

Form: Proposed Topic for Area Consideration

1. Create a title for your topic. It can be a question or a statement that needs clarification or a brand new topic to consider.

Topic for discussion:

How is our Unity affected when Al-Anon members choose to share outside tools, prayers, and literature in their role as Al-Anon speakers? When Al-Anon speakers share from the heart about non-Al-Anon tools do they represent the Al-Anon program? Are we becoming a divided fellowship; those who believe the tools of the Al-Anon program are sufficient and those that don't?

2. Summarize why you brought this question/topic forward to the Area. Relevance and Context. If this is a new topic, why do you feel this topic is important for the Area to consider?

Summary:

I recently attended an Al-Anon event which included an Al-Anon speaker. This speaker was eloquent, humorous, and personable. He described his obsessive thinking and gratitude to the Al-Anon program. He not only spoke about the Steps and Sponsorship, he mentioned the AA Big Book, recited the 7th step prayer, and described his use of the "columns" for his inventory work. I did not hear of any helpful Al-Anon literature or slogans. Afterwards, I was reasoning things out with another Al-Anon member who is working the Steps with her sponsor through AA's Big Book. She was surprised to learn the Big Book is not Conference Approved Literature.

3. Include any available background information on the topic. Sources could include, but are not limited to, WSO, AWSC, Group Records, CAL (Conference Approved Literature), our Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual or past Area/AWSC minutes, which may include relevant past motions or discussions related to the topic.

Historical Background Information:

The pamphlet "**Why Conference Approved Literature?**"

Page 2 "A.A. literature was also used at Al-Anon meetings in the 1950s. In 1962 and 1965, the World Service Conference voted unanimously to recommend to the groups the exclusive use of the Al-Anon Conference Approved Literature. This encourages Al-Anon unity and assures the message at our meetings will be clear and consistent."

Page 3 "Members are always free to read and study whatever they wish outside of meetings..."

The pamphlet "**Al-Anon Spoken Here**"

Page 2 "Al-Anon simplicity is reflected in the tools of the program - the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Service, the Serenity Prayer, slogans, sponsorship, Conference Approved Literature, *The Forum* magazine, and the special gift of the Al-Anon/Alateen members' sharing from the heart".

Al-Anon Guidelines G-1, Members Interested in Speaking

Under “Plan What to Say”

- Bear in mind that the purpose of your talk is to carry the Al-Anon/Alateen message of recovery by sharing your experience, strength, and hope.
- Describe how you have changed your life by using the tools of the program.
- Share on a particular Step, slogan, or Al-Anon/Alateen book or pamphlet that was especially helpful.

Tradition 12 - “...place principles above personalities” How can we choose Al-Anon speakers who not only possess magnetic personalities but also “Speak Al-Anon” if we have never heard them in the role as an Al-Anon speaker?

Do you think a Thought Force or Task Force is needed? Yes No

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO CHAIRPERSON

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