

AFG Area 9 – Florida North

Past Delegate Thought Force

Report and Recommendation

Thought Force Topic/Charge

To discuss what Past Delegates have done in the past at Assembly/AWSC meetings and the importance of having them at Area meetings.

Thought Force Members

Lisa P., Past Delegate Panel 46, Chair

Terry F., Past Delegate Panel 49, Past WSO Executive Committee Member, Past Trustee At Large

Linda F., Past Delegate, Panel 40

Mark F., Area Treasurer

Background/Historical Information

In our Area, we have active Past Delegates who could be of service if there was a position developed for them or if there is a need for them to fill a vacant position. They have gained vast knowledge as trusted servants that can be used to improve our overall area; how to benefit from their experience, strengths, and hope?

Panel 61 Delegate Evelyn T. read in AFG Connects that some Areas had questioned what Past Delegates do at their AWSC/Assemblies and she thought it would be a good idea if we discussed how we can use the Past Delegates in our area to enhance service to the Panel/Area and ideas for what Past Delegates can do since their expenses are paid to attend AWSC/Assembly.

Thought Force Report

The Thought Force met multiple times between June 5 and August 28. After some discussion and review of the Area 9 Archives, the Thought Force assembled this list of past duties Past Delegates have previously performed:

- Counted votes at Election Assembly
- Mentored/Sponsored Area Panel members
- Led Workshops at Assembly (Fri Night – Concepts, Ask it Basket)
- Welcomed first-time GRs to Assembly (gave stickers and hugs)
- Gave historical background information
- Participated in Area Thought and Task Forces
- Immediate Past Delegate attends first SERDGT of a new Panel with newly elected Delegate
- Attended SERDGT (Past Delegates pay for their own registration and costs to attend)
- Chaired Area Red Light/Green Light which was held on Friday or Saturday night (before Area 9 Red Light/Green Light Guidelines were established)

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- Served on Action Committees including; Group Services, Fellowship /Membership, Alateen, Public Outreach, Budget/Finances, Ad Hoc, and Election Procedures (Before Knowledge-Based Decision Making being adopted).
 - Accepted various assignments from the Area Chair, e.g., read the Concepts/Bill W's Essay on Leadership, hosted a workshop at the Turnover meeting, served as Sergeant of Arms, performed skits, sold Conflict Resolution kits at the Assembly, and led other workshops.
 - Attended AWSC Breakout sessions when scheduled – Past Delegates attended the meeting with the DRs or AISLs, Event Chairs, and GIPs.

Typically, two to three Past Delegates have attended each AWSC/Assembly.

Thought Force Recommendation

After using KBDM as part of our process, the Past Delegate Thought Force recommends the Panel 61 Area Chairperson impanel a Past Delegate Work Group before the end of 2023, which is also the end of this Panel, to support various Area tasks, including historical research. For example, the Work Group could look into past history to provide the Area information on if a topic has been previously addressed. Each Past Delegate has a set of unique experiences that could help the Florida North Area Assemblies/AWSC.

Below are references to Work Groups from the 2022-2025 AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P24-27)

Section: AI-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work

Page: 70

“A Work Group is a unit of people established to meet an ongoing need of the originating body. It can be considered a permanent part of the organization which has formed it. It can be an originating body and a Thought Force or Task Force may evolve from a Work Group. The objective is to complete its activity and present it to the originating body to move forward.”

Section: World Service Handbook

Page: 168

“Conference members of thought forces, task forces, and work groups make relevant presentations” (at the WSC).

The Past Delegate Work Group could be organized and support Area 9 as follows:

- Works from a guideline written by the work group and approved by the AWSC
- Chaired by a past delegate chosen by the Area Chairperson annually
- May include past delegates from other Areas, now living in Florida (N)
- Provides historical background information during Area meetings
- Provides researched historical information as needed/required

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- Act as advisors to trusted servants and/or the Area during Area meetings to insure Legacy adherence
 - Meets at least quarterly on Area-assigned duties
 - Serves as members of Thought and Task forces separate from the Work Group when asked by the Area Chairperson

Past Delegates serving in other positions on the current panel may only serve in the Work Group once their current panel position has been completed.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lisa Petschke, Thought Force Chairperson