

AI-Anon Tool Time

[Someone in overalls and a tool belt comes out.]

Person who holds up sign: Hey Everybody! What time is it? (Holds up a poster that says "AI-Anon Tool Time") That's right! And now, ladies and gentlemen, your host! AI-Anon Tool Time Tim (or Tammy)!

[Enter Tim dressed in construction duds with a tool belt:]

Tim: Thank you! Thank you everyone! Welcome to another episode of AI-Anon Tool Time. I want to introduce you to my assistant and co-host, AI!

[AI enters dressed in plaid and suspenders, maybe a beard.]

AI: Hi everyone!

Tim: Hi AI! How's it going?

AI: Well now that you mention it, I'm having some issues at home.

Tim: Did your wife lose her car again? Hey, by the way, did you find the last one?

AI: Ha! Yes, I guess community pool and community parking can be confusing.

Tim: Really? In the community pool?

AI: Um...Yup!

Tim: So if you know where your car is located, is there a new problem?

AI: Yuuuup! It's our teenage daughter, Becky. I think she might need some help with dealing with her mother's, um, inability to find her car.

Tim: You mean alcoholism, right?

AI: Shhhh! No one knows.

Tim: *[to audience]* Oh, I think everyone knows. *(To the audience: Especially at the community pool.)* So what evidence do you have that Becky is having problems?

AI: Well, 1. She seems a little down.

Tim: I see.

AI: 2. She acts disinterested in things that used to interest her.

Tim: Hmmm, okay.

AI: and 3. She chased her boyfriend down the street with a ball-peen hammer.

Tim: Okay, that might be a good indicator.

AI: Yuuuuuup!

Tim: As you know, the disease can affect the whole family, not just the spouses, but the children can be affected as well.

AI: That's what I was thinking. Thanks to your help and my meetings I'm getting to know the AI-Anon tools, but what can we do for Becky?

Tim: Funny you should ask that because this week's episode is all about the Alateen Tools of the program. You'll be amazed at the array of tools we have in the AI-Anon Family Groups to help teenagers who have been affected by someone else's drinking.

We have a lot to cover tonight and to help us we have some special guests. AND there will be a quiz at the end of the show. *[AI is fascinated with his pliers.]* So, PAY ATTENTION!

AI: Okay, Tim, sorry. I'm ready to go.

Tim: Good, because I have a PowerPoint that will give you a good overview of what we have to offer our Alateen membership.

[a ppt.- Alateen Tools TF]

Tim: That was a great overview, Right AI? AI?

AI: Sorry, Tim, that was my wife wondering where I hid her bottle. Just a second, (to himself texting) "check toilet tank" Okay, go ahead, Tim. What was the question?

Tim: Well, AI, like the PowerPoint talked about, an important step: finding a meeting. Meetings might be the most important tool of the program. It's at meetings that teens can meet with other teens who are going through similar situations and feelings. What a relief to find out that you're not the only one living with the effects of someone else's drinking. Right?

AI: Well, it sure helped me. *[texting/talking to phone]* "Try the clothes hamper"

Tim: Really, AI? The clothes hamper?

Al: What? She would never look in there.

Tim: Okay, so now Becky is at her first Alateen meeting. When you went to your first meeting did you reach out to people?

Al: Heck No, I hung out at the literature table.

Tim: Hey, me too! It was so much easier to stand around looking interested in books than looking people in the eye. But then the literature turned out to be one of the things I love most about Al-Anon. Fortunately, Alateen literature is the same way: there's so many great pieces of Alateen literature available. Here to tell us more about the Printed tools of the Alateen program is our first special guest. You've seen him before on the classic show: "This Old Spouse." Bob A.

Bob: Thank you, Tim. Hi Al! Hi everyone. I'm so happy to be here and I'm going to be showing you some awesome literature tools that Alateens can use to better understand alcoholism and their role in the family disease. I'm going to show you a couple of pieces of Conference Approved Literature that are available to Alateens.

Bob to Al: Hey Al, did you get a newcomers packet at your first meeting?

Al: Sure did and so much more.

Tim: So that's it then?

Bob: No.

Tim: No?

Al: No?

Bob: Turns out that this is not your mother's Al-Anon! We have some material that's available using the World Wide Web! You can download literature for free to print out or to send someone who is interested in more information. And, of course, the Alateen Service e-Manual for the most up-to-date information and help with Alateen meetings.

Tim: What a great idea! Having material available on-line for easy access. Kids spend a lot of time on their phones and the Internet

Al: (texting) That is sooo ridiculous.

Tim: Because of the widespread use and access to the Internet, we have developed some additional tools for today's teenager. Stick around Bob because we have a couple of guests here who will help us demonstrate a new way we can reach out to our teenage members.

AI: You know, Bob, I'm actually pretty hip to today's keen teen lingo. Many times I have been very down with my phat self.

