

Thought Force Topic: Spiritual Meeting Guidelines

Background: Last updated during Panel 46. Guidelines are very detailed and oriented toward the hotel in Ocala.

Historical information: This is a spiritual program, and making time for us to have a spiritual gathering is important. Traditionally the AWSC Spiritual Meeting has been on Saturday night, and is sometimes a speaker. The Assembly Spiritual meeting is often in the morning on Sunday before Red Light Green Light.

Financial Impact: none

Charge: Since the Chairperson has control over the agenda, how and what can be done to bring more autonomy to the process? Should we overhaul the guidelines? Should we be less specific? Should we have suggestions rather than guidelines, allowing the Chairperson to work with the Agenda and the District to come up with something mutually beneficial? Create ideas, offer new perspectives, don't do the work! Instead, discuss the whole concept of Spiritual meetings, and convey thoughts on what you want from it.

Five KBDM Questions

1. What do we know about our membership's needs, wants and preferences that is relevant to this topic?
 - appropriate venue, privacy, chair set up issues
 - need to hear speakers
 - possibly use an outside spiritual speaker
2. What do we know about our resources (finances, member participation, etc) that is relevant to this topic?
 - can we afford to do this at a meal time?
 - What about multiple small meetings?
 - Members coming just for the day are left out of Spiritual Meeting
 - Groups with limited resources cannot stay
 - It's hard to hear in a big meeting without a microphone
 - What about small groups with leaders?
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?
 - Possibly use mealtimes and keep people at the hotel
 - What about meditation if it is in CAL?
 - Personally I don't think meditation meetings are Al-Anon meetings
 - Have business and spiritual discussions during the day
 - Needs to be private
 - Chairs need to be set up
 - I worry about people being able to hear
4. What are the ethical implications of our choices – what are the pros and cons? Will our decision be consistent with our spiritual principles?

Thought Force held on February 7, 2015 at AWSC

- Use topic suggestions in The Forum, Having Had a Spiritual Awakening
- Focus on Spirituality
- Present Topic to Chairperson
- Members like to end weekend with a spiritual meeting
- Privacy is important

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

- Cost of meals at hotel if we had Spiritual meeting during a meal
- Does the membership want a spiritual meeting?
- Can we have more than one spiritual meeting?
- Would people like more than one spiritual meeting option?