

## Election Skit

**Cast:** **Complacie and Malasie**, two long-time AI-Anon Members

**Opening Scene:** *Two women dressed in “mature” apparel are sitting comfortably at a table, drinking coffee. They have a deck of cards on the table and a bag containing AI-Anon materials near the coffee, along with their needlepoint and knitting accessories. Their conversation leads the audience to believe that they have been in AI-Anon a long time and obviously enjoy the social aspect.*

**Complacie:** Well, Malasie, here we go again—all that talk of elections, ballots, and resumes. It simply makes me tired. Pour me some more coffee, will you? I almost wish I smoked. It would relieve this stress! *(She fans herself.)* Of course there’s always chocolate.

It’s simply exhausting to listen to all that talk about the count being the same for each ballot, not leaving the room, registering GR’s, etc. It’s just too nit-picky and unnecessary. Besides, it’s taking up my time. I have places to go and more antique shops to check out before we leave here.

**Malasie:** And submitting resumes! I declare. Aren’t we taking ourselves a bit too seriously? This isn’t the Presidency! My idea of a good resume reads like this: Loves to shop. Enjoys lunch out. Will drive anywhere when fun is involved. Never misses card club. Likes an occasional peach daiquiri. Has a van. Saves beds for friends at Serenity weekend, and never misses an opportunity for personal growth!

**Complacie:** You got that right. I’m so glad we’re friends! I don’t know about you, but I look forward to reading news in ***The AI-Anon Times***, not resumes!

**Malasie:** I know what you saying, Complacie *(picking up the deck)*. We’d have a lot more time for another round of bridge if they wrapped that conversation up and let us get at our cards. Have you talked to Clever Carol about playing in our bridge group?

**Complacie:** No, I forgot, but I will. You know, your comment just gave me an idea! Why not just take a deck of cards to Assembly and have candidates draw a card from the deck? High card wins. That person would be delegate. I say, Keep It Simple!

**Malasie:** Well, that would be easy enough, and we’ve got a deck right here!

**Complacie:** I really like my idea. I am Soooo clever!

**Malasie:** Humble, too, I might add. How long has it been since you did a Fourth Step? (*Complacie looks surprised*).

What about the face cards? Could the members who draw face cards be the other officers? You know, King could be the Area Chairperson, Queen the secretary, Treasurer could be the Jack. I think that would work out real well! Maybe we could assign a job to every card. Or am I getting carried away? Well, let's try it. You pick.

(*They each draw a card and the loser [Complacie] grumbles about it not being fair because the deck wasn't shuffled well enough.*)

**Complacie:** I don't think cards would work after all. It's too complicated. Besides, what if somebody stacked the deck?

**Malasie:** You're just saying that because you lost. I can't believe anybody would think that! Even YOU!

**Complacie:** Yes, but, remember this is Al-Anon. People have trust issues here! Even me!

**Malasie:** Oh, fiddle, I wouldn't bother to count all the cards. Somebody else would have to do it. On second thought, I'm not sure whom I'd trust! Maybe drawing a card wouldn't be so good after all! I know! Let's just have us old timers choose someone. We know who's best anyway. I think Sioux City Sally would be a really good chairperson. She's got such a big mouth. People in the back of the room could always hear her. She wouldn't even need a microphone. Besides, our mikes don't always work. If they didn't, she'd be perfect! Everyone could still hear what she had to say anyway. She'd keep control.

**Complacie:** I don't know, Malasie. Would you want to tell her the election results? (*She pauses and then says*) 'We decided you'd be a good Area Chair because you have such a big mouth!'

**Malasie:** Oh, maybe that wouldn't be such a good idea.

**Complacie:** Lucky Linda might be a good treasurer. She's really good at cards and always keeps track of our winnings at the Hilton, plus figures our lunch checks to the penny.

**Malasie:** Yes, but, let's not pick anyone who lives too far from us. I'm not interesting in driving very far for any special committee meetings, especially if my weekend is busy and the kids are coming home.

**Complacie:** You might be right. Bad idea. Besides, I don't know if Lucky Linda could hang in there for three years anyway. It is three years, isn't it?

**Malasie:** I think so, but I can't remember. Oh, don't worry about that. It's "One Day at a Time" you know. Why look so far ahead? We could be dead by then.

**Complacie:** You know, Malasie, with all this talk, the truth is that we haven't really come up with anything workable. I'm getting tired. I'm wondering if maybe we shouldn't look at that "thing" from WSO after all. I heard someone say once that all the answers are in the service manual.

**Malasie:** Really, Complacie, you surprise me—I didn't know you listened or ever took anyone's advice! Just kidding.... Do you have a copy of that "thing"? I remember seeing it somewhere in our stuff.

**Complacie:** (*Reaches for her bag and digs through it*) I confess. I brought it along. I thought we could look in there if we got stumped. We are getting older you know. Perhaps this new way might be worth looking at. Should we check out that manual?

**Malasie** (impatiently): Well, open it up, but for heaven's sake, don't let anyone see us. They'll think we're out of ideas. Time's a wastin' and we've got cards to play!

**Complacie:** (*thumbing through the manual*) Looks pretty thick to me. Where do we find anything about elections?

**Malasie:** Well, I'm no genius, but why not look in the Index under "Elections"? The Index is in the back, I think.

**Complacie:** I'll be darned. You're so smart, Malasie. It's right here: "Elections: pages 119—124. It also lists some specifics under it: 'Assembly..., election of officers..., and preparing for....'" What a surprise! That's just the stuff we've been talking about. It is all right here!

**Malasie:** Let me see that thing (*grabs manual and flips it open to page 120, "Election Assembly Procedure, under #4."*)

Well listen to this: It says right here: YEARS OF EXPERIENCE HAVE SHOWN THE METHOD DESCRIBED IN THIS HANDBOOK TO BE FAIR AND TROUBLE-FREE." Can you believe it? That's just what we were trying to figure out—a fair and trouble-free system. If we'd gone here in the first place, we wouldn't have wasted all that time.

**Complacie:** You're right. Since we don't have that much time left, maybe we'd better try the service manual shortcut. Read on, Genius. What else does it say?

**Malasie:** Well, everything is right here, like a "Service Manual for Dummies." It even says we should say the Serenity Prayer before we start. Lord knows we'll need prayer to get us through this!

**Complacie:** True enough. What about any modification to the procedure?

**Malasie:** Well, the handbook acknowledges modifications. It says here, “ If and when the area assembly is agreed on alterations in the procedures recommended, it is vital that all groups in the area be informed of the changes and why they were necessary.”

**Complacie:** Well, I guess our trusted servants were on top of that. They wrote down anything we might have doubts about in the service manual. Sounds like our WSC has done its homework. Guess we could take a lesson from those youngsters in Virginia Beach, after all. Hate to admit it, but I’m impressed!

**Malasie:** What else is in there that we need to know?

**Complacie:** I think everything. Hey! Listen to this. It says, “ In preparation for election that, ‘All GR’s have this handbook.’” Maybe everybody should just get their manuals out and look at the pages regarding elections. There are only five. After all, people are probably tired of us telling them what to do, but they might read the service manual!

Malasie, I hate to admit I’m wrong, but you and I have wasted our time trying to reinvent the wheel. Let’s stick with what is fair and trouble-free. The wise person who said, “It’s in the book” was obviously correct. We can’t go wrong.

JK. NV