

MOB RULES

Disclaimer: The following skit is for entertainment and informational purposes only. Any reference to organized crime, or the Mafia is purely coincidental, but hopefully funny. If subpoenaed to testify, we will invoke the Fifth Amendment and the 12th Tradition. Thank you and we now present “Mob Rules”.

(Intergroup Theme plays all enter and sit)

SLASH (TONY SOPRANO?): It looks like everyone’s here who is gonna be here so we might as well get started. I think everybody knows each other, but just so’s we know who’s who, let’s introduce ourselves. I’m SLASH and I’m an alcoholic and I represent the Area 44, Northern New Jersey Syndicate of Alcoholics Anonymous.

ALL: Hi Slash!

CORRECTIONS (ALICE CAPONE?): Al Capone, alcoholic, and I represent the Corrections Family. I managed to avoid jails and prison my whole life so when I got sober I got curious and volunteered to take meetings into the jails and prisons of Northern New Jersey. I wanted to see what I was missing. Although it takes quite a while to do my background checks for the various facilities but I’ve never been (air quotes) “convicted” of any crime.

ALL: Hi Al!

SLASH: Maybe so but I’m sure glad you weren’t elected the Area Treasurer. I understand you have a problem with keeping the books.

CORRECTIONS (AL CAPONE): Hey I kept a perfect set of books. So perfect we even kept a second set of books. Is it my fault that the IRS was working with the wrong set of books?

INTERGROUP (FEMALE?): I’m the Godfather, Donna Vito Corleone, I’m an alcoholic and I represent Intergroup of Northern New Jersey.

ALL: Hi Donna!

SLASH: (to Al) “Scuze me, but, You’re Al Capone?”

CORRECTIONS: Yeah, that’s right. Al is short for Alice. You got a problem wit dat?

SLASH: Relax, relax, there’s no problem. I’m just old school that’s all. I’m just not used to all these broads running families. Don’t get your panties in a bunch, sweetheart.

CORRECTIONS: I ain’t your sweetheart and if you wanna be sleeping with the fishes just keep up that panty stuff!

SLASH: I don’t want to start anything I’m just curious. This is the first time the heads of the seven AA Families have had a sit down. I don’t want to belabor the point, but um, Donna Vito, why do they call you Godfather if you’re a woman?

INTERGROUP: Because the Intergroup Family predates the rest of the families here. We made our bones back in 1947. Service started with the Intergroup Family years before the Area’s districts were formed. Let me ask you a question, Slash: how’d you get that scar on your face? . . . from asking stupid questions?

SLASH: Godfather or not, I still think instead of running a family you ought to be fetching my coffee.

INTERGROUP: How ‘bout I fetch a horse head for your bed, big mouth? Let me remind you as heads of the 7 families we are supposed to serve the fellowship, they don’t serve us. We are but trusted servants. Intergroup and Area have a long history of cooperation in Northern New Jersey let’s not ruin it.

SLASH: Al (corrections), would you stop antagonizing everyone? That’s part of the reason we’re here today—the way you and your corrections thugs are so aggressive with those pink cans of yours.

CORRECTIONS: Okay, the gloves are off now! No one insults my outfit! Those pink cans are for voluntary contributions only.

TREATMENT: Oh, I'm sure a newcomer knows the difference when he is passed a 7th tradition basket with the pink can stuck in it. It can be embarrassing to pass that can without putting anything in it.

CORRECTIONS: Excuse me, but who the heck are you and what family to do represent?

TREATMENT (TONY SOPRANO): My name is _____ and I am an alcoholic. I spent a lot of time in my past putting . . . er I mean visiting people in hospitals, so when I came to AA I thought it would be a natural fit for me to carry the AA message while visiting hospitals.

CORRECTIONS: Have you been sticking your face in a desk full of cocaine or what? You don't know what you're talking about! First off, the pink cans should not be passed with the 7th Tradition basket and lotsa groups either don't pass the pink can or don't have one at all!

TREATMENT (TONY SOPRANO): To me the real question is not how the can is passed, but what is the deal with all that dough you have? Why does it just sit in the bank and accumulate? Why don't you give the other 6 service Families a piece of the action? Maybe Treatment ought to pass around a BLUE Can for Hospital and detox meetings?

