

Corrections Skit for 4th Quarter Assembly, 2004 - Chattanooga, TN

Open with Cops Jokes. (Warm up the crowd - two people)

Props and Players

Alkaline: brown paper bag - street clothes, then jail uniform and flipflops.

Debbie: tiara and Royal attire, and borrows Rebecca's stripes.

Jeff Jailer: will wear a cop hat and have cuffs, etc.

Inez Inmate: will wear her stripes. (Jail uniform we purchased from a local county jail)

Anna Admin: street clothes and big glasses

Narrator: - will wear something flashy and fabulous. (Our actor wore a smoking jacket ensemble and a fez)

Recovering Rhonda: stripes and flipflops. (we had one of the guys play Rhonda with an outlandish wig and fake bosoms made of play balls.

Amy AA: regular clothes, Big Book.

Assorted "Fallen Women" - we had our Area delegate and secretary (both men) dress in drag.

Cast of Characters

Alkaline: The drunk on the street - gets in trouble, doesn't believe she has a problem.

Jeff Jailer: Has contact with the administration and the inmates.

Anna Admin: Jail administrator or Sheriff; person we need to contact to get meetings going in.

Inez Inmate: Female inmate that Alkaline meets in jail.

Amy AA: Brings meetings to the jail.

Debbie, Queen of Denial: Doesn't think she has a problem. (Wearing a tiara).

Recovering Rhonda: Doing time many months later as consequences of behavior when she was drinking. (90 days) - she is an inmate.

Narrator: Narrates the skit, reads and introduces the characters. S/he smiles and waves so the audience knows who she/he is.

Characters will wear signs around their necks to identify who they are. We will also have signs identifying what is in a scene (i.e. "Curb," "Booking,")

Narrator: read a disclaimer that photography and

We find Alkaline sitting on a curb – drunk. She has been partaking in her favorite pastime: escaping reality.

Alkaline: “Nobody knows... the trouble I’ve seen... Nobody knows... the sorrow...” Got kicked out of my apartment ‘cause I couldn’t pay the rent, lost my job ‘cause they got no sense of humor, and the bank took my car ‘cause I got no job. But I got my best friend – the booze! I t’ll never leave me!

Sitting on a curb...

Enter Doubting Debbie...

Debbie: Hey, Alkaline – how’s it going? You look pretty down... what’s up?

Alkaline: Nobody understands me, and just had a run of bad luck. No place to go, and no way to get there if I did. Lost my job, my apartment, and my car.

Debbie: Been there, done that. I live with my mom, but if you drive us you can sleep on the floor.

Alkaline: But I don’t have a driver’s license!

Debbie: Me either, but I got a friend’s car- let’s go – here’s the keys!

The ladies exit stage left.

Narrator: The ladies get in the car, but are arrested and taken to a local jail. They’ve been drinking and driving!!!

When Debbie and Alkaline are being booked, bring in the fallen women! – They are taken past the desk and out for booking by Jeff Jailer and Robert (C’m on ladies, let’s go... and the “ladies” offer up all kinds of excuses, catcalls, etc.

FALLEN WOMAN #1: My feet are killing me.

FALLEN WOMAN #2: Yea, well it's your FACE that's killing me!

FALLEN WOMAN #1: I don't know what the big deal is... all I've been drinkin' is a little vanilla flavorin' – it's the only thing I've found that tastes as good coming back up as it did going down!

Act II

Jeff Jailer: (At booking office with Alkaline and Debbie) Boy, you ladies sure were lucky you didn't hurt yourselves or anyone else. You were weaving all across the road when the police stopped you. And Debbie, you would have been ok until you hit the officer.

Debbie: He had it comin! We weren't hurtin nobody!

Alkaline: I've never been to jail before; maybe my drinking is getting out of hand... maybe I need to quit.

Act III

Narrator: Amy AA is sober 16 months, has a sponsor and has worked the 12 steps of AA. Her sponsor suggests she do service work and give back what was freely given to her.

Amy AA enters, stage right.

Amy AA: This workbook sure has been helpful. It gave me ideas when I wrote the administrator at the local jail. Today I have set an appt. to meet with them to discuss bringing in AA meetings. Come join me, as I can use all the love and support I can get!

Anna: Hello Amy, nice to meet you. I have your letter that you sent requesting to bring AA meetings into our jail. I have discussed it with the other staff and MOST think it is a good idea.

How would you go about these meetings? How long would they be?

Amy: Our meetings on the outside usually last an hour. If you have a room that is private, that would be great! (Hands Anna a copy of a soft cover Big Book). This is our text – we call it the AA Big Book. It outlines the 12 steps of recovery, and we would like your permission to give them to the inmates.

Anna: Now for the catch – how much is it going to cost us? We don't have any extra funding to buy books.

Amy: No, ma'am... it isn't going to cost you anything. We have several ways of funding literature. Some areas have groups that either donate books or money to buy them. Some areas have anonymous donors, and their committees locally and on a statewide level that help to get books into jails and institutions.

Anna: OK – that's fine. Part of the stipulations are: No handing the inmates anything other than your own Big Book, no taking anything from the inmates that they may hand you. No staples, no gum, no candy, no cigarettes, and we reserve the right to search you to make sure all is on the up and up. Wednesday would work best for us, how about 7:30 – 8:30 as meds will be distributed by then.

