



Al-Anon & Alateen Family Groups

BC/YUKON AREA BULLETIN

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Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to Al-Anon as a whole

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We're on the web!

Website Access:

www.bcyukon-al-anon.org

To access "members" pages:

Username: **member**

Password: **Area81**
(all one word)

Area Chair's Report

Hello everyone,

Thank you to all who attended our Area World Service Committee Meeting over *Zoom* on May 28th and 29th! I think we had a successful first Virtual AWSCM! It was wonderful to see all your faces and enjoy some fun and fellowship even though we had no hugs, and to hear from our District Representatives about the successes and challenges they have experienced since the pandemic hit.

There were lots of highlights, in particular our Delegate's report from the World Service Conference. A summary of the weekend is included in the pages of this Bulletin. Please share the information about the business items with your groups so that they can decide how they wish to go forward with their votes.

The Group Representatives will be voting on behalf of their groups at Assembly this September 24th and 25th. We will be meeting again this way for our Assembly this year, but next year we will be able to meet again face to face and what a welcome joy that will be!!

In the next few Bulletins, there will be information about the upcoming Assembly and a draft Agenda. You will also be seeing plans for a celebration for Al-Anon's 70th Anniversary on October 23rd. Lots of fun and excitement to look forward to!

Anyone interested in upcoming Area Officer and Coordinator positions can find resumes and job descriptions on the BC/Yukon website www.bcyukon-al-anon.org. Remember that District Representatives that have completed a 3-year term or are currently completing their third year are eligible to let their names stand for the upcoming elected Area Officer positions of Delegate, Alternate Delegate, and Treasurer. I hope the summary captures the

information you need to go forward; and if anyone has questions or comments, please contact me or any of the Officers and Coordinators.

Shannon P.

BC/Yukon Area Chair

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BC/Yukon AWSCM 2021 Review and Summary - May 28-29 ZOOM “Moving Forward with Unity, Courage and Perseverance”

Friday Evening

We went over our Goals for AWSCM and set the tone for respectful discussion and presuming goodwill.

We were introduced to and heard a few words from all the Officers, Coordinators and Liaisons as well as past Delegates that were in attendance.

Ally, our Alternate Delegate, presented a remarkably interesting, informative and helpful District Representative Orientation with PowerPoint. Some points she covered were how crucial the role of District Representative is in our Links of Service in getting the information from our Delegate and the World Service Conference to our Groups (information highway).

Three essential points for service leadership are:

- carry your Higher Power with you
- remember you are never alone in Al-Anon
- use your Service Manual! You don't need to have all the answers; they are all in the Service Manual, and a service sponsor can be of great help. The Officers and Coordinators are always available to help.

Ally also talked about the role of the District Representative and what information is important to take back to your groups and some ideas for activities, meetings, etc. that can be found in your Service Manual as well.

We heard reports from our 3rd Year District Representatives: Donna H. (D6), Shaelee M. (D32), Nancy M. (D20), Betty A. (Alt. DR (D15), Lory M. (D27) and Patty T. (D14).

We reviewed who the voting members were and decided on our Voting Procedure of Simple Majority for the weekend.

Saturday Morning

We passed a motion to accept our Consent Agenda.

Janis gave us the Treasurer's report (which was in the Bulletin) and we passed a motion to accept it.

Asked District Representatives to please ask groups to send contributions to Janis and not the previous treasurers. Because of the pandemic and not meeting in person, we did not create a budget this year, but we are in a good financial position.

We heard reports from 2nd year District Representatives: Tanis R. (D18), Andrea C. (D19), Lynne G. (D8), Akemi M. (D5), Annette P. (D26), Carol (D10), Leona (D17).

After the break we heard reports from our 1st year District Representatives: Audrey P. (D2), Bill G. (D16), Linda M. (D4), Elke H. (D9), Eileen C. (D11), Trish M. (D25), Terry S. (D21).