SLASH: If the area allows treatment to pass blue cans, the next thing you know we would be running out of colors for special collection cans!

CORRECTIONS: Get your facts straight, old man (Treatment), the Area spends a ton of money on literature and collects old Grapevines and La Viñas for inmates to read. The groups just want to lighten the load on the area's budget by donating used literature and money to supply the inmates in our local prisons and jails with literature.

TREATMENT (TONY SOPRANO): Well, that's great but it doesn't do anybody any good stacked up in your garage!

INTERGROUP: Now hold up, Tony (Treatment). The 7 Families get their funding the same way. Al brought up a legitimate issue. At Area and Intergroup, our main source of revenue comes from the generosity of the group donations sent to us every year.

TONY SOPRANO (TREATMENT): You guys are the same as Al. Why don't you pass on a piece of that action?

LITERATURE: Hey, at least in the Intergroup and Area Families, the Literature Family keeps the costs low. The literature sold at the monthly Intergroup meetings and the Area's 4 assemblies and the convention are sold at the same low prices charged by GSO. But, because the Area and Intergroup buy in large quantities there is a small surplus (donation), built into the price. This surplus goes toward supplying the other 6 Families with free literature and pamphlets to perform their 12th-Step work.

TREASURER: Speaking of the annual convention, I attend every year and when I go into the literature room all you sell is the same old books, pamphlets and CDs. Why don't you sell new "sobriety merchandise." You know, a souvenir from the convention, something like a "T-Shirt" that says "My parents attended the Annual AA Convention and all they brought me back was this lousy t-shirt." Or what's wrong with selling medallions, book covers and bumper stickers?

LITERATURE: It's drunk junk!

TREATMENT: How about selling Hazeldon's 24 Hour Book, Stools and Bottles, and the Little Red Book? These are good books, I know other AAs who read them.

LITERATURE: The Bible is a good book too, but we won't sell those either. Our family sells only conference-approved literature which carries the AA message.

SLASH: Alright everybody settle down. Let us continue with the introductions. Who's next?

CPC: My name is CPC and before coming to AA I spent my time bribing . . . er I mean soliciting the cooperation of local law enforcement professionals for my old gang. So it was a natural fit for me to head up the Cooperation with the

Professional Community Committee.

PI: My name is _____ and I thank God that I made it to AA. You see AA was my last resort turning state's evidence and testifying against my mob boss. So I was a natural for Public Information. At least no one wants to kill me when I work health fairs, speak to IDRC groups or provide Big Books and pamphlets for public libraries, police stations, and senior citizen homes.

CORRECTIONS: Public Information? Is that what you're calling it now? Before coming to AA we had a different word for it.

PI: Hey the information I am providing now is saving lives rather than condemning the listeners to serving life or several lives.

LITERATURE: My name is _____ and before coming to AA I was consigliere to Don Vito. I was the one who found the holes in the law that kept the family out of jail.

ALL: Hi Literature!

LITERATURE: Since coming to AA I have studied the AA literature and let me tell you there are no loopholes in our program that I can see. Between AA conference approved literature and the Grapevine (our meeting in print) there is plenty to ponder between meetings. My job is not all cerebral though. We, on the literature committee, literally "carry the message." Do you know how much a case of Big Books weighs? And that is only one of the 52 different pamphlets and the 42+ books, tapes, CDs etc. that we cart all over Northern New Jersey.

SLASH: Speaking of Grapevine, where are they? Every year at this time they don't show up for our annual sitdown.

LITERATURE: I happen to have some personal knowledge of the woman who heads the Grapevine Family. They don't believe in hard work. They tell me that they are touring, with their off-broadway production, around the country. I understand they performed in San Antonio last July and are supposed to be performing locally somewhere soon.

GSYP: I'm GSYP, grateful alcoholic and I represent the Garden State Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous or GSYP Family.

ALL: Hi GSYP!

GSYP: Will you guys stop the bickering? It's that kind of stuff that turns young people off about wanting to join your families!

INTERGROUP: Hey, junior who asked you? Shouldn't you be at a Brittany Spears (Lady Ga Ga) concert or something?

