Thought Force Topic: AFG Area 9 Election Procedures Secion II.A. "Only incoming Group Representatives vote."

Background Information: Started when Florida split. Because there was no "old" GRs to vote in a panel, we created a process whereby the "new" GRs came to the last Assembly and voted in the Officers. Coordinators are picked in the same way.

Historical Information: In the Service Manual there are some basic guidelines/suggestions for elections. See Pages 149-160. Also p. 132. And any other part of the Service Manual you may feel is relevant. Technically speaking, the "new" GRs are not actually GR until January 1, so meeting and voting is outside of their service position. Concept 10 states: Service responsibility is balanced by carefully defined service authority and double-headed management is avoided. Are we doing double headed management by having future GRs vote during an Assembly where there are current GRs?

Financial Information: Increased costs can be difficult for some groups, Districts and the Area. For example, Area Hospitality costs for the Election Assembly ran over $600.

Charge of the Thought Force: Brainstorm thoughts and ideas around changing the Election Procedures to eliminate new GR voting and instead have the current Assembly of GRs vote at the end of Panel 55. Discuss various perspectives, who would be hurt, who would benefit, how do people feel about this, etc. Allow for plenty of discussion, and keep an open mind. Principles above personalities at work. Perhaps we could do it as an experiment in Panel 55 elections, with a report to the Assembly afterward, and any permanent change could be made in Panel 58.

Five KBDM Questions

1. What do we know about our membership's needs, wants and preferences that is relevant to this topic?

   *incoming GRs don't know membership needs, etc.
   * They are technically operating outside of service position that begins Jan. 1

2. What do we know about our resources (finances, member participation, etc) that is relevant to this topic?

   *Costs doubled at all levels of Area
   * It could reduce participation which can be a learning experience for new GRs

3. What do we know about the current realities (membership, culture, etc) and our fellowship's environment (technology, geography, demographic, etc) that is relevant to this topic?

   *With just outgoing Grs voting registration is simplified and all aspects of assembly as well.

4. What are the ethical implications of our choices – what are the pros and cons? Will our decision be consistent with our spiritual principles?

   * If we choose only outgoing GRs we would be more in line with WSO's suggested Guidelines Pg 142 Paragraph 3 of the Service Manual

Thought Force held on February 7, 2015 at AWSC

5. What do we wish we knew, but don't? (use the back if necessary)

- How many Groups actually send two GRs?
- How do incoming GRs feel about the experience? Are they confused?
- Pros – Outgoing Voting
  Less costly
  Less confusion
  Less need for constant clarification during Assembly.
- Cons – Outgoing Voting
  Won't be a God thing/ personalities before principles
  Spring Assembly could be more challenging for new GRs

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