**BOARD BIG QUESTION: How can we empower our members in the use of our Legacies and policies when seeking solutions to issues within the Area, District and group?**

From *One Day at a Time in Al-Anon* (B-6), p. 305

“Al-Anon is not an organization; it has no managers or bosses. It is a fellowship of equals, held together in close union by something called “obedience to the unenforceable.” This means that every group conducts Al‑Anon’s work according to the spiritual principles stated in our Traditions, which they accept and follow *of their own free will,* without being directed or compelled by anyone.

“The … autonomy granted by the Fourth Tradition is limited to *what is good for the fellowship as a whole.* If a group departs from the ideas and procedures that make for *the greatest good for the greatest number* of Al-Anon members, it takes on its shoulders the responsibility for damaging the fellowship to which all of us look for help.

“When a group faces questions or problems, the answers will be found in our Twelve Traditions. That is why it is so important for all of us to know them. The health and unity of all Al‑Anon depends on the cooperation of the groups.”

From *Reaching for Personal Freedom—Living the Legacies* (P-92), p. 133

“I learned that leadership is not a position where I wield authority and make laws. Rather, leadership is a gentle understanding of the way the principles of Al-Anon work and the willingness to stick to those principles, regardless of what other people are doing. There will always be some gray areas, but I can feel confident enough to make a decision. If it is the wrong decision, I can change it. If I aim for excellence instead of perfection, I believe that I can become an effective leader.”

**QUESTIONS FOR SMALLER GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. Why is it so important that the members believe in themselves and believe in a Higher Power—that members become capable of using and interpreting our materials? And why is it so important for the future of Al-Anon?
2. What happens to individuals and groups who research our Legacies, *Service Manual* and Policy Digest and hold discussions among the membership?
3. What are the spiritual benefits of the membership finding their answers through these resources and having discussions among themselves?

**QUESTIONS FOR ENTIRE GROUP**

1. As you review this chart, what part(s) of the process do you envision you can use to strengthen your Area, District and group? (In other words, what is or is not happening?)

We do not want you to get stuck in the problem, but rather to spend time discussing the process you used or use to get to the answer.

1. What role can you as a leader play in helping the membership become more familiar with the process of seeking solutions using the Legacies and policies?

**QUESTION FOR ENTIRE GROUP**

1. What strategies can we as a group devise to empower members to seek their own solutions?