

Skit for Workshop on “Importance of Conference Approved Literature”

Cast:

Norm – Twilight Zone Narrator, **Jayme** - Newcomer, **Sandie** - #1, **Maddie** - #2, **Claire** - #3

Theme of Skit is built around *The Twilight Zone*, only it is “The Outside Literature Zone!”

Set: Table with four chairs, wireless mics, Floor or podium mic for narrator.

Props:

- Pieces of CAL
- Envelopes/mail (Quarterly Appeal letters, *Forum* envelopes etc)
- Large envelope marked “Importance of CAL Workshop”
- Cardboard door with doorknob
- Three over-sized books marked “Psychological/Self Help”/ “Religious Material”/ “A.A. Big Book”, Twilight Zone music.

Scene opens: Members along with a newcomer are quickly gathering for their meeting, Hugging, greeting each other, sitting down...

#2 to #3 – I picked up the mail, there was more of that odd stuff from that WoSO & AFGa Company.

#3 – Well, you have to admit that thick purple & white spiral book they sent works great to prop open the window.

#2 – And we got another large envelope from that doctor again.

#3 – Doctor? You sure?

#2 – Yep, see (*showing #3 front of envelope*) from your DR. But look, it was supposed to go to some guy named CAL. Oh, well. (*Lays the envelope to the side.*)

#1 – OK, Let’s all join in a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. (*All join together*) God Grant me the serenity dot, dot, dot... (*members freeze*)

(Narrator steps up to the mic)

Narrator: Five Al-Anon members gather for their seemingly ordinary regular meeting, same time, same place, reciting the Steps, Traditions, reading the same opening and the daily page from their daily reader which is always their topic, just as they have for the last 30 years. What they don’t know is that they lack certain information and are about to be catapulted into another dimension of inconsistency, diversion, and the unknown. A dimension somewhere between the Three Legacies and Obedience to the Unenforceable, suspended between Approved and Unapproved. They are about to cross over into (*pause*) THE OUTSIDE LITERATURE ZONE!

(Twilight Zone music plays)

#1 – Welcome to our newcomer. *(All look and nod to acknowledge the Newcomer.)*

#1 to #3 – I see you have signed up for your first time to chair our daily page discussion?

#3 – Yes, thank you, I'm kind of tired of reading and discussing just our daily reader week after week, so I thought we would try something different. *(Says with excitement) I've been reading out of this new book I found. (Pulls up an oversized bright neon colored book with "Psychological/Self Help" in big letters on the front, have the Twilight Zone music. Members #1 & 2 gasp in horror, look away and shield their eyes, fan themselves etc. Newcomer looks scared/puzzled pushes their chair back a little. Music stops)*

#1 – *(Jumps up, points and loudly, very shook up, and says) You cannot bring that in here! We can only read out of our daily reader!*

#3 – *(Kind of scared and embarrassed) What? But why? Who says?*

#1 – I can't remember why, that's just what "THEY" said. That's just the way it is! *(Looking at #2)*

I could use your help and support with this!

#2 – Who? Me?! *(Wide-eyed that they are on the spot. Lifts up their pen high and purposely drops it on the floor) Oops, dropped my pen, excuse me. (And dives down under the table to hide)*

#3 – This book is a best seller. It is co-authored by three Doctors: Dr. Phil, Dolittle, and Seuss. It gives clear, distinct advise, lists of exactly what to do and when to do it. It's called "Change? Let them do it!" It even has a coupon for a free therapy session! *(Defensively)* So, unless you can tell me why not I want to have the meeting using my book.

(Newcomer still getting very uncomfortable and nervous, looking under the table at #2)

#1 – *(Very rattled) I, I, I...I don't know, it's just what "THEY" said. (Kind of to themselves) Let's see what can I say here? Slogans! Yes, slogans...let's see, "First Things First!" No, that doesn't help. "This too shall pass"...yeah right, like a kidney stone! (Looking under the table at #2) A little help up here please!*

#2 – *(Comes up from under the table saying) Well, I'm not quite sure myself. I guess I've always wondered who "THEY" are too, and why can't we use other literature? I've never heard a reason.*

#1 – I just know AI-Anon members are FORBIDDEN to read anything except the daily reader.

(The newcomer pushes farther back, wide-eyed very troubled)

#3 – Forbidden? You mean even at home I can't read anything but my Al-Anon book?

#1 – No, absolutely not. I heard a rumor that a member was reading other books before bed and the WoSO Special TASK FORCE TEAM broke down her door, confiscated all her books, and charged her with KBDM!

(All gasp)

#3 – KBDM? What's that?

#2 – I don't know, but it sounds bad! What happened to her?

#1 – Nobody knows...she was never heard from again.

(Newcomer continues looking more and more nervous and scared pushed back further in their chair)

#2 – There's got to be more than just our daily reader. Besides, how could "THEY" ever tell it's a different book?

#1 – I can't remember, but there IS a way to tell by looking at it.

#3 – What about that Fourth Tradition thing we read. It says groups are autonomous!

