

“THERE ARE NO EMERGENCIES IN AA!” February 6, 2010

Cast of Characters

Bobby McGee the Chairperson
Harold the Herald
Patrick the Past Delegate
Rhonda Helpme
Eileen Comeon
Maggie Mae
Leroy Brown
Pam Polythene
Rufus Chaka
Sharona Muhmuhmuhmy
Mickey Usesofine
Eleanor Rigby
Tommy Canyahereme
Louie Louie
Fireman

(“Fire” By the Ohio Players plays)

SIGN: District 90 Presents

SIGN: A Happy Joyous and Free Production

SIGN: The Not a Glum Lot Players In

SIGN: “There Are No Emergencies in AA!”

NARRATOR

We join the monthly Area Committee Meeting already in progress...

(Bobby is stage left behind a podium and has a microphone, another microphone is on a stand at stage right, Patrick is sitting down and Harold is fanning and fawning over him)

BOBBY

Okay, now that we have had two hours of reports from everyone, let’s move on to Old Business. We have the motion made by the Pain in the As Bill Sees It Group which reads as follows: “We move that at all area assemblies when collecting the 7th Tradition funds, we not use buckets but hats—preferably those long Cat in the Hat ones or big Stovepipe ones that

Abraham Lincoln wore as they are more in line with the original AA members' practice of "passing the hat." All right, the microphones are now open for discussion on this topic. Yes, Rhonda.

RHONDA

My name is Rhonda Helpme and I am the Treasurer for District 14 and we talked about this last month. Can't we just vote on it instead of rehashing the same stuff over and over? We need to vote on this now! The Pre Conference Assembly is in less than two weeks!

BOBBY

Okay, yes Harold go ahead.

HAROLD

My name is Harold and today I have the pride, the privilege, nay, the pleasure of introducing to you a trusted servant, sponsored by trusted servants. He can trace his sponsorship lineage back to Bill Wilson. I first met him at a PRAASA in Reno praying to his Higher Power before taking the stage and dropping his pearls of wisdom onto the assembled throng. Next, he amazed me still further at a World Service meeting when he gently and gracefully reminded a visiting AA speaker from Rome not to follow the usual General Service custom and say his last name as the event was being recorded. His encyclopedic knowledge of the Twelve Concepts is the envy of all of General Service. And so without further gilding the lily and with no more ado, I give to you, the seeker of serenity, the protector of Italian anonymity, the enforcer of The AA Service Manual, the one, the only, Patrick the Past Delegate!

("The Olympic Theme" plays as Patrick slowly makes his way to the mike)

PATRICK

In regards to the motion, and Rhonda's comment about us not discussing it further and voting now, I have one comment: there are no emergencies in AA.

(slowly walks away from the mike—Harold runs back to the mike)

HAROLD

Thus sayeth the Past Delegate! *(starts clapping wildly)*

BOBBY

Do we have any more discussion on the motion?

(just then Eileen runs in frantic)

EILEEN

Oh my God, the building is on fire! We have to get out of here!

BOBBY

I'm sorry if you have a comment to make, please come up to the microphone.

EILEEN

(goes to mike)

I said this building is on fire!

BOBBY

Can you state your name please?

EILEEN

What? Who cares what my name is! Did you hear what I said? The place is on fire!

BOBBY

Your name please.

EILEEN

My name is Eileen.

BOBBY

Your full name.

EILEEN

Eileen Comeon.

BOBBY

And...?

EILEEN

...And...what? You want me to say “and I’m an alcoholic?” That’s not a requirement you know! That’s a small “t” tradition that we do which shouldn’t be foisted on anyone. I hate that! But we don’t have time to talk about that! The place is on fire! Let’s get out of here!

BOBBY

Eileen, you were not in the room when our illustrious Past Delegate Patrick...

HAROLD

(interrupting)...Long May He Live!!!

BOBBY

Harold, I can appreciate your excitement, but please don’t blurt things out like that. Anyway Eileen, as Patrick said, there are no emergencies in AA.

EILEEN

Are you out of your mind? The building is on fire! That is an emergency!

