

Service Manual Skit

Cast:

Della Gate – World Service Delegate

Enthusiastica – singer

Rebella – who is rebellious about following guidelines

Whinning Willa – who is completely bewildered

Faith – who is a faithful and steadfast member

Gilda Guideline – Service Manual

Della: Hi, I'm Della Gate, your World Service Representative, and I would like to introduce my friends: Enthusiastica, who expresses herself only in song; Rebella, who is rebellious about following guidelines; Willa, who is completely bewildered; Faith, who is a faithful and steadfast member of Al-Anon and, of course, Gilda, the service manual!

Enthusiastica: (secret love) Once I had a secret book.....

Rebella: Della, I keep hearing all this talk about using a Service Manual and I am *really* tired of it. I have a Manual, but I keep it safely put away.

Enthusiastica: (John Brown's body) My old Service Manual lies a moulding in the dust, cause it ain't getting used anymore....

Della: Let's have a look at the Service Manual and find out more about it and see how we can use them at our groups and in our districts.

Fran - (shows Service Manual book cover).

Rebella: A few years ago we had four books for our Service Manual and now there's only one. I guess there's only a quarter as much to learn now.

Della: No, all the information was compiled into one book in 1992. It contains the four sections that were previously in four separate booklets. The Service Manual reflects the collective experience of our membership in its ongoing effort to interpret the Traditions and Concepts in a spirit of unity and harmony.

Fran: I'm Part I of the Service Manual, *The Al-Anon and Alateen Groups At Work* and I tell about the three legacies.

Faith (excitedly): I know what the legacies are! They are Recovery through the Twelve Steps; Unity through the Traditions; and Service through the Concepts. If we follow the legacies we will have harmony in our groups!

Rebella: (complaining) There'd be a lot more harmony in **MY** group if they'd just do what I tell them. They did elect **ME** as the boss.

Faith: Our triangle shows recovery, unity and service. The sides of the triangle are equal, and we can insure the integrity of our program when we balance our own triangles. Our recovery needs to be in balance with our service.

It's in the book!

Enthusiastica (tune of YMCA) B-O-O-K...B-O-O-K

Fran: The Twelve Steps suggest acceptance of four primary ideas:

1. We are powerless over the problem of alcoholism
2. We can turn our lives over to a Power greater than ourselves
3. We need to change both our attitude and our actions
4. We keep Al-Anon's gifts by sharing them with others

Willa: Our group representative is *always* reading from the Service Manual, but it's pretty boring and I don't really listen. I don't know why she keeps referring to the Manual when we elected *her* to be the boss of our group.

Della: Our Service Manual tells us how our groups can function well by using the guidelines and practicing the 12 Traditions. Why not take a look at it?

Enthusiastica: (from Annie)

Tomorrow, tomorrow....Let's do it tomorrow....It's only a day away....

Fran: *Al-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work* is written as an introduction to the other three books. The Executive Director has responsibility for the wording of my book and it is intended to reflect current policy and procedures as found in the other sections of the Manual.

Rebella: So, who does this Executive Director think he is, making rules for all the groups? This guy's got attitude.

Willa: No Rebella, he's doing the job which Al-Anon hired him to do. But *some people* here **DO** have attitude.

Rebella: There's nothing wrong with *MY* attitude! If people would learn to do things *MY* way we'd have **no** attitude problems.

Della: The Executive Director is responsible for the *wording* of the information in this section of the book. It is compiled from the experiences of the groups, and the information is updated as necessary, to reflect responses from Al-Anon groups worldwide.

Fran: "*Al-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work*" provides a framework within which each group can develop and grow. The harmony and success of each group depends on shared responsibility, a warm spirit of fellowship and individual self-improvement."

Faith: The handbook gives procedures drawn from long trial-and-error experience. When we use the guidelines from the Manual at our group it helps us to put Principles above Personalities, and we have more unity in the group.

It's in the book!

Enthusiastica: (tune of YMCA) B-O-O-K...B-O-O-K

Fran: I'm Part 2 of the Service Manual, *The Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies*. I was compiled from the questions and shared experience from many sources – Al-Anon and Alateen members, national conferences and delegates to the World Service Conference. The language for me is suggested by the Policy Committee and can then be modified by the Board of Trustees. My wording is presented to the delegates at the World Service Conference and they can edit, modify and accept or deny the changes.

