

**Thought Force: Create Strategies to Help the Membership  
Welcome New Practices into the Fellowship  
2015 World Service Conference**

**Charge**

Identify the difficulties that keep the membership from considering, and perhaps embracing, new ideas within the fellowship and create strategies that could help the membership welcome new practices into the fellowship that are consistent with our spiritual principles.

**Strategies**

*1. Create communications/workshops*

- Structure a workshop/meeting on literature that focuses on/addresses change and being open to new practices (e.g., the epilogue of *Many Voices, One Journey* (B-31); the daily readers using the index to find “change,” etc.)
- A district workshop to “brainstorm” on a specific topic relating to change/new practices – the purpose to include more voices and to gather fresh ideas from the membership. As part of the workshop, each GR be given in writing background information and/or talking points to share with their group. All having the same information in writing would help the GRs to pass on what was actually discussed. Sometimes an individual’s interpretation of a topic or idea can cause resistance from those that were not present during the conversation.
- Create tools/messages/presentations/workshops on the history of Al-Anon to help members visualize change, understand the difference between “tradition” and the Twelve Traditions, and put change into context through a timeline/historical representation or visual (like an infographic) of some sort. The graphic would demonstrate the evolution of the program in relation to new approaches/practices.
- Presentation using different technologies, demonstrating how they can be used for intergroup/member communication, or business meetings – demonstrate how texting can be used, or Skype, or apps – but without endorsing any of the companies or technologies

*2. Encourage discussions about change*

- Encourage discussions/workshops/meetings on change – changing attitudes, changing technologies, changing face of Al-Anon – to explore what makes change easy and what makes it harder, and how we can work on our own attitudes about change in order to be as welcoming as possible to people and to new practices that can benefit the program.
- Consider ways to encourage groups to think about and discuss other options for meeting locations to avoid the perception of affiliation and make it more clear that Al-Anon is for people of every ethnicity, culture, religion, sexual orientation, etc., and not limited to a perceived type of person (which a religious meeting place can imply even if it’s not true)

- Highlight changes and new practices that AI-Anon has embraced in the past that have strengthened the fellowship (e.g., use of electronic literature).
- Suggest a sharing sheet/workshop to have a group use the topic of “change” as a meeting discussion.
- Encourage use of service tools that help members address resistance to change and embrace new practices (e.g., conflict resolution tool kit, sponsorship).

### 3. *Explore technology as a means of introducing/encouraging change*

- Encourage use of technology (e.g., at Area or world service level) to keep members up-to-date on emerging issues and new practices. Have workshops at district or Area level. Do an on-line presentation on where and how to find this information. Encourage weekly viewing of Members’ Web site once a week and sharing it with other members.
- Take advantage of emerging practices, be proactively open to new ideas (e.g., developing our own app or using social networks)
- Encourage members who don’t have access to consider gaining access to technology (e.g., expand the e-buddy idea, take a friend to an Internet café and introduce them to e-mail, social media, etc.)

### 4. *Encourage innovative thinking*

- Encourage expansive brainstorming at all levels
- Offer methods for withholding judgment during discussion
- Create environment and atmosphere of dreaming big, envisioning AI-Anon’s future without limiting thinking