

Thought Force regarding AWSC and Assembly Agendas
Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM)

Based on the evaluations from the spring and fall 2017, there is interest in expanding the topics on the current agendas. A thought force is proposed to look at adding/subtracting topics and possibly expanding the length of the Assembly.

*5 Questions for information gathering:

1. What do we know about our membership's needs, wants and preferences that are relevant to this topic?

Based on the compilation of the results from the evaluations done for spring and fall 2017, there is an interest in adding additional topics to the agendas. Some examples mentioned include:

- Links of service
- Explanation of the KBDM process
- An AI-Anon meeting
- Review of the service structure, explain function of AWSC
- Discussion of improving communication between the District Reps and the Group Reps
- Discussion of what are thought and task forces and how they function
- More service workshops and breakout sessions
- Skits
- Members want more information, education and action on most or all of these.
- Other

2. What do we know about our resources (finances, membership participation, etc.) that is relevant to this topic?

- The fall and spring meetings including the AWSC meeting and Assembly last one and one-half days. (Fall begins on Saturday morning and ends at noon on Sunday. Spring begins on Friday evening and finishes at the end of day on Saturday with a dinner and speaker meeting following)
- There are conference calls in between the meetings to discuss topics, new and old, and set the agenda. The conference calls are open to the officers, DRs and coordinators and other interested parties. Typical attendance on the call is ¼ to 1/3 of members.
- Beginning in 2018, we are meeting in Belgrade in the spring and Kalispell in the fall. The contracts have already been negotiated and approved.
- There are topics which need to stay on the agenda. How to possibly adjust some reports?
- We know members are willing to be here and spend more time on education and information.

3. What do we know about the current realities (membership, culture, etc.) and our fellowship's environment (technology, spiritual principles, our Steps, Traditions, and Concepts) that is relevant to this topic?

- Concept One, The ultimate responsibility and authority for Al-Anon world services belongs to the Al-Anon groups.
- Concept Two, The Al-Anon Family Groups have delegated complete administrative and operational authority to their Conference and its service arms.
- Concept Four, Participation is the key to harmony.
- The members of the Area World Service Conference (AWSC) include the officers, the District Reps, and coordinators. The Group Representatives make the decisions at all levels of Al-Anon.
- Oftentimes the GRs are new to the Area meeting and unfamiliar with the processes in place.
- Many members seem to be unfamiliar with the MT AFG Guidelines, which include a trove of information.
- Do we need to share information on the AFG structure and the concepts?
- There are times when the information regarding the upcoming agenda is not well shared with the GRs, leading to frustration.
- We know members are not familiar to the service manual and the benefits that it has.

4. What are the ethical implications of our choices (pros and cons)? In other words, will our decision be consistent with our spiritual principles?

- If we add additional topics to the agenda that will require additional time for the meetings, will members be able to afford to attend a longer meeting?
- Can hotel contracts be renegotiated?
- How to determine the topics to be added while continuing to share information and reports from across the state
- We know members will learn more about our service that is beneficial for our area.

5. What do we wish we knew but don't?

- Are there topics/ agenda items that can be communicated in other ways?
- Can we use the website to assist with communication?
- Is everyone receiving *News and Views* and reading it?
- Would these potential changes increase active membership?
- How to choose which topics to add?
- That members would be able to have more participation and we wish we knew if Newcomers would benefit.
- Are members willing to have a longer Assembly meeting to add requested topics?
- Is there information in the agenda that could be presented in another format rather than reporting at the meeting?