

Handout for GRs – Voting Issue for Spring 2009 Area Assembly

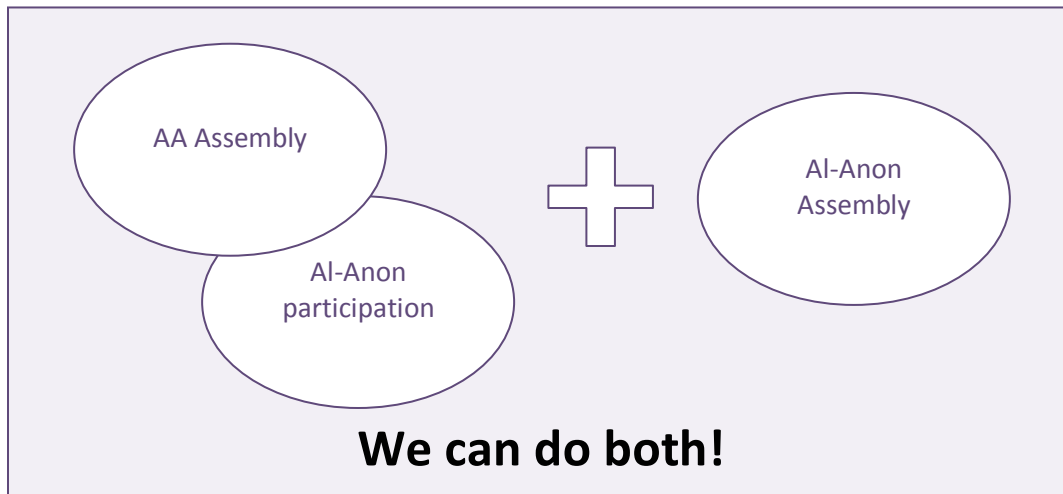
Developed at the Area World Service Committee (AWSC) meeting, March 21, 2009

GOAL: A vote by GRs at Spring 2009 Assembly whether or not to approve a one-year trial for Al-Anon to conduct Area Assemblies independent from AA Area Assemblies.

Why is Area talking about this?

Because Al-Anon members have called for a change in the way Al-Anon Assemblies are conducted in Idaho. This change is about Al-Anon's growth toward being self-supporting and making decisions in our own best interest.

What will the future look like?



What are some benefits to Al-Anon of changing? We...

- Become self-supporting. Area gets the responsibility, authority and freedom to plan our own Assemblies to best suit our needs. This means dates, times, location, cost, hotel contracts, program.
- Give ourselves permission to plan and conduct our business rather than asking AA for permission.
- Maintain cooperation with AA. Districts get to plan Al-Anon programs for AA Assemblies and keep any potential split money.
- Expand Al-Anon's opportunities. World Service will pay to send trustees or staff to speak and conduct workshops at Al-Anon Assemblies. All Al-Anon Districts have the potential to host with the planning work done by the Area committee.
- Gain flexibility to plan anything from a 1-day business meeting to a weekend of business, speakers, fun workshops!
- Increase opportunities for Alateen programs and participation.

Questions for group discussion

- ✎ Are we ready to accept the responsibility, authority and freedom of planning our own Assemblies?
- ✎ What are our fears? Why wouldn't we do this?
- ✎ The 2009 WSC theme is "Embrace the Legacies: Our Spiritual Bridges to Expand the Future." How does this change embrace our Legacies and expand Al-Anon's future?

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Page 2

Discussion points for GRs.

The comments below have come up during Assembly and committee discussions. Some relevant Traditions and Concepts are provided as a discussion aid.

Fear	Reality
We can't do it! We don't have enough money or manpower.	Al-Anon Day (an independent Al-Anon event) has never lost money. The AWSC will take on Assembly planning, lessening the manpower necessary from the districts. There are 20 members currently serving on the AWSC. <i>Traditions 1,2,7,9; Concepts 1,3</i>
Our Assemblies won't be any fun. If it's all business no one will go.	An Assembly is "a meeting of the Group Representatives (GRs) for the purpose of electing a Delegate to the annual World Service Conference, an Alternate Delegate, and Assembly Officers. The Assembly also meets between elections to receive and distribute reports on Area and world service affairs. It reviews and approves interim reports of the Area World Service Committee." GRs and the Area committee will attend. We can make it fun and interesting! <i>2006-2009 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual p. 118</i> <i>Traditions 1,7; Concepts 4,9</i>
If we make this change we will not be cooperating with AA.	Districts would be free to meet and plan Al-Anon programs for AA Assemblies. There could still be an Al-Anon lunch, raffle, and full cooperation between Area AA and Al-Anon districts. <i>Traditions 4,5,6; Concept 4; Guidelines G3, G7, G20</i>
We can't make it without the raffle and split money from the Assemblies.	1) Split money is not guaranteed, nor is the opportunity to have an Al-Anon raffle. If the AA Assembly makes a profit then AA splits that profit with Al-Anon based on the percentage of Al-Anons registered. 2) When Area voted to reimburse the AWSC for actual travel expenses, the money followed. When Area voted to pay for all background checks, it turned out fine. Al-Anon can set its Assembly budget based on available money; very low financial risk. <i>Tradition 7; Concept 12</i>
We have a good relationship with AA. Why should we change? If it ain't broke, don't fix it.	Al-Anon participates at AA Assemblies by invitation. AA has the responsibility and the authority to make facility arrangements and financial decisions; Al-Anon does not. There are inherent limitations in this framework that exist no matter how well AA and Al-Anon cooperate. Many areas of the country have found a solution in holding independent Al-Anon Assemblies for business and cooperating with AA for conventions. <i>Tradition 12; Concepts 3, 5, 9, 10; Guidelines G3, G7</i>

GRs: Does your group still have questions? Do you need more information?

- Download minutes from past Assemblies and AWSC meetings from the Idaho website, www.al-anon-idaho.org. Click on Area/Members then click on Reports.
- Talk to your DR or other Area committee members. DRs have a current list of AWSC members with contact information.