Technology Task Force 2016
Report to Area World Service Committee
February 2017

1. Website Continuity

The Task Force believes the following statements express Al-Anon principles regarding Technology:

a) Keeping the website stable and consistent is a good POLICY.
b) Based on the long term discussions at WSO and WSC regarding "technology" it is wise to have a POLICY that uses our Steps, Traditions and Concepts to guide us in how we develop our PROCEDURES.
c) Keeping the Website consistent across panels, recognizing that change comes slowly in Al-Anon yet also making a commitment to stay up to date with technology would be POLICY and the how-we-do-it would be PROCEDURES.

2. Technology Cooperation

a) We think Technology can work with all aspects of Area Service Structure.

We recommend formulation of POLICY on the following specific areas:

i) Alateen – Encourage AMIASes to chair chat room meetings & follow Alateen WSO on Social media.
ii) Spanish – Encourage use of Spanish version of WSO and Area websites and online Spanish meetings.
iii) Assembly – Conduct member surveys, and moving forward toward online registration and electronic voting.
iv) The current Technology Coordinator could make specific recommendations based on their experience, and these policies could be taken up at the beginning of Panel 58.

Tradition One (Unity) and Tradition Three (Mutual Aid) urge us to help and support each other. We can use Technology as one tool available to assist with this.

"With the help of Al-Anon, my sponsor, and my Higher Power, change need not be so scary. If I don't at least make an effort, I may never know how much I can accomplish."
—Hope for Today, p. 278

b) Exploring new technologies without leading to double-headed management.

Recommendation: Strongly urge the Technology Coordinator to create a Technology Committee. Help Technology Coordinator explore ways to create and utilize the committee. The committee could exist across panels to provide consistency and stability. Membership on the committee could be open to the whole Area. This committee could be a Standing Committee of the Area, created in cooperation between the Area Chair and the Technology Coordinator.

We could create a Trial Basis Standing Committee that could meet throughout 2017 and request Panel 58 to assess the process at the February 2018 AWSC meeting and make a decision on how to proceed.

3. Job Requirements

The Technology Coordinator will tweak the "Job Description" we feel the following recommendations are for the Area Policy on Technology:

a) Turnover – Technology Coordinator should inform and assist the Area Officers, Coordinators and Event Chairs with their Area email accounts.
b) eCommerce – Technology Coordinator should guide us toward the use of online procedures to accept registrations, food orders and other electronic payments.
c) Elections – Technology Coordinator should continue working toward a
   stated Area goal of having electronic elections in the near future.

4. NFA AFG, Inc.

To cooperate with the Corporation we recommend:

a) The website, like the bank account and the archives storage, should be a part of our "business expenses" and have some oversight from the

Officers/Bd of Directors.

b) The Board could consider in the future that having new members (especially a few Coordinators) on the Board for the business and Traditional cooperation needed.

c) As eCommerce becomes more a part of the Area it makes sense to have the Technology Coordinator or an IT presence on the Board.

Addendum. The following information is included for clarity.

POLICY: What and why we do what we do. This is the will and intent of the Area. It is not subject to change each panel, but provides continuity and stability.

We should have a website and electronic communications at the Area for consistency, stability and unity; making a commitment to stay up to date with technology while also being inclusive regarding different levels of member proficiency.

PROCEDURE: How we get these things done. These procedures can be changed. The AWSC panel uses KBDM and in cooperation with various Coordinators technology can be used to help facilitate meetings, communication, outreach and growth in service.

TC = Technology Coordinator
1. **TC can facilitate cooperation among members of AWSC Panel and Area Event chairs**
2. **TC can bring clarity and educational resources regarding technology**
3. **TC can help Area be willing to explore new technologies**
4. **TC should help coordinate purchases of software/hardware at the Area level to facilitate meetings and other Area work**
5. **TC should follow the Job Description as updated each panel in light of new information**
6. **TC should be able to work with Area Officers and Board of NFA AFG, Inc. to maintain consistency and stability of website and communications programs through the corporation - particularly maintenance of the domain name, platform etc.**
   a. **Maybe the Technology Coordinator could sit on the NFA AFG Board**
   b. **Decisions about the website should be made in consultation with Officers**
   c. **Hiring special IT workers may be necessary within the Traditions**

All of our discussion and KBDM materials are contained in the TechnologyTFCharge Document that is located on the Area website under the February 2017 AWSC meeting page.