

Leadership in Service Workshop

The importance of leadership is repeated and emphasized in Al-Anon's Traditions and Concepts.

Tradition Two: "For our group purpose there is but one authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern."

Tradition Nine: "Our groups, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service board or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

Concept Three: "The Right of Decision makes effective leadership possible."

Concept Nine: "Good personal leadership at all service levels is a necessity. In the field of world service the Board of Trustees assumes the primary leadership."

Leader Qualities

1. Inspire others to act

"A leader is a person who can put principles, plans, and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest of us want to back him up and help him with his job."

Concept 9, *Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual*, pp.200

2. Consider what is best for Al-Anon as a whole

"A leader is a person who originates principles, plans, and policies for the improvement of our fellowship."

Concept 9, *Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual*, p. 200

3. Consult with others

"The leadership of ... trusted servants is never more apparent than when they seek the counsel of others, research previous similar decisions, delay or postpone decisions, and seek spiritual guidance."

Concept 3, *Paths to Recovery (B-24)*, p. 264

4. Are accountable

"Good leadership never passes the buck.... Leadership should always have good reasons and give them."

Concept 9, *Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual*, p. 200

5. Are you capable of compromise

"Another qualification for leadership is 'give and take,' the ability to compromise cheerfully whenever it can cause a situation to progress in what appears to be the right direction."

Concept 9, *Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual*, p. 201

6. Are courageous

"Leadership is often called upon to face heavy and sometimes long-continued criticism—an acid test."

Concept 9, *Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual*, p. 201

7. Have vision

"Vision is, I think, the ability to make good estimates, both for the immediate and more distant future."

Concept 9, *Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual*, p. 202

Do I See Myself as an AI-Anon Leader?

“Concept Nine defines those qualities as responsibility, tolerance, stability, flexibility, judgment, and vision. They are inherent in all of us and brought to full strength as we practice the AI-Anon program.”

The Concepts: AI-Anon’s Best Kept Secret? (P-57), p. 12

“Using these qualities in our personal lives enriches us. In service, Group and District Representatives and Delegates exhibit these characteristics in fulfilling their roles as the primary representatives of AI-Anon’s group conscience.”

The Concepts: AI-Anon’s Best Kept Secret? (P-57), p. 12

“Each and every member of AI-Anon has the potential to become a leader.”

Paths to Recovery (B-24), p. 301

“In AI-Anon we learn we can take charge of our lives. We are the leaders of ourselves.”

The Concepts: AI-Anon’s Best Kept Secret? (P-57), p. 12

Personal Reflections

1. Do I believe I can be a leader?
2. Am I hesitant to be one?
3. Which qualities of leadership do I already have?
4. What leadership traits do I want to develop?
5. What traits do I possess that might need to be removed by my Higher Power for me to grow in my service leadership?
6. What is *my* vision, the “all-important attribute” of a leader?
7. What key leadership traits do I consider when electing other service leaders?
8. How is each member of an AI-Anon group in a position of leadership?
9. Where am I on my spiritual path toward becoming a stronger leader?
10. What have I to gain by developing more leadership qualities?