief notes? *(If no one volunteers, the moderator becomes the facilitator and takes notes. If the moderator cannot stay, someone **MUST** act as facilitator, or the business meeting cannot proceed.)*

*(Facilitator says...)* Please join in with the "we" version of THE SERENITY PRAYER.  
 God, grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change,  
 Courage to change the things we can,  
 And wisdom to know the difference.

### **Business Meeting Preamble**

*(Facilitator reads...)* We begin our business meeting, remembering to place principles before personalities. We accept the responsibility to speak to each other in a caring and loving way. We trust our Higher Power to guide us personally and then we turn the group conscience vote over to that Power. We recognize that it is better not to continually restate our views to maintain a clutter-free business meeting. We pray for guidance before we speak, and we listen to all opinions. After voting we trust any outcome, since we have placed our confidence in our Higher Power to lead us into the decision for our common good. Let us take a moment of silence to reflect on these words.

**Tradition 1** - Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon CLA unity.

**Tradition 2** - For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority--a loving God as expressed through our group conscience.

**Tradition 4** - Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or CLA as a whole.

**Voting Process with Group Conscience in mind:** If there is a **MOTION**, the motion maker needs to have it in writing. Ask for a second to the motion. If there is no second, the motion fails. If seconded, the motion goes to short discussion. Call for a **VOTE**. Ask for yays (count); ask for nays (count); ask for abstentions (count). Motion passes or fails. If needed, the motion may be tabled.

Facilitator needs to keep track of time. If a business meeting is not finished in 15 minutes, call for group conscience to extend the meeting. If a business meeting gets chaotic or out of control, table the discussion, move to another motion; OR stop the meeting, ask for a moment of silence followed by a prayer; OR call for a motion to close the meeting. Remind people to STAY IN THE SOLUTION! No cross talk. Principles before personalities. Read Code of Conduct. Final option is to MUTE the line.

As we proceed with this business meeting, let it reflect group conscience.

1. Is the current meeting moderator going to continue the following month? *(If not, then **filling** the meeting moderator position takes precedence. If a new moderator is voted in, ask for contact info. If no one volunteers, ask this question again before the close of the meeting.)*
2. Is our meeting delegate here? Do you have a report? *(If none, Facilitator asks...)* Is there another WSO member here today who is willing to give the WSO report?
3. Does our meeting have a delegate? *(If no one speaks up, it's time to **VOTE** a new one in.)* Is someone willing to be our meeting delegate? *(Delegates must be **Voted** in. See **Vote** instructions above. If a new delegate is voted in, ask for contact info.)*
4. Is there any old business from previous business meetings or not yet completed? *If there is old business, see **Motion** instructions above. Maker of motion needs to have it in writing. If a vote is called, see **Vote** instructions above. If no old business, proceed to the next bullet point.)*
5. Is there any New (or other) Business? *(If there is new business, see **Motion** instructions above. The maker of a new motion **needs** to have it in writing. If a vote is called, see **Vote** instructions above. If no new business, proceed to the next bullet point.)*
6. Motion to Close ... *(pause for someone to make the motion)* Will someone second that motion? *(pause)* Hearing no discussion or nays, the motion automatically passes.
7. Let's close this meeting with the "we" version of The Serenity Prayer. *(See above **Prayer**.)*

**NOTE:** The facilitator stays for a few minutes to welcome people to the Fellowship After Meeting by leading the prayer and reading the Fellowship Statement. The Fellowship After Meeting Format is on page 7.

Before we begin the Fellowship After Meeting where Newcomer questions will be answered, please join me in a Moment of SILENCE. *(20-30 seconds)*