

Ask It Basket May 2015 Assembly

- 1. I feel this – Why are the PSA announcements seemingly out of date? Too sweet. Not in reality of what is probably going on in the home. Not going to reach the youth. Show the darkness followed by the experience, strength and hope of our wonderful program.**

The PSA's are generated by a Task Force overseen by the World Service Conference of Delegates (WSC) and the World Service Office (WSO). As a Task Force they go over many decisions and have many discussions. Giving our feedback on these PSA's is important and I'm sure that our Delegate will take this back to share at the Conference.

- 2. Can you increase the font on the screen? It's difficult to read the small print from the middle of the room.**

We are working on making the images on the screens more legible. And we are also in the process of trying to figure out what is necessary to have on the screen, and what just may be a distraction because of the large amount of people in the room, and the Audio/Visual limitations of our budget.

- 3. Why was the Assembly at large not allowed to vote on the change of hotel for Assembly 2016?**

This is a bit of a complicated answer, and I can give a longer version if you send me an email. Chairperson@AFGArea9.org. However, the short answer is, according to the Concepts of Service the day-to-day business decisions of the Area have been delegated to the Officers and the NFA AFG, Inc. corporation. On behalf of the Area Assembly this group of people make the business decisions (contracts, bank accounts, etc) that are necessary to organize the Area business meetings.

There are three ways to decide on a venue for our meetings (1) We stay in the same place. (2) We decide we want to change. (3) We are forced by circumstances to make a change.

Our first choice is always to stay where we are. If we decide we want to change, then we would go through a Thought Force, a Task Force and a KBDM deliberation process to make that decision. But if we are forced to make a change then the Officers must do what they believe is right for the Area.

The Sheraton was substantially and monetarily changing the contract terms and we needed to make the move so that there was as little disruption as possible.

Again, if you want more information please send me an email!

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4. How is someone chosen to be on a Task Force?

The Chairperson chooses people from around the Area to be on a Task Force. If you fill out the Survey on the website (and any member of Al-Anon in our Area can do that) then your name will be on the list. Let the Chairperson know if you are interested.

Factors that go into it are: what other obligations do you have to attend to (do you have the time)? If the Task Force is going to be meeting online can you work on a computer to do that? If the Task Force is going to meet in person are you in the geographic location that makes that possible?

I'm always looking for new people, interested members, and a wide variety of representation from around the Area.

5. To save money, can we use another fingerprint/background check for another volunteer group such as GAL, or being a court ordered child advocate?

The use of a Fingerprint and Background Check is governed by State Statutes and depending on what type of entity is using it (government, school, business, etc) then a different statute governs the use. If there is to be sharing among users of VECHS there is a complicated process of notification to fill out, and the entities have to decide it is willing to share such sensitive material with another entity. And it is reciprocal, so if we were to use someone else's background checks, they would have access to ours as well.

So far, it has not been the Group Conscience decision of our Area to share this information. In fact, we are moving toward a more secure and detached use of the sensitive material gathered on AMIASes.

6. Are Alateen Sponsors legally required to report abuse/neglect?

It is my understanding that Florida law requires all adults over the age of 18 to report any suspected abuse or neglect of a minor or a vulnerable adult. Unless you belong to a special status because of your work (not volunteer position) that mandates you give your name, the law allows you to make this required reporting anonymously.

7. What are some of the ways the Districts distribute Area Reports?

I'd love to hear from some DRs about this. I will make sure we talk about it at our August AWSC 2015 meeting, and perhaps we can post it in the Legacy.

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8. Please explain the discrepancy between expenditures and available funds in WSO – the \$52,000 difference.

I believe our Delegate is posting about this in The Delegate's Corner.

9. To help GRs make an informed vote, can Area provide information for candidates at election time similar to the Trustee Form passed out at this Assembly?

We will be having a Task Force on Election Procedures and I will make sure that the Task Force has this information to discuss. It is a request that is made every panel, and so far our membership has chosen not to ask for this. But we will continue to discuss it.

10. What is the guidelines for a Group's donation to District? What is the guidelines for a Group's donation to WSO?

The Area does not have a set guideline on these distributions. However, the WSO puts out a wonderful Guideline (G-41 Reserve Fund Guidelines) that has a lot of great information on how to make this determination as a group. This guideline includes how to create a Group Budget, and how to discuss these matters with the Group. Distributions of donations are decided by a Group Conscience at the Group, District and Area levels.

11. How is our prudent reserve amount determined and are we in a position to make an extra donation to WSO?

Our Reserve Fund is part of the prudent financial principles we operate under. Our Area decided, in Panel 52, that we would increase our Reserve Fund to an amount that would cover one year's contractual obligations. We also decided that we could use this money at any time to make sure our current financial obligations were being met.

We discussed at each Area meeting (four times a year for three years) how the money was being spent, and always made space to discuss changes to the donation to WSO if we had an increase in our income that allowed for us to do so.

In addition, during Panel 52 we decided to contribute 100% of the cost of World Service Conference (WSC) rather than just our equalized expense share.

12. Since in reality there are less men than women in Al-Anon would the Districts or Area be responsible to reimburse for the empty half of the room cost for a man that does not have another man to share his room with?

Groups and Districts make their own autonomous decisions on how to give financial support to their representatives. Al-Anon members in service who feel they need

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help from a Group or District are encouraged to talk with each other, and reason things out about these kinds of decisions.

Al-Anon's Tradition 7 teaches us about being fully self-supporting. That does not mean just financial or monetary. If an individual needs financial help, then Tradition 7 suggests that it is their responsibility to ask for it, and work it out with others. It is not financial independence, but self-support – with the help of others we support our own needs and abilities.

In addition, there is always room at Area meetings for Growth Investment Persons (GIPs) and there are often men from other Districts and Groups who are looking for roommates and willing to share costs. By reaching out to the District and participating in the Service Structure, Al-Anon members are able to meet others, and connect in ways that allow for cost-sharing beyond their own individual Group.

Communication within the Service Structure, reaching out to others and discussing our needs, knowing that we operate in a culture of trust – these are just a few of the spiritual principles of our program that can help any Al-Anon member in service find a way to participate within the financial constraints of their Group budget.

These questions were written down and placed in the Ask-It-Basket at our May 2015 Assembly. I hope the answers help, and if you have others I encourage you to come to our October Assembly and participate!!

Yours in service,

Cindy J.

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