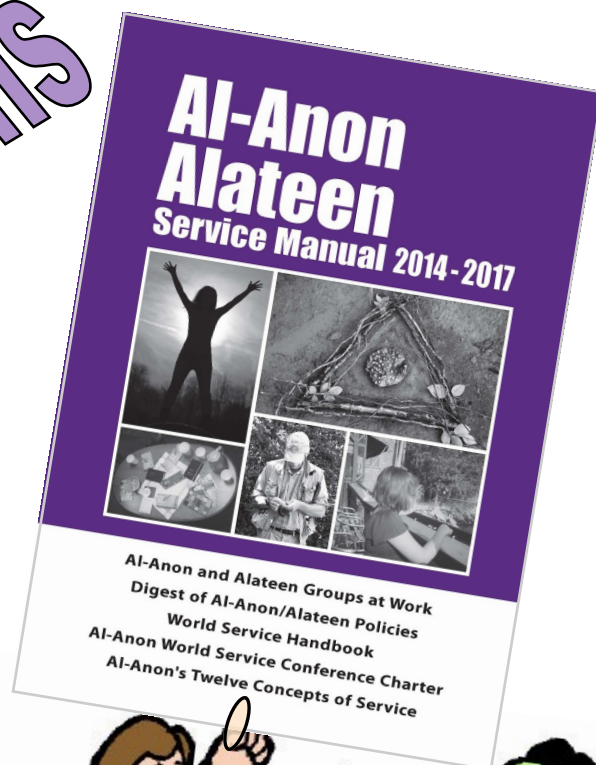# As the Group Turns

This game is designed to simulate how the *2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (P-24/27) is used as a resource to resolve group problems. During gameplay, a question is asked in much the same way that a trusted servant might be asked to provide guidance to members or groups. The players then have a specified amount of time to look up applicable references in the *Service Manual*. The team that finds the most references that are relevant to the questions asked wins the game. A panel of "Service Sponsors" helps with the scoring. There are scenarios provided with the game materials, but any question, including "Ask‑it‑Basket" questions may be used as well.

The responses to the questions/vignettes are not intended to be an exhaustive list. Members may find additional information in the *Service Manual*.

"As the Group Turns" Instructions

Purpose:
The idea of this game is to simulate how the *2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (P-24/27) is used as a resource to resolve group problems, or when trusted servants are asked to provide guidance to members or groups.

Roles:
- Moderator
- Three to five Service Sponsors serve as a panel that reviews the responses of the various teams
- Timer
- Team representative

To play the game:
- The participants (audience/attendees) are divided into teams with a maximum number of six members per group. Each team should have at least one *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* in either print or electronic format. If each team member has a copy, it will be easier for them to do the research as a team.
- The moderator reads one of the prepared questions/vignettes to the audience. Or, questions can be submitted by members prior to the game or proposed by a member during the game. In this way, the outcome of the game can address real-world, real-time situations or concerns of the membership.
- The teams have five minutes to look up one or more topic headings and page number(s) that provide guidance for addressing the issues addressed in each question.
- At the end of five minutes, the moderator asks the teams to give their list of references to the panel of Service Sponsors.
- A representative of each team then shares their suggested solution to the problem and how the references they selected from the *Service Manual* apply to each question (how they would present the information to the group or member who asked the question). Each team has two minutes to share its solution to a question/vignette.

  Note: *The oral sharing is not part of the scoring of the game, but can serve as an opportunity for sharing ideas that may lead to healthy discussion.*

- Each team receives one point for each reference (topic heading and page number) in the *Service Manual* submitted to the Service Sponsors panel if the panel determines that the reference(s) are applicable to the question/vignette.

  Note: *It is helpful if the Service Sponsors present a cumulative list of the references (headings and page numbers) submitted after the scoring is completed, along with any explanation of references they did not feel were applicable.*

- The game can be played for one or more rounds of questions/vignettes or for as much time as is available.
- After all rounds are completed, the team with the most points is the winner.
- If there is a tie, select from one of the alternatives:
  - The team with the most cumulative references is the winner.
  - The team with the most references to any single question/vignette is the winner.
  - The winning team can be drawn from a hat.
- Variations—Add a speed component by giving less time to look up references, e.g., 30 seconds, one or two minutes.

