

# Passing the Baton of Service

Supplies you need:

A decorated paper towel tube with one end stopped up.

A thumb drive

A Photo copy of page from service manual

Guideline for DR

Piece of paper that says ESH

Piece of paper that says Gifts and talents

Piece of paper has a fake phone number and email address.

Characters:

Coach-Seasoned Member

2 Runners:

Moving On

Just Elected

Scene Practice Field

## **COACH---**

Hustle over here....come-on...we need to get this practice started.

First Let's introduce our selves and why we're here

I'm Coach seasoned Member and I called this practice ---more on why in a minute

## **MOVING ON**

I'm MOVING ON and I'm at the end of my panel of service and I'm here because you told me this practice would benefit both myself and Al-Anon as a whole

## **JUST ELECTED**

I'm JUST ELECTED, and I'll be starting my panel of Service in a few months and coach since you're my service sponsor I suit up and show up whenever you ask me to...by the way thanks for the ride...

## **COACH -**

JUST ELECTED you're welcome...we all know when someone says get in the car...you get in the car.

Now as you all know Al-Anon Service is a team sport and the key to a team sport is that we all work together. As a seasoned member I brought you two together here to practice the art of passing the Baton of service.on to the next person to fill you position. Al-Anon Service is forever non-professional but that doesn't mean we don't try to be professional in the way we conduct our service. Yes, we are volunteers which is why how we pass the Baton of service is vital to insure a successful transition.

Remember service is relay race not a sprint.

So, MOVING ON what is your current position?

## **MOVING ON-**

I'm the District Representative for District 7 but I'll be Convention Coordinator for next Panel.

## **COACH-**

Just Elected?

**JUST ELECTED-**

I'm my Group's GR but I'll be the DR for District 7 next Panel.

**COACH-**

So, in preparing to pass the Baton of service we need to do some enthusiasm exercises...

**COACH-**

Just Elected what did you love about being GR????

**JUST ELECTED-**

I don't know somebody had to do it and I was kind of voluntold by you Coach.to step up...

**COACH-**

Just Elected I said what did you love about being GR????

**JUST ELECTED-**

Ok Ok I loved representing my group getting to know people at the District and Area Level and of course Coach you know how much this service level helped me grow...I learned how to be a part of and express my voice and support the Group Conscience at 3 levels of service.

**COACH**

*MOVING ON* what did you love about being DR...

**MOVING ON**

Well Coach I loved being DR because I got to know people in my District, I got to visit different groups. I learned some great conflict resolution skills and I walked through the removal process of a few character Defects. I learned how to delegate authority and to let go and let God in new ways. I also enjoyed watching others grow in service and encouraging them to step out of their comfort zones...Like Just Elected....

**JUST ELECTED-**

I know I know that's why I wanted to stand for DR I saw so many good things happen in your program as you served as DR. All I could think is I want what she has. When you took me to lunch and told me I should considering standing for DR that was all the encouragement I needed. Of course-Coach here kept asking me..."Where are you going to serve next panel.—Whew I am so excited about this next level of service and the opportunity to join both of you in this practice today.

**COACH** ALL RIGHT now that we're warmed up let's get ready to Practice Passing the Baton.First of all, what do you think should be in this Baton before we pass it on.

**JUST ELECTED-**

Everything I'll ever need to know--all the answers to any problem that will come along?

**Coach-**

Now JUST ELECTED you know that isn't possible... *MOVING ON* any ideas?

**MOVING ON-**

Hold up a thumb drive- this has all the minutes, agendas and flyers from the last three years, (Then the page from the Service Manual about being a DR and the Guideline about being a DR.—Cram them all in the Baton)

## **Coach**

Ok so let's try our first pass.

*The Runners pretend they are running MOVING ON drops the baton and runs off....*

## **Coach**

Now that was not a successful passing of the Baton of service...did you see what you did there MOVING ON? You can't just fill up the Baton with information and then run off –Maybe we could add this to the Baton-Paper that says ESH. You have your own experience strength and hope that you can offer the person who fills your position. I know you're trying to run on to the next thing but you can't just drop the information and run. This is great information but when you combine it with a little Experience Strength and Hope and do a little coaching yourself you'll find the passing of the Baton goes much easier.

