

Thought Force for Al-Anon State Convention

7/29/13 – Attending Cheryl A, Ann J, Karen D, Susan B, Carol V, Ferrell N

Defined loosely the term “State Convention”: Is not an Area business meeting, but a gathering for the fellowship to enjoy panels, workshop, and speakers with AA participation.

KBDM:

1. What do we know about current or prospective members’ needs that are relevant?
 - a. The Al-Anon members attending the Area business meetings would like to attend workshop and panels since we have eliminated them at the Assemblies.
 - b. Want and need the fun and fellowship
 - c. Increase unity in the Area by participating and getting to know each other at a different level than what is currently done today.
 - d. Desire for family activities where all can participate.
 - e. Encourages cooperation between Al-Anon/Alateen and AA.
2. What do we know about resources and our vision for Al-Anon that is relevant?
 - a. Our resources/participation for service at business meetings is low.
 - b. We may need to cut down the Fall Assembly to 1 day
 - c. We have untapped resources that are not GR/DR that would love to help out planning a convention. This may fill a need within our community.
 - d. The convention can be held in different places within the state.
 - e. We had a TEAM service event in this Area outside of a business meeting and it was profitable.
 - f. From the TEAM event survey – people asked for a state convention.
 - g. AA resources as we can collaborate with not just for money, but recovery as well.
 - h. Encourage family unity
3. What do we know about current realities and evolving dynamics in the world and our fellowship that are relevant?
 - a. Service is thought of as work
 - b. Our economy is in a difficult place and people are tight with their monies.
 - c. Panels were taken out of our Assemblies
 - d. Our membership is declining – this convention could help it grow.
 - e. We have not had consistent AA participation at our Assemblies for a while

- f. AA and Al-Anon do have conflicts with are Assemblies and Conferences being during the same time frames in the Spring and Fall. This event could be planned where no conflict exists.
 - g. AA Area 74/75 are looking at having a state convention.
 - h. We have enthusiastic members wanting a state convention.
 - i. There is a difference between a business meeting and convention.
4. What are the ethical implications of our choices? Will our decision be consistent with our spiritual principles, policies, and legacies?
- a. No ethical implications as long as we follow our Traditions and Concepts in designing and planning our convention.
 - b. The convention must be Al-Anon with AA participation – it cannot be a “joint” venture.
 - c. The area should participate in the convention, we advise forming an advisory board to possibly from the Policy Committee to help/guide any questions about spiritual principles, polices, and legacies.
5. What do we wish we knew, but don't?
- a. How many people will show up?
 - b. Will AA participate?
 - c. How often should we have one?
 - d. Location?
 - e. How soon can we have one?
 - f. How much time to plan one?
 - g. Will people step up to help?
 - h. Will we make money?

Follow ups:

Carol V will follow up with AA 74/75 to see what discussions they are having about putting on a state convention.

Susan B will present to the DR's at the AWSC to show what we have completed. Our recommendation is to prepare our DR's to pass along this information to the GR's so at the Fall Assembly place time in the agenda to have discussion with the fellowship on their thoughts and their wishes to either continue on or not and what next steps they would like us to take.

Your Thought Force.