Area Meetings Task Force

KBDM Research – Costs, Fellowship & Communication

AVERAGE Meeting Costs Worksheet

Assembly

Budgeted Items

Expense		Food		
Hotel Rooms	$ 3,000	9 Coordinators $90 each	$810	
Food & Beverage	6,500	5 Officers	450	
A/V	2,500	2 Event Chairs	180	
		3 Past Delegates	270	
		Travel	2,000	

Income	
Registration	3,000
Raffle	750
Offsets	1,000
Meal Purchase	2,500

AWSC

Expense			
Hotel Rooms	4,000	9 Coordinators $90	810
Food & Beverage	5,000	5 Officers	450
A/V	1,000	2 Event Chairs	180
		3 Past Delegates	270
		DRs & AISLs	2,270

	Travel Costs	$5,000

Income

Offsets (GIPs, Districts, etc) $800

Costs – Fellowship

Face to Face Meetings (pro):

1. Traditional Al-Anon recovery. Started in groups of people gathering to share experience, strength and hope.
2. Meetings provide structure and service opportunities.
3. Meetings offer a chance for everyone to hear the information at one time.
4. Area Meetings strengthen the member, the group and the district by providing a chance to see and experience the worldwide fellowship.
5. Area Meetings provide an opportunity for members to see how different groups and districts work – get new ideas and meet new people.
6. Area Meetings bring people together and allow us to practice the principles of the program.
7. Service positions at Area allow for people to learn new skills and interact with others.
8. Service positions and Area meetings teach people how to do service differently than when they first came in to Al-Anon. More spiritual, less self-sacrifice.
9. New members get to interact with longer time members and opportunities for Service Sponsorship increase.
10. Area meetings provide a chance for diversity.

Face to Face Meetings (con):

1. Area Meetings can get expensive for the Groups and Districts
2. Area Meetings can favor people who do not work and can leave home for 2 days
3. Area Meetings create a slower process for getting work done
4. Area Meetings use up resources
5. Area Meetings eat into personal time (and for some, into work time)
6. Area Meetings can get cliquey and exclusive
7. Area Meetings can move away from the spiritual principles and too focused on business
8. Area Meetings require us to compromise some anonymity (meeting in a public place, having a corporation with names and addresses of Officers)
9. Area Meetings can favor people who are ambulatory and who have friends
10. Area Meetings are hard for people who live far away to attend.

Electronic Meetings (pros and cons):

1. Electronic Meetings could include Small Groups, large format, webinars and conference calls. There are many different formats that the Area could look into and test. (pro)
2. We are not sure really how to do these and how they would work, so there is some fear and some resistance to them. (con)
3. The assumption is an electronic meeting would be less effective for fellowship and spirituality. (con)
4. Electronic Meetings (conference calls) have enhanced people's ability to do work and have made face to face meetings run smoother (pro)
5. Electronic Meetings can allow for more participation and a wider variety of people to participate. (pro)
6. Electronic Meetings could be part of the structure rather than replace all of it (pro).
7. Electronic Meetings could be recorded and put on the website for people to view if they were unable to make the meeting. (pro)

Electronic Meetings could be something that AWSC or Officers could use, and save Face to Face for Assembly. (pro)

Task Force: Taking a look at Area meetings.   April 23, 2017

Improving communication between Area, District, and Groups: ideas?

I'm not sure more can be done: with technology as it is today, there is no reason to not be informed. Using technology, Area communicates with the districts; districts disburse information to its AFGs through the GRs; GRs bring the information to their groups. There may be a need to "teach" members of all levels of service the basics for using technology.

What I do feel is an issue is that most people do not embrace change and are not using the computer or websites available to them. I am not computer- or tech-savvy. I explain to members how I have learned enough to access websites that I use/need regularly and by doing so, I am becoming more and more comfortable/familiar using this technology.

There is also that topic that never goes away: "As a GR, how do I get my group to listen to my reports? They just want to get the meeting started; that is why they are here." Misinformation and/or lack of information and/or partial information is not good. On this level, I believe one thought would be to get the groups themselves involved: ask the members of your home group, "How do you want the information that I have presented?" (Not **IF** they want to hear it, but **HOW** they want to hear it.) Also, make it **FUN!** Have excitement in your voice when you mention the upcoming Convention or TEAM event or District Gratitude Dinner.

This has been mentioned during our initial Task Force meeting: Expand the GR orientation, especially at the first Assembly of a Panel. Simply but precisely, list what is expected of a GR; giving the new GR the knowledge, authority and responsibility (Concept 10) to perform their job duties and the autonomy (Tradition 4) to make it their own. If the GR position is perceived as a "do nothing, no respect job", who would want it?

Same thought for a DR orientation at the first AWSC of a Panel: Simple and precise.