So, let's try this again...

*This time they pretend to run and JUST ELECTED won't take the Baton instead of taking the Baton grabs MOVING ON's arm...so it looks like MOVING ON is dragging JUST ELECTED*

## **Coach ---**

stop stop stop.... Ok that was not a successful pass in fact I don't think that pass would have ever happened. JUST ELECTED you have got to take the Baton and let MOVING ON move on...there comes a time where *MOVING ON'S* part is done ---Don't forget you have this to add to the Baton. Holds us a piece of paper that says Your Strengths, talents and effort and a big question mark. Ask questions take advantage of the mentoring and then take the Baton and do it your way. You have to be you and add yourself to your service position for a successful passing of the Baton. Now let's try this one more time.

*This time they start running and MOVING ON won't let go of the Baton...end up in a tug of war over the Baton....*

## **Coach---**

Break it up Break it up...that was not a successful passing of the Baton...Did you see what you did there MOVING ON you were not willing to let go of the baton. There comes a time where you need to get out of the way of the person taking over your position and let them lead. Maybe you need to skip a few district meetings or defer to the new person in your position when someone comes to you with a question...reminding members that JUST ELECTED is the new district rep. I know MOVING ON when you become Convention Coordinator you'll come to a point where you will want to add your own creativity and ideas to the position and you have to allow the new District Representative to do the same. Here's something you can give them...Holds up a piece of paper. With a phone number and email address. And of course, JUST ELECTED you also have me...your service sponsor who is always just a phone call away.Now let's try it one more time...

*This time they have a successful passing of the Baton....The Coach and the crowd goes wild.....*



**Passing the Baton of Service**  
**Missouri Area -Creating Continuity**



**Getting Ready...Creating Enthusiasm for Service....**

Tradition Eleven. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, films, and TV. We need guard with special care the anonymity of all AA members.

How are you applying this tradition regarding service? The Missouri Area GRs and Members you encounter will be attracted to service by how you convey your service experience.

**From G-37-Guideline for District Representative.**

*Some benefits of becoming a DR, in addition to meeting Al-Anon members from other cities and towns in your Area, the District Representative is eligible to stand for the Area Delegate and other Area officer positions. Exact eligibility varies from Area to Area. You may read about the benefits of service in Conference Approved Literature; some of the subheadings in When I Got Busy I Got Better (P-78), are:*

- *Replacing Isolation with Community*
- *Learning Trust*
- *Learning to Take Risks*
- *Increased Self-Esteem*
- *A Sense of Purpose*
- *Making a Difference*
- *Reaching Out to Others*

So, let's do some enthusiasm warm ups...What have you gained from your service so far this panel? How would you encourage someone to considering serving in your position?

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**Getting Ready-Filling the Baton.**

In the skit we saw some ideas:  
 Thumb drive with computer files  
 Guidelines about our position  
 Service Manual

What would have been useful for you when you started this position? What can you pass on to the person who will be filling your position in the next panel? How can we organize what we've learned and make it a reference tool for those coming into our position.?

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**Passing the Baton of Service**  
**Missouri Area -Creating Continuity**



**Passing the Baton-Being a Mentor.**

Live Just for Today but Plan for Tomorrow. It may seem too early to start thinking about this but those who fail to plan; plan to fail. In Al-Anon we live out Step 12 when we pass on that which we have been given. What would have made the transition easier for you? How can you mentor the person who will fill your position?

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**Passing the Baton-Knowing when to let go/knowning when to grab the baton and run your leg of the race.**

How will you let go of your past position? When will you know it is time? When is it time for both the old and the new to let go and let the new person add their gifts and talents to the position?

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**Passing the Baton-Asking for help.**

You can't do it all on your own. Remember service is a team sport. How do you create a team with your alternate? How do you ask other members for help? What are your resources?

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