

Script to Accompany PowerPoint Presentation on SERVICE

Slide 1 <1st click> to VIEW SLIDE SHOW [Meagan – Intro. and Framing]

Thought Force on Service

Charge: To develop strategies to show Areas how service contributes to growth, and is an integral part of the Al-Anon program

At Conferences over the years, questions about service have been raised and discussed:

- How do we demonstrate the personal benefits of service to members?
- How can we take the fear out of service work?
- How can we deal with lack of commitment of members?
- How do we motivate the longtime members to return to service, or expand service work?

To respond to such questions, a Thought Force was formed to show how service contributes to growth and is an integral part of the Al-Anon program. The charge was to develop strategies that create enthusiasm for service and demonstrate personal benefits to the members.

Thought Force members: Judy K. (NV) – Delegate –Chairperson; Cindy H. (TN) – Delegate; Doris W. –Trustee; Ann C. – Trustee; Charla C. (KS) – Delegate; Meagan McL (MNS) –Delegate; Chris M. (NM) – Delegate; Elaine L. (MNN) –Delegate; Paul G. (NJ) – Delegate; Jeannette Mac (MP) – Delegate; and Marsha W.--Staff

Our Thought Force answered the five KBDM questions in the context of the charge. We shared ideas based on our own service experience. Those of us involved in service understand (as perhaps few others can) how giving of ourselves strengthens us and helps us grow. However, the rewards of service are often obscure to those who have not yet experienced them. Our Thought Force proposes six strategies to create enthusiasm for Area service and show the personal benefits to the individual member. We hope these strategies and other ideas, built on the foundation of our personal experiences, will encourage and expand tomorrow's possibilities for other members to grow in service.

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Slide 2 [Paul - Categories]

Categories

☛ **To reach members not yet in service**

☛ ***Strategies 1 and 2***

☛ **To support members already in service**

☛ ***Strategies 3 and 4***

☛ **To expand horizons and growth of members currently in service**

Strategies 5 and 6

We suggest strategies for members at all stages of recovery but realize the strategies may overlap categories.

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Slide 3 [Charla- CARS]

Strategy 1

Establish and participate in a traveling “CARS” (Communicating Al-Anon Recovery in Service) team that visits groups to speak about service, highlighting personal benefits received.

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Slide 4 [<click>](#)

Pros [<click>](#)

- ☛ Non-threatening for newcomers [<click>](#)
- ☛ Doesn't require a service event [<click>](#)
- ☛ Provides personal contact [<click>](#)
- ☛ May bring new vitality to groups [<click>](#)

Cartoon [<click>](#)

Slide 5 [<click>](#)

Cons [<click>](#)

- ☛ Requires people, time, and expense [<click>](#)
- ☛ May be a challenge to get “invited” to groups [<click>](#)
- ☛ Could become a “personalities” issue [<click>](#)
- ☛ Is another acronym to learn [<click>](#)

Cartoon [<click>](#)

Exhibiting enthusiasm for service is a key aspect of a CARS presentation. We show by example how service has helped us grow. How we present may be more important than what we present. [<click>](#)

Slide 6 [Ann –Take Out Toolkit]

Strategy 2

Develop a “Take Out Tool Kit” of service items ready for groups to use.

This tool could be used for Al-Anon/Alateen **members not yet in service** who wish to serve at the group level. It could also be used by members serving on convention committees. These members may not always attend Area Assemblies. There is some **overlap** here with **members already in service** who could use the Kit to enhance their service skills, such as chairing meetings, writing position descriptions, and sponsoring others in service. The Tool Kit could also be used for Assembly or other service meetings. [<click>](#)

Slide 7 [<click>](#)

Pros [<click>](#)

- ☛ Provides readily available tools [<click>](#)
- ☛ Could be used in workshops [<click>](#)
- ☛ Opportunity to introduce Service Sponsorship [<click>](#)
- ☛ May help new members feel more confident [<click>](#)

Cartoon [<click>](#)

The Tool Kit gives people new to service a quick, convenient resource without having to reinvent the wheel.

In the absence of more experienced group members, the Kit could suffice until the member gets a Service Sponsor. [<click>](#)

Slide 8 [<click>](#)

Cons [<click>](#)

- ☛ **Would take time and effort to create** [<click>](#)
- ☛ **Might be considered reading material only** [<click>](#)
- ☛ **Might not spark service interest** [<click>](#)
- ☛ **Only a few groups might use the Tool Kit** [<click>](#)

Cartoon[<click>](#)

It's difficult to know how the Tool Kit might be used. It could be a poor response to the problem or a very effective tool. [<click>](#)

Slide 9 [Jeannette –Workshop/Skit]

Strategy 3

Develop a skit and/or interactive workshop on service to demonstrate how practicing the Al-Anon principles in the safe environment of Al-Anon has had a positive effect in all areas of our lives.

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Slide 10 [<click>](#)

Pros [<click>](#)

- ☛ **Injects activity, humour, fun, and enthusiasm** [<click>](#)
- ☛ **Attracts people's attention** [<click>](#)
- ☛ **Helps everyone remember why they serve** [<click>](#)
- ☛ **Provides excellent opportunity for brainstorming** [<click>](#)

Cartoon[<click>](#)

Slide 11 [<click>](#)

Cons [<click>](#)

- ☛ **Takes time, effort, planning, and preparation** [<click>](#)
- ☛ **People often too busy to attend** [<click>](#)
- ☛ **Attendance might be low because of “service”**

A name other than “Service Workshop” might attract more attendees. A creative workshop title sparks more interest. [<click>](#)

- ☛ **Communication—links of service**

The availability of skit and workshop material needs to be conveyed to DRs and GRs by the Delegate, Officers, and Coordinators. Leaders are responsible for communicating information about new resources.

