

- 1. Can you address the issue of the chant keep coming back it works if you work it and your worth it. Do we use it or not?**

Answered at Spring Assembly 2018. In the Service Manual (2018-2021) Page 20 Suggested Meeting Closing - “it is suggested the groups close in a manner that is agreeable to the group conscious. Many groups say the Al-Anon Declaration after their closing”.

Individual participation is optional. It may be workt 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.

- 2. AIS Contributions. My group is not in District 1. Can we still contribute? They provide a service to the whole province. Need a guideline.**

In the Service Manual (2018-2021) Page 75 describes the role of a Literature Depot Centre, just to clarify difference between **LOC** and **AIS**. Page 66-67 describes role of AIS. Second paragraph on page 67 specifically answers the questions: “The Information Service is supported by the groups it serves within its geographical boundaries; it should not seek or accept support outside that area.”

- 3. Is there Al-anon Promises? I heard it read at a meeting. I thought it came out of Survival to Recovery, but did not see the working throughout the book. I was referred to page 267. A member brought this sheet on the promises, it is not word for word from the book. Can this be read in a meeting?**

In the Area Highlights on website (areahighlightsQ@al-anon.org) Area Highlights Winter 2015, Volume 47. Does Al-anon have promises?

I learned that over time requests had come before the WSO Committee and Policy Committee to adopt “Promises” for Al-Anon. These requests were discussed, but turned down because they would elevate an excerpt from literature to a higher level of importance than any other CAL, and because we don’t make promises in Al-Anon, since everyon’s situation is different. Instead, we offer our experience, strength and hope to help each other. By taking passages out of the context, we can lose original intention.

The discussion of this has concluded that an Al-Anon member has referred to excerpts from Al-Anon Literature as their interpretation of promises.

In Many Voices One Journey - referred to as “gifts”. – *check book out*

- 4. Why is there not standardized public outreach presentations Al-Anon GRs/DRs or group members can access to carry the message out into the world? For example: an Al-Ateen standard presentation you could download off the WSO website to share to a group of at risk teens or at a school.**

The 2018-2021 Service Manual references public outreach in a section called “Public Outreach” starting on page 117 through to Page 124. “Our public outreach is based on spiritual principles which are helpful to turn to when we have questions. One of these principles is members continually broaden the way they carry the message by using new and innovative forms of communication.” On page 123, there is further information about this principle. “In the dynamic world in which we live, we need always consider broadening our outreach efforts so that those needing our help may easily find us. This means there is no end to the possibilities for carrying our message locally, naturally and internationally. In developing or conducting public outreach using new forms of communication, including emerging technologies, Al-Anon’s outreach message is safeguarded by consistently referencing the primary purpose of public outreach and by applying its underlying spiritual principles.”

The key words “dynamic” and “continually broaden” invite us to utilize the Al-Anon literature, PSA’s and activities to suit both the audience and the situation. Public outreach is best served when we involve our hearts to apply its’ spiritual principles. There are many tools of public outreach available in print on the web, and social media platforms. Take what you like and leave the rest.

- 5. Just wondering how we would about having a word added to the Al-anon Traditions. Tradition 11 – if we could have the word internet added to go along with press; radio, films and T.V. as it is a public information source.**

Refer to page 97 of the Service Manual (2018-2021)– Anonymity and the Media Tradition Eleven gives a specific guideline: “we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, films, and TV.” It is Al-anon/Alateen policy to interpret Tradition Eleven to include the internet as well as all forms of evolving public media. Personal anonymity in the media guards the fellowship from the Al-anon/Alateen member who may be tempted to seek public recognition.

Refer to page 122 of the Service Manual – Personal Anonymity is Maintained at the Level of Press, Radio, Films, TV and the Internet.

Tradition Twelve tells us that anonymity is the spiritual foundation of our entire program. Members maintain personal anonymity in all forms of public media including press, radio, films, TV, the internet, as well as other ways of reaching the public. It is essential that members consider Tradition Eleven as they keep public outreach messages free from

personalities. No one person can ever be the sole representative of Al-anon. The message of recovery in the media is too important to be overshadowed by a single person or group no matter well-intentioned.

The Area 89 Delegate did mention there is a process to change the wording of a step, tradition, concept or warranty. One of the criteria in that process is that is a group conscience of at least 75% of all Al-anon Family Group worldwide in favour of changing a step, tradition, concept or warranty.

- 6. I raised by concerns about the skit on inclusion in the evaluation form after Fall Assembly. I offered a few ways to revisit the important issue of inclusion. Are there any plans to have respectful dialogue or action at Committee and/or coming Assemblies? This is about having the hand of Al-Anon always be there.**

The intent of the workshop on “Bias” from Fall Assembly 2018 was never to offend or single out anyone. It was intended to make us look inwards, become more self-aware of our own biases. Al-Anon strives to be inclusive.

Page 13 of the Service Manual (2018-2021): Suggested Al-Anon Preamble to the Twelve Steps.

Al-Anon is not allied with any sect, denomination, political entity, organization, or institution: does not engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any cause.

Page 62 “Al-Anon Family Groups” – Tradition 10

Our many thousands of members are people of widely different ways of life, of various races, creeds and colors, with political affiliations that vary with party, social status and country.

If a group were to take sides on any issue, however, worthy the cause, it would lend to dissention and division within our ranks. This Tradition is a precaution against any activities that might diver us from our primary purpose, which is to help families and friends of alcoholics.

Tradition 3: . . . The only requirement for membership is that there be a problem of alcoholism in a relative or friend.

Tradition 5: Each Al-Anon family group has but one purpose: to help families of alcoholics.

In reference to “let the hand of Al-Anon . . . , any member of Al-Anon can do Public Outreach where they see a need.

AWSC would like to make an amend to anyone who did feel offended by this workshop. We believe a “living amend” is in order. This discussion will be part of our Agenda at the 2019 Fall Committee Meeting. By open discussion we hope to find solutions that lead to Serenity.

Keep in mind our suggested closing: Page 20 of 2018-2021 Service Manual. Talk to each other . . .

- 7. Our group is looking into making bookmarks to give to newcomers and they have the Serenity Prayer on one side and 20 slogans on the other side. Question is, do we need permission to do this Al-Anon (get approval). Your thoughts please. Thank you. (A sample bookmark was attached)**

WSO website: Members – Members Resources – Literature – Literature Resources – Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: “Do we need permission to publish the Serenity Prayer on our slogans?”

A: If you are using them by themselves, out of context from other Al-Anon literature, you are free to use them.