

2018 WSC – Mega Issue – Translation

This year the Board of Trustees, in its efforts to address the Strategic Plan Priorities of the organization (empowering the Al-Anon fellowship and achieving a viable future for Al-Anon Family Groups), invited Conference members into the early phases of conversation between itself and World Service Office Staff.

Their discussion centered around the “mega-issue” of how best to address Spanish and French translation needs across the worldwide fellowship. The discussion took place over three days.

The conversation started Tuesday, when the Board began seeking additional insights from Conference members in response to the five Knowledge-Based Decision-Making (KBDM) questions. From these insights, the translation problem was refined. Brainstorming and prioritization of potential solutions occurred on Thursday, and identification of the positive benefits and potential risks of the solutions wrapped up the week on Friday.

Since the translation mega-issue conversation is still in its infancy, Conference members were reminded that Staff and the Board need time to discuss the details and possible solutions before any conclusions can be reached. Once a clear direction is chosen, Conference members will be notified and will share the new information with members in their Area.

Hybrid Conference Mega Issue WSC 2019

The Board of Trustees felt an idea-generating discussion about a Hybrid Conference would be both beneficial and insightful to all. This year’s Mega Issue aligns with AlAnon’s Strategic Plan to explore delivering barrier-free access to information for members.

One aspect of the Board’s envisioned future for AlAnon is to increase access to knowledge, resources, and the program. This Mega Issue idea-generating conversation focused on exploring an opportunity. Discussion regarding a Hybrid Conference (which is defined as a “live” in-person event at a physical location with a “virtual” online component) was held within three, one-hour sessions.

Members were reminded to keep in mind AlAnon’s spiritual principles as expressed in AlAnon’s three Legacies and to be assured that no decisions regarding holding a Hybrid Conference would be made based solely on the Mega Issue discussions.

The format for the first session began with seeking additional insights from Conference members in response to the Knowledge-Based Decision-Making (KBDM) questions in an initial brainstorming session. From these insights, the task force refined and revealed several key components related to a Hybrid Conference.

The second session included prioritization of potential solutions. Using an abundance of creative minds, we expanded our vision; we came up with ideas of how a Hybrid Conference might look

and how barriers could be overcome for existing members who struggle with overwhelming time commitments and the next generation of members, some of whom are working and may have less available vacation time to commit to attend Conference.

The final session focused on identification of the benefits and potential risks of the solutions. We evaluated the ideas that were generated. It is now up to the Board to determine which next steps—if any—will be taken. The task force and the entire Board appreciated the enthusiastic participation by so many in this Mega Issue discussion of a Hybrid Conference