

TF: Communication & Strengthening the Links of Service

SKIT

CHARACTERS
Announcer
Polly Ease
Don Rong
Yuna Right
GR (wears GR sign)
DR (wears DR sign)
Poster holders

(Underlined "CAPS" FOR EMPHASIS, THROUGHOUT)

Announcer: Here we are after the closing of an Al-Anon meeting in Anytown, USA. Let's listen in to the meeting after the meeting, of the "We Ain't Much, Al-Anon Family Group."

Polly Ease: I feel uncomfortable saying the Lord's Prayer. Al-Anon is not supposed to be a religious program. I'm going to call the WSO and tell them that THIS group is practicing religion.

Poster Holder: *Holds up a sign that says "Poor communication / Ineffective use of links of service?"*

Yuna Right: Well, I am sick of hearing Joe talk about his wife's drinking each week! I'm going to tell the GR so she will tell him to shut up.

Don Rong: The GR probably won't help you since you interrupted her report and told her we had NEWCOMERS who didn't need to hear all that business stuff.

Yuna: Well, GRs ARE supposed to run the group, right? If she won't deal with Joe, I'll tell the DR, and he will tell her to fix it!

Poster Holder: *Holds up a sign that says "Poor communication / Ineffective use of links of service?"*

Polly: Those newcomers won't come back! Who wants to hear a GR go on and on about... about...??? What WAS she talking about, anyway?

Don & Yuna: *(shake their heads no)* I don't know.

Polly: IF it was really important, we'd remember it... Can you believe what Joe's wife did last week! I hope the GR will tell him to quit talking about his wife.

Poster Holder: *Holds up a sign that says "Poor communication / Ineffective use of links of service?"*

Yuna: Well, I don't think the GR will do anything, because when I talked to her about Joe's problem, she said that, *(Fingers for parentheses)* "Each AI-Anon member has the responsibility to keep our meetings on track. I could lovingly share my feelings with Joe in private, and if that doesn't work, I could bring it up for discussion at the business meeting." She also said that the *(Fingers for parentheses)* "wisdom of the group" may help solve the problem.

Poster Holder: *Holds up a sign that says "Poor communication / Ineffective use of links of service?"*

Don: The REAL problem is basket passing. The Seventh Tradition says we should be fully self-supporting, and how can I support myself, by giving my money away? Doesn't anyone follow the Seventh Tradition anymore? I'm calling the GR to tell her how the Seventh Tradition SHOULD be applied. If she won't help, I will call the DR! *(louder)* or the Delegate! *(louder)* Why, I'll even call the WSO!

Poster Holder: *Holds up a sign that says "Poor communication / Ineffective use of links of service?"*

Yuna: Let's get together next week after we have contacted everybody, then we can set things straight.

Don and Polly: Okay! *(Thumbs up gesture!)*

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Poster Holder: *Holds up a sign that says "Poor communication / Ineffective use of links of service?"*

Announcer: Meanwhile the GR talks with the DR to discuss her group's problems.

GR: *(Biting her nails)* I had all kinds of good information to share with my group and they just *DON'T* want to hear it. I don't know what to do... *(spits a nail out)*

DR: Well, I did get a call from Yuna who complained about a member who talks about his wife's drinking every week. *(Holds up his finger for a thought)*
I have an idea! Let's add this to the agenda for the district meeting and see what experience, strength, and hope the other GRs can offer.

Poster Holder: *Holds up a sign that says "Effective communication and use of links of service."*

Announcer: At the district meeting, our GR shares the problems she is having, and the other GRs offer their experience, strength, and hope. Let's listen in after the district meeting is over to see what she has learned...

GR: *(biting nails)* I came to this meeting thinking I would quit as GR! The members of my group don't want to hear any news or announcements, they just want me to solve their grievances with other members, and to tell me how to run the group. There is one member who thinks the Seventh Tradition is being abused. I liked that another GR suggested that I ask him to chair a meeting on the Seventh Tradition. The district meeting really helped because other GRs shared how they have handled group problems similar to the ones in my group. I'm nervous but I am going to try their suggestions. *(Spits out a nail)*

DR: You could invite your members to come to a district meeting or Assembly. Then they'll see that a GR is elected to be the group's voice, and that Al-Anon is bigger than their one little group.

Poster Holder: *Holds up a sign that says "Effective communication and use of links of service."*

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Announcer: One week later, the three amigos get back together to discuss how their calls went.

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Polly: I called the WSO about our group saying the Lord's Prayer and THEY DIDN'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO!

Poster Holder: *Holds up a sign that says "Poor communication / Ineffective use of links of service?"*

Yuna: You CAN'T be serious!!!

Don: I thought they were there to help us!

Polly: Well, the lady I talked to DID make a few suggestions... something about using a *Service Manual* and working toward unity. She asked if my group had a GR. I thought she would tell me to let the GR handle it, BUT NO! She said I could ask the GR to bring it up at a business meeting and that way we could let the group decide by having a group conscience.

Don: OH, FORGET THAT STUFF! I called the GR about what is really important, which is MONEY! I told her that everyone is passing the basket and they are now asking for a quarterly donation, and on top of that, they want a donation for the convention! It is purely an abuse of the Seventh Tradition!