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Slide 12

Strategy 4 [Cindy –Revise Service CAL]

Revise CAL service literature—including the *Joy of Service* and *When I Got Busy, I Got Better*— to create new CAL.

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Slide 13 [<click>](#)

Pros [<click>](#)

CAL available to all members [<click>](#)

☛ Could include benefits of service [<click>](#)

☛ Helps members identify gifts of service [<click>](#)

☛ New CAL generates enthusiasm and interest [<click>](#)

Cartoon [<click>](#)

Slide 14 [<click>](#)

Cons [<click>](#)

☛ Some see no need to revise CAL [<click>](#)

☛ Takes considerable time and money [<click>](#)

☛ CAL may not be affordable [<click>](#)

☛ May be difficult to solicit enough service stories [<click>](#)

Cartoon [<click>](#)

New Service CAL is a fresh way to reinforce how service is an integral part of the Al-Anon program.

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Slide 15 [Doris – Gallery Walk]

Strategy 5

Hold a “Service Gallery Walk” event at Assembly. Set up stations for current service positions, displaying an informative poster and providing a brief “handout” of skills/talents needed for the positions. Rotate small groups through these stations for information and questions.

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Slide 16 [<click>](#)

Pros [<click>](#)

Information to willing and qualified members

Because we are trying to show members how service is an integral part of the Al-Anon program, be sure to explain how a service position has enhanced your recovery.

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☛ **Small groups easier for sharing and questions**

Smaller groups are an effective way to increase participation, helping to make a workshop successful. [<click>](#)

☛ **Seeing “Service Stations” helpful**

All members are not knowledgeable about all service positions available. [<click>](#)

☛ **Some Areas report success with this strategy**

It always helps to know what's working. [<click>](#)

Cartoon[<click>](#)

Slide 17 [<click>](#)

Cons [<click>](#)

☛ **Hindered by lack of space or time**

Advance planning will identify any problems. [<click>](#)

☛ **Members may prefer to sit and listen**

This may be true in some Areas, but my experience in facilitating workshops has shown me most people like to be involved. [<click>](#)

☛ **Areas may already be doing this**

If your Area has been doing many "Gallery Walks," you might want to try something different. [<click>](#)

☛ **Requires creating a display**

If this is a problem, you can always ask for help. [<click>](#)

Cartoon[<click>](#)

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Slide 18 [\[Marsha - BLOG\]](#)

Strategy 6

Use the AFG Members' Web site to host a "Service Blog" with, for example, a "Service Project of the Month" for groups, where members could share their experiences, both successes and challenges, agendas, resources, and ideas for District/Area service events and workshops. [<click>](#)

Cartoon[<click>](#)

Slide 19 [<click>](#)

Pros [<click>](#)

☛ **Easy to implement** [<click>](#)

☛ **Faster than revising literature** [<click>](#)

☛ **May attract "tech-savvy" members** [<click>](#)

☛ **Provide a resource for future literature** [<click>](#)

Cartoon[<click>](#)

Slide 20 [<click>](#)

Cons [<click>](#)

☛ **Technical issues may discourage members.** [<click>](#)

☛ **Some Areas still resist the website.** [<click>](#)

☛ **Would require considerable training/education** [<click>](#)

☛ **May not generate enough service stories** [<click>](#)

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Cartoon<click>

We are excited about a members' blog for sharing ideas on service. More ideas on this strategy are included in our handouts under Recommendations/Ideas. <click>

Slide 21 [Elaine - Summarizes]

Summary

- 1. CARS Travel Team**
- 2. Take Out Tool Kit**
- 3. Skit/Interactive Workshop**
- 4. Revised Service CAL**
- 5. Service Gallery Walk**
- 6. Members' Blog on Service**

In summary, the charge of this Thought Force was to suggest strategies to show Areas how service contributes to growth and is an integral part of the Al-Anon program. The six identified strategies are:

1. Establish and participate in a traveling "CARS" (Communicating Al-Anon Recovery in Service) team.
2. Develop a "Take Out Tool Kit" of service items ready for groups to use.
3. Develop a skit/interactive workshop on how service benefits personal growth.
4. Revise service CAL.
5. Hold a "Service Gallery Walk" event at Assembly.
6. Use the AFG Members' Web site to host a "Service Blog."

When creating our strategies, our goal was to encourage those not yet in service and to expand the growth of, and support, those already in service. We have made some recommendations, which are included in your packet of materials.

Also in your packet of materials you will find a list of the Personal Benefits of Service, which are the responses of our Thought Force members to the question, "What does service give me?" We are recommending that the list be used for a piece of literature similar to the 20 questions entitled, *The 20 Benefits of Service*, or as a springboard to produce new service CAL or as the topic of an article in *The Forum*.

You will also find a document entitled, *Service Inventory Tool-Chart*, which could be used for taking a personal inventory to show ways in which an individual has grown through participation in service. This could also be included in a new piece of service CAL.

We further recommend that a task force develop our strategies and the Literature Committee review possibilities for new service CAL.

Now I will turn the microphone back to our Conference Chair who will open the discussion.

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Slide 22 [Conference Chair]

Discussion

- ☛Which strategies do you like?
- ☛Which strategies do you dislike?
- ☛Are there other strategies?

The final slide lists all six suggested strategies again.

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Slide 23 [CONFERENCE CHAIR]

List of suggested strategies

1. CARS Travel Team
2. Take Out Tool Kit
3. Skit/Interactive Workshop
4. Revised Service CAL
5. Service Gallery Walk
6. Members' Blog on Service

Discussion ends [<click>](#)