

Red Light Green Light NFA AFG Fall Assembly 2011

We are reluctant to refer newcomers to some groups because the groups persist in violating Al-Anon traditions. How can Districts be more effective in influencing these groups to comply?

We are assuming that the members of the groups are having great difficulty with control and dominance and have been stymied from getting a valid group conscience or legacy discussion.

Our search of CAL directed us to the question: **How can Districts be more effective in influencing these groups to comply?**

Conference Approved Literature:

Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, 2010-2013, p. 45:

“Group Representative familiarizes themselves with the current copy of the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P24/27) and encourages its use among group members.

Concept 5, p. 182, Paragraph 3:

“This traditional right of Appeal acknowledges that minorities can be right; that even when they are partially or wholly in error, they still perform a valuable service by asserting their Rights of Appeal and compelling a thorough debate on important issues. The well-heard minority, therefore, is our chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority.”

Concept P-57 “*The Concepts – Al-Anon’s Best Kept Secret.*” This pamphlet again states Concept 5.

Districts could compel a debate by offering to have a panel discussion at the meeting that’s having a problem or some place in the district, and invite people to discuss the principles and CAL literature of what is under discussion.

Pamphlet P17 *The Twelve Steps and Traditions*, Tradition One, Paragraph 4, page 11-12:

“Occasionally a member disrupts a whole group by trying to run the group his or her way, regardless of how others feel.”

This pamphlet recommended a meeting on Traditions to make the member aware of behavior unacceptable to the group as a whole.....encouraging them to change.

“However, rare instances have occurred when a seriously disturbed person, possibly someone in need of professional help, has not responded to gentle or even direct

reminders and has continued to disrupt meetings, threatening the very existence of the group. In such cases, the individual may be asked not to return.” [After a group conscience](#)

District could hear complaints, discuss with GRs, do an inventory to discuss how traditions and concepts keep program.

Education of GRs in how traditions and concepts keep the program would assure more district members are aware. GRs should take back their knowledge to their groups so that all members are aware and able to identify when the traditions and programs are not being adhered to, for the sake of unity.

2011 WSC Summary <http://al-anon.org/members/summary.php> This was part of the Policy Discussion, specifically “Discuss de-listing a meeting” and their suggestions for addressing.

[Research addressed our question and found the following positive:](#)

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- The district is informed of the problem and the District Representative visits the group three times, attempting to educate and talk with members, and encourage the members to have a group conscience. After three visits, the group is told that if they do not comply, they will be delisted.
- Our current panel went to the high-pressure meetings and became “regulars.” After three months, we began to talk and encourage them to reconsider. We have drafted criteria created by the Group Records Coordinator and we sent these to the groups. We have invited these members to the district meetings to have a direct conversation with them.
- We found that reaching out to the group and bringing the members back to the Traditions works. We need the support at the WSO to deal with the problem.