

P61 Area Meetings Thought Force Report
Assembly
June 2021

This Thought Force was asked to consider 1) different ways the Area might structure its business meetings using various types of technology; 2) the probability of combining technology with some face-to-face meetings; 3) and how we might structure a year of meetings, workshops, events and other things that would allow us to create a schedule that may be more flexible, more open to participation, more convenient, and in line with our spiritual principles.

We met several times to discuss these issues. As a result of those meetings, we created a survey that was posted on the Area website for anyone to complete. Thank you, Bob, for posting the survey to the Area website and sending the results to the Thought Force. Thank you to the 67 members who completed the survey. The results are summarized on the following pages.

This Thought Force will have a final report, answering the KBDM questions, for the Area Officers by July 15, 2021.

Respectfully submitted by,
Katy M, Chair (D1)
Steve K (D12)
Carmen S (D8)
Sandra F (Area Literature Coordinator)

Thought Force Survey: Area Meetings Results

I have attended Area meetings "in-person" (check one)

TRUE: 40

FALSE: 19

The year of last "in-person" Area meeting you attended

2017-2021

I have attended Area meetings using zoom (check one)

TRUE: 49

FALSE: 17

Which Area meetings have you attended using Zoom (check all that apply)

Assembly: 44

AWSC: 28

17 did not answer (reflects those who did not attend the meetings above)

Answer for yourself and for your Al-Anon friends as needed: Reasons that I or Al-Anon friends I know DO NOT ATTEND in-person meetings

- Travel is difficult and/or not preferred 25
- I am busy on weekends - too much time involved 19
- Group cannot afford to support travel / hotel costs 10

If you answered "Other" on question above

- Covid

Answer for yourself and for your Al-Anon friends as needed: Reasons that I or Al-Anon friends I know DO NOT ATTEND "Zoom" (virtual or electronic; Zoom is the current platform) Area meetings (check all that apply)

- I prefer in person meetings 24
- Technology is challenging 16
- Technology is awkward 13
- Even with the breaks - I can't sit still for zoom business meetings 8
- I don't have time 3

Have you had any experience with "Hybrid" meetings? A Hybrid meeting is composed of a number of people meeting "in-person" while others join virtually (via Zoom, current platform)

YES: 30

NO: 36

If you answered the question above "yes", on a scale of 1 to 10 please rate your experience with "hybrid meetings" (10 = loved it; 1 = hated it).

1: 1	6: 3
2: 2	7: 2
3: 0	8: 7
4: 2	9: 0
5: 4	10: 10

In ten words or less, explain the reason for your above rating of "hybrid meetings"

- Nice to have options
- Solves problem for people who cannot attend face to face
- Greater accessibility
- Internet inconsistent
- Flexibility
- Camera issues
- Hard to keep participants equally engaged

Zoom Area business meetings are "OK" but I (check all that apply)

- Find it difficult to participate 12
- Think that the end of the meeting can't come too soon 8
- Think the agenda for the "in person" meetings is not a "good fit" for Zoom 7

Once we can start to meet in person, order the following options for a year of Area meetings in order of your preference (1st choice listed first, last choice listed last)

- A. 50/50 split between Zoom and In-person area business meetings;
 - B. all virtual / electronic ("Zoom") meetings;
 - C. all in-person meetings;
 - D. some combination of 3 meetings in-person and one "virtual" (Zoom) meeting;
 - E. some combination of 3 meetings "virtual" and one in-person meeting;
 - F. hybrid. Sample answer (B, D, A, C, E, F).
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- 50/50 split between Zoom and In-person area business meetings 17
 - all in-person meetings 13
 - all virtual / electronic ("Zoom") meetings 12
 - hybrid. 50/50 split 12
 - some combination of 3 meetings in-person and one "virtual" Zoom meeting 4
 - some combination of 3 meetings "virtual" and one in-person meeting 0