Tim: Thank you, AI, for that trip down memory lane. We asked a couple of modern young teens to show us how Alateens can connect with Alateen using on-line resources. Welcome two typical modern day teenagers: Teen 1 and Teen 2:

Scene: Two Teens Talking Together (cell phones and laptop/tablet in hand)

[b Vignette ppt.- Alateen Tools TF]

TEEN 1: Hey, what are you looking up?

TEEN 2: I'm checking to see if there's an Alateen meeting on-line. I really need one.

TEEN 1: Try locating that Alateen Web page our Sponsor's been telling us about.

TEEN 2: That's what I'm doing. Oh, here it is. "Alateen" **[Click]** Hey, look at those cute shoes! They look like mine. "For Alateen members," Hmm...

Ah, here's something—"Try an Alateen Chat." *[WSC Trustee manning the computer points arrow to "Try an Alateen Chat meeting"]*

TEEN 1: That's it. Check it out! **[Click]**

TEEN 2: Oh, do I have to register?

TEEN 1: Oh, I did that before. Nothing to it. You can see the list of available meetings right now without signing-in. See? **[Click]**

TEEN 2: How does the Chat work?

TEEN 1: It's easy. I've been there a few times. It's great when no face-to-face meeting is available. Register. Show up at the meeting time. Type in your sharing. The Sponsor posts it right away.

TEEN 2: Let's try it, next time—we could sign on together. That would be fun. Where would you like to go—Nevada or Montana? We don't have to stay in our home Area. We can attend anywhere. **[Click]**

TEEN 1: Cool. I can use my laptop. It's easy. Just register—check out the safety features mentioned here. Looks like our anonymity is covered. Ah, two certified Sponsors.

TEEN 2: Good to know they have our safety in mind. Looks like there isn't a Chat meeting right now, but there are eight meetings to choose from. Let's see what else is on this site as long as we're here. Oh, here's an e-Manual for those in Alateen service. **[Click]**

TEEN 2: That must be where our Alateen Sponsor gets all those "tips" she talks to us about. I didn't know there was so much support for our Alateen Sponsor. She'll never run out of ideas!

TEEN 1: When I get older and go to Al-Anon, I'd like to be an Alateen Sponsor. I could do it. If I get stuck, I could come to this e-Manual and look for help. That reminds me. My mom said Al-Anon has a Facebook page. Does Alateen have one? That would be another place to connect on-line. What about anonymity though? Facebook is a social network.

TEEN 2: Well, let's look. Did you find it?

TEEN 1: Sure enough—it came up when I clicked on the Alateen Facebook logo on the Web site. Take a look! **[Click]**

TEEN 2: Huh! I had no idea! Cool. Any likes?

TEEN 1: Just a few—the page must be pretty new.

TEEN 2: Well, let's like it! Just because we like it doesn't tell the world we attend Alateen! It's a great place for other kids to find us. We could use more members in our group. We're pretty small some weeks.

TEEN 1: Yeah, I don't understand that. I think half the kids in my school should be in Alateen, but the problem is getting them to know about Alateen and to come to an Alateen meeting.

TEEN 2: Maybe this site will help get the word out.

TEEN 1: I hope so. Oh, I see a link to some Alateen literature. Hey—we have an electronic book, *Alateen, Hope for Children of Alcoholics* (B-3)! **[Click]**

TEEN 1: I didn't know that. Must be new. I'm going to see what it costs. I could download that and keep it with me to read in private. That's exciting!!

TEEN 2: Looks like there is a lot on-line for us when we can't get to a meeting. I feel better just seeing that Alateen is out there for me—at the click of my fingers!

TEEN 1: Yup, together we can make it—even if it is on-line!

Tim and Al and Bob return:

Al: OMG! Tim! I just pinged my daughter with a link. FTW! LOL! YTB! I C B I J U S M A!

Tim: I C B I J U S M A!?

Al: Yeah, I Can't Believe I Just Used So Many Acronyms

Tim: Thanks, Bob, for showing us all the great tools that can be used in Alateen. Don't forget to watch for Bob on his own show: "This Old Spouse," where he shows you how a little compassion and detachment can transform the person you love.

Bob: It was great being here. Thanks for having me, Tim.

Al: Now, I feel pretty hopeful now about my daughter getting some help. There are so many tools available to her.

Tim: Just like in Al-Anon, Al, a tool that's left in the tool box isn't really a tool, it's just a paper weight. Having great tools that can help in a variety of situations is a big step in making them easier to pick up and use.

Just to make sure everyone goes away knowing about the tools, we have an Alateen Tool Quiz for our in-studio audience.

- 1) Do you know where there is an Alateen meeting in your Area? Where do you find the info?
- 2) How does an Alateen meeting get started? Where's the info?
- 3) Who is eligible to be an Alateen member? Where would you find the info?
- 4) Have you ever used Alateen literature to chair a meeting? Where would you find the literature?

Finally, how can we keep the "Spotlight on Our Teens"?

Tim: Great work everyone. So that's it for another edition of Al-Anon Tool Time, I'm your host, Tim.

Al: And I'm his trusty assistant Al.

Tim: Remember: We shape our tools so that our tools can shape us.

Good night!