As the Group Turns Questions/Vignettes

According to the *Service Manual*, can a member of Al-Anon who is also a member of A.A. be certified as an Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS)?

What are some ways that a group can fund-raise to cover the costs of the Group Representative's (GR's) expenses?

What is a CMA and what does a CMA do? Is a CMA also the Group Representative (GR)?

Is there a way to welcome nursing students to our meetings if our meetings are designated as "open"?

How does the group conduct a business meeting and take a vote for a group conscience decision?

Can I mention or quote from books that are not Al-Anon Conference Approved, but that I have found helpful, when I am sharing at a meeting?

Can we invite an expert on alcoholism to speak at our meeting?

"As the Group Turns"
Questions/Vignettes and Potential Responses
2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual References

The responses to the questions/vignettes are not intended to be an exhaustive list. Members may find additional information in the *Service Manual*.

1) According to the *Service Manual*, can a member of Al-Anon who is also a member of A.A. be certified as an Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS)?

   Information pertaining to this issue can be found on the following pages of the *2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (not an exhaustive list):

   Starting an Alateen Group, p. 31.
   Alateen Personal Sponsor, p. 49.
   Alateen Group Sponsor, p. 88.

2) What are some ways that a group can fund-raise to cover the costs of the Group Representative's (GR's) expenses?

   Information pertaining to this issue can be found on the following pages of the *2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (not an exhaustive list):

   Passing the Basket, p. 9.
   Group Finances/Budget, p. 56.
   Fund Raising, p. 97.
   Outside Contributions, p. 97
   Avoiding Commercialism, p. 97.
   Raffles/Lottery Tickets, p. 98.

3) What is a CMA and what does a CMA do? Is a CMA also the Group Representative (GR)?

   Information pertaining to this issue can be found on the following pages of the *2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (not an exhaustive list):

   WSO Registration Process, p. 30.
   CMA (Current Mailing Address), p. 34, 47.
   Multiple Meetings, p. 37.
   Getting the Meeting Started, p. 38.
   Starting an Electronic Al-Anon Meeting (On-line and Telephone), p. 38.
   Initial Group Service Positions, p. 39.
   Group Business Meetings, p. 52.
   Trusted Servants' Reports, p. 55.
   Group Finances/Budget, p. 56.
   Newsletters/Timely Publications, p. 61.
   Groups, p. 70.
   Service Communication, p. 93.
   Mailing Address at the WSO, p. 156.

4) Is there a way to welcome nursing students to our meetings if our meetings are designated as "open"?

Information pertaining to this issue can be found on the following pages of the *2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (not an exhaustive list):

Suggested Al-Anon/Alateen Welcome, pp. 10-11.
The Alateen Meeting, p. 33.
Meeting Type: Open/Closed Meetings, p. 36.
Introductory Meetings, p. 83.
Who Attends Alateen Meetings, p. 89.

5) How does the group conduct a business meeting and take a vote for a group conscience decision?

Information pertaining to this issue can be found on the following pages of the *2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (not an exhaustive list):

Group Business Meetings and Group Conscience, p. 51.
Group Business Meetings, p. 52.
Group Conscience, p. 53.

6) Can I mention or quote from books that are not Al-Anon Conference Approved, but that I have found helpful, when I am sharing at a meeting?

Information pertaining to this issue can be found on the following pages of the *2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (not an exhaustive list):

Sharing in Al-Anon/Alateen Meetings, p. 40.
Use of Material at Al-Anon Meetings, p. 104.

7) Can we invite an expert on alcoholism to speak at our meeting?

Information pertaining to this issue can be found on the following pages of the *2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (not an exhaustive list):

Speaker Meetings, p. 45.
Tradition Six, p. 56.
Speakers from the Helping Professions, p. 121.
Members' Outside Involvement, p. 122.
Outside Therapies, p. 124.
Professional Involvement, p. 124.