

Report from AWSC Feb 2016

Friday Night Break-Out Comments & Questions

The Officers met in small groups with DRs, AISLs, GIPs, Past Delegates, Coordinators and Event Chairs. There was ample time for discussion about service to the Area as a whole, how our first year has gone and how we communicate with membership all across the Area. In addition, we each gathered some “Ask It Basket” type questions and comments to discuss at our Officer’s Meeting. We could answer some right away, and have done so below.

These comments and suggestions will be used to create small-group breakouts, Thought Forces and possibly Task Forces in the months ahead.

If you take a look at the Knowledge Based Decision Making process (on the Area website, in the Service Manual, and in WSC Summaries) you will see that good communication between the membership and the leadership is basic to our spiritual principles. In this way, the spiritual foundation of our organization and service remains strong.

We welcome your input, suggestions and questions. Please send them to : chairperson@AFGArea9.org

Group and District Issues

**How do we apply the Traditions to our Group/District problems?(Take a look at the Conflict Resolution Kit S-71, S-72, S-73. You may also invite an Area Officer, Coordinator or Past Delegate to do a workshop)*

**How do we encourage sponsorship and make it easier for beginners to find sponsors?*

**What kind of report can be expected from the District Archivist Monthly?*

**We need more AMIAS training.(Currently we are working on creating more trainings, especially during the first Quarter, to assist the AAPP in meeting WSO goals. We are also utilizing video technology to help meet members’ schedules. Please contact the AAPP or Chairperson.)*

**How to move groups into larger Al-Anon conscience District>Area>WSO Groups are in isolation as individuals are in isolation.*

February 13, 2016

*Would like more meetings on the Concepts.

*When should a group be removed from being listed as active with WSO? Re: meetings not happening, meetings off the reservation. (*WSO does not "delist" groups. WSO will only list as "inactive" if mail is returned for over a year. Panel 52 discussed having a "do not refer" policy and came to a consensus that it would be up to the Districts to "do not refer"; not place such groups in their W&W or on their District website. "Do not refer" will be on the table at conference this year again as there are Districts and Areas that have compiled their own procedures and many Areas want WSO to delist groups that the District/Areas have deemed as "do not refer".*)

*Can we have a workshop on how each District creates their own guidelines? Especially as relates to the role/responsibility of AISL.

*How do we keep Newcomer Meetings focused on the first three steps when long-timers spend so much time talking about their own issues?

*Group sponsored weekend workshops – these can sometimes cause controversy. How do the Legacies apply?

*Ways to encourage service – how can the Legacies help here?

*What does the District expect of a GIP?

*New groups forming - current groups with no GR.

*A person is disruptive in a meeting from drinking, they hold a responsible position in District. What do we do?

*Having attended Al-Anon since the 1990's I'm concerned that the voluntary chant "Keep coming back, it works if you work it and let it begin with me" is being suppressed. It is a very meaningful group affirmation that gives me hope and strength. Please allow voluntary recitation. (*Groups have the autonomy to close their meetings as they decided, using a Group Conscience process. It is not up to the Area to "allow" or to decide on these issues.*)

Area Issues

*I am a Coordinator, and also have access to the DR AFG Connects community – is it improper for me to post since I'm not a DR, or should I just read?

*Geography. (*WSO has given authority to Areas and Districts to redistrict as needed. The affected Districts must mutually agree to redistrict meetings or current boundaries. I think a thought/task force set-up by those Districts would be helpful.*)

*I would like to attend a statewide convention, any chance of this?

February 13, 2016

*What does the Area expect of a GIP? (*Area currently doing a Thought Force on creating Guidelines for this*)

*Will there be an Area Survey (Area Inventory?) this year? (*Since we did one in Panel 52, we will not be doing one this year. Instead, we are working on implementing some of the changes and suggestions that came up during that Inventory*)

*Can we have more discussion of the difference between Policy and Procedure as it relates to Service Authority? (*Yes- on the Agenda for August*)

Finance

*Increase donation from \$1 to \$2 "doubles" the usual and customary account.

*Donate a fixed amount monthly to your home group whether you are there or not.

*Should District and groups give every month or only when some groups can't?

*We have identified that almost half our groups are less than 10. This impacts donations and attendance at District meetings. Not sure what can be done at Area level but it is definitely a challenge.

Administrative and Meeting Specific Issues

*If the tubs will be redundant, can they be donated to Archives for storage of Archive material? (*Yes, and many of us did donate our tubs at the February meeting*)

*Round tables are great for discussion, but difficult for seeing faces during reports. (*We will set up a standing mike, and a podium at the next meeting. That way people giving reports can bring them to a central location. People wanting to speak can line up at a mike. Also, please feel free to get up and move your chair so that you will be more comfortable with what is going on in the meeting!*)

*Will there be an AMIAS training at Spring Assembly? (*Yes, Friday night after the Opening Session. Likely to start at 9:00 pm*)

*Why do you want the reports early? (*So everyone can come to the meeting prepared for discussion.*)

**To be an all inclusive program we need to ungender from He and Him to HP. (Please see p.172 of the Service manual, Section 3.d and continue to discuss this with your Sponsor. If you want to bring this up at a Group Conscience, you are free to do so. If a Group agrees to move it forward, then they would bring that up to their District. The District would follow their own procedures for moving the suggestion forward, and if the District agreed it would then be brought to the Area. The Area would then go through it's own KBDM to decide whether or not to ask our Delegate to take this to the World Service Conference. And should it get that far, then the WSC and WSO would work it through their procedures, and inform us all how to go about recording a written vote on the matter by each individual group.)*

**Can we start later on Friday night? (During Panel 55 we will maintain the current schedule. It works for 99% of the members. Please come when/if you can. There is no penalty if someone cannot make it.)*

**Can we do Saturday and Sunday, not Friday? (During Panel 55 we will maintain the current schedule. It works for 99% of the members. Please come when/if you can. There is no penalty if someone cannot make it.)*

**Menu was great, but can we get sauces on the side? (Yes. And there will be a vegetarian option as well.)*