

IT'S IN THE BOOK! PART II

“The Concepts”

Setting: a district meeting

DR: May we have a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer?

ALL: say the Serenity Prayer aloud

DR: Is there any old business? (pauses) Any new business or group problems we need to go over?

1: I don't know what to do. My group doesn't want me to vote on anything at the district meeting or an Area Assembly without their approving it first.

DR: It's in the Book!

NARRATOR: Page 172 in the Service Manual covers the Right of Decision which allows trusted servants to act according to their own conscience as opposed to being a messenger. Based on mutual trust, it is a symbol of our implicit confidence. This is Concept 3.

2: I'm on the convention committee, and the people from the other district want to make all of the decisions, but I feel like they want us to do all of the work.

DR: It's in the Book!

NARRATOR: Concept 4 deals with the imbalance of authority and responsibility which can seriously handicap efficiency of operation and real harmony. See page 174 in The Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual.

3: In my group nobody wants to know about the District meeting or the Area Assembly. They don't seem to care about anything but showing up at the meeting once a week.

DR: It's in the Book!

NARRATOR: Concept 7 tells us that trusted servants have the right to ask “the ultimate authority”, in this case the group, to reconsider their position since it can ultimately endanger Al-Anon's future.

4: I'm the Alternate GR for my group, and we're having a problem with the GR. There is always some excuse at the last minute for things not getting done. I got a call at 10 o'clock last night asking me to come today.

DR: It's in the Book!

NARRATOR: The requirements for good leadership are covered in Concept 9. The basis for the solution of this problem lies in Warranty 5's definition of our spiritual democracy.

1: We have our group conscience before the meeting, and last time something happened that I didn't know how to handle. Everyone knew we were going to talk about the group inventory which had revealed some serious problems; but before we got started, the program chairman announced that she didn't want us to discuss the inventory; because it might upset everyone.

DR: It's in the Book!

NARRATOR: Concept 10 warns us against double-headed management. The primary jurisdiction of the GR is the establishment of the agenda for the group conscience. The primary jurisdiction of the program chairman is the meeting program. Authority must be equal to responsibility.

3: Our group adds \$1.00 on to the cost of each hardback book to help us cover the cost of newcomer literature. Someone from another state came to visit and accused us of "ripping people off" by charging more than WSO does. Was she right?

DR: It's in the Book!

NARRATOR: The discussion of Warranty 1 covers this issue. The issue of "profit making" is dealt with on the middle of page 206 in the Service Manual.

4: Our group voted to use outside literature. Some of us don't like it, but we lost by 1 vote in the group conscience. What can we do?

DR: It's in the Book!

NARRATOR: The Rights of Appeal and Petition in Concept 5 are the place to start. Discussion of such a vital issue can be reinitiated. Why not hold a meeting on the importance of using CAL and invite the DR to help reinitiate the discussion.

- 5:** I'm the GR for an Alateen group, and I'm on the committee for the District Al-Anon/Alateen All Day. They want us to pay the same \$10.00 registration fee as the adults. I protested that it was too high, but I got told by the chairman that if the Alateens wanted recovery bad enough, they'd make the sacrifice. My group is angry. What can I do?
- DR:** It's in the Book!
- NARRATOR:** This GR has already started by using Concept 5 even though she/he doesn't know it. Concepts 4 and 11 provide further guidance. In Concept 4 participation by all is to be encouraged. Concept 11 directs Al-Anons to make provisions for Alateens that Alateens cannot make for themselves. See page 35 in the Service Manual for additional discussion on this topic.
- DR:** This meeting has shown us how we can use the Twelve Concepts of Service in addition to the Twelve Traditions to help us deal with in the course of Twelfth Step work. I hope that we will consider the wisdom contained in the Concepts as needed. Now if we don't have anything else, let's close in the usual manner followed by "Let it begin with me".

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