The Dr. is at the side of the stage browsing through a patient’s chart.

The Al-Anon meeting is set up at centre stage. Pam, Bertha Bessie, Connie, Nelly and Katie are centre front.

As play begins an argument is in progress. A member (Pam Panic) rushes over to the Dr.

Al-Anon members freeze.

Pam: Dr Knowledge, I’m Pam Panic and I need your help right away.

Dr.: What appears to be the nature of your distress? (tries to listen to her head with stethoscope)

Pam brushes Dr away from her head.

Pam: No, no, Dr., not me. It’s my Al-Anon group.

(Dr. grabs her medical bag)

Dr: An epidemic! I may have to quarantine the bunch.

Pam: Come with me quickly. They are about to explode.

Dr. (scratches his head) Sounds like constipation to me. (Puts Exlax in his bag, approaches and stands to one side of the table)

Al-Anon meeting comes to life. Pam takes her place at the table

Bessie Bossnic pounds on the table
Bessie: I’m Bessie Bossnic and I’m controlling, I mean chairing this meeting tonight. *(group gestures compliance)* Everyone sit still and shut up while I hand out the orders. *(threatens them with a stick)*

Connie: Remember me, Connie Compliant. The group voted me as secretary. Is it ok if I take the minutes?

Bessie: Yah, but I’ll check what you are writing later when the minutes are published in the church bulletin. It had better be good.

*(Dr starts writing on her prescription pad. Shakes her head. Looks puzzled)*

Nelly: My name is Nelly Pathetica. I’m new to the program but I thought the program was anonymous. My husband doesn’t know I come here. We go to this church. Do you publish our names? *(nervously wipes brow)*

Bertha: Well, I’m Bertha Blabbermouth and this group sure does. We took a group conscience. We make sure everyone knows how our significant others spent the weekend. Serves them right! Drunken Bums! *(Bertha looks superior, head high. The rest nod their heads in agreement)*

*Dr who has been writing prescriptions, stops, bangs on her head with the palm of her hand, opens her medical bag, pulls out a bottle, takes a swig) and interrupts the meeting*

Dr: I’m Dr Knowledge and I can’t let this meeting go on any longer without passing out these prescriptions

*Gives Tradition 2 to Bessie and Tradition 11 to Bertha.*

Bertha reads hers first, then holds her nose as if it stinks and drops it in a trash can.
Bessie reads hers, laughs, crumbles it into a ball and throws it at the Dr.

Bessie: Catch Doc! You sure you want to tangle with me?

(Al-Anon meeting freezes again)

Dr starts to retreat. Pam stops her.

Pam: (pulling her hair) Don’t desert us! Think of Nelly!

Dr brushes her away. Turns away from her, takes bottle from her bag again and takes a swig- pauses-takes a second swig. (Turns around, foolish grin on her face, staggers back to observation position.)

Dr (to Pam) OK! OK! Maybe someone in this group is worth salvaging!

Pam returns to her place and the meeting proceeds.

Katie: I gotta tell you about our money. For anyone who doesn’t know me, I’m Katie Currency and I’m the treasurer. Nothing would happen around here without my fund raising. The Avon sale was the best idea I ever had. Everyone sold at least $100.’s worth. The profits financed our Christmas social at the Hilton and the commission I earned as distributor didn’t do me any harm either! (Stands up and bows)

Pam: But we needed literature and we haven’t paid rent for the church hall in over a year. (pulls hair)

Bertha: No need to worry about the rent. Pastor Recruit wants to tell us about his newest mission at next week’s meeting. That will pay the rent for the next 2 years.

(Al-Anon group freezes)
Pam: *(pulls her hair and speaks to the audience)* This may be more than Dr Knowledge can handle. If it weren’t so noisy in here I’d pray and meditate for deliverance.

*(Group comes alive)*

Nelly: *(Brow furrowed, wiping eyes)* I came here to get help. My husband drinks all the time. He lost his job.