Our Delegate, Lynn, gave us her report from her last experience of the World Service Conference in April (from her office at home in Courtenay, sadly) and we heard all kinds of new and exciting news. You can read all about it on the website! She included a fun scavenger hunt with questions about our Concepts with prizes for those with the correct answers! Her report was a real highlight of the weekend!

Saturday Afternoon

Jody did the District Representative Roll Call and there were 16 District Representatives in attendance and 13 Officers, Coordinators and Liaisons in attendance at that time.

Topics for discussion were the need to bring the outstanding 2019 Motion for Public Outreach Institutions to Assembly as well as the recommendations from the Task Force for the Group Representatives to vote on.

1. Public Outreach Task Force- Lois K. gave us a summary of the Task Force from 2019 and presented the findings and recommendations to the District Representatives (full report in April Bulletin).

Any questions for the Task Force can be sent to the Officers and will be forwarded to the Task Force members.

Comments of note were: A reminder that until Gail S. recently took over as Public Outreach Coordinator, no one had been in either Public Outreach position for two years. Some felt that having two Coordinators was double-headed management.

In 2016 we tried to give the Public Outreach Coordinator support with the Institutions Coordinator, as our Area is large. It did not work out, but a committee to support the Public Outreach Coordinator was thought to be a good option. *It seems that the Task Force recommendations are naturally evolving anyway.*

1. We polled the District Representatives for expressions of interest for the position of Delegate, Alternate Delegate and Treasurer. Elected positions require that a 3-year District Representative term has been completed in the past or currently being completed. For Delegate, we had Ally G. (D17) and Joy P. (D21) put their names forward. Joy has since decided against letting her name stand.

For Alternate Delegate, we had Owen H. (D1) and Lory M. (D27) let their names stand.

For Treasurer, for the remaining year of the term we had no one put their name forward. Janis is willing to finish the term, but she encourages anyone interested to please put their name forward.

We have several Coordinator positions available: Alateen, Group Records, Public Outreach Coordinator, and Archives. Gail S. is currently filling in the last year of the Public Outreach term and has indicated she would be happy to stand again if no one puts a resume in but also encourages others if interested.

2. Transforming Electronic meetings into AFG's

Lynn B., our delegate, informed us about the World Service Conference decision to recognize the over 700 registered Permanent Electronic Groups as AI-Anon Family Groups so that there is no distinction between face to face, electronic or hybrid meetings. These are not groups that are temporarily meeting over Zoom because of the pandemic, so not to worry. These are registered groups that have been around for years but are not connected to any geographic Area. They will now have their own virtual Area (non-panel Area) and have all the rights and responsibilities of any AI-Anon Family Group. Lynn noted that if you are looking for an Electronic Meeting, please look on the al-anon.org website or the AI-Anon app for a WSO registered meeting as there are several rogue meetings out there. Lynn will send out information and guidelines to all District Representatives and Coordinators and we will talk about this more at Assembly.

3. Future Hybrid AWSCM/Assemblies

Janis started the discussion about our Area Events being held as Hybrid gatherings in the future. Everyone agreed that the Officers would strike a Task Force using Knowledge Based Decision Making to bring information to the Group Representatives at Assembly in September. Since we met, we have a Task Force of five members that have agreed to work together on this and will have their report in the Bulletin before we meet for Assembly. There is much to work on and not much time. We need Districts to think about who will be hosting AWSCM next year and there is a lot to consider.

4. AI-Anon's 70th Anniversary Celebration

Gail has an informal group of volunteers from different districts currently working with her and meeting regularly. There was a suggestion to have an Alternate for support, but it was noted

that Alternate positions are notoriously hard to fill, and there was a reminder of the job description (see G38 and the BC Yukon Website). The Public Outreach Coordinator is a communication link between the WSO and the Area to inform members of available resources and encourage their use. The job can be as big as you want it to be, but it does not necessarily require two people.

2. Webmaster Motion - We talked about the need to bring this to Assembly for the Group Representatives to decide. Dennis and Annette presented some history.

