

TASK FORCE ELECTRONIC MEETINGS

Task Force Members: Evelyn T. (Chair), Mary W., Cindy J., Tina M., Joanne E.

Task Force Topic: How can Al-Anon Family Groups Which Meet Electronically (AFGWME) become part of the geographic area of Florida North? PEM (Permanent Electronic Meetings) are now AFGWME (Al-Anon Family Groups Which Meet Electronically) - Global Electronic Area

Charge: The Task Force will produce Procedures and Guidelines to accept a group from the Global Electronic Area becoming part of the Florida North Area.

Background Information:

Through conversations held regularly with permanent electronic meetings regarding their having a representative role at the District, Area, and WSO level, the WSO has gained insight into considerations Areas may need to discuss before making an informed group conscience decision about admitting groups that meet electronically to their Area.

Historical Information:

- Groups that meet electronically often attract members and have trusted servants who do not reside within the boundaries of one geographic Area.
- Some groups wish to participate in the local service structure—their trusted servants usually live within the boundaries of the local service structure.
- Hybrid District and Area business meetings can be challenging to host as they require strong Wi-Fi at the physical location, technology to display and hear remote participants, and trusted servants dedicated to ensuring members attending electronically are able to hear and participate fully.

Task Force Process and Timeline: KBDM Process was used on the Task Force. Members were able to bring their questions and doubts to the group. In order to get participation from the Area 9 members, a Questionnaire was created and distributed to all the attendees of the Area 2022 June Assembly. We received a total of 95 responses back, which we divided between the Task Force members and created a document where each of us detailed the responses. See information on the findings below,

During the Assembly, the Group Representatives were asked to bring this information to their group members. Also, a member from the World Service Conference attended the Area 2022 June Assembly and she, together with the Area Delegate, presented information related to this historic process for Al-Anon as a whole and the impact it is having on all the Areas.

The Task Force Chair created a document with information shared from other Area Delegates, where members of this Task Force were able to read the process, questions, and fears other Delegates were sharing. This document gave us the opportunity to get ideas and at the same time clarify most of the questions we didn't have answers to at the beginning of our gatherings.

The Task Force members had all its meetings via Zoom.

Task Force Summary / Findings:

During our discussions and analysis of the Questionnaire responses, we found that members were concerned about admitting to our Area 9 groups coming from locations outside of the Florida North area. The responses revealed that members were willing to admit electronic groups to our area as long as the Group Representatives, or District Representatives if applicable, are residents of the Florida North area and attend Assemblies and District meetings in person. Also, follow the guidelines from the WSO.

Members are open to making changes to the old way and introducing new ways in order to keep up with what they consider the future of Al-Anon, always maintaining our purpose – helping friends and families affected by the illness of alcoholism.

Task Force Recommendation:

The Task Force recommends that AWSC approve the Guidelines and Procedures for allowing Permanent Electronic Groups to be admitted to the Florida North Area.

Policies and Procedures

Al-Anon Family Groups from the Global Electronic Area (GEA) will qualify to participate in the Florida North, Area 9, service structure if they meet the following qualifications:

PROCEDURE FOR ADMITTING PERMANENT ELECTRONIC GROUP TO FLORIDA NORTH AREA

- The Permanent Electronic Group (PEG) submits a request to the WSO Group Records to be part of our Area via email. The request should include a reason for joining the Florida North Area.
- In addition to the request, the group should also provide documentation that they have the approval to leave their former area.
- The WSO Group Records will review the request and the group's record to ensure that they are registered with WSO.
- The request and documentation are forwarded to the Area Chairperson, Area Group Records Coordinator and Delegate for review and approval based on the Area requirements.
- The Chairperson will notify the WSO Group Records of the decision made regarding the request.

PROCESS TO ADMIT THE PERMANENT ELECTRONIC GROUP TO THE FLORIDA NORTH AREA

- If approved, the Area Group Records Coordinator may need to contact WSO to make the transfer between the Areas.
- The Area Chairperson, Delegate and Area Group Records Coordinator will assign a district number.
- The Area Group Records Coordinator will notify the group and District Representative (DR).
- The DR will be asked to contact the GR of the group and the GR will be invited to the District meetings and the GR Orientation at the next Assembly.

POLICIES/REQUIREMENTS TO ADMIT A PERMANENT ELECTRONIC GROUP TO THE FLORIDA NORTH AREA

- Permanent Electronic Groups (PEG) must be registered with the WSO and share their meeting information (time, format, group type, platform).
- A group wishing to register as an Electronic Group in the Florida North Area follows all established procedures outlined in the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual and the Florida North Area Process for Group Records Changes and New Registration Procedures.
- The group will have and will maintain a physical Current Mailing Address (CMA) in the Florida North Area.
- Residency Requirement: The group is required to elect a Group Representative that resides in the Florida North Area.
- The group is willing to send a GR to the in-person District meetings and to Assemblies.

- A group from the Global Electronic Area that is interested in participating in the Florida North Area service structure should reach out to the Area Group Records Coordinator to request the transfer from the Global Electronic Area to Area 9.
- The Area Delegate informs the WSO that the Florida North Area will admit the group from the Global Electronic Area (GEA) into our Area 9 service structure.

TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION:

The Task Force recommends that AWSC approve the Guidelines and Procedures for allowing Permanent Electronic Groups from the Global Electronic Area to be admitted to the Florida North Area.