

## Framing the Topic/Unity Meetings

### 1. Create a title for your topic.

It can be questions or a statement that needs clarification.

Topic for discussion:

How do we carry the message about sponsorship in our meeting's format? What should we do to encourage sponsorship?

### 2. Summarize why you brought this topic or question forward to the group.

Provide relevance and context.

Why are we having this discussion now?

Why is this discussion important?

Summary:

It has been a long while since anybody volunteered to sponsor, and there is concern that the newcomers may feel badly or have trouble making connections to find sponsors. It has been a couple of years since the last person volunteered. We are starting to have more newcomers, again, so this is a good time to discuss this topic.

Some of the formats say "Are there any available sponsors?"

Doing what we can to help the newcomers feel welcomed, and to be a part of, is very important to the newcomer's recovery, as well as the recovery of the rest of the members.

### 3. Include any available background information on the topic.

Sources could include but are not limited to our Al-Anon Service Manual, group conscience archives, Conference Approved Literature.

Our format currently says: "Are there any available sponsors?"

"Attendance at meetings is only a start; we need the guidance of a sponsor in addition to our group. The wisdom of members who have worked these Steps before us is essential to understanding fully the spiritual answers and guidance we are about to experience. " -***Paths to Recovery***, pg. 19.

"Members can encourage newcomers to find a Sponsor by sharing that sponsors provide guidance; however, Sponsors do not direct or give advice." – ***Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual***, pg. 47

"For many of us, there is no greater resource for building trust and learning to communicate honestly and with dignity than sponsorship. The sooner we avail ourselves of this opportunity, the sooner we can start to grow in these areas." – ***How Al-Anon Works for Families and Friends of Alcoholics***", pg. 37.