GSYP: Shouldn't you be yelling "Bingo!" or something oldtimer?

CORRECTIONS: Well, look here, Mary-Kate ... Ashley ... whatever ... we've been doing this a long time . So why don't you just go throw another one of your sober meat market dances and leave the business of helping drunks to us.

TONY SOPRANO: I gotta agree with Al on that one. If we want information on getting a tattoo or having our belly buttons pierced we'll call you Sloppy PAA people. But if you want some info on real AA, you gotta come over to the old school.

GSYP: I can't believe how arrogant and dismissive you are! Young people's organizations have helped to spread the message of AA to people who aren't just crusty old bleeding deacons!

TONY SOPRANO: Hey! You want to really bleed just keep it up!

GSYP: Man! I am so sick of how young people are treated like we are outsiders to this program simply because of our age!

CORRECTIONS: You know what, Babyface(GSYP)? It isn't just cuz of your age. It's how you guys act. I actually went

to ICYPAA in Times Square this past August. (mockingly) “Icky, Icky, Icky, Paa, Paa, Paa, Icky, Icky, Icky, Paa, Paa, Paa”. What the heck is that? I didn’t know if I was at an AA event or a cheerleader competition! I kept expecting to see the Rockettes or something!

GSYP: Hello? It’s called FUN, Al? You do remember fun don’t you? Or did they outlaw that during prohibition as well?

SLASH: Al wouldn’t know fun if it slapped her on the butt!

GSYP: And that’s really too bad because that’s how you get people interested in service.

SLASH: Slapping them on the butt?

GSYP: You know, there’s not really a big demand for gangster comedians. No, what I meant was who wants to get involved in something that’s boring?

SLASH: I’ve got to agree with you there. In the General Service Family, we’ve seen a resurgence of interest in service when we added entertainment and fun at our Assemblies and District Days of Sharing.

CORRECTIONS: We are not in the entertainment business! We are in the life-saving business! In corrections we are about getting things done not just having a party!

SLASH: The General Service family is about getting things done too.

CORRECTIONS: Yeah right. That’s a laugh. If corrections had as much money as General Service does discussions — we could get rid of all the pink cans forever!

SLASH: So what exactly are you saying, Al?

CORRECTIONS: What am I saying? What am I saying? I’ll tell you what I’m saying! While the Treatment and Corrections Families are in the trenches helping real alcoholics get the help they need in hospitals and other institutions, your family is holding a workshop or a sharing session or assembly where all you do is listen to each other’s whiny voices all day! You can’t talk service into existence, you have to do something!

SLASH: I’ve got news for you Al.. You can talk things into existence. Let me ask you a question: do you have the 4th edition of the Big Book?

CORRECTIONS: Yeah, so what?

SLASH: So, do you think that just fell out of the sky? No, it came about because AA members all over the country got together and TALKED about whether the fellowship needed one. Then they TALKED about what to change and what not to change. Then they TALKED about the actual process of getting it done and then did it. So communication is a vital part of AA service.

INTERGROUP: As long as we’re talking about service don’t forget the Intergroup Family. We’re on the front lines answering the phones and providing meeting lists to the groups. We also serve as a place for groups to handle their local business affairs together.

CORRECTIONS: That’s all well and good, but as I said before, it’s Treatment and Corrections is where the real rubber meets the road. Intergroup takes the calls for help and Area’s seven Families perform the service.

INTERGROUP: You really are stuck on yourself, aren’t you?

CORRECTIONS: I’m stuck on myself? Hey, at least in the area’s 7 families we pay our own way.

SLASH: What are you talking about?

CORRECTIONS: I’m talking about how you guys in General Service always have your hand out when you do a little bit of service. (in a mocking, whiny voice) “I need to be reimbursed for this, I need to be reimbursed for that”, it’s sicken-

ing!

SLASH: That's it! (reaches under the table) Say hello to my little friend!

CPC: Hey, no weapons! We agreed no weapons!

