

AFG Area 9 – Florida North Procedures

Knowledge Based Decision Making Elements and Process

KBDM – Five Key Elements

1. **Open communication between leadership and membership.** Area Officers utilize questionnaires and other forms of communication to help come to an informal consensus on an idea. Perhaps three or four people have mentioned the same thing. Or we may have received emails making a suggestion.
2. **Dialogue before deliberation.** We will use the Thought Force process in a few different ways to generate dialogue across the membership.
3. **All decision-makers have common access to full information.** All background and pertinent information will be shared with whoever will be making the decisions. Once particular decisions or recommendations are made, then the process moves forward.
4. **We exist in a culture of trust.** This is our recovery in action. We become reliable and learn to rely on others. We become truthful and rely on the truth from others. Many times we simply need more information to gain the understanding that lets us lighten our load and experience trust.
5. **We trust in the competency of our partners.** It is our job to use the Legacies to reframe our perspective to trust that even if something is being done differently, it is being done in a way that we can trust. Our job is to trust in the recovery of others.

KBDM Process

1. **Create a framework for discussion:** The Chairperson will frame the discussion to be specific and address the problem simply. Then create a Thought Force or Task Force to work on it. The framework will include Background, Relevance, Context, and Summary.
2. **Provide all background information before discussion:** Members of the group share all information with each other. They may solicit information from others.
3. **Answer the five KBDM questions:** In a Thought Force, the group uses the five KBDM questions to keep the discussion and process on track.
4. **Answer all questions:** The member's questions are asked until everyone is satisfied and understands what is being worked on.
5. **Deliberation:** Here is where we express our opinions for or against. This is timed, and everyone gets an opportunity to express one opinion per issue.
6. **Decision-making:** If the issue warrants it then a decision is made: (1) a motion based on the process (2) request for more time and information (3) do nothing.

KBDM Questions¹

1. What do we know about our members (or prospective members) needs regarding this discussion?
2. What do we know about the capacity and strategic position of the Area relative to this discussion?
3. What do we know about current realities, evolving dynamics of the world and our fellowship's environment that is relevant to this discussion? What are the pros and cons?
4. What are the ethical implications of our choices? Will our decision be in line with our spiritual principles?
5. What do we wish we knew, but don't?

Source: WSC Summaries (2007-2014)

¹ See page 42-45 of the 2014 WSC Summary for this in action