



Alateen In BC/Yukon Area

Thought Force Report 2022

Thought Force summary and Knowledge-based Decision –making
(KBDM) Questions and Responses

Background Information about Alateen from our Service Manual pgs25-26

How Alateen came to be a part of Al-Anon Family Groups

Teenage children in the families of alcoholics soon realized that their problems differed from those of adult members. In 1957, Alateen grew out of this need. A 17-year-old boy, whose father was in A.A. and mother in Al-anon, had been fairly successful in trying to solve his problems by applying the A.A. steps and slogans. With his parents' encouragement, he asked five other teenagers with alcoholic parents to join him in forming a group to help other teenagers. The idea caught on, and the number of groups began to grow. By 2022, there were numerous Alateen pamphlets and books; a quarterly newsletter, *Alateen Talk*; and service materials for Alateen Group Sponsors. There are over 1,600 Alateen groups worldwide, including six Alateen meetings taking place electronically on a trial basis in the *Al-Anon Family Groups Mobile App*.

Part A-Summary of the Two Thought Force Charges

Charge 1. Is there a need for service to Alateen within the BC/Yukon Area? **Recommendation is YES**

Charge 2. What is the direction of Alateen within the BC/Yukon Area?

Recommendation is that the direction is back to the AI-Anon members themselves.

Part B- Thought Force Responses to Knowledge-based Decision-making Questions

1. What do we know about our members' or prospective members' needs that are relevant to this discussion?

- We know it is hard for the teens to come to a meeting without letting their parents know especially if their parents are not in recovery or even how to get to the meeting without their parents help.
- We know that it is difficult to get the message to the teens without a lot of public outreach
- We know that the AI-Anon members are the parents or grandparents of alcoholics and need to be willing to encourage the teens to come to Alateen meetings
- We know that there are not enough meetings for the teens to go to in their own neighborhoods

2. What do we know about the resources and our vision for the organization that is relevant to this discussion?

- We know the World Service Office has an on-line app. That teens can access if they can get online and know about this app.
- We know teens are more familiar with technology and might be more comfortable with this than a face-to-face meeting
- We have Al-Anon members that are willing to be Alateen sponsors and AMIAS', but we need more meetings for the teens to go to
- We know Al-Anon and A.A. members can help bring teens to Alateen

3. What do we know about the current realities and evolving dynamics of the world and our fellowship that is relevant to this discussion? What are the Pros and Cons?

Current Realities

- In 2019 the covid-19 Pandemic did hurt our face-to-face meetings with the restrictions that forced many groups to be inactive or go to online platforms like Zoom
- The AMIAS or group sponsors were not able to have criminal record checks for getting certified because the police stations were closed and back logged once they reopened
- We could not access schools or malls for public outreach or use the churches for meetings

Pros

- Using online tools was perhaps more appealing for the teens
- Talking with other teens is better than meeting with adults
- No need to ask parents for a ride
- More anonymous

Cons

- Limited privacy at home with parents checking on their screen time
- Limited meetings online in our time zone having to sign in on an app. Or not knowing how to get online
- Not the same feel as a face to face meeting the warmth and love of our experience, strength and hope

4. What are the ethical implications of our choices? In other words, will our decision be consistent with our spiritual principles?

- If we don't keep the meetings going, we will lose the teens and possible future Al-Anon members
- If we let the WSO have the only platform, then we could again lose the teens in our BC/Yukon Area
- Have we tried everything? Recovery and growth for Al-Anon members is lost too when there are no Alateen meetings

What do we wish we knew, but don't?

- Where are the teens? And how do we reach them?
- Covid-19 and public outreach was a big factor
- Not being in touch regularly also impacted the Al-Anon membership and AMIAS'

With gratitude in Al-Anon and Alateen Service:

Michelle W., Marcella D., Esther L., Annette H., Gail S.