Amy AA: (Gets up and shakes hands with Anna Admin). Thank you so much, Ms. Admin. We'll be here Wed about 7:15, and you have my number, right?

Amy AA walks stage left, near the table/desk.

Narrator: The next Wednesday, Amy shows up at the jail, Big Book and 12x12 in hand, ready to carry a message of hope.

Jailer: Hello, you must be the AA lady. We have a meeting room for you. Some of these ladies really need some help! They have been talking to me, but...

(Takes her to a room with folding chairs)

Ladies are all there sitting in a circle (Inez, Alkaline, Debbie, Rhonda, others)

Doubting Debbie: (with arms folded and a scowl on her face) – This is stupid. I ain't no drunk.

Inez: Try to have an open mind and just listen. After all, this lady is giving up her time to be here.

(Everyone is seated)

Amy: My name is Amy and I'm an alcoholic. I'm glad to be here.

(only Rhonda replies, "Hi, Amy." Others look confused.)

Amy: Reads the preamble.

Amy: Do I have a volunteer to read the steps? Look on page 59.

(Recovering Rhonda reads the steps)

Amy: Let's introduce ourselves so we can all get to know each other...

The ladies introduce themselves. Some are reluctant – Debbie and Alkaline just say their names.

Amy: I'm really glad to be here, to let you know that I qualify, I attended my first AA meeting while I was in prison. I started drinking when I was young, to fit in and be part of the crowd. Don't know when I crossed that imaginary line into alcoholism. Where I couldn't control my drinking. It took me to places that I didn't want to go, with people that I didn't want to be doing it with. Got arrested due to consequences of my actions, and attended my first AA meetings. The AA people read the steps and traditions and they didn't apply to me. I wasn't powerless and my life wasn't unmanageable. There were people that came in and shared their experience, strength, and hope with me.

(Hands out Big Books): This is the textbook of Alcoholics Anonymous; we call it "The Big Book." It talks about the program, getting sober, and staying sober. Let's open the meeting up for discussion.

Rhonda: My name is Rhonda and I'm an alcoholic. When I was on the outside, I attended meetings and got a sponsor. She took me through the steps and I got to see who and what I had become. My life really turned around, the promises were starting to come true, in spite of me. I didn't realize alcoholism is a disease. That I had to have help to recover.

Alkaline: So what makes you an alcoholic?

Inez: I don't drink every day, just occasionally. Does that make me an alcoholic?

Amy: The Big Book talks about the different kinds of alcoholics: some are periodic or binge drinkers, some drink long and hard enough to become chronic. Where you live to drink, and drink to live. If you control your drinking and cannot enjoy it, or you enjoy it and can't control it. Lose ability to control, you might be an alcoholic. We are not here to declare you one, only you can determine that.

Rhonda: Read that Blue Book and you might find yourself in the pages. I did. Look for the similarities, not the differences.

Amy: We read the FIRST STEP, "We admitted we were powerless..." If you are at an AA meeting in jail, your life may be unmanageable. But the remaining 11 steps help move you from hopeless to hopeful.

STEP 2: "Came to believe..." Came to... means it may be a process - if you don't now, eventually you will. "Power greater than yourself" if you call it God, Buddah, or Beanpole - something other than you. "Sanity -" doing the same thing expecting different results is INSANITY. Learning to trust others, to have faith, to do the right thing when our minds tell us otherwise.

Debbie: It's that 3rd Step you just told me - turn my will and my life over to the care of God as we understand him. I ain't turning my life over to nobody. People have always let me down and hurt me.

Rhonda: That is why steps 2 and 3 are joined. Power Greater than yourself - you decide what it is that you can believe in, that will help you to live life without booze. For me, the higher power was AA because these people didn't have to take a drink to get through life. It sounds harder than it is. Learning that you have the power of choice not to drink by applying the steps.

Jailer: Knocks on the door and tells them their time is up.

Alkaline (looking at Amy): You don't look as miserable as I feel. Maybe there's something to this whole AA thing. Maybe I do have a problem after all. I guess there are lots of things you could be doing tonight, but I sure am glad you decided to come here and talk to us instead.

Amy: This is what keeps me sober, so you have helped me tonight. Remember, all of you, to go to a meeting as soon as you get out, Reach out for help. Get a sponsor. Get lots of phone numbers of other women in the program. Get into recovery, not just around recovery. I hope to see you at an AA meeting on the outside while we trudge the Road of Happy Destiny. Let's hold hands and close with the Lord's prayer.

All Pray.

Narrator: This shows in a general way our experience carrying a message of recovery to those who can generally only get one meeting a week. There are many ways to support this effort if you can't go into jails or institutions. You can write to inmates, donate Big Books or funds for literature in your groups or districts.

We thank you for your attendance, and lets hear it for our cast of characters....

APPLAUSE....

Following the skit (which lasted about 30 minutes), we had a question and answer session for anyone interested in finding out more about taking meetings into correctional facilities. We found that we brought in more people once word got out that the delegate would be dressed in drag. We hear he is still getting fan mail...