

MAY ASSEMBLY CA(S)

Jayne C., Delegate
May 17, 2014



1

AGENDA

- **Mammoth Lakes Group**
- **District Updates/Addressing Through Task Force**
- **KBDM Review**
- **Alateen Task Force**
- **Order Form in Newcomer Packets**
- **Treatment Facilities Outreach Project**



MAMMOTH LAKES GROUP

- **Group in District 11 requested move from CA(S) Area to Nevada Area**
- **Letter sent from Mammoth Lakes Group to Nevada Delegate requesting realignment**
- **WSO consulted. Both Area Assemblies must approve.**
- **Nevada Assembly has already approved/affirmed.**
- **CA(S) required to approve/affirm**

District 11 consists of currently 4 Groups. They are located in Lone Pine, Mammoth Lakes and Ridgecrest. With the move of Mammoth Lakes it leaves 3 Groups in that District. Unfortunately they all rarely participate.

CA(S) required to affirm/approve this.

DISTRICTS 48, 64 AND 51

- **District 64 – Area’s only Spanish overlay district. Was approved in 1991 by Assembly.**
- **District 48 – Not a second overlay Spanish district. Would need approval at Area Assembly.**
- **District 64 Task Force recently formed. Will be reviewing. Will make recommendations to Assembly.**
- **District 51 – Area participating in rebuilding**
- **Districts 12 & 17 currently have four Groups that want to move from D17 to D12.**
- **Area currently has Redistricting Thought Force. They will bring recommendations to the Assembly.**



District 64 is the Area’s only Spanish overlay District. It was approved by the Assembly in 1991. We do not have another Spanish overlay District. District 48 is not the second overlay district.

District 51: District was ready to disband. Immediate Past Delegate visited District. Then Area Chair visited District. Then current Delegate and Area Secretary visited District. We came up with some direction and assistance. Area Secretary is working very hard with Group Reps of the District. Area is participating in rebuilding the District. Having so much success.

Districts 12 and 17: Currently have four Groups that want to move from Districts 17 to District 12. Must be approved at Assembly also.

Bottom Line: There is a Thought Force looking at “Re Districting”. A group or groups cannot decide to move to another district without Assembly approval.

KBDM REVIEW

- **NEW KBDM REVIEW TOOL**
- **CURRENTLY ON SCWS WEBSITE**
- **COLLABORATION OF DISTRICT REP, MEMBER AT LARGE AND PAST TRUSTEE**



KBDM



Knowledge-Based Decision-Making

KBDM Quick Reference Tool



The essential elements of the KBDM process are:

- Open communication between all members
- Ask questions & gather information
- All decision-makers have common access to full information
- Dialogue *before* deliberation and decision
- Process can take more than one session. It may span over several meetings, Assemblies or other gatherings with discussions and questions continuing until everyone has the information they need to move forward.
- We exist in a culture of trust.



KBDM

How It Works (What do we actually *do*?)

The issue is first “framed” or introduced by someone familiar with the topic. Then we thoroughly explore the topic *prior* to deciding what to do about it.

1. Information Exchange—everyone has access to the same:
 - a. Printed material (e.g. *Service Manual*, past motions, archives from meeting, etc.), and
 - b. Together, we answer the 5 KBDM questions (below) (or this can be assigned to a Thought Force)
2. Discussion
 - a. Discussion and opinions are based on information and on experience.
 - b. Additional questions may be asked at this time.
3. *Summarize* the discussion—assure that information, concerns, and opinions have been aired and heard, including minority opinions.
4. *Make a Decision* (3 possibilities)
 - a. Further research may be needed about the issue.
 - b. Suggestion/Motion may be made (e.g. informal show of hands, or motion/second, if large group)
 - c. Status Quo (leave as is).



KBDM

Five KBDM Questions

The answers to the questions below can provide a basis for discussion. They provide common information so everyone can be on the same page.

- Gather information to these questions
- Everyone can add to them
- Opinions are backed up by experience, principles or knowledge.

1. What do we know about our members' (and prospective members') needs, wants and preferences that relate to this issue?

(What purpose would this serve? Is it necessary? Is it helpful?)

2. What do we know about the resources and our vision for Al-Anon and our meetings that are relevant to this issue?

(What are our resources? Can we afford it? Do we have enough volunteers to make it happen? Do we have any background information in our archives that can help us answer this question?)

3. What do we know about our "culture" and "environment" that is relevant to this discussion? What are the implications of our choices: the pros and cons?

(How would this affect our meeting? How would this affect our fellowship? Newcomers? Al-Anon (and A.A.) as a whole? The advantages of this change might be . . . The disadvantages might be . . .)



KBDM

4. What are the ethical implications of our choices? In other words-- Will our decision be consistent with our spiritual principles, policies, and the Twelve Steps, Traditions, and Concepts?

(What are the ethical implications of our choices? Is our decision legal? Are our decisions within our spiritual principles, policies, and legacies? Does our Service Manual provide any guidance about this issue? Will our decisions help us fulfill our primary purpose? If we decide to take an action, will it be the "right" thing to do?)

5. What do we wish we knew, but don't?

(We might need to do some additional work or research to help us make a sound decision.)

