

ASK-IT-BASKET QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SPRING ASSEMBLY 2018

1.I'm confused about Concept 12. What is the connection to Warranties of the Charter? What is the Charter? I'm embarrassed to ask!!

Answer: See pages 18, 210-211, 226 and 229 of the Service Manual. Concept 12 tells you where to find the guidance for the operation of all of Al-Anon's services. The guidelines are the Warranties listed under the Article 12 of the Charter.

The Charter is an informed agreement between all Al-Anon groups and their Trustees, dating back to 1967. The Charter is a body of principles and relationships which Al-Anon as a whole can function. These principles and relationships are called Articles. There are 12 Articles. The first 11 Articles allows the World Service Conference to amend the first 11 Articles at anytime.

However, the 12th Article safeguards against the Conference obtaining too much power and/or wealth over the Al-Anon groups and makes sure that the Conference observes the spirit of the Traditions. It states that "an amendment or cancellation of any of its Warranties would require the written consent of ¾ of all registered Al-Anon groups. Each group should vote on any proposals to amend or cancel a Warranty only after 6 months of careful deliberation. The Warranties protect us against needless errors and the natural human temptations of wealth, prestige and power." "All Warranties counsels prudence..."

2.I want to ask about the chant. Some members do it at the end of a meeting. "It works if you work it, and you're worth it- so work it". I understand (correct me if I'm wrong) that this is not an approved thing. Does this fall under group autonomy or should this be discouraged/banned? And How? Is this "chant" an outside issue?

Answer: In the Service Manual- Page 20- Suggested Meeting Closing

"It is suggested that groups close in a manner that is agreeable to the group conscience. Many groups say the Al-Anon Declaration after their closing". Individual participation is optional. It may be worth submitting your concern in a group business meeting or a group inventory for discussion. You may find out you are not the only member with this concern.

3.The church where we used to hold our District meetings but now just hold public outreach meetings at 3-4 times a year- has asked if we would give them an Al-Anon Logo to put on their side door to let their congregation know which organizations use their church and let their organizations know they are at the right place or right door.

Answer: Service Manual- page 114 Symbols/Logos

"The three symbols shown are registered as "Al-Anon marks" with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Use of these marks for other than Al-Anon/Alateen purposes or any other alteration of these symbols endangers their legal status."

Page 111 Identification of Al-Anon/Alateen Publications

"The original seal... is reserved for all Al-Anon/Alateen Conference Approved Literature and material."

Tradition 6 states " Our family groups ought never endorse, finance or lend our name to any outside enterprise ...

The church would be using our symbol in promotion of their facility.

4.Why can a motion not be amended and then voted on instead of voting on original motion, then on to the new motion?

Answer: (Our Chair, Mary C. answered this one.) Saskatchewan Area 89 uses the small book entitled "Parliamentary Procedures at a Glance based on Roberts Rules of Order" to conduct our business. There are a number of ways a motion can proceed, and yes, amending the motion is one of them.

The book encourages the Chairperson to simplify procedures as much as possible. I feel, and the consensus of the members present at Ask-It-Basket also felt that avoiding amendments helps to keep the motion clear. So as your Chairperson, I chose to proceed in that manner.

5.(Conferred with our Alateen Coordinator/AAPP) Is the “Alateen Talks” publication (with sharing sheet removed) appropriate for “Public Outreach” to Professionals and others who could benefit from the Alateen members sharings and the AMIAS sharings?

Answer: We checked in the Service Manual and on the Web site and did not find anything stating we could not use it. In “Alateen Talks” it says “...ways in which to carry the Alateen message to young people still suffering from someone else’s drinking.”

The Alateen Coordinator will see if any other Areas are using “Alateen Talks” as Public Outreach.

6.Is it possible to have funeral cards available at Assembly when we are speaking of members that

Answer: We are a fellowship of equals and don’t recognize anyone personally. Direct communication is encouraged. The group considered this an outside issue.

7.Can the group use group funds for refreshments for fellowship before the meetings?

Answer: We found the answer on page 56 of the Service Manual under the topic “Group expenses may include: miscellaneous expenses agreed to by the group conscience such as babysitting, public outreach activities, refreshments, etc.”

8.Why do some groups have signup sheets at a meeting? Is this contradicting anonymity?

Answer: This is up to group conscience. In most groups this is to facilitate members who wish to share their first name and phone number to be available to others who may need help at any given time. It also may be a help to the group members that wish to help with meetings or functions at group level.

Members do not have to sign and participate by putting their names down if it is uncomfortable for them. Since it is not published for use or posting outside the meeting, there is no breach of anonymity.

9.How does Tradition Three “have no other affiliation” and Tradition Six “ought never endorse any outside enterprise” correspond with AI-Anon members being asked to wear the recognized colours of a private business at Assembly?

Answer: The email sent out read “ at Committee it was decided that Saskatchewan members would wear Green and White, carrying pom poms and carrying a Saskatchewan flag etc.”

“I invite you to bring your green and white with you to create excitement in Baltimore”

There is nothing in that email that endorses a private business, nor was there any intent.