

Task Force Topic: Taking a Look at Area Meetings

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Background/Historical Info: We had a Thought Force at the February 2017 AWSC using the KBDM questions. Results are available on the Area Website under February AWSC 2017. As the new Panel approaches, I would like to be able to give the next Chairperson some feedback on possible changes they may want to make to Area meetings – the structure is not set in stone. Instead we could start looking at various technological changes, demographic changes, requests from members, and cost information to decide if the present structure works for us.

Thought Force references (if any): See February 2017 AWSC (www.AFGArea9.org)

Charge: Discuss the results of the Thought Force. Come up with three recommendations to present at AWSC that we can discuss and then pass along to the new Panel 58.

KBDM Questions from Thought Force: (See February AWSC Meeting for results)

KBDM questions focused on:

1. GR attendance at District and Area
2. Discussions of Finances at Group, District, Area
3. Alateen involvement
4. Meeting structure – exclusive? Weekends? Use spiritual principles.
5. Exploration of new ways to hold meetings.
6. What do we wish we knew?

Task Force Summary:

- We reviewed the Thought Force responses, and grouped them into categories.
- We divided our research into four areas: (1) Meeting Costs, (2) Improving Communication, (3) What Do Other Areas Do? and (4) What are the possibilities?
- We had a series of Conference Calls and did research in between.
- Discussions included : What works in our Area (website, communication, planning ahead which helps people participate, KBDM, fellowship); what can be changed (Friday Night Assembly, reducing number of meetings, improve orientations, GIP issues), we also discussed ways to look at Thought Force information and helping members feel connected to Service Structure.
- Costs of Meetings were broken down into financial and intangible, these are included in our KBDM on the website.
- Improving communications document is also included in our KBDM on the website.
- What other Areas do was researched on AFGConnects and is included in the minutes of our 3rd Conference Call with other KBDM.

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- What are the possibilities : utilize technology and have electronic meetings for some of the Area business, allow more flexibility for Chair rather than locking in three years of contracts, discussion of inertia and how we continue to do things because we have always done them this way, discussed why we have AISL on AWSC panel.
- Discussed the GIP situation – people continue to complain about the name, and there are no guidelines for this.

Task Force Recommendations:

1. Change the name of Growth Investment Person (GIP) to Growth Enhancement Member (GEM) and create some simple guidelines so that Districts and Individuals will know what to expect.
2. Create more practical ways to support new members at the beginning of the Panel through Service Sponsorship. Focus the agenda for first AWSC and first Assembly of the Panel on orientation, training, workshops, etc.
3. Go over Knowledge Based Decision Making, Thought and Task Forces at the beginning of the Panel so that people who have not done this can learn and ask questions.
4. Encourage past positions to serve as Service Sponsors.
5. Have a breakout at October 2017 Assembly on turnover – guided discussion of “How can I help the next person?”
6. Encourage Panel 58 to continue the discussion on how many meetings and how flexible they can be organized.

Some ideas for future discussions:

- Could our Districts do their elections in alternating years so that 1/3 of the DRs come on to the Panel each year (like Delegates at WSC) and so that we always have some experienced DRs and some new DRs? Would this be helpful or confusing?
- Do we need to continue to have all 13 AISLs as part of our AWSC Panel?
- Is it possible to combine any meetings if we use technology more creatively?