

## Rotation-of-Service Skit

Purpose: A skit exploring the Concepts and Traditions regarding Rotation of Service. For use by OA service bodies.

*When using this at your groups, please feel free to change the names of characters as you see fit.*

Setting: OA Group Conscience Meeting

Cast: Nine Players

Props: Nine handbooks (*OA Handbook for Members, Groups and Service Bodies*); music and player; chairs

### CHARACTERS

1. DD Donna Dominant: Power grabber
2. SS Susie Submissive: Doormat; goes along with the crowd
3. NN Nancy Nothing: All talk but no service action; easily sidetracked
4. FF Farkle Fearful: Only and always in fear
5. BB Bobby Bleeder: Old timer know-it-all; bleeding Deacon
6. MM Melissa Meddling: Thinks nothing of interfering
7. XS Xena Service: Do-it-all aka The Fearless Leader Who Does It All
8. PP Patricia Perfect: Compulsive, obsessive, over-organized
9. WW Wilfred Whiner: Complains freely and often
10. HP Hope Plantagenet, Narrator: elder Stateswoman

### “ROTATION OF SERVICE”

[All cast is in the process of setting up for a meeting. Hope is to the side addressing the audience.]

### Act 1: Introduction

HP: You’ve joined us at a very special time as the “Mona Lisa Meeting” is having a Group Conscience. It is special because they are held once a year! We have with

us today: Donna Dominant, Susie Submissive, Nancy Nothing, Farkle Fearful, Bobby Bleeder, Melisa Meddling, Xena Service, Patricia Perfect, Wilfred Whiner, and yours truly: Hope Plantagenet.

DD: Donna Dominant, compulsive overeater and control freak. Sit down NOW. Our Mona Lisa Meeting ANNUAL Group Conscience is about to begin.

WW: Hi I'm Wilfred Whiner, compulsive overeater.

**[Group greets Wilfred]**

WW: Do we have to do THAT again? We just did that darn Group Conscience thing last year.

BB: Bobby Bleeder here. Been in OA 61 years. Don't worry, I can explain everything about a Group Conscience meeting and answer ALL questions. I have MORE experience than Rozanne.

FF: Farkle Fearful, Food Addict. What will newcomers think? Does this REALLY have anything to do with recovery? I'm afraid it will take forever and I'm SO hungry!

SS: Susie Submissive, anorexic. It's all right, Farkle. We just do what Donna and Bobby say. They ARE in CHARGE.

NN: Nancy Nothing, member of twelve 12-Step fellowships. I'm so... just here to listen. Are we looking to fill service spots? I can't right now because I have a new girlfriend

MM: HI, I'm Melisa Meddling, Bulimic. Positions, what positions? I can do it. I can do it.

PP: Patricia Perfect, Recovered. It's OK. No one has to do anything they don't want. Someone will do it. Doesn't have to be you. I don't like doing service either. My seven service positions take a lot of time and effort. Really interferes with my recovery.

DD: ENOUGH. Here are the open positions in our meeting. [pause - looks up] ALL OF THEM. There's an OA suggestion about service requirements-- continuous program involvement, abstinence, willing to give dependable service. But we've never paid any attention to that.

**ALL: (CHIME IN clamoring to take positions.)**

MM: I want to continue to choose the leaders, call newcomers, and order literature. I've been doing this all along. I'm very good at it—at least that's what my friends all tell me.

PP: Great, that's half of them filled. And if Donna Dominant is willing to carry on running our meetings we'd better jump at the chance. Donna HAS been running the show ever since I came to this meeting 10 years ago.

DD: Of course, I've done a great job. I AM sure everyone wants me to carry on for my 11th year. Right?

**[Group CLAPS and cheers!]**

MM: Susie and I talked during the week and came up with a fabulous plan. We realized that we have both had our service positions for ages so we agreed with one another that we would just swap over.

WW: That's not fair. What about the rest of us? And what about the newcomers? Can't they do something? And why can't Farkle be the leader?

BB: 61 years in OA. This is NOT HOW this should be done. Lucky I'm here to tell you how it should be.....

