

**Compulsive Eaters Anonymous - HOW
Came to Believe Meeting Format (rev Aug.2023)**

Welcome to the _____ Meeting of Compulsive Eaters Anonymous-HOW. My name is _____, and I am a compulsive eater and the leader for this meeting.

Will you please join me in the Serenity Prayer?

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Is there anyone here for the first time or returning to CEA-HOW? Please give us your first name only, so that we may get to know you.

Compulsive Eaters Anonymous-HOW is a group of individuals, who, through shared experience and mutual support, are recovering from compulsive eating. We welcome everyone who wants to stop eating compulsively. There are no dues or fees for members; we are self-supporting through our own contributions, neither soliciting nor accepting outside donations. CEA-HOW 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 abstain from compulsive eating and to carry the message of recovery to those who still suffer.

Will someone please read "How It Works" from the "Big Book" pages 58 & 59? (Optional)

The next 4 readings can be found in the *Forever Abstinent* book and on the CEA-HOW website.

Will someone please read "The 12 Steps of CEA-HOW"?

Will someone please read "The 12 Traditions"?

Will someone please read "The CEA-HOW Concept"?

Will someone with at least 30 days of back-to-back CEA-HOW abstinence please read "The Seven Tools of CEA-HOW"?

This is a *Came to Believe* meeting. We will start off reading a paragraph or two from the *Came to Believe* book. There is no abstinence requirement to read. At any time after the reading, everyone is offered a chance to share, provided they have at least 30 days of continuous CEA-HOW abstinence. Those members who have at least 7 days of continuous CEA-HOW abstinence may pitch if their pitching has been discussed with their sponsor.

We ask that no one give advice and please no crosstalk. Crosstalk during a meeting refers to expressing a compliment, commenting on someone's share, any form of disruption, advice giving, or speaking directly to another person rather than to the group. Sharing our own experience, strength and hope and avoiding crosstalk frees us from worry about negative or positive judgment. We further ask that those who share keep to the subject at hand, avoiding outside issues, such as: religious creeds, other 12-step programs (except in passing), or outside literature or philosophies. Remain positive by offering experience, strength, and hope as it relates to CEA-HOW.

Please limit your shares to 3 minutes, in consideration of all those who may want a chance to share. Is a Timekeeper here today? (*If not, ask for a volunteer Timekeeper.*)

To unmute in order to read or share, press the * and 6 keys on your phone. When you are finished, remember to mute yourself by pressing the * and 6 keys again.

BEGIN READING AND SHARING

Seventh Tradition Break (about 10-15 minutes before the end of the meeting)

Our **Seventh Tradition** tells us that every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions. The Seventh tradition is the only source of income to support Phone Bridge operations, sponsorship of retreats, sending Area 10 delegates to represent us at the annual business conference, and spreading the message that there is recovery from compulsive eating. Your contributions are a primary source to help "CEA-HOW to continue to function." At phone meetings, we don't pass a literal basket or hat, but we do encourage you to please give generously.

Send your Seventh Tradition donations via check to:

CEA-HOW Bridge Meeting
PO Box 983
Duarte, CA 91010-9998

To make contributions using PAYPAL:

1. Go to www.ceahow.org.
2. Select "Meetings".
3. Click on "Phone Bridge Meetings".
4. Scroll down to the "PAYPAL DONATIONS" tab and follow the prompts.

Does anyone have any CEA-HOW-related announcements, including any open service positions?

To hear a recording of the weekly announcements you can call [605-475-4849](tel:605-475-4849), access code [605134#](tel:605134#).

Are there any step-ups or anniversaries?

You must have a CEA-HOW sponsor to receive the food plan. Sponsors in need of food plans and members needing literature can send an email to phonebridgeliterature@gmail.com.

If you experience any difficulty accessing the conference line, please send an email to phonebridgeassistance@gmail.com.

To receive a list of member numbers or to be added to the phone bridge outreach list, you can send an email to phonebridgeoutreach@gmail.com. When contacting our Outreach Coordinator, please include your name, phone number and time zone.

If you call a phone bridge meeting listed on the CEA-HOW website and find that the meeting doesn't have a leader or the meeting is not in progress as scheduled, please notify our Meeting Coordinator at phonebridgemeetinginfo@gmail.com.

A sponsor is a CEA-HOW member who has 30 days of continuous CEA-HOW abstinence, has completed 30 days of questions and has taken the first three steps. A sponsor will help you work through the 12 steps. Will all available sponsors please tell us who you are, your abstinent date, weight loss, phone number, and if you are available as a Food, Inventory, Step and/or Maintenance Sponsor?

If you are in need of a sponsor, if you become an available sponsor, or if you are no longer available to sponsor, please send an email to phonebridgesponsorcoordinator@gmail.com. When contacting our Sponsor Coordinator, please leave your name, phone number, time zone, and level of sponsor needed or the level that you can provide.

I wish to thank all members who read and shared today. Please remember our cherished 12th Tradition which states: “Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities”.

The requirements of CEA-HOW are what this particular group has found to be effective in working this program, and do not represent any other organization or meeting except this one. The opinions expressed here today by those who shared are their own and not necessarily those of CEA-HOW as a whole.

We invite any and all members to stay on the line after the Serenity Prayer at the close of the meeting, to share experience, strength and hope with one another. If any newcomers or returning members have questions, we encourage you to stay on the line to talk with someone after the meeting. May I have a volunteer to stay and talk with newcomers and returning members and to facilitate the exchange of phone numbers?

Will someone please read their choice of “A Vision for You” on page 164 in the “Big Book”, “The Promises” on pages 83-84 in the “Big Book”, the “Acceptance” paragraph on page 417 in the “Big Book” or the reading “Just for Today”? (Optional)

Thank you for the opportunity to lead. Please adhere to the CEA-HOW traditions in the fellowship time with no mention of outside issues, politics, religions, or other fellowships except in passing.

After a moment of quiet meditation, will those of you who wish to, please join me in the Serenity Prayer.

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.