BOBBY

Eileen, I am not going to quibble with you over details. We don’t just panic in General Service. The process is bigger than the end result. Still, using Chair’s Rules I will now suggest we table the discussion about passing the hat and open a new discussion motion about the fire.

EILEEN

That’s it?! Are you for real? I’m outta here!

(she exits)

BOBBY

Well, that is her right. Who would like to start the fire discussion? Maggie.

MAGGIE

My name is Maggie Mae and I’m an alcoholic. I was always taught not to practice contempt prior to investigation and so I think that perhaps we should find out if what Eileen said is true. Maybe we can have an Exploratory Fire Committee investigate it.

BOBBY

Thanks, Maggie. Okay, Leroy.

LEROY

Howdy y'all, my name is Leroy Brown and I am the District Committee Member of District 14 Sub-district 006 which lies between the eastern border of West 114th street all the way past Billy Bob's Bodacious Barbecue Barn, down past Gwendolyn and Ivy's House of Tropical Pets and ending up on the western side of North Piccadilly Circus Freak Avenue near the toxic landfill in the neighboring unincorporated city of Hogs Heaven.

BOBBY

Okay, Leroy, now what's your comment?

LEROY

Um, I done plum forgot. *(leaves)*

BOBBY

Allrighty then. Rhonda, you're next.

RHONDA

Rhonda Helpme, alcoholic, I think Maggie had a good idea with the Fire Exploratory Committee but I have some questions. Who will be on the committee and what are the qualifications? Is this just an ad hoc committee or will it end up being a standing committee? What is the cost to the area? How often will they meet and where? Do we get a thorough report back from them? I need some of these questions answered before I can get behind such a proposal.

BOBBY

Thanks, Rhonda. I'm sorry, sir, I don't know your name but go ahead.

RUFUS

My name is Rufus Chaka and I'm the GSR of the 4th Dimension Rocketeers group. Rhonda made some good points about this proposed committee but I have an idea. How about they go and do their work and we give them a checklist of things to look for like extreme heat, flames, smoke and perhaps people screaming. They could check off the necessary items and then summarize them in a document with bullet points and email them to all the DCMCs.

BOBBY

Sharona, you're up.

SHARONA

I'm Sharona Muhmuhmuhmy and while I think the idea of the Committee using a checklist is a good one, why do they have to email their report? What happened to the good old days of simply talking to one another? Some of us don't own a computer and it shouldn't be a requirement of service that you do!

BOBBY

Okay, Sharona. Go ahead Mickey.

MICKEY

I'm an alcoholic and my name is Mickey Usesofine and I am the GSR of the Pain in the As Bill Sees it Group. I don't have a question about this alleged fire but I want to know what gives you the right, Bobby, to just decide we're not going to talk about my group's pass the hat motion? I mean, as far as I can tell you're not all-powerful, all-seeing, and all-knowing like a Past Delegate!

BOBBY

It's not personal, Mickey. I'm just trying to keep the meeting flowing. We will get to your motion next month. Thanks. Um, Eleanor?

ELEANOR

Eleanor Rigby DCM. I think we need to look at that checklist more closely. I mean, if the Exploratory Fire Committee does discover a fire, what then? Do they call 911? Do we all agree to calmly walk in single file lines to a safety zone or panic and run out hysterically? These details need to be worked out.

BOBBY

Thanks Eleanor. Go ahead, Tommy.

TOMMY

I'm Tommy Canyahereme, GSR of the Who Group. This is my first time at an Area Committee meeting and I'm a little confused. After we discuss this, then we vote on it and the Fire Committee goes to work?

BOBBY

Uh, no. Actually this is just a discussion motion. Sometimes we keep discussion motions on the agenda for a couple of months depending on how much participation we get. After that someone may decide to make it an actual motion in which case it would become a Presentation of New Business.

TOMMY

Oh, and then it could be voted on the following month as old business, right?

BOBBY

Actually no. The following month it would be New Business instead of a Presentation of New Business. The month after that is when it would be Old Business and could be voted on.