FF: **{Interrupts}** This is horrible, *horrible, horrible*. No wonder I didn't come last year. Why do we have to have these Group Conscience meetings anyway. It's enough to make me eat!

**[ALL CHARACTERS - FREEZE FRAME]**

HP: **[Holds up *OA Handbook for Members, Groups and Service Bodies (HB)*]**. Has this ever happened in your meeting? Our OA Handbook says, "Rotation of service brings spiritual rewards..." and "Rotation keeps OA service workers from becoming frozen in their jobs. Like everything else in OA, jobs get passed around for all to share." Others are encouraged when we emphasize the benefits we've received by fulfilling a service position. We step aside, allowing us to move on and others to have the joy of service. Let's see what this group does now.

## **Act 2: Requirements**

DD: Now about the vacancies, because I'm re-defining my abstinence, and waiting for the outcome of the WSBC discussion on Healthy Body Weight, we will not have any requirements for service positions as long as I'm in charge.

PP: Oh Donna - you are SO qualified. I'll vote for you even if you're not abstinent.

WW: I agree -there's no point in having requirements. I've never met any requirements and I've done Chair, Treasurer and I'm thinking of running for IG Chair now. I believe it's my turn since everyone else has done it twice now.

MM: We had problems with the books when our last treasurer quit coming to meetings and started going to Diet and Calories Club.

BB: 61 years in OA. How about Kim as treasurer? She's an accountant and she used to be a trustee. I don't think it's a problem that she doesn't actually come to this meeting.

NN: How about you, Farkle? **[turns to Farkle]** I know you don't have a sponsor, but are you abstinent?

FF: I think I could do it—but I'll have to get a sponsor to see if I'm abstinent first, but I AM an accountant.

PP: How about a matrix with points for years in OA, points for days of abstinence, points for number of trustees you are Facebook friends with, PLUS factor in the number of calories in their food plan and then solicit sponsee recommendations.

SS: **[interrupts]** Wait! We agreed on no requirements. I'd like to be the treasurer, please Madam Chairman.

DD: We'd like you to volunteer to do service – just not that one – it's pretty important.

FF: I liked the fact that someone greeted me this week so I want to be the greeter next week.

BB: 61 years in OA! If you're going to be the greeter, you need to be here early, you need be agreeable, dress becomingly, talk low, act courteously, criticize not one bit **[pause]**. Oh, just act like me.

HP: If only this group knew about AND OWNED **[holds up HB]** the *OA Handbook for Members, Groups, and Service Bodies*. It says here (p. 16): "Most groups make sure that their service volunteers have some continuous program involvement and abstinence behind them and are available and willing to give dependable service. Members who attend meetings regularly usually fill these positions more effectively, of course, than absentees. Experience has shown that

giving members a job solely to help them maintain abstinence does not work; instead, the group's welfare should be of primary concern in choosing members to fill the service positions.”

### **Act 3: Method of Selection/Election for Unfilled Positions**

HP: Unfortunately things go from bad to worse for our group, because they are not mindful of Traditions or Concepts. They have found a whole new way of choosing their trusted servants.

**[All chairs stand up - move 3 chairs center stage. Start Music, circle chairs]**

ALL: Extemporaneous comments about: “I want to be CHAIR..”

**[Music stops - some are seated - some SULK off ....]**

ALL: [Remove one chair and repeat until only one remaining. Continue around the chairs with more comments about being Chair. Other members to the side begin to clamor about who they wish to win.]

**[Music stops. Donna seated in one remaining chair.]**

DD: I'VE WON AGAIN. I'm now the Chair for the 11th time in a row.  
Susie, takes notes; you are the meeting secretary.

SS: Yes ma'am.

PP: Donna, can I be Treasurer? I've never done that before and since I was recently declared bankrupt I'm keen to learn financial responsibility.

NN: I want to be Intergroup Representative. I've heard that after IG meetings they all go for coffee and doughnuts.

WW: I want to be designated downloader again. I always enjoy coming to meetings to download my feelings each week.