Yuna: What did the GR say?

Don: She asked me to CHAIR A MEETING on the "Seventh Tradition." GET THIS! She said that Al-Anon doesn't need ONLY our money, they need US! They need us to share what we have learned and what has helped us in Al-Anon. They need us to be active and serve the other members of our groups!

Poster Holder: *Sign that says "Effective communication and use of Links of Service"*

Yuna: Well there you go! If you take your problems to someone else, they just give you something else to do. What should we do now?

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Don: OH!!! That's not all! She invited me to come to the district meeting and to the Assembly!

Polly: "What's Assembly?"

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Don: Assembly is like a district meeting only bigger, where the GRs from the whole Area go to do business and to discuss and solve problems.

Polly: How can THEY solve problems? They can't even help us with our own problems!

Don: Well, it is kind of organized like this: (Holds up a *Service Manual*, opens to page 186 which all group members look at) Our group elects a Group Representative called a GR, who represents our group and attends district meetings where all the GRs elect a District Representative called a DR. The DRs go to an Area meeting called Area World Service Committee, or AWSC. The GRs go to an Area meeting called the Assembly and there, the GRs elect a Delegate who represents all the GRs in their Area at a really big meeting called World Service Conference or WSC. That is where the big decisions are made by Al-Anon's largest group conscience.

Poster Holder: *Sign that says "Effective communication and use of Links of Service"*

Polly: That sounds really complicated.

Yuna: Well, maybe we should go to those meetings, that way we can say we tried it and it didn't work.

Announcer: Several weeks later, after more gossip and emphatically voicing their grievances to various trusted servants, our three amigos reluctantly took to heart the guidance they received and they -- (wait for it) -- ATTENDED THEIR AREA'S ASSEMBLY!!! (Gasps!)

There, they experienced the LINKS OF SERVICE in action: they saw CONFLICTS being resolved using the spiritual principles of equality and respect! They saw members talking things over and reasoning them out using loving interchange (Ooooh!)

They witnessed how KNOWLEDGE-BASED DECISION-MAKING could help trusted servants avoid many pitfalls (Aaaah!)

And they saw their GR participate in an effective GROUP CONSCIENCE complete with expression of a MINORITY OPINION (Ohhh!).

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Let's join our newly-enlightened members to see how they are processing all of this new information....

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(All three enter with eyes wide and mouths open)

Poster Holder: *Sign that says "Effective communication and use of Links of Service"*

Polly: Wow, they sure covered a lot of territory at that Assembly meeting. Who knew there was so much information to be shared between our Tuesday night meeting, the district, Area and the WSO in Virginia Beach?? Now I think I understand a little better about UNITY, connecting to our LINKS OF SERVICE, and using the SERVICE MANUAL to reason things out with one another in our group.

Don: Yeah, the GR referred me to the Fourth Tradition which talked about our group's AUTONOMY and how we were "autonomous except in matters affecting another group or Al-Anon or A.A. as a whole." I'm not sure I understand that, but it sounds good!

Yuna: I got the impression some of those GRs, the DRs, and that Delegate-guy might be able to shed some more light on it for us.

Polly: And did you guys hear that we are also invited to DISTRICT meeting?

Don: OH, NO! More basket-passing!

Yuna: Now, Don... remember the SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLE OF ABUNDANCE... and that without our contributions, WSO wouldn't be able to help other people like us.

Polly: And remember OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE...we can't welcome and give comfort to families of alcoholics if we can't pay our meeting room rent!

Yuna: Yeah, and we should send our GR to the next Assembly! She might just bring back some more helpful information... I just hope it doesn't take up all of our meeting... Oh, never mind!

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Don: True...after I chaired a meeting about the Seventh Tradition, I did realize that we have to be responsible for ourselves and our meetings. After the Assembly, I looked over the Budget Reports, and it does seem that the WSO is using our funds wisely and accounting for every penny. Hey, wasn't TRUST one of those SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES?

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Polly: Yes, it was. I think I could bring up the Lord's Prayer issue with SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES like OPEN-MINDEDNESS and PRINCIPLES ABOVE PERSONALITIES in a way that might be productive at our next business meeting.

Yuna: *(sighs)* You know? I could use MUTUAL RESPECT, UNDERSTANDING, AND COMPASSION when Joe goes on and on about that wife of his...and you know what? I am really starting to like our GR!

Don: I liked the free lunch at Assembly! Maybe I could just tag along.... Hey, is the Group treasurer's position still open? You know, contributions don't just mean, "Send money." It means we SHOW UP AND SERVE!

(Group wanders off-stage)

Announcer: No one's been cured yet, but they are definitely on their way to a deeper recovery through Service! Meanwhile...

DR: I was really happy to see some of your members at the last district meeting.

GR: Me too! I was so worried that I wasn't a good GR, and I was so nervous that I was about to quit. But now, I am glad that I didn't quit, because I feel such a part of my group and I also feel very loved! Hey, I even quit biting my nails! *(Holds up hands, spreads fingers)*

THE END

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