SLASH: Relax, kid. My little friend is just my Service Manual. This is what it says on page S28: "Financial Support: Current experience indicates that many districts provide financial support for the DCMs to attend service functions. Invariably, this pays off in increased activity, interest, and group participation." We don't have a slush fund in general service. We just feel that anyone who wants to serve should not be barred from doing so because they can't afford to travel.

CORRECTIONS: I was waiting for you to bring out the service manual. You guys treat that thing like it's a holy book or something!

SLASH : That's not true! In fact, most of us never even read it!

TREATMENT: Anyway, the Treatment Family was helping drunks in hospitals before there was even an AA. While you guys were arguing in smoke-filled rooms about how to get your act together Bill W. was visiting alcoholics in hospitals so don't come here and try to lecture me!

INTERGROUP: Don't get too full of yourself there, Al. If it wasn't for the Intergroup Family, there would be no Area Families! Slash tell the Treatment, Corrections, PI, CPC, Archives, Website, and Newsletter Families where 1/2 of their funding comes from.

SLASH: It comes from the Intergroup Family Al.

GSYP: Will you guys shut up!

CORRECTIONS: Who you tellin' to shut up, punk?

SLASH: I think you all should shut up!

INTERGROUP: Where's my horse head?

GSYP: If all of the 7 Families are done patting themselves on the back for all of the wonderful and thankless work that you do I was wondering if you realized the valuable backup that you get from the other quiet people in this room? They don't get all of the glory but perform tasks that make your work possible – the "Special Families." Why don't you introduce yourselves?

BRENDA THE MAILMAN: My name is Brenda. They call me the "mailman" because I deliver. The Mailing Family is just one of the 13 other "Special Families." How would Northern New Jersey ever communicate with the groups if it weren't for my family.

NEWSLETTER: Hey, what about us. We are the Newsletter Family. We are the voice of Area 44. We publish four times a year to help keep the groups current on the doings Northern New Jersey. We provide the space for the 7 Families report on the service work being done by them in here in Northern New Jersey and the opportunities to serve on their families.

BRENDA: That is all well and good but who would read your newsletter if it weren't for my family's seeing to it that every group in Northern New Jersey gets one in the mail. We also support the 7 Families by sending out their "workshop flyers" and announcements throughout the year.

GSYP: We young people aren't into reading newspapers. We "twitter" "tweet" and interact on Facebook and My Space.

WEBSITE: That's why we exist. My name is Zorba the Geek, and I head up the Website Family. We understand that you young people are into high tech. So when you visit our website you can have access to an AA meetings Finder, a calendar of all upcoming events, read our newsletter, find out what district you are in and the location of their monthly

meetings, and you can join or contact all 7 Standing and 14 Special Families that make up Northern New Jersey. If you find something of interest, feel free to twitter or tweet or share it with your AA friends.

COMPUTER: How would you keep track of all the alcoholics in Northern New Jersey if it weren't for my Computer Family. Trying to keep track of alcoholics is like trying to herd cats. Don't you alcoholics ever stop moving your meeting places, or changing your phone numbers?

FILMS: Allow me to introduce myself. I am Hollywood Harry and I represent the Films Family. Contrary to Al said earlier, our family IS IN the entertainment business. We will bring AA's catalogue of films to show at your district's day of sharing or your home group's anniversary. You supply the popcorn.

CONVENTION: You call that entertainment? Every year our Convention Family puts on a show that lasts days. We meet all year long just to plan for the last weekend in September. We have Friday and Saturday night dances, 30 consecutive hours of meetings, out of state speakers, and a banquet speaker. That's entertainment.

FINANCE: We in the Finance Family oversee the cash flow in Northern New Jersey. We watch how the area's money is spent and help the Treasurer to balance the books. We only keep one set of books Al. It is less confusing that way. And we help the various families to prepare their budgets for the upcoming year.