TOMMY

I guess that guy Patrick...um, I forgot his title...what was it? Czar? King? Wise Oracle?

HAROLD

Try Past Delegate! To you it should actually be His Serviceship Lord Patrick!

TOMMY

No disrespect meant. I was saying I guess that the Past Delegate was right...

HAROLD

He's always right!

BOBBY

Harold! Would you let him finish please? Go ahead Tommy.

TOMMY

I guess the Past Delegate was right when he said there are no emergencies in AA. It would take like six months to get that Fire Committee up and running.

BOBBY

We try to make sure all sides of an issue are looked at before we make a decision in General Service. For instance, while many people may be starting to feel uneasy about the strong smell of smoke in the room, others may like it because it reminds them of camping in the woods. Thanks Tommy. Yes *(coughs)* Louie go ahead.

LOUIE

Louie Louie, GSR of The We Gotta Go Now Group. I have a point of order, Mr. Chair. The *(coughs)* things you told Tommy about motions taking a long time is true, but not when we're talking about housekeeping motions.

BOBBY

Correct Louie. I should have mentioned that. yes, if there is a housekeeping motion *(coughs)* we simply have questions for the maker of the motion and then I ask if there is an objection. If there is none, it passes. If there is an objection, then the long process begins.

LOUIE

With that in mind I make the following *(coughs)* housekeeping motion:
"That we get the hell out of here before we all die."

BOBBY

There is a motion on the floor and since it was made by an individual *(coughs)* it needs a second.

ELEANOR

I second that!

BOBBY

Seconded by Eleanor Rigby. Okay, Louie why don't you come over here next to me and *(coughs)* you can field questions since you are the maker of the motion.

(Louie walks over to Bobby)

Okay, anyone with a question for Louie please come to the mike. Eleanor, go ahead.

ELEANOR

Louie my question is in your motion you said—that we get the “hell” out of here. Would you entertain a friendly amendment to the motion to change the word “hell to heck” so it doesn’t offend anyone?

LOUIE

Hmmm...you know I uh...(coughs)...man, this smoke is getting thick and it’s definitely getting hotter in here. Um, Eleanor I didn’t have a whole lot of time to do any wordsmithing, but when I think about it, while “heck” is less objectionable, I think "hell" more accurately describes my intent. But thank you.

BOBBY

Thanks Eleanor. Yes, Pam go ahead please.

PAM

Pam Polythene GSR for the Golden Slumbers group. I have a question, Louie. Your motion says “before we ALL die.” First, (coughs) how can you be sure we all will die? That just sounds way too specific. Secondly, if we all die, HOW will we all die? Some may choke on the smoke while others perish in the fire. It just sounds way too vague.

LOUIE

I think the operative thing is the first part about getting the hell out of (coughs) here.

(Just then a Fireman enters)

FIREMAN

Hey! What are you people doing here? The building is on fire you need to get out!

BOBBY

Excuse me sir! We are trying to conduct a business meeting and you are disrupting it!

FIREMAN

Who are you?

BOBBY

I'm Bobby McGee (*coughs*) and I am the Chair.

FIREMAN

Can't you guys feel the heat and smell the smoke?

BOBBY

It's a little smoky, (*coughs*) but I'm feeling good.

FIREMAN

Well feeling good may be good enough for you Bobby McGee, but I'm a Fireman who rushed in from the pouring rain and this is very strange.

BOBBY

Well, we're (*coughs*) almost done.

FIREMAN

No, you're done now. Everybody out!

BOBBY

I'm sorry sir, but you do not get to decide that for us!

HAROLD

Wait! (*coughs*) I know who can decide for us. Behold! He is the rock, he is the hard place-- like the Cloverdale fog wafting through the vineyards he sweeps in blown far from his homeland in search of opportunities to serve. We mere mortals are blessed to even walk in the shadow of his magnificent brilliance! So once again for your edification and enlightenment, my Lord, my liege, Patrick the Past Delegate!

PATRICK

Let's get the hell out of here!

HAROLD

Thus sayeth the Past Delegate!

(all exit)

(return for curtain call)

THE END