It has evolved into a very technical, and complicated job to maintain the website. The job involves the back-end work, coding, dealing with email issues and system failures etc. If there are questions, Annette has offered to have questions emailed to her.

Patty spoke to her job as Website Coordinator and how it is quite different from Webmaster.

Webmaster is not a Coordinator position. It is a technical position so the person in this job would not be required to attend Assembly/AWSCM or Area functions. The person doing the job would not need to be an AI-Anon member although it is preferable. Other Areas pay for a Webmaster to maintain the Webpage. It is not unheard of. The amount we are paying Annette is an average amount typically paid and actually below market rate which can be between \$80-400/mo.-We paid RW Global initially to build the Website and technology has changed. Annette rebuilt the original site and has the maintenance down. We are lucky to have Annette, and we could not continue to draw on her skills and expertise. We are self-supporting. It is part of the expense of running the Area, like renting hotels etc. for Area events. It is not a job that can just be taught. You either have the education and skills or you don't.

3. Area Alateen Process Person – Ally spoke about this and gave some background information. This needs to be brought to Assembly for a motion to combine the Alateen Coordinator position and the AAPP job description.

The position is currently vacant however the current Alateen Coordinator is willing to continue with both positions, and feels it is manageable for one person to do the job, as it has evolved over time.

She feels more connected to the AMIAS now, because when the previous person served as AAPP they had most of the contact. There was a concern again about double-headed management.

There was a concern about sometimes having difficulty contacting the Coordinator and having two would make that easier. Also, that there was comfort in knowing there was another person to connect with. Reminded that the other Officers and Coordinators are there to help as well. You decided you had enough information about the Topics for Discussion to take to your groups.

New Business

Gail S., Public Outreach Coordinator, announced that we are invited to celebrate this anniversary on October 23, 2021, from 10 am – 3 pm. More will be revealed.

Lory M. gave us a report on how the Alateen online meetings are going and there have been a handful of teens showing up and several AMIAS showing interest.

Ally and Annette compiled the success and challenges from all the District Representative Reports and here are the highlights!!

The Wins:

Groups running well.

Perseverance, adaptive and creative in making meetings work in this tough time, lots of outside, Zoom and a couple hybrid meetings.

Email communication has been adequate to work out District issues.

Still having regular District meetings over Zoom.

More face-to-face meetings opening up now after a very tough and unpredictable year.

Maintaining the ad in the newspaper.

Alateen alive and well online.

Had local speakers on Zoom to discourage travel, got to know local members better this way.

Meeting new people on Zoom for meetings, workshops, and events from around the world.

A couple Districts have more meetings now than before the pandemic.

Healthy bank accounts.

One District had a 15-week study group over Zoom.

Some Districts have all positions filled!

The challenges:

Pandemic reality and technology.

Not meeting in person.

Disconnected groups.

Difficulty staying motivated with only ZOOM meetings.

Difficulty for elderly members.

Members are 'Zoomed out' and tired of electronic meetings. (Mentioned numerous times).

Meeting spaces closed.

Strange reality to be a District Representative during a pandemic.

Venue issues. (Mentioned numerous times)

Concerns about Alateen and lack of members.

Problems filling service positions; and lack of rotation of leadership.

Plans for District activities disrupted and disappointing.

Not seeing newcomers stay.

Some groups have closed.

Nervous about resumption of face-to-face meetings and protocols.

Districts without a District Representative.

Delegate's Message

Dear Al-Anon/Alateen Family,

I would like to echo Shannon's kudos to all for participating in our very first virtual Area World Service Committee Meeting in May and making it such a success. In spite of ourselves, we in BC/Yukon Area are truly *"Moving Forward with Unity, Courage and Perseverance."*

I would like to follow up on a few items that I mentioned in my Delegate's Report:

Lois' Picnic at Stepping Stones, June 5, 2021 – This was the second virtual annual picnic at the historic home of Lois and Bill W., parents of Al-Anon and AA, marking 70 years of Al-Anon. Even now as I am writing this, I am finding it hard to believe how personal and real it felt to be there in virtual attendance. The event was narrated by the Executive Director of Stepping Stones and included a virtual tour of the home and grounds, now a National Historic site; a peek inside the archives with more than 10,000 items soon available online with their new website launched on "picnic day"; a play about *Lois and Bill – Their Journey in Letters*; and of course, AA, Alateen and Al-Anon speakers. Lois was truly humble and even as she was honored and revered by so

many, she said “All I am is a symbol of Al-Anon.” May all of us be guided by her words and strive to follow in her footsteps as we do our best to live according to the Legacies of Al-Anon.

