

12-STEP RECOVERY GROUPS AND THE FITCHBURG SERENITY CLUB

Like Alcoholics Anonymous, all meetings at the Fitchburg Serenity Club are **12-step recovery groups**. That is, they are fellowships of men and women who meet to share their experience, strength and hope that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from it too, whether the problem be alcoholism, enmeshment with an alcoholic, compulsive gambling, etc. They all base their recoveries on the Twelve Steps first set forth in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, commonly called the Big Book. (For a list of the various 12-step groups that meet at FSC, see the Schedule on the reverse side of this pamphlet.)

There are no dues or fees for membership in a 12-step recovery group. You belong if you say you do. Simply attending meetings is a start. Reading the Big Book and doing the Twelve Steps with a sponsor are the most basic activities we engage in when we become members.

The Fitchburg Serenity Club is a non-profit corporation that maintains the building located at 6048 McKee Rd. It exists to provide space for meetings of 12-step recovery groups and is a separate entity from those groups.

BENEFITS OF FSC MEMBERSHIP

If you become a member of the Fitchburg Serenity Club, you will help keep your clubhouse open by contributing a monthly pledge. In addition, you'll have voting rights for election of the FSC Board and for all vital clubhouse issues. You may serve on the Board yourself. You will receive a big price break on coffee and other beverages and receive your own personalized mug. Joining the club does not require that you volunteer for anything.

Membership dues pay about half the operating expenses of the clubhouse. By joining, you will be supporting the organization that supports you.

TO BECOME AN FSC MEMBER

1. Fill out the front of a membership envelope, which can be found on any meeting table. Those are the 3 X 6 envelopes with the yellow strip across the top. Don't forget to check "NEW."

2. Fill in your monthly pledge amount (\$10.00 or more suggested). **Your dues are tax deductible.**
3. Enclose at least one month's dues.
4. Drop the envelope in the safe in the lobby.
5. Soon after, you will be welcomed and given your coffee mug.

HOUSE RULES

FSC Mission Statement: FSC exists to serve 12-step recovery groups by providing space for meetings, opportunity for fellowship and a safe, positive environment for recovery. (*Bylaws of the Fitchburg Serenity Club, adopted February 16, 2014 at the Annual Meeting.*) In support of its mission, FSC encourages respect among members and visitors alike and supports following the 12 Traditions set forth in the Big Book. To promote these goals, please note the following policies:

1. **Smoking is not permitted in the building or within 50 ft. of the main entrance.**
2. The building will open at 6 a.m. and close at 10 p.m.
3. Non-members are welcome one hour before or after a scheduled meeting.
4. Rooms not in use for meetings may be used by members; however, new or special meetings must have Board approval.
5. Sale of items within the clubhouse must be approved by the Board.
6. With the exception of sanctioned, leashed service animals, no animals are permitted in the clubhouse. Animals on the clubhouse grounds must be leashed.
7. It is expected that everyone clean up after himself or herself. In addition, it is the responsibility of the meeting leader to leave the room clean after a meeting.
8. The rent for each meeting shall be 80 percent of that meeting's collection. The meeting leader or other responsible party is to ensure the deposit of all rent in the safe.
9. It is suggested that meetings be limited to one hour and that they start at the scheduled time.

11. Visitors to Board meetings are also encouraged to ask questions and comment, but may speak to an issue only twice, for not more than two minutes each.

12. All club members and guests shall act responsibly when on the club premises:

- Gambling of any sort within the Club premises is prohibited.
- Possession of weapons while on Clubhouse premises is prohibited.
- Property damage or theft on clubhouse premises is prohibited.
- Abusive, obnoxious, threatening, harassing and/or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.
- Improper/irresponsible conduct or the endangerment of others through reckless conduct is prohibited.
- If there is a threat of violence, call 911.

Together, we have built a strong community at FSC. Access to meetings, the building and grounds, and membership in FSC are privileges, not rights. The premises and people associated with the club and its tenant groups must be respected. Therefore, any member or visitor violating any section of House Rules will be dealt with in accordance with FSC's *Procedures for Sanction* (adopted by the Board, July 9, 2013) and involving the local authorities if necessary.

Fitchburg Serenity Club

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fitchburgserenityclub.com

Effective July 2014