Willa: Does that mean that all of us can have input into the Service Manual by sharing our group experiences with our delegate?

Della: That's right Willa. Your delegate takes the concerns of your group to the Conference and can share your ideas during discussion on these motions and through discussions at workshops. Our Service Manuals are a reflection of the collective wisdom of all the groups.

Rebella: Oh, I took a look at the book, and you're right --- it's pretty hard to digest!

Fran: I have information that can help to solve many group problems!

Faith: Our group has been able to answer a lot of questions members have by referring to the Policy Digest. Last month one of our members had a baby and some of our members thought it would be nice if the group sent a gift. We checked the Policy Digest and on page 88 it talks about gifts to members and it says “Group funds are used for group purposes only, not for personal gifts to members.”

Enthusiastica: (there’s power in the blood) **there’s power in the book, power in the book...**

Willa: That’s putting principles above personalities when we get our answers from the Service Manual instead of just listening to one member’s opinion.

Rebella: *No one’s got personality like I have!*

Enthusiastica: (singing to Personality) Cause, she’s got personality, walk personality, talk personality....

Fran: I’m the **World Service Handbook Section** of the Manual! I give all the duties of assembly members – and the GR is a vital link in service. Only the group representatives have a vote at our assemblies so they need to be familiar with my guidelines so they can be an INFORMED group conscience for Al-Anon in our area and worldwide. We need to respect the guidelines we are given in the Service Manual.

Della: I am on the Admissions/Handbook Committee at the World Service Conference and we draft language for the Handbook section of the Manual.

Enthusiastica (Wouldn’t it be lovely)
All I want is a service book
Things go well when I take a look
It’s one enormous hook
Oh, isn’t service lovely

Willa: I’ve learned so much from these books that I would like to try being a Group Representative! I’ve found lots of information that will help me.

Faith: I read the whole Handbook section before I went to our assembly. It gave voting procedures and General Information for assemblies. It also explained all of the duties of the assembly members. It sure helped me to understand things at my first assembly.

Della: As assembly officers we refer to the Handbook to make sure we are following the Al-Anon guidelines. We try to answer questions by referring to the Service Manual, and that puts principles before personalities. The opportunities to serve can take us far beyond the group and our personal problems.

Enthusiastica: (Happy talk from South Pacific)
Happy, happy, happy service talk.
Talk about things that we can do....

Fran: I'm the ***Twelve Concepts of Service Section of the Service Manual***. I record the "why" of our service structure to show you how the valuable experience of the past and lessons drawn from that experience will never be forgotten or lost. I include principles such as the right of decision and right of participation, and how to choose your leaders.

Della: The Concepts include principles which have become traditional in our service. The Warranties in Concept Twelve contain the spiritual foundation for Al-Anon's World Services.

Willa: Warranties? I thought that warranties were for cars and toasters. How does this fit in with Al-Anon?

Della: A warranty is a guarantee of the integrity of a product and our warranties protect the integrity of the Al-Anon program. Our Traditions have given us a set of values for our program and the Warranties reinforce those values. (rolls out a long paper with fine print and an expiration date)

Willa: Where did you find these Warranties? I've read lots of our books but I NEVER heard about warranties.

Della: The Warranties are in Concept 12. You can read about them in the ***Service Manual, Paths to Recovery, and Concepts, Al-Anon's best Kept Secret***.

Enthusiastica: (tune from I've grown accustomed to her face)
I've grown accustomed to the book....It almost makes my day begin....

Rebella: Well, I wish they'd keep their secrets to themselves. This is just way too complicated!

Della: It's actually pretty simple. Our Warranties tell us to practice prudence, good judgment and wisdom in managing our affairs.

Faith: Our trusted servants do not rule by mandate, they lead by example!

Della: The Warranties "express deep and loving respect for the spiritual liberties of our fellows. May God grant that we shall never be so unwise as to desire anything less."

Enthusiastica: (Hooray for Hollywood)

Hooray for service books....They teach us how to get along.