Al-Anon Membership Survey, June 16, 2021, through July 27, 2021 – al-anon.org/membershipsurvey to participate. The survey takes place every three years, takes only 15 minutes, is open to all Al-Anon members over the age of 18, is completely anonymous and is mobile friendly. The results collected provide data-supported proof of Al-Anon’s impact on members’ quality of life. Such information is helpful not only to Al-Anon members, but also to professionals in becoming more informed about the value of Al-Anon. That could result in more referrals, more newcomers in meetings and a stronger fellowship for all of us. Please complete the survey, consider opting-in to be part of the longitudinal study, and encourage your group members to take part too.

Electronic Meetings – At the World Service Conference in April, members voted to recognize electronic meetings as Al-Anon Family Groups with the same rights and responsibilities as existing geographically-based Al-Anon Family Groups. To accommodate such groups a virtual Area was created to accommodate the electronic groups so that they can be full participants in our links of service. I have included elsewhere in this Bulletin a guide for geographically based Areas to consider when Transforming Electronic Meetings Into Al-Anon Family Groups. This will be included as a topic of discussion during Assembly in September. Please be reassured that any existing Al-Anon Family Groups that have been meeting electronically temporarily and choose to remain fully electronic or hybrid are not affected. I encourage you to review the document, discuss it with your fellow members and think about how we in BC/Yukon Area can move forward to best serve all our members, whether in person or virtually.

In closing, I thank all who attended Area World Service Committee Meeting for your feedback on my Delegate’s report and for taking the time to ask questions. The report is posted on the BC/Yukon website; and I will share it again with some updates at Assembly. As always, I welcome your comments and thanks for supporting me as your trusted servant.

With gratitude in service,

Lynn B., Area Delegate

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Transforming Electronic Meetings into Al-Anon Family Groups A Guide for Geographically Based Areas in the WSC Structure

About This Guide

Well, we did it! Al-Anon’s largest group conscience, the World Service Conference (WSC), has recognized Electronic Meetings as Al-Anon Family Groups and they have become part of our

AI-Anon service structure. As a Delegate at the 2021 WSC, you have been part of history! And we bet you may be wondering:

- What does this mean for our Area?
- What do we need to do next?
- How soon do we need to answer these questions?

This document offers **guidance for you and your Area** in holding an informed group conscience to answer these questions!

Definitions

As a reminder, this guide relates to **permanent registered groups which meet only electronically**, i.e., those without a physical component. Groups meeting temporarily via electronic platforms during the pandemic are expected to eventually resume meeting in their physical locations, with or without an electronic component, and source their trusted servants from within the geographic Area. These groups will not need to reregister with the geographic Area. (See Appendix A—Existing Groups in Geographic Areas)

Resources

You may find it helpful to review the “Changing a group/District to a new Area” (p. 158) portion of the “World Service Handbook” section of the 2018-2021 AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27) version two (2) as you prepare for Area conversations.

Using This Guide

First Things First Let us begin by stating clearly that **no decisions are immediately necessary**. Geographic **Areas have a year** before the WSO can provide them the opportunity to begin registering groups which meet only electronically. Below is the fastest anticipated timeline. Areas can take as much time as they need before deciding when and how to begin registering groups which meet electronically.