Bertha: Gee, how did he lose his job?

Nelly: Well, he’s an electrician. He wired a house and now every time the people flush the toilet the doorbell rings. I think he may get sued! *(sobs into hanky)*

Connie: Great story. That will get the congregation’s attention! *(giggles)*

Nelly: Oh, but he went to his first AA meeting tonight.

Connie: Even better! *(smirks as she writes)*

Bertha: Wait till I tell my Neighbour. They were going to get your husband to do some electrical work for them.

*(Dr interrupts again, staggering, waving prescriptions. Passes them out mumbling away)*

Each one reads the tradition they have broken in this order Bertha, Tradition 1, Connie Tradition 5, and Katie tradition 7.

*Bessie collects all the prescriptions and deposits them in the trash.*

Bessie: Who needs knowledge anyway? We’ve got our own ideas. We use group conscience and a little intimidation to
make our decisions. *(Blows on finger nails, shines them on her shoulder and admires them)*

*Group freezes again*

*Pam speaks to audience:*

Pam: This calls for Super DR. That’s District Representative to you!

*Dr falls asleep and may lightly snore*

*Group comes back to life*

*Super Sarah, DR flies in to save the day.*

Sarah: I’m Super Sarah, DR of this district. I have a few suggestions using the traditions that may help your group to survive.

Pam *speaks to the audience:* Thank you, whoever you are, for your prayers. This is the answer.

Sarah: I’d suggest that your group do a group conscience. Your Group Representative can attend district meetings. Doing some meetings on the traditions might help. I’d suggest that you invite some healthy groups to come in and put some of those meetings on.

Pam: Maybe we should hold elections. All group officers have held their positions for over 10 years.

Sarah: Yes, we have lots of information that we can share. Here is a service manual that will help. Before we go any further I have a suggestion for Dr Knowledge. *Shakes Dr Knowledge* and says Here is the number for AA.
Dr Knowledge: What’s this? AA? Sounds like a good idea. *(staggers off stage)*

Each member reacts to Sarah

Connie: Your wish is my command oh great one. *(Bows, kneels and folds hands in prayer.)*

Sarah: Remember, there is only one ultimate authority that expresses itself through our group conscience.

*Sarah helps her up and points at service manual.*

Bessie: I’ll take you on Sarah. *(puts up dukes)*

Sarah: I’d like to invite you to our district meeting. That strong will of yours would be a great asset to us. *(hands her the service manual)*

Bessie: You don’t say! *(Big smile)* Your district meeting will never be the same with me to set you straight.

Sarah: I knew I could count on you to join us and reason things out with each other.

*(Bessie looks smug)*

*Sarah turns to Connie*

Sarah: Connie, do you know about Tradition 7?

Connie: Does it means we are self supporting from voluntary contributions within our fellowship?

Sarah: It’s plain to see that you are a hard worker. I’m sure with your creativity you’ll come up with unique fundraisers that follow our traditions.
Connie gives positive high sign and grabs manual from Bessie.

Sarah turns to Pam and Nelly
Sarah: Pam and Nelly in Al-Anon we have concept 5. The minority have the right to be heard. You seem to be the minority in this case.

Pam: The voice of the minority-Concept 5- (Pam puts her arm around Nelly who smiles) We CAN make a difference.

Sarah hands Nelly a meeting list.

Sarah: Nelly, here is a list of the other groups in our district. If you feel more comfortable at another group, you can go there as well.

Connie: I’ve got the minutes of this meeting. They really make sense. I’ll only read them to the group. I’ll make an announcement about the next district meeting. I think we could all go.

Sarah: Yes, everyone is welcome. We have tradition workshops. I’m sure you will find them valuable.

Pam: I may just stay with this group. We all have a lot of growing to do.

Bessie. Let’s join hands and end the meeting with the Declaration. (Asks the audience to join in saying the Declaration)