

Thought Force Topic: P61 – Meeting Schedule Options

Thought Force Members: Katy M. (D1) Chair; Steve K (D12), Terri K (D5), Carmen S (D8), Sandra F (Area Literature Coord)

Background Info: We are in a new era of scheduling Area business meetings, since we will be using some form of technology in the near future. And even after we return to face-to-face meetings, we can use some of what we've learned during 2020.

Thought Forces are excellent group conscience tools that gather Al-Anon members together to discuss a topic and bring their experience, strength and hope to the KBDM questions. This work will not create a new schedule, but rather offer various options and ways of looking at the schedule of Area Events other than the current structure: 2 In Person AWSC Meetings; 2 In Person Assembly Meetings; 1 In Person Convention; 1 In Person Service Workshop; 1 In Person Alateen Roundup; 1 In Person Alateen Conference. Discuss possible options in light of the five questions below.

Charge: **Using the KBDM Questions as a starting point, discuss several different ways the Area might schedule its business meetings using various types of technology. Consider the probability of combining technology with some face-to-face meetings, 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.**

Five KBDM Questions

1. What do we know about our membership's needs, wants and preferences regarding meetings, events and the various concerns about travel and face to face gatherings? What do we know about our membership's experience during 2020 with virtual participation?
2. What do we know about our resources relative to the scheduling of Area meetings and Area events? Our Area has purchased a Zoom account. How can we use that to its full capacity? What other things can we consider? Can we break up the content into different types of meetings?
3. What do we know about the current realities within our Fellowship and in the world at large that affect Area meetings and Area Events? What do we know about our fellowship demography, experience and openness to addressing the flexibility of scheduling Area business?

4. What are the ethical implications of our choices – what are the pros and cons? Will our decision be consistent with our spiritual principles?

5. What would we like to know? What would we like for the Officers to address or open up to a wider Group Conscience discussion?

Please meet (via Conference Call and/or Zoom) and use whatever technology works for all of you.

Focus on the Charge, and use your experience as Al-Anon members as a basis for your discussions. The Thought Force Chair will submit this form as your Thought Force Report to the Area Officers by email.

Please present a report to the Area Officers before July 15, 2021.

Thought Force Summary / Findings: