

Assembly Survey Thought Force- Results of One Assembly Survey

June 2019-December 31, 2019

Respondents- 65

Members: Madelyn I, Sue M, Sue P (non-participating)

Madam Chair Diane,

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this thought force. We have included each of our views of the 5 KBDM questions that you have provided, and we followed. Some of the answers were far apart.

In summary, based on the information we were given, 4 main issues came to light:

- 1) 25 of 60 surveyed preferred 2 assemblies
- 2) Consideration of cost to individual groups
- 3) The fellowship associated with the gathering of Al Anon
- 4) Redundancy

The majority prefer 2 meetings to one. It would have been nicer to have more included in participating in the survey.

The cost to the individual groups is a necessary consideration. Some of the smaller groups have difficulty, thus are not always able to participate. This was a noted concern in positive response for one meeting.

So many appreciate, enjoy the fellowship of the gatherings. Working through lunches and dinner times tends to squelch this ability. These are great times to have "the meeting after the meeting" as we say, to chat about the information we have just received and are trying to process. Also working through meals and late, has a way of overloading us with information to the point we can no longer manage. It tends to cause circuit overload.

Redundancy was an issue brought up in many ways but ends up the same. We are given reports to read, then verbal reports. Oral reports in addition take a lot of time, & it comes fast thus difficult to take notes enough to reference, then the written becomes easier to refer to so should be all inclusive.

From this information, the recommendation is 2 assemblies, more digital reports without repetition in the oral presentations and lastly a close look at ways to decrease the overall cost of assemblies to the fellowship. The choice of a Task Force for more information could be a consideration by this panel or the next .

Sincerely,

Madelyn I \_\_\_\_\_ District Representative District 13

Sue M Group Records Coordinator Panel 58-Area 9

1/10/2020

From: Sue M <grouprecords58@afgarea9.org>  
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2019 9:00 PM  
To: Madelyn I  
Subject: Thought Force

I reviewed the data and following is my input w regard to the 5 KBDM Questions.

1. our members

- like 2 assemblies however they also like the cost savings for their groups and the area, having more home time, not having to travel. which is what 1 assembly allows for.
  - felt the structure was good - just too much to cover
  - they felt the agenda was too busy
  - again too many introductions
  - they are happy and comfortable w KBMD
  - liked online registration for the most part
  - overall happy w communication e-mails
  - mostly happy w venue and hotel as a location
  - happy w check in process at hotel
  - mostly happy w food choice
  - some GRs were unhappy there were not more breakouts on Saturday especially if they are only there for Saturday
  - mostly liked open mike
- GR experience was not as positive as too much was jammed in and items were not addresses. They felt the process was rushed w 1 assembly.

2. We had a much better turnout and participation with only 1 assembly

Finances are always a worry - we are Al-Anons - we tend to worry about finances. However, we need to remember our - Al-Anons money is for doing the business of Al-Anon not to be saved for life expenses. If we spend all of our resources we bring in on the work of Al-Anon Wahoo!!!!!!

3. Our technology growth allows for rapid information exchange and we could endeavor to expand use. However getting members to commit to participate may be an obstacle. As we have at best 1/4 to 1/3 participation at assemblies

4. We had limited input from our members w the survey - only 65 members responded.

- are we making decisions beyond our role
- are we managing/controlling
- are we assuming an authoritarian role

5. I wish we had more participation-feedback. --  
Sue M.

Group Records Coordinator Panel 58 - Area 9

Madelyn

#1 Member's needs, wants, preferences

- \*limit time away
- \*maintain fellowship
- \*relevant information
- \*organize agenda it is too busy, simplify
- \*financial considerations for individuals, groups and districts
- \*increase participation
- \*location/travel time
- \*refresh on KBDM
- \*breaks from info input-no working through breaks or lunch
- \*RL/GL

Breakouts need more organization

#2 Resources

- \*financial considerations-may eliminate smaller groups
- \*members are interested in participation & fellowship
- \*free time during meal often great brainstorming sessions along with the fellowship

#3 Demographics

- Tough due to our large area
- Membership seems to be embracing new technology
- Willing to work with technology as a tool for communication
- For so many busy members, time needs to be manageable

#4 Ethical implications

- \*are we being financially responsible regarding the demands on groups to participate?
- \*are we more interested in personal roles and accomplishments rather than information sharing?

#5 Wish I knew?

- \*Number of attendees vs number responses?
- \*how to decrease cost of Assembly?
- \*How to manage locations?