

Thought Force Topic: Technology

Background Info: We are using a new website, and developing new ways to communicate. Technology is changing very quickly, and it is important for us to keep up as best we can. What worked a few years ago, may not be the way people use technology today.

Charge: Brainstorm ideas about how you think the Area may be more helpful to you as a member of Al-Anon. Please give input on how YOU use technology, and where you see our strengths and weaknesses. What are we missing as we develop ways to communicate with our Members. You are an IDEA group, not a DOING group – so please focus on ideas that will then go to a Task Force. No need to focus on specifics, we need your ideas and experiences.

Five KBDM Questions

- 1. What do we know about our membership's needs, wants and preferences that is relevant to this topic?**
 - I don't know anything about my Group's needs, wants and preferences about technology (8)
 - It is very spotty, less than 50% are comfortable with technology
 - I don't know, I don't use a computer (5)
 - I don't know, but now that it has been brought up I will talk about it in my Group
 - We need more access to printed materials
 - We need to make sure everyone has access to the information
 - I have no idea how to get information
 - I've never heard anything about the Area website in my District (4)
 - I don't know who to ask for help. I don't know where to go for help. (3)
 - I do not use a computer and I am not willing to change that.

- 2. What do we know about our resources (finances, member participation, etc) that is relevant to this topic?**
 - If we have the time and money we should offer training
 - Technology workshops might help people get comfortable
 - Make the website more known
 - Put the Website addresses on Where & Whens
 - Computer Buddy – like a sponsor, but for technology
 - We need to make sure that access to assistance is easily available
 - We have to have more clarity about why we use technology
 - I choose not to waste my time with computers and technology

- 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?**
 - There is a very real need for printed materials.
 - Technology seems to mean everything is digital

- Why can't we get online during Assembly?
- I get easily frustrated, and lose my serenity if I try using technology
- Phone Calls = Human Contact; Piece of paper = Choices
- 40% no computer access
- Mature members who did not grow up with computers are unfamiliar
- I don't think the website is user friendly
- I know younger people like the Internet and websites, that's fine with me.
- Since I do not use a computer, I do not know about any of this.
- Social media is like all media and we must protect anonymity.
- I don't think Social Media is safe.
- I am afraid of hackers and viruses so I do not use a computer.

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

- Is our anonymity compromised by a "Like" on Facebook or sharing on Twitter?
- Tradition 11 tells us to guard anonymity.
- All my decisions are made according to spiritual principles.
- It would be easy to break anonymity (of others) online. What we can do in person is bad, but online it is literally available across the globe.
- I am not currently on any social media as I prefer to keep my personal information private and anonymous. AS stated, we all have choices.
- I have concerns about getting tracked and viruses, but I like the encouragement that is given in Al-Anon.
- I'm unsure how using social media is in line with our spiritual principles.
- Anonymity first. Overzealous young people on social media could be a problem.

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

- Step by step instructions to access info would be helpful.
- A district level workshop on technology would be great.
- What is possible? What is the timeline? Will it all be required?
- What are we going to do with those who will NOT USE technology?
- Do members use Area and District websites?
- Is it possible to get a "basic dos and don'ts"?
- I think our Technology Coordinator is doing a fabulous job of being available.
- What I wish I knew but don't is more knowledge about computers. I'm able and still learning and growing more comfortable.
- How can we remind enthusiastic techies not to leave behind valuable members?
- Could we have Technology Workshops or trainings?

- Who do we contact? How can I learn?