April 2021 – March 2022:

- Areas discuss and decide whether and how they might accept groups which meet only electronically in their service structure—defining Area policies and procedures, if appropriate.
- WSO supports groups which meet only electronically in the non-panel Area to elect GRs, a temporary chairperson, and a Delegate.
- WSO makes changes to group forms, database systems, and the Online Group Records platform to enable geographic Areas to welcome these new groups and begin maintaining their group records.

April 2022: WSC members consider admitting the new Area to the WSC (if the non-panel Area has completed its preparation process).

May 2022: Groups intending to remain geographically local and having the desire to participate in the local service structure may petition a geographically based Area for admission, i.e., permission to move from one Area to another.

Planning the Process Delegates are encouraged to begin the conversation about admitting groups which meet only electronically with their Areas as quickly as possible following the 2021 WSC. If the next Area Assembly does not occur shortly after the 2021 WSC, Areas may wish to consider other approaches, such as town hall meetings, workshops, and panel discussions, for holding conversations with their groups. To complete the process, Areas need to:

- Inform Group Representatives (GRs) and District Representatives (DRs) about the questions to be answered and decisions to be made. • Plan the timeline for DRs to discuss District impacts and share these with the AWSC, if possible, prior to the 2022 WSC.
- Plan when GRs can bring the voice of their groups to an Area Assembly, if possible, prior to the 2022 WSC.
- Define when and who might create Area procedures for admitting groups which meet only electronically from other Areas.

Areas may consider forming a Thought Force to answer the Knowledge-Based, Decision Making questions and understand what else is known or unknown. The Area may wish to consider how to include AI-Anon's spiritual principles in the discussions. Members may find readings on Tradition One, Tradition Two, Tradition Four, Concept Nine, or Warranty Three of Concept Twelve relevant and helpful.

Making an Informed Decision

What Do We Know?

Through conversations held regularly with permanent electronic meetings as part of its representative role, the WSO has gained insight into considerations Areas may need to discuss before making an informed group conscience decision about admitting groups which meet electronically to their Area.

- Groups which 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.

What Do We Need to Know?

To make an informed decision at the Area level, it may be helpful to discuss the following questions at the group level:

Question 1

What are the potential benefits of welcoming non-geographically based groups into our geographically based Area? What are the potential risks? Are there any options for overcoming the risks?

Question 2

Groups which meet electronically often attract members who do not reside within the geographic boundaries of the Area. These members may be encouraged and willing to serve our groups, Districts, and Area as trusted servants. What impact might this have on our District and Area service structure? What impact might this have on how our Area service responsibilities are fulfilled?

Question 3

Groups which meet on electronic platforms and seek to participate in the local structure may have trusted servants who reside in different locations across the geographic Area. How would the Area determine in which District(s) these groups would participate? These questions may be helpful to discuss at District and Area levels.

Question 4

How might Areas Assemblies and District meetings need to change to accommodate trusted servants living within and outside the Area? Would Areas need new service roles to support groups which meet electronically? Why or why not? Are our groups willing to financially support additional Area service roles and/or technology?

Question 5

Because Electronic Meetings were not a part of any service structure, some of their members may not have participated in District and Area meetings. How might our Area welcome and support them? How might we help them understand the service structure in our Districts and Area? For example, are members willing to organize service workshops? Are members willing to act as Service Sponsors? What other kinds of support could our members provide? Are there any kinds of support which it would be wise for us not to provide?

What Does the Area Need to Decide?

Recognizing that in accordance with Concept One the ultimate responsibility and authority for Al-Anon services within our Area belongs to its Al-Anon groups, Areas whose groups have discussed these questions may find themselves ready to answer the following:

- Does our Area wish to permit groups which meet electronically to participate in our Area service structure?
-
- If so, what guidelines and boundaries might our Area need to define regarding service participation in our Districts and Assembly? What other changes to our service structure might be required?

Appendix A: Existing Groups in Geographic Areas

Hybrid Groups

The 2021 WSC decision to recognize permanent electronic meetings as AI-Anon Family Groups removed the AI-Anon Policy barrier which had prevented registration of groups which meet face-to-face while also providing an electronic platform for those who cannot or do not wish to attend in person, aka hybrid groups. The WSO has no plans to distinguish groups as face-to-face, electronically only, or hybrid. All groups are AI-Anon Family Groups—the only difference is their meeting location or locations.

