**The RAW Group – Meeting Preamble**

Good afternoon and welcome. My name is **(\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)** and I will be the facilitator for today’s meeting. I would like to welcome you to The RAW Group. The purpose of this meeting is to share our message of strength and hope with each other; and that a solution to many of the things that are challenging us today can be found. The RAW Group is open to all (your AOR) Members and our meeting is not issue specific. That means that everything can be discussed during the open sharing. The RAW Group will do its best to provide complimentary resource information on various topics and issues on an ongoing basis; and welcomes any input and assistance from participants in acquiring additional support material for future meetings. This information is always made available to our Members at no cost and can be obtained at our regular meetings. (Facilitator) will give more details at the end of today’s meeting.

We want our Members to know The RAW Group is here for them. We can tell other Members in our Association about the purpose of our Group. However, this will only work if we protect the confidentiality and anonymity of the individuals in this room. In short, what is said in The RAW Group stays in this room. If there is anyone who feels that they may not be able to respect and protect the confidentiality of those in this room, we ask that you consider leaving the meeting now before the sharing begins. Do we have any questions about this?

**Let’s go over the Ground Rules for The RAW Group**

1. Participants who wish to share should keep their share to 5 minutes or less so that as many people as possible will have the chance to speak. We will be using a timer and ask that you please immediately finish your share if the timer has gone off.
2. There should be no cross talk in the meeting. When someone is sharing, please check to make sure your microphone is on mute. When sharing, please keep your sharing about you and your specific situation. It will be tempting to follow someone who has just shared with your own heartfelt advice. However, that may have unintended consequences. We ask that you share about your experiences as they relate to you. A great way to do this is to share about what it was like, what happened, and what it’s like now. (Example) This is what I have been going through, and this what I have done to try to improve my situation.
3. Please keep in mind that there are many different faiths and religions that can be practiced by our Participants. When sharing, please keep in mind that we are all here today to try to share our own message in our own way, but that we need to be conscious of all others in the room. Many groups like this have found success by acknowledging the difference between spirituality and religion. The RAW Group wants everyone to feel comfortable and safe in this room today. You’re welcome to express yourself as you see fit, but just remember that all of us may not share the same beliefs.
4. We are here for each other. If you feel that something you’ve heard in today’s meeting resonates with you, feel free to ask that person questions after the meeting. While we encourage our Members to share their experiences with one another, nobody is under any obligation to give out their personal information to another person unless they feel comfortable doing so.

We will now begin the meeting with open sharing and I will go first. (*Please share first as it will really help the meeting attendees feel more comfortable with following shares)*

**For Live Meetings** *(After you complete your share say)* The meeting is now open for sharing. Who would like to share?

**For Virtual Meetings** (*After you complete your share say*) The meeting is now open for sharing. Please raise your hand in the “Meeting Participant” window if you wish to share so that we may call on you. Remember, if you’re not sharing it would help if everyone keeps their microphone on mute. Thank you.

**(Last 5 minutes of meeting) Please conclude the sharing so literature reports can be done. The Facilitator should discuss the free available literature.**

I want to thank for joining us at today’s meeting. Is there anyone who would like to volunteer to lead next month’s meeting?  **(Try to get someone to make the commitment if you can, but if not we will make sure there’s a leader for the next meeting).** The RAW Group meets on the (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) of every month, and our next meeting will be on **(\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)**. We will send out an email invitation to join us at our next meeting. That meeting will be from (TBD AM/PM). Please put that in your calendar now and please be sure to invite others to our group. This concludes our meeting.