

Thought Force on “Taking a Look at Area Meetings”

This Thought Force Survey was handed out at Feb 2017 AWSC, and discussed in small groups. There were about 50 people present and this is the raw data from the returned sheets. 26 individual sheets returned. 6 small reports from note-taker at each table.

There is currently a Task Force looking over the results and creating recommendations for August 2017 AWSC.

1. Does your home Group send a GR to District? To Assembly? What is the feeling about the time commitment? Do members you know who are thinking about Area Service talk about the time commitment of 4-6 weekends a year doing Al-Anon service at the Area level?

25 – yes send a GR to District

20 – yes send a GR to Assembly

many different ways it is discussed: groups, sponsors, at District, positive feedback on information being on the website

2. Do you have discussions of finances and contributions in your home group? District? Other Groups you attend?

24 – yes at Home group

22 – yes at District

some say they rarely hear finances discussed, some discussion about holding regular business meetings, continuing quarterly appeals letters and discussions about 7th Tradition

3. What is your opinion as to why Alateen members do not come to Assembly? How can the Area improve communication to the Districts, Groups and Members?

-too young

-the meeting is boring for them

-parents don't force them to come like they used to

-transportation and time problems

-lack of interest

some discussion of AMIAS issues, not enough kids, no “real” program, schools, etc.

- do Alateens even know they are invited and welcome at Assembly

- Ask the teens how they can be more involved

-too much focus on Conferences and Round Ups (fun and games)

4. Are we being exclusive with our meeting structure? Do we favor non-working members? If we are trying to practice our spiritual principles what

kinds of things could we include as topics for discussion around planning meetings for Area?

12 – yes we are being exclusive

- Friday getting off work is a problem
- Face to Face meetings are important
- Some people work 9-5 during the week, some people work on weekends
- No, it's a personal decision. Don't take the position if you can't commit
- Looking at changing is a good idea
- Maybe fewer meetings later in the panel
- Trust, Mutual Respect, Acceptance, Cooperation
- Change some of the breakouts
- We need online registration
- Tradition 1 – progress for the greatest number
- Favors retirees – no babysitting
- Survey the members
- We seem to accommodate others – we give options. No one is penalized
- Items to discuss: one day? How long? Location? Etc
- Our district rotates meeting locations and this does not help participation
- Babysitting issues have caused meetings to dissolve – its an outside issue
- We don't favor non-working, they just have more time

5. What do you think about exploring different ways to do meetings? Electronic meetings? Only having one AWSC and/or one Assembly per year? What should we be thinking about in addition to the cost?

- change is good
- face to face is important
- make business meetings on Saturday
- 22 prefer some kind of in person meeting
- 15 favor looking in to some kind of electronic meeting structure
- we could do different types of meetings on a trial basis and see how it works
- don't assume it is bad, I have heard very positive feedback from meetings this Panel
- Maybe a Conference Call offered to members who can't attend
- continue process of getting reports online and streamlining meetings
- I really like two Assemblies per year – I get a lot out of them
- It feels accommodating and I like the agendas
- I think we get a lot of good work done
- sometimes we think we have to make others agree with us, it's okay if one or two can't always make it.
- spirituality and fellowship are very important
- I miss the pizzazz of the prior location; it felt like a vacation; make it more exciting

- I like the idea of exploring change, greater good of the fellowship and ability to conduct business
- I am opposed to electronic meetings
- I think the sharing, bonding and working together is a very important part of my recovery and my growing. That trickles down to District and Group

6. What do we wish we knew, but don't:

- why do we need 2 Assemblies?
- what other options are available?
- what does the Area think?
- would it bring back excitement?
- what do other Areas do?
- how would electronic meetings change the spiritual dynamics of service?
- would more members step up to service if the time commitment were smaller?
- I wish to know what goes on inside Alateen meetings that they are not committed to come to service. Maybe add a component for Assembly and AWSC?