Task Force Topic: Election Procedures Update

Task Force Members: Shelly F. (D7), Chair; Bob C.(Tech Coord) , Mary W. (Area Secretary), Kathleen P. (D2)

Background/Historical Info: With the current reality of online Area meetings we have now had experience voting online using the Zoom platform and tools. It is advisable for us to update our Election Procedures to include these technologies and make updates to the language so that ongoing Area business, especially elections, will be held within our policy and procedures.

Charge: **To update the Area Election Procedures to include the possibility of voting electronically via Zoom (or other platforms) for Area business.**

Task Force Timeline: Report Progress or Recommendation at next AWSC.

Please meet (via Conference Call and/or Zoom) and use whatever technology works for all of you.

Focus on the Charge.   Complete the task as best you can, and submit this form as your Task Force Report. You can do this by sending it to the Technology Coordinator who will post it on the website.

Create a proposal that can be discussed at our next AWSC meeting. Submit that to the Technology Coordinator as your Task Force Proposal.

If your Task Force needs more time, note it on this form and submit it as your report. No proposal is required if you are in process.

Please use KBDM processes including the five essential elements of KBDM, and the questions for a thoughtful discussion. These can be found on the Area website.

Task Force Summary / Findings:

Our members met on two occasions using the Zoom platform to examine the use of electronic voting for any or all decision making during assemblies and AWSC meetings, not just for elections. We followed the suggested KBDM questions in our discussions and updated the Florida North Guidelines for Area Meetings to account for the potential use of electronic voting in future face-to-face meetings.

KBDM Questions
 1. Our "members' needs, wants and preferences" clearly indicate the desire to streamline the voting process. While meeting online, this practice was imperative, less so during meetings in person. However, the prospects for increased productivity, clarity and anonymity in electronic voting may well serve us.

 2. We know that our current resources include the use of the Zoom platform in the budget. The need for volunteer help will be less burdensome than the paper method,

although the availability of personal voting devices may or may not be at hand to all members. We have used a program called Zoyondo in the past as a one year trial for surveys and/or voting. Then found no need to continue its use when our meetings became virtual.

 3. Making a change in voting procedures does not suggest any adverse affect on our fellowship's "culture and environment." Although, individuals who will be forced to vote by paper would be inherently excluded from the electronic voting process and this could be perceived as non-inclusion. The streamlining of processes and preservation of confidentiality aligns itself to Al-Anon's principles, policies and legacies with respect to anonymity and keeping things simple. Guidance from the Service Manual or other literature has not been found to exist for electronic voting.

 4. Our "members' needs, wants and preferences" clearly indicate the desire to streamline our voting process. Digital decision making is both commonly and legally acceptable in everyday life. When all persons in attendance are required to respond to an electronic poll, an option should be made available for a respondent to indicate they are not a voting attendee. This will encourage everyone to practice a program of honesty as trusted servants. And, if a group representative does not possess a device by which to vote, they may borrow a non-voting members device. Another option might be to create a Kiosk fashioned to service multiple members without personal devises.

 5. It is not known how many voting members may not have a digital devices in which to place their votes. With smart phones becoming more common today than ever before, there may or may not be a minority group in which we need to be concerned.

Task Force Recommendation:

A draft of the updated "Area 9 AFG - Florida North Guidelines, Area Meetings" in Google Docs can be accessed with the following link.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CBmc7k5Qy9r3KpRSW5noWKps37z-ZWiGncHltjdVCFg/edit?usp=gmail&ts=605143db

Inserted edits appear in green typeface.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly F.
Task Force Chair
March 24, 2021