#2 – Autonomous! That means we can do whatever we want. I think we should also use *(pull out an oversized Bible looking book with "Religious Material" in big letters with Twilight Zone music)* the Bible. And there's a bible study at the church right after our meeting. We should require everyone to attend so we would all have the right Higher Power. The church would require that they sponsor us. Then we wouldn't have to pay rent or any more dues to that WoSO Company that keeps sending us those envelopes.

Newcomer – *(timidly)* I don't mean to interrupt but when I was coming through the A.A. room they handed me this. *(pulls out an oversized book with "A.A. Big Book" in big letters with Twilight Zone music)* They said it's already A.A. approved and written by A.A.'s. It would teach us what to do to keep them from drinking.

(All talk, total confusion and chaos! The newcomer slides out of their chair, tiptoes to the door, sliding along the wall, etc, trying not to be seen, if on a stage could even crawl on hands & knees if able. Making their way to the door and starts pulling on the doorknob trying to get out)

#1 – All we need is the daily reader. It is the only thing we are supposed to read. I don't know why, but it's what we have always done...etc.

#3 – Well, I approve of this book. It's written by famous authors, I haven't heard a good reason not to use it...etc.

#2 – If she gets to use her book then I say we use the Bible and I have other theology books too. And everyone needs to go to my church because it says right here it is the right religion...etc.

#1 – Wait a minute...where did she go?

(All turn to see the newcomer trying to get out the door.)

Newcomer – *(pulling at the doorknob.)* I have to get out of here. It was suggested I come to Al-Anon to find hope, serenity, unity, balance, and consistency. All I'm hearing is mixed messages, confusion, advise, and certainly no unity. I have to get out! *(Stops pulling at knob)* But now we are all trapped in this!

(All are very upset and looking around for a way out. Twilight music plays)

Newcomer – How did I get here?

#1 – I don't feel right about this. There must be a better way.

#2 – Are there other groups trapped here too? How do we get back?

#3 – If only we had the special tool to get out of here.

(Music Stops)

#2 – Wait a minute, that envelope we got today. What was that it said on the front? *(Opens the envelope pulls out a DVD.)* Yes, listen... a workshop, created by Al-Anon members, based on the pamphlet, *Why Conference Approved Literature?* (P-35), to be used by groups, districts, Areas, to clarify why it is necessary to use only CAL in Al-Anon meetings." This is just what we need!

*****Break***Hold the workshop then close with last part of skit.*****

Same set as first scene, members gathering and sit down for their meeting, except now they have been to a workshop on the importance of CAL.

#1 – That was a great workshop yesterday on the importance of using only CAL in our meetings. I feel like I really have a better understanding about the whole approval process now. It really is very important to the unity of Al-Anon worldwide.

#2 – Oh, I know. It's too bad #3 couldn't attend too.

#1 – *(to the newcomer)* Welcome, we're really glad you are here. Here are just a few pieces of our Al-Anon Conference Approved Literature that we might use in the meeting today. *(Says the names of the books as shows to newcomer)* *Paths to Recovery, How Al-Anon Works, Discovering Choices, Many Voices One Journey,* and our *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual.*

#2 – And here’s our three daily readers; *(Says names of books as shows to newcomer)*
One Day at a Time in Al-Anon, Courage to Change, and Hope for Today.

Narrator – Filled with new enthusiasm and knowledge as a result of attending the CAL Workshop members found themselves transported back to a time where they were joined once again by unity, support, and focused on the Al-Anon principles and primary purpose. They know what CAL is and the importance of using only CAL in meetings.

#3 – *(Has been standing behind the cardboard door, comes in hurrying carrying the Large Bright Book and sits down)* Sorry I’m late but I have some exciting news. I found this great book with great advice and treatment for alcoholism.

(Twilight Zone music starts, but #1 holds up her hand and the music stops. Reaches out and puts her hand on #3’s arm. Very kindly and lovingly says :)

#1 – You haven’t been coming here too long, and I didn’t know this either when I first started attending Al-Anon. For unity, consistency, to avoid confusion, and keep focused on the Al-Anon principles, during our meeting we only use Al-Anon Conference Approved Literature, or CAL for short.

#2 – Conference approved means it is written by and for Al-Anon members, it’s reviewed to assure it reflects the Al-Anon principles, and it can be identified by this little triangle symbol. *(Shows symbol on book)* I am glad you find this book helpful to your personal recovery. You can certainly read any other material you find helpful to your recovery outside of the meeting.

#1 – CAL is not just our idea. It keeps Al-Anon members united worldwide. Here’s what one piece of our literature says about CAL. Read from *How Al-Anon Works* pg. 111 – “Only Al-Anon materials are used at Al-Anon meetings. We do not impose this restriction to pass judgment on material produced by others, but because, by focusing exclusively on the Al-Anon philosophy in our meetings, we avoid a great deal of confusion.”

#1 – Would you have time to stay after the meeting so we can talk more about the wealth of other Al-Anon Conference Approved Literature we have available?

Newcomer – Could I join you too? I would love to learn more about CAL.

#1 – Of course, and maybe, if it’s ok with everyone we could read and discuss our CAL together right now.

All say – Yeah...sure...sounds great!

Narrator – Share this workshop with ALL members so they are not in danger of being pulled into *(pause)* THE OUTSIDE LITERATURE ZONE! *(Twilight Zone music plays)*