(After our best efforts to answer these questions, and through listening with open minds and hearts, we make a decision and trust in ourselves and our Higher Power.)



ALATEEN TASK FORCE UPDATE

- **New Alateen Task Forces**
 - Background Checks
 - Age of Alateen in CA(S) and Multiple Overnighters
- **SCAC Website**
 - **AI-Anon Guidelines**
 - G16: Alateen Conferences
 - G34: Alateen Safety Guidelines
 - G40: Guideline for AI-Anon Websites



10

The Area Alateen Requirements Task Force made three recommendations for continuing discussions. The Area Chair will be forming two different Task Forces. One Task Force to look at the company who does the background checks for the Area AMIAS. Also another Task Force to look at the age of Alateen in the Area and the multiple overnighters that the SCAC Committee holds.

Our age out for Alateen is once they turn 21 years they can no longer attend Alateen. The Service Manual states the following: "As the name implies, Alateen is designed for members in their teens. Members in their teen years who are legally adults agree to abide by the same requirements as minor Alateens when they attend Alateen meetings and events."

SCAC Website: It is a huge safety issue. It is an anonymity issue for minors. We need to educate and inform the Area of the safety concerns. G40: states "Alateen names, email addresses, and phone numbers should never be posted as contacts."

Cannot use the Alateen name without permission from WSO. They own the name so there is a copyright issue. In addition, their website needs to be linked to WSO if they have the permission to use the name.

Solution: is to have the SCAC website within the SCWS website.

ORDER FORM—NEWCOMER PACKETS

- **Have had several inquiries of why WSO places an order form in all newcomer packets.**
- **Inquiries are concerned that WSO is promoting themselves and under cutting LDCs and AISs.**
- **Order form reminds you when you order from your local LDC, you support your local services!**
- **Placed in packets for Areas and Groups in remote sections of Canada and U.S. who cannot get to their LDCs or AISs.**
- **Winter months are brutal for some Areas.**
- **South Dakota has one LDC for entire State!**
- **Tradition One – Unity of our fellowship**

 **Move beyond just your Group!**

11

In response to your question regarding the pamphlet enclosed in the "Newcomers' Packet" which the World Service Office puts together and then mails to the Literature Distribution Centers and or the Intergroup Offices. The enclosure you are referring to is not a pamphlet but a order form to order directly from the World Service Office.

The order form is not meant to circumvent the LDCs or the Intergroups. In addition, WSO is not promoting themselves. They prefer to fill orders from LDCs and AISs. They even request on the Members' Website to buy from your local literature distribution center and that you support them in that way!

We must remember that we are a worldwide fellowship and every Area is definitely not like the Los Angeles area, which to my knowledge is the only location this question has come up. A group does not have to travel far in Southern California to purchase literature. When you consider Groups from all over the country who might have an LDC or an Intergroup office which is miles away from where the Group meets and in addition lets throw in inclement weather throughout the winter, then throw in job responsibilities and family obligations it can be a perplexing task to try to purchase literature when the LDC is open and available for a Group (or person) to travel to. Many Groups throughout the country and Canada purchase their literature directly from WSO because of these factors. Yes, Canada with all their provinces and vastness; Groups are so far away from LDCs it is impossible to get to in the middle of winter. Besides keep in mind CA(S) has 1250 Groups. The state of Utah has about 60 Groups. This is an example. Think about a Group in the state of Utah needing to travel for hours to get to the LDC. Isn't it easier to order literature from WSO. This is not what all Groups do throughout the US and Canada but some are forced to throughout the year.

WSO WORKER COMPILING NEWCOMER PACKETS



12

In the state of North Dakota they have ONE LDC! It is in a woman's garage where she fills orders for the entire state of North Dakota! What if she is unable to fill an order or orders and groups need literature? They are forced temporarily to order from the WSO.

As a Delegate I have been able to see and hear the difficulties that face other Areas. Some are similar and some are totally different from CA(S). We are so fortunate here and other Delegates are amazed at what we can offer in CA(S) because of our structure. We have many Intergroup Offices and LDCs with paid workers. For example in Massachusetts they have one Intergroup for the entire state and even though it is a small state that is the only location to purchase literature.

We must remember our First Tradition "Our common welfare should come first; personal progress for the greatest number depends upon unity". It is about what is best for Al-Anon as a whole. Thinking more globally as a Delegate is my responsibility to the fellowship. When WSO has individuals who put together the Newcomer Packets it would be very tedious to put them together according to what each individual Area requires. It is for the greater good not for one individual Intergroup or Area. This Tradition tells us that our goal is to find the solution that is best for the greatest number.

I hope this helps provide more clarity and understanding. We must always remember that it goes beyond just our Group. We are a worldwide fellowship.

TREATMENT FACILITIES OUTREACH WORKSHOP

- **The “How to of Public Outreach” What happens after treatment?**
- **SCWS hosting pilot for an exciting World Service Office (WSO) program.**
- **“How to” guide for cooperating with treatment facilities.**
- **Unique opportunity to provide feedback on material to WSO.**
- **WHERE: Hoag Conference Center, Newport Beach**
- **WHEN: Sunday, August 24, 2014 at 12:30PM**
- **NO CHARGE.**



13