Groups which were meeting temporarily on electronic platforms due to the pandemic that choose to continue meeting using a hybrid approach once restrictions are lifted do not need to inform the WSO.

Areas can now register hybrid groups without violating Policy; however, the WSO Online Group Records program does not currently permit capturing both a physical address and an electronic platform location for any AI-Anon Family Group. Therefore, Areas which choose to register hybrid groups need to decide how the electronic component will be captured and displayed for the time being.

The WSO's immediate focus following this historical WSC decision is to enable Area Group Records Coordinators to welcome and maintain group records for groups which meet only electronically. In the future, the WSO may expand that capability based on the experience and needs expressed by Areas which have groups meeting in a hybrid manner.

Groups Meeting Electronically Temporarily Which Choose to Stay Fully Electronic

Some AI-Anon Family Groups which have been meeting on electronic platforms temporarily during the pandemic may choose not to return to a face-to-face setting. These groups do not need to reregister; however, technical system limitations will preclude Area Group Record Coordinators, and even the AFG Records Team, from updating meeting location information for these groups through the Online Group Records application until the WSO Staff has completed the application development work. Geographic Areas, which in their autonomy have completed their discussions and reached an informed decision about Area procedures related to groups which meet electronically, can work with the WSO Staff on making any updates possible in the meantime.

Alternate Delegate

Hello AI-Anon Friends.

I hope that as you read this you are well and healthy. There are those among us who aren't well; for those folks we hold space to allow for a lightness of spirit to carry them forward.

In the coming months you will be receiving information from the Area regarding proposed changes and modifications for our Area Events. You may wonder what the origin is for the changes; what the considerations are and who makes the decisions and, basically, how and by whom decisions are managed within our Area.

The short, very short, answer is addressed in Tradition Two: *For our group purpose there is but one authority – a loving God as He may express himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.* To paraphrase, the groups make the decisions. Pretty simple.

However, there are practical questions about information gathering, sharing, are processes to be considered too. Here is a very quick run-down on the ins and outs of decision making in BC/Yukon AI-Anon.

Firstly, we have motions in our Area that help guide us. For instance, a 2007 motion reads: *Move that Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM) be the process used for recommendations and motions at AWSCM and Assembly.* This guides our process. But how do we get to the question? A question often originates at an Officer/Coordinator meeting. The question usually starts out as a discussion about an issue in the Area. For instance, how will we return to face-to-face Area events post-pandemic? This a broad question with many, many considerations, and variables. With a complicated question, the Area Chair, Shannon, asks if a Thought Force or Task Force is needed.

Very generally, a Thought Force is a group of AI-Anon members, including trusted servants, who are asked to consider a topic using KBDM. The thought force is asked to consider issues using program resources, including service experience of the group, and may make recommendations resulting from their research. “Thought forces and ‘thinkers’, not “doers”. (P71 AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2018-2021).

Or, a Task Force (the group tasked with the above question) may be formed; again, a temporary group of AI-Anon members and trusted servants. This group are “doers”. They may follow recommendations of a Thought Force or prepare work for AI-Anon members to consider. They also may make recommendations to the members.

(For further information about Thought Forces and Task Forces, please refer to pages 70-72 in the AI-Anon/Alateen Service manual 2018-2021).

It’s important to remember that neither group makes decisions. Because, as noted above, the decision makers are the groups. It may be useful to think of both Thought Forces and Task Forces as ‘information gatherers and problem solvers.

The information from a Thought or Task Force is presented to the membership. In BC/Yukon, we use our service publication, The Bulletin, to disseminate information so both District and Group Representatives can have useful conversations with their group members. Decisions about Area questions are made at Area Assembly by the voting members: the Group Representatives.