P&A: I'm from the Policy and Admissions Family. We are responsible for codifying the (*air quotes*) "rules" of how our families are to conduct themselves here in Northern New Jersey. Motions approved at assemblies are given to our committee to be placed in our area guidelines for future reference. The area guidelines define the duties and responsibilities of the various families. After seeing what has transpired here today I think you 7 families need to brush up on your guidelines. We also are responsible for dividing up the territories or (districts) in the Maps and Boundaries Sub-Family. Another sub-family, the Voting and Structure family, monitor the elections every 2 years here in Northern New Jersey. You might know something about that Al. Aren't you from Cook County in Chicago? Voting & Structure family sees to it that the area guidelines are followed. (*Sarcastically*) "Not that we don't trust your guys." (*Rolls his/her eyes*)

ALL: (Object to the innuendo by grumbling etc. things like "Hey, what do you mean by that?" "What are you trying to say?" "Where's my horse's head")

GSYP: Oh crap! Here we go! I knew this meeting was a bad idea.

(*Fran and Dan enter and Fran blows a whistle*)

FRAN: ENOUGH ALREADY!

CORRECTIONS: Who are you guys?

DCM DAN: I'm DCM Dan newly elected and this is my sister GSR Gigi a newly elected GSR in my district and we represent the newcomers to the general service family.

SLASH: So who invited you two here?

GSR GIGI: Invite us? We're the ones who called this meeting! And as newcomers we're the most important people in the room!

DCM DAN: That's right, we thought you all would be able to iron out your difficulties, but that obviously is not the case.

GSYP: So what now?

GSR GIGI: What now? I'll tell you what now. We are going to straighten out this mess.

CORRECTIONS: You? What can a couple of newcomers tell us about our family business?

DCM DAN: A lot. First, we can tell you we don't like being taken for granted.

GSR GIGI: That's right. You see we attended a special family meeting that you forgot to mention. The DCM/GSR Workshop Family. They explained to us the duties and responsibilities of our jobs as DCM and GSR. They told me Bill W. called the GSR "probably the most important job in AA." They explained that as GSR I am the "Guardian of the Traditions" at my home group.

DCM DAN: They also explained the Northern New Jersey structure and how it should be operating.

GSR GIGI: Slash you should know how important we are because your special family, the Luncheon Family organizes a special luncheon in February called the "GSR Luncheon." I attended it last February and enjoyed hearing from a GSO staff member and a non-alcoholic trustee tell their story of why, even though they are not alcoholics, they dedicate so much time to the AA cause.

SLASH: I didn't come here to be lectured by the likes of you.

CORRECTIONS: Me either. I'm outta here. (both SLASH and AI start to get up)

DCM DAN: Sit down! The both of you! We don't appreciate feeling like pawns in your little service games. Now, I'm gonna break it down to you how it's gonna be.

INTERGROUP: How?

GSR GIGI: We're gonna make you an offer you can't refuse.

DCM DAN: Listen up, here's how it breaks down. First, the Corrections and Treatment Families, you take the message to jails, prisons and hospital detoxes. Keep doing your pink can thing.

GSR GIGI: Intergroup Family, you keep up with printing meeting book and handling calls from the general public, and organizing Night Watch to cover the phones in the hours that the office is closed.

DCM DAN: Next , GSYF Family, you handle events for young people keeping in mind that young is anyone who has growing to do. History and Archives continue to keep our history so young people of today never forget where we came from and the lessons we have learned over the years.

GSR GIGI: Literature and Grapevine Families you keep on doing what you've done for nearly sixty-one years: "literally" carrying AA's message throughout Northern New Jersey.

DAN DCM: Public Information keep informing the general public what AA is when invited to represent AA at health fairs, county IDRC presentations, and public schools.

GSR GIGI: CPC you keep the professionals whose work involves them with alcoholics, doctors, lawyers, police, etc. informed about how we can help.

DCM DAN: And finally, to our area delegate, who is the elected voice of the North New Jersey General Service Families, you keep the groups connected with the General Service Conference in New York, and AA as a whole. Carrying the message to the territorial district boundaries, you are also establishing communication protocols to avoid the childish bickering that's gone on today.

INTERGROUP: Communication protocols? Sounds like some Dr. Phil mumbo-jumbo.

GSR GIGI: Not at all. The idea is for the different families to have more interaction to alleviate any mistrust or erroneous assumptions.

INTERGROUP: In other words: "Keep your friends close, but your enemies closer."

