1. What are some ways to encourage discussion and clarify the idea of “welcoming newcomers to our group” for our members, many of whom are of the belief that allowing families and friends of drug addicts to attend Al-Anon meetings violates our Traditions?
2. How do we gracefully and gently let those newcomers, potential members, and members from other programs know that it is not necessary to let the group know (or talk about) the drug-addiction experience?
3. What might a group do to ensure newcomers feel welcomed while maintaining our primary purpose?

**Suggested Literature References:**

**How Al-Anon Works (B-32), page 110, third paragraph:**

“Unlike most other organizations, membership in Al-Anon is strictly a personal matter. We are never asked to sign up, fill out forms, pay initiation fees, or meet another’s qualifications for membership. We become members simply by choosing to attend.”

**Courage to Change (B-16), pages 358 and 368:**

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

"It took me over a year to realize that | was an adult child of alcoholic parents. | am so grateful that | was given the time and the support to come to this awareness when | was ready."

**Al-Anon's Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions (B-8), pages 18 and 98:**

"Because it is so important for me to find my own way, | have also tried to respect other people's beliefs or doubts. | simply try to share my own strengths without trying to impose my beliefs on others. We are all equals but we are not all the same."

"Membership in Al-Anon is a personal decision. Individuals decide for themselves if they want Al-Anon and if they qualify for membership."

**\*2018 Al-Anon Membership Survey, Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.:**

"Fifty percent of members indicated that the family member or friend who had led them to initially attend Al-Anon meetings had a history of drug use, and thirty-five percent of members specifically joined because of this drug use."

**“Al-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work (P-24), page 49-50 and Alcoholism, the Family Disease (P-4), page 22:**

“All Al-Anon discussions should be constructive, helpful, loving, and understanding. In striving toward these ideals, we avoid topics that can lead to dissension and distract us from our goals.”

**From Survival to Recovery (B-21), pages 13 and 69:**

"Anyone who has experienced the devastating effects of another’s alcoholism is welcome in Al-Anon."

"Living serenely in the midst of life’s challenges is a spiritual gift we would like to share."

**Lois Remembers (B-7), page 190:**

"Members of our fellowships never talk down to a prospect. We tell how we, too have been there in the same apparently hopeless mess. Our approach is one of mutual need, of identification."

**Al-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work (P-24), pages 21-25:** Optional Readings