There are BIG things happening in the world right now and our AI-Anon program will not be immune to the changes and adjustments needed that have been highlighted by a global pandemic. However, we can take great comfort in this time of change by utilizing the tools and experience of our program.

I will leave you with a passage out of Courage to Change, page 332. *“I needn’t fear the challenges of the future, because I know that today, with the guidance of my Higher Power and with the strength and knowledge I have gained from Al-Anon, I am capable of facing anything life brings me.”*

Stay well friends.

Respectfully in service,

Ally G.

Alternate Delegate Al-Anon BC Yukon

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Knowledge-Based Decision-Making Process to Reach an Informed Group Conscience

In a Knowledge-Based Decision-Making (KBDM) culture, full discussion of an idea takes place (with background information introduced to frame the topic) before a motion is presented. Sometimes these discussions go on over long periods of time before any decision for a motion or action is made.

KBDM requires a lot of research and information gathering before and possibly even during the discussion. At the end of a discussion, further information and knowledge may be necessary to come to an informed group conscience. A motion need not be made after every discussion. Premature action (e.g., making or amending motions early in the discussion or hastily calling the question) can divert attention from the subject at hand, thus confusing and/or delaying District or Assembly business.

With KBDM, the decision reached is usually one that most Al-Anon members can support since everyone had access to the same information and the minority voice was heard during the discussion.

There are five key elements to the Knowledge-Based Decision-Making process to reach an informed group conscience.

- Open communication between leadership and membership
- Dialogue before deliberation
- All decision-makers have common access to full information
- Existence in a culture of trust
- Confidence in the competency of our partners

The decision-making process aligns with our spiritual principles:

- **Equality** - gives equal weight to everyone’s opinions and distributes information equally before the discussion.

- **Trust** - allows thorough examination of all information by encouraging us to keep an open mind.
- **Unity** - promotes unity when we work together toward a common goal.
- **Humility** - allows for decisions to be more important than who makes the decisions.
- **Respect** - allows for a conversation and often a conversation is enough - a motion may not be necessary.

Knowledge-Based Decision-Making Process

Information Exchange

The purpose of information exchange is to ensure that “All decision-makers have common access to full information.” This demonstrates the spiritual principle of mutual respect. Historical perspectives, motions that are related, etc. are shared with everyone. We value our archives for the wealth of information that is housed there.

It is recommended that the background information includes a frame of the topic. Frequently, the five KBDM questions are answered by a sub-committee to facilitate the facts, beliefs, concerns, etc. The questions can be modified specific to the issue to be discussed.

Question 1: What do we know about our members’ or prospective members’ wants, needs, or preferences that are relevant to this discussion?

Question 2: What do we know about the capacity and strategic position of the organization relative to this issue?

Question 3: What do we know about the current realities and evolving dynamics that are relevant to this discussion?

Question 4: What are the ethical implications of our choices (pros and cons)? This includes consideration of how the Legacies apply.

Pros:

Cons:

Question 5: What do we wish we knew, but don’t?

Background Discussion

It is important that everyone understands the facts related to the issue(s) before discussion. Therefore, the following steps must be taken in sequence:

1. **Question and Answer:** this ensures equal understanding. This is not timed since it is important that all questions are answered clearly and fully. No opinions are allowed during this step.
2. **Summation:** this is an opportunity to clarify what was heard and ensure full understanding of the facts.
3. **Discussion:** it is important to follow the procedures of the service arm (Ex.2 minutes at

microphone, do not repeat what another has already stated, etc.). It is during the discussion that particular aspects of a potential motion are identified.

Decision Making

Once the discussion has concluded, it becomes clearer about the next step. There are three options:

- Motion (follow District/Assembly Voting Procedures)
- Return issue to a sub-committee to gain further information to be brought back to the District/Assembly
- Make no decision because the discussion made it clear that no action is needed

Public Outreach

Hello my AI-Anon Family,

I wanted to remind everyone about the **70th Anniversary Celebration** of AI-Anon being held **October 23rd** on Zoom. The topic will be around Then and Now, how AI-Anon has changed through the years. Also, if you would like to participate, our monthly Public Outreach meeting is the 4th Saturday of every month in which we exchange ideas and plan the 70th. Doing service work will enhance your experience of recovery in AI-Anon, so please jump on board with Public Outreach and have some fun!!