DCM DAN: Whatever. Here's how this will work: the Corrections and Treatment Families will cooperate with the other 5 General Service Families keeping in mind we are one big family. Intergroup Family will have the General Service Family's past delegate give a reports at their monthly Intergroup Delegate Meetings about what went on at that year's General Service Conference.

GSR GIGI: And at General Service Area Committee Meetings, attended by the officers, standing and special families and area DCMs there will be liaisons from Intergroup and GSYP. District happenings can be reported by the respective DCMs of that makeup the Area 44 General Service Family. And you can all check with each other before planning events so you don't conflict. Is this agreement acceptable to you all?

SLASH: Hold on here there is someone in the audience who keeps raising her hand. Probably wants to thank us for all the wonderful work that we do covering ever possible situation. Yes young lady.

TRANSLATION MARIANA OF GUADALUPE: *(Asks a long question in Spanish)*

SLASH: Si.

CORRECTIONS: What did she say?

SLASH: I don't know, si is the only Spanish word I know.

TRANSLATION MARIANA OF GUADALUPE: I was just reminding you about my family. Actually I am bilingual and I head the The Translation Family. We translate service materials from english into spanish for our spanish speaking AAs. There are 139 Spanish speaking meeting in the state of New Jersey. We have 2 linguistic districts in New Jersey, District 30 and District 42. These districts conduct their district meetings completely in spanish.

SLASH: Have I forgotten anybody else?

TREATMENT TONY SOPRANO: Hey, who is that guy sitting way over in the corner by himself? Is he a spy from Area 45?

SLASH: Him? Oh I forgot to introduce him. That's Jeff, he is a remote community, I mean he heads a special family committed to remote communities here is northern New Jersey.

CPC: Remote communities? Northern New Jersey is one of the most densely populated area in the United States and Canada. Where does he carry the message? To the Jersey Devil in south Jersey swamplands (wetlands? marshlands?)

JEFF REMOTE COMMUNITIES: Maybe so but there are alcoholics right here in Northern New Jersey who find it difficult to find the AA message due to language, culture, or geography. Geography is not problem but we have spanish, polish, and Hindi speaking, AAs, to mention only a few, right here in Jersey. My committee also handles "Special Needs." These would involve AAs in hospitals in Assisted Living Centers, or Old Age homes who can't get out to local meetings to name a few. It seems we handle any situation for which there is no specific family to assign the AA to.

CORRECTIONS: You know, for a couple of newcomers, you guys have come up with a pretty good plan. The Corrections Family accepts.

DCM DAN: What about the rest of you? All in favor say aye.

ALL: Aye!

GSR GIGI: Great. To make it official we need everyone to swear on something their Family holds dear.

SLASH: I'll swear on "my little friend", the AA Service Manual. *(places left hand on Service Manual and holds right hand up)*

TREATMENT TONY SOPRANO: I'll swear on the AA Guidelines. *(places left hand on AA Guidelines for Intergroups and Central Offices and holds right hand up)*

CORRECTIONS: I'll swear on a stack of Grapevines. *(places left hand on a stack of Grapevines holds right hand up)*

INTERGROUP: I'll swear on a copy of our newsletter, This Day. *(places left on copy of the This Day Newsletters and holds right hand up)*

GSYP: Um, I'll swear on my Sony PlayStation. (wait for laugh) No, seriously, I'll swear on the Young People's Facts, Aims, and Purpose statement. (*places left on copy of statement "Young is anyone who still has growing to do." and holds right hand up*)

DCM DAN: Okay, repeat after me: (Others repeat in sections.) I swear ... that I will not be the one ... to break the peace we have made here today.

GSR GIGI: All right everyone raise your coffee cups for a toast. To service! Salute!

DCM DAN: Wait, they taught us a better saying at the workshop: "This we owe to AA's future. To place our common welfare first, to keep our fellowship united, for on AA's future depends our lives and the lives of those to come.

ALL: Salute!

(They all drink and then give each other hugs and kisses on each cheek as Intergroup theme plays.)

THE END

PROPS

A SERVICE MANUAL for Slash (LARGE PRINT)

THE BLUE BINDER

A STACK OF GRAPEVINES

A STACK OF THIS DAY NEWSLETTERS

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SIGN "Young Is Anyone Who Still Has Growing to Do."