FF: What shall I do? I'm so confused but I think I should be the IG rep.

NN: We can share the job, Farkle.

MM: I don't want a service position because I'll have to come to the meeting all the time then. But I'd be happy to see if I can find others to take some of the jobs.

BB: 61 years in OA. I can be the Speaker Seeker. I KNOW everyone in OA. I'll speak first then get all my friends to come speak. I'll also be key holder because if I rotate out and no one does this service.....OA will DIE.

XS: SO I'll just take any jobs that are left. Literature Secretary, greeter, chip chair, newcomer rep, group contact. Have I missed anything?

DD: Excellent. Any objections? **[no pause]** All right then.

XS: What a relief! We now have every position filled since most of us are doing more than one. Heaven forbid we should EVER have a vacant position even if we don't have enough people who meet any service requirements.

HP: It is clear that this group does not heed Concept Nine: "Able, trusted servants, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are indispensable for effective functioning at all service levels." I cannot find musical chairs mentioned in the OA Handbook as a sound method of choosing trusted servants.

DD: We have done such a sterling job sorting this all out that we should demand that the IG chairman come and visit our group so that she can learn from our example. I heard that at IG they sometimes leave positions vacant! Susie, make that happen.

SS: Yes ma'am.

#### **Act 4: Quality of Service and Rotation**

HP: The IG Chairman agreed to come and visit Mona Lisa Meeting. Having met the group, she kindly offered to run an STC workshop. The effect was remarkable. Every one of them bought their own copy of the *OA Handbook for Members, Groups and Service Bodies*, which they could refer to at their own convenience. But don't take my word for it—observe the transformation for yourselves.

**ALL: When you see "HB" Hold up, look at, or wave Handbook]**

DD: I now know that we don't have to compete for any titles or praise **[HB]**; things run more smoothly when no power or prestige gets built up **[HB]**; and it's a good idea not to expect lots of praise. Service is its own reward. I am thinking about not even running for chair again next time, let alone campaigning for it.

SS: I learned that no individual should be taken advantage of or imposed upon. **[HB]** I don't have to take orders from anyone in OA, not even my sponsor; except, of course from Donna.

XS: I was struck by Tradition Two: “. . .Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.” I can allow people to learn from mistakes. As long as they don't make more than I can bear to witness.

PP: The handbook says, “Service isn't a substitute for recovery.” I have let go of three of my eighteen sponsees and two of my seven service positions. Now I have more time to work on the Steps and weigh and measure my sponsees' food.

WW: “Service volunteers should fully realize that giving service to a group may sometimes involve doing tasks whether they feel like it or not.” **[HB]** But I can always call my sponsor if it gets too rough. I don't have to like it as my sponsor says: *I just have to do it.*

NN: I was staggered to learn that most OA members are happy to contribute in order to carry the OA message and that they appreciate being shown how they can do that. So I have turned over a new leaf and taken on my first service commitment after eight years on OA. If I enjoy it I may even do another one next year. **[Hugs her HB]**

MM: I have seen that rotation of service keeps problems based on personalities to a minimum. **[HB]** I still don't like the way some of the groups members do their service, but at least I know that someone different will do it when their term ends.

FF: I liked this line from the handbook: “With no OA ‘status’ at stake, we are free to serve as we are needed.” **[HB]** I can take on service spots that may seem frightening to me at first and try to grow into them. If that doesn't work I can always hand them back.

BB: A newcomer showed me the part in the handbook about personal prestige for OA work not being important; it's what we do to help other compulsive overeaters that really matters. I don't need to announce that I've been in OA for 61 years every time I speak. Once a week is enough.

HP: To step out of an OA office you love can be difficult...but it is a step into the humility that is the spiritual essence of anonymity and the primary aim of each of the Twelve Steps. Keeping the Twelve Traditions in mind, we will generally find our own welfare flourishing along with that of the group.

**[All stand and hold their books in front of them, and read together]**

ALL TOGETHER: All meetings could use a little help from HP.

OA Board-Approved.  
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