

Chairperson Report – Area 9 AWSC – February 6-7, 2015



Welcome – What a pleasure and an honor to welcome you to Panel 55. As you can see from my email signature, I have chosen Concept 4 as our Panel motto: “**Participation is the key to harmony.**”

Agenda – Setting the agenda will start about a month before the meeting. If you need any special time, equipment, etc. please communicate with me ahead of time. This is especially important if you plan to bring a voting item to the membership (Public Outreach, Alateen come to mind here). I will also be setting up Thought Forces during this time based on what I hear from you – so be sure to communicate if you want or need a Thought Force at the meetings.

Reports – written reports can be detailed and long. Reports at the mike need to be short and current. **PLEASE HAVE YOUR REPORT EMAILED TO THE ENTIRE PANEL NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON FRIDAY JANUARY 30, 2015.** This courtesy is so important, and allows all of us to fully participate.

Area Business:

Website: Our new web address is: www.AFGArea9.org ... Lots of great information, and it will be a key to our participation this panel.

Certificate of Insurance

Just prior to the AWSC meeting we were informed that our Area Insurance Policy was being changed. The Insurance Company will no longer be accepting any new Certificate of Insurance Requests.

Groups and District Events that have coverage now will continue to have coverage until May 2015 when the policy expires. However, these will not be renewed.

We will be forming a Task Force to look into options, and find out what is the best next step. Please keep an eye out for emails from me on this topic. I will use “P55 – Certificate of Insurance” in the subject line of the email.

Hotel Reservations and cancellations – Reservations for all meetings can be made in advance. We recommend this, so that our blocks can be filled. Cancellations in 2015 must be made 48 hours in advance.

Guidelines Oversight - We will be working through all of the Area Guidelines during our AWSC meetings. We will be utilizing KBDM and will begin with Thought Forces. We start with Hospitality at this meeting.

Special Public Outreach Project – Each District should have a copy of the Special Public Outreach Project form handy so that when your district has ideas and opportunities for Public Outreach that require non-profit status you can work with the Area to make that happen. This form can be found on the Website. Please make sure you can find it!

Definitions: For our work during Panel 55 we will be using a service work structure based on that used at the World Service Conference. Therefore, it is important to know what the definitions are. Our group will be made up of Committees, Work Groups, Thought Forces and Task Forces. This information can also be found in the WSC Summaries from 2009-2014.

February 8, 2015

Committee – A committee is created to meet an ongoing need of the AWSC. It can be considered a permanent part of the organization. It's objective is to complete it's activity and present it to the originating body and move forward. At this time I believe there is just one standing committee; it is the corporation - NFA AFG, Inc. - which was created to directly serve the business and contractual needs of the Area. The Officers of the Area serve as the Board of Directors of NFA AFG, Inc.

Work Group – I will be asking each Coordinator to create a Work Group, within their geographic location, to assist them with their Service Position. A Work Group can be established to meet an ongoing need of the Area. It can be an originating body and a Thought Force or a Task Force may evolve from a Work Group. It's objective is to complete it's activity and present it to the AWSC to move forward. (think of the Budget Roundtables in Panel 52) Ideas can come from the Work Group and are brought to the Area through the Coordinator.

Thought Force – This is a temporary unit of people established to brainstorm ideas and to develop strategies on a single-defined task or activity. Using resources that are available such as member's experience, and other knowledge from past Panels, this group generates potential ideas about an identified problem or issue. This group is not expected to have all the answers or work on a final solution. If there are facts that are unknown, this group flags them for KBDM process under "Things we don't know but wish we did." A Thought Force may lay the foundation for a Task Force. Members of a Thought Force are thinkers, not doers.

Task Force - This is a temporary unit of people established to work on a single-defined task or activity. They use the resources available and may be working on a suggestion that arose out of a Work Group or Thought Force. The objective is to complete the task assigned and present it to the originating body to move forward. Members of the Task Force are the doers. Recommendations from the Task Force are voted on by AWSC and then, if passed, are presented to the Area membership at Assembly.

These groups are not decision-making bodies. They may make recommendations. Each group's objective is to complete it's activity and present it to the originating body to move forward. The Chairperson assigns members of the AWSC panel to Thought Forces and Task Forces. Each group should use KBDM processes.

Knowledge Based Decision Making to Reach an Informed Group Conscience (KBDM) : On our Website there is a KBDM Guideline that we will be using. I will be presenting a short Power Point on the process to refresh our memories of how it works, and we will continue to refer to the process as we work through the business of the Area at our meeting. Please feel free to share this information in your Districts.

Again, I am so looking forward to working with each one of you. I know in this process I will make new friends, deepen friendships that have already begun, and I will have the honor of participating in the healing power of recovery through our wonderful fellowship. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve.

Yours in service,

Cindy J
Panel 55 Area Chairperson
Chairperson@AFGArea9.org

www.AFGArea9.org

Participation is the key to harmony.

February 8, 2015