

Task Force Topic: Look at Area Sergeant at Arms and Growth Enhancement Member Functions

Task Force Members: Gage M., Chair, Terry Ann A., Cindy J., Kimberly S.

**Background/Historical Info:** The Area has used a Sergeant at Arms to assist at Assemblies with room issues, vote counts, etc.

and at times the needs of the Chairperson at both Assembly and AWSC. These have been provided by the Districts. There is not an Area Guideline at this time for either a Sergeant at Arms or a GEM. It is felt that both functions need to be looked at closely as to whether they should be combined or separate with clearly defined responsibilities and expectations for the responsibility. The Chairperson needs to delineate what his/her needs may be.

Thought Force references (if any): Attached

**Charge:** Determine whether the GEM function can perform both Sergeant at Arms and GEM duties. Can it support the Chairperson with support during Assemblies and AWSC and can it be provided by the Districts.

Task Force Timeline: Report Progress or Recommendation at August AWSC.

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

Focus on the Charge. Complete the task as best you can, and submit this form as your Task Force Report. You can do this by sending it to the Technology Coordinator who will post it on the website.

Create a proposal that can be discussed at our next AWSC meeting. Submit that to the Technology Coordinator as your Task Force Proposal.

If your Task Force needs more time, note it on this form and submit it as your report. No proposal is required if you are in process.

***KBDM Questions from Thought Force:***

**What do we know about our members (or prospective members) needs regarding this discussion?**

The Chairperson needs assistance during Assembly and AWSC. Things the chairperson may need are: handing out papers; communicate with the hotel regarding room temperature, schedule changes or more coffee is needed; assistance collecting lunch tickets, assistance with vote counts, etc.

**What do we know about the capacity and strategic position of the Area relative to this discussion?**

The Chairperson is a single individual. "Participation is the key to harmony." GEMs can feel left out of AWSC because they have no voice or vote. At Assembly, they have a voice, but still no vote.

**What do we know about the current realities and our fellowship's environment that is relevant to this discussion?**

Most people are confused about what a Sergeant at Arms does/did and what the role of a GEM at Assembly and AWSC. Each District has their own method of selecting GEMs and we want to ensure that we protect that autonomy.

**What are the ethical implications of our choices? Will our decisions be in line with our spiritual principles?**

There is discomfort with the title Sergeant at Arms. Our gentle program seems to be looking for a more gentle solution. By creating and defining the role of GEMs at Assembly and ASWC, it eliminates the confusion regarding the role of GEMs. It also allows the Chairperson to decide what assistance is needed and to have a clearly defined path for the solution.

***Task Force Summary / Findings:***

The Task Force met via conference call with the members signed into Google Drive so that we could look at/edit the proposal document while we talked. Prior to the phone call, we reviewed the Thought Force forms. We discussed the many different ways that GEMs are used by the Area: hospitality, registration, convention, etc. We also discussed the ways that the Sergeant at Arms was necessary in the past. That due to the relationship with the hotel,

they needed someone to tell them if the restrooms needed toilet paper or if the room was too hot, too cold, when the trash cans needed to be emptied, etc. The nature of our relationship with the older locations was that it was necessary to have someone dedicated to that. The current (and previous) hotel are much more service oriented. They have people checking on the cleanliness of the meeting rooms and restrooms. If we make a request of them, it is generally complied with.

In addition, now that we have changed from Robert's Rules to KBDM the title Sergeant at Arms seems out of place.

We came to the conclusion that it is no longer necessary to have a separate Sergeant at Arms Assignment for Assembly and AWSC. The Chairperson can choose someone from the GEMs already attending to communicate any needs to the hotel. The Chairperson can also use the GEMs to assist with other tasks during Assembly and AWSC. This will allow the Chairperson's need to be met and at the same time will help the GEMs to feel involved in Area meetings where they otherwise may be simply observers with no voice and/or vote.

**Task Force Recommendation:**

Please see the attached for our proposal.