Hugs In Service,

Gail Schuler

Public Outreach Coordinator BC/Yukon

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Alateen

Hello fellow AI-Anon members,

I hope you are well and staying safe during what has been the longest time period in my recent history. I am so grateful for the lessons I have learned and the many opportunities to use my AI-Anon program tools.

I have just completed the AMIAS certification of our Area for 2021, and am looking forward to Assembly, whatever form that looks like.

I have had some email inquiries from community members wanting to start an Alateen group or where they can send their young people.

I want to thank everyone who has stepped up in Alateen Service, and a special shout out to our Area Delegate and her Alternate for always supporting me and checking if I need any help. This has been a huge help and a great way to keep me connected in service, which is very much appreciated. I love my AI-Anon Family!!!

Finally, I want to acknowledge this wonderful program for keeping me grounded and growing in to the person my Higher Power wants me to be. We are not alone anymore, and I am blessed to belong to an amazing program of recovery. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Michelle W.

alateen@bcyukon-al-anon.org

Archives

Many of you will recall this cake, Celebrating 50 Years of Al-Anon. We have come a long way since then.

We are now celebrating 70 years and are proficient at using computers and attending meetings online. Who would have thought back then when someone said: "How would that internet thing even get into my house?"

Best to all as we move into our future with the Steps, Traditions and Concepts.



Remember, the position of Archivist is still open and available for someone to step into service.

Central Services

In my position as Central Services Office Chair, I was present and reported to the AWSC meeting May 28/29, 2021. I am the liaison between our AI-Anon Information Service/Literature Depot, AWSCM and Assembly; this is a “link of service”.

FINDING A MEETING - Central Services keeps a “bank” of meeting information, face to face, and online. This information comes directly from the groups. They e-mail or phone in their meeting “need to know” information; and if it is new or if it has changed, we are ready to inform those requesting the information. This information is given over the phone, by e-mail, or in person.

There may be CHANGES coming, and if your meeting information changes, you know what to do.

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THE OFFICE - Central Service

1. We are well-stocked with literature although some is back ordered because WSO is waiting for the publication. Phone in your order with your instructions for delivery or pick up. Mail orders just take a few days.
2. Signage is soon to be in place on the front door - no more guessing which front door is ours. A buzzer system for entry has been installed at the front door and in the garage, just buzz and Cynthia, our acting Office Manager will respond.
3. The SEARCH continues for a permanent Office Manger which is a very part-time paid position. Just think you could be immersed in AI-Anon. Oh how we love that, sitting there answering newcomer phone calls, surrounded by all that literature; it is too good to be true. Just give Cynthia a call at the Office and she can arrange for you to drop in or give you more details of the position. See previous Bulletins for a job description, and commentaries about the position.

Yours in Service,

Lynne G.

Central Services Office Chair 604-688-1716

afgcentraloffice@gmail.com <http://afgcentraloffice.blogspot.ca/>

It is with sad news that I announce the passing of Nancy M., BC/Yukon’s past Treasurer and Public Outreach Coordinator. Nancy not only talked AI-Anon, but walked AI-Anon. Peace and consolation to her family and our AI-Anon family.



Officers and Coordinators 2021

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1. An electronic version of the BC/Yukon Area Bulletin is available free online at www.bcyukon-al-anon.org in the "**Members**" section. Username "**member**", password "**Area81**".
2. **Sign up for automatic monthly email delivery** by visiting <https://www.bcyukon-al-anon.org/bc-yukon-bulletin/>

Paper Copies of the Bulletin:

Payment information: Make the cheque for \$24.00 out to "**BC/Yukon Area Assembly**" and mail to Jean Hopley (no reference to Al-Anon), 7213 Aldeen Rd., Prince George, B.C. V2N 5P7.