

## Event Thought Force Report to AWSC

March 3, 2017

### Charge:

Review the coordination of all WIUPMI Area events, including AWSC, Assembly, Convention, & TEAM. Refer to WSO guidelines & other Areas.

Questions: Do we need an Events Coordinator position & what is the job description?  
Do we need to continue both the Assembly & Convention Coordinator positions?

Using the KBDM questions, we came up with the following points:

1. What do we know about our membership's needs, wants and preferences that are relevant to this discussion?
  - Our members want to have a convention
  - Our area needs to do business and a place to meet for that purpose
  - Our area needs to have a person to coordinate these events
  - Assembly meetings can be poorly attended (group/district finances, distance, small groups vs. large groups).
  - We are a rural area with very rural districts.
  - Many members can't afford to attend the assemblies and convention as well
  
2. What do we know about our resources (finances, membership participation, etc.) that is relevant to this topic?
  - We had great participation at the 2017 convention and wish to continue that level of participation
  - Our area's finances are in good shape at this time and should continue in the foreseeable future
  - We have many talented members who wish to contribute to are area's success
  - Getting the word out to members helps with conference registration (registrations increased - personal invites to groups due to mentioning it at area meeting).
  
3. What do we know about the current realities (membership, culture, etc,) and our fellowship's environment (technology, spiritual principles, our Steps, Traditions, and Concepts) that is relevant to this topic?
  - As an area, we are willing to use new technologies which may be helpful for someone who may want to serve in a coordinator position
  - Prices at the Mead continue to rise
  - Both coordinator positions are currently held by one person
  - Not all groups/districts have technology access or members with skills/access capability.
  - Steps, Traditions, Concepts are approached differently at the group levels. (Structure is there, but use of is different.).
  - Group members may not be "as aware" of district/area functions.
  - In the fall we are duplicating at Assembly & Convention such things as speakers and basket raffles that maybe could benefit more if only done at the Convention
  
4. What are the ethical implications of our choices (pros and cons)? In other words, will our decision be consistent with our spiritual principles?

### Pros:

- Changing venues for assemblies may be less expensive
- Having one coordinator position may allow less duplication of tasks
- Convention will reach out to more members and help them see the whole organization.
- Convention assists members in making connections and networking with program (recovery) based individuals.
- Assembly helps group reps/district reps see the greater whole of Al-Anon.

### Cons:

- The tasks assigned to an Event Coordinator may be too much for one person

- Group Reps/District Reps are not aware of issues before coming to vote on business matters (didn't know online – how to access).
- Group Reps/District Reps not aware of business meeting etiquette.
- Training of Service Manual and group operations should be required for reps.
- Groups/Districts use of Service Manual (purchase of/use of) in meetings? Not sure of use or consistency across the area.
- Length of business meetings – exhausted reps wanting to get home. Are the decisions made for the best interest or just wanting to end the day?

5. What do we wish we knew but don't?

- If and when prices for venues may increase
- Will anyone be willing to serve as an Event Coordinator
- Technology costs (website, virtual go-to-meeting/access for reps).
- If we incorporate technology more in business meetings will members be willing to learn/use it?
- If we move Assemblies around the Area will districts step up to host them?

Findings:

In reviewing the answers to the KBDM questions, we found there were two issues:

- Should we continue to have an Assembly Coordinator and a Convention Coordinator or combine into one Event Coordinator?

The biggest issue with combining two positions into one is that it may be too much work for one person depending upon what might actually be expected of an Event Coordinator. We did create a rough draft of the Event Coordinator Job Description for review, if desired.

- Should we continue to hold the Assemblies as they are or look into eliminating everything but the business meeting and committee meetings?

It seems that many GRs are unfamiliar with how the business meetings are run and the KBDM process that is used. More training is required in this area along with training on the use of the AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual. More education is needed on how to obtain Assembly documents from the area website. These are items that could be included in the business meetings possibly as "break-out" sessions. On the other hand, long days cause inattention of attendees at the assemblies. We could also have workshops at the Area Convention on the Service Manual or other service subjects.

Some groups are unable to afford to send their GR to the Assembly and some members are unable to afford to attend the Convention.

Another point is the option of the area obtaining the technology to hold virtual meetings and the ability for GRs and DRs to attend these. In other words, will the members have availability to use this technology on their end.

We might want to look at the holding of basket raffles at the Assemblies since we are holding raffles at the Convention.

There are other points listed in the KBDM answers that we might want to address in the future.