**Thought Force "How Can Southern California World Service (SCWS) Support Districts and Intergroups in Dealing With Groups Whose Activities Do Not Consider Al-Anon as a Whole."**

## OUR CHARGE:

Identify the needs of SCWS Area Districts and Intergroups as to the prevalence of such groups. Discuss and answer the 5 questions of Knowledge-Based Decision Making (KBDM).List examples of practices which are not consistent with Traditions and Al-Anon principles and do not consider Al-Anon as a whole. For each, describe the practice, develop possible strategies to assist Districts and Intergroups in finding a consistency of addressing these groups, directory listings, participation, use of Al-Anon name.

## BACKGROUND/FRAMING

In order to understand this topic and show the progression of attention to the issues addressed by the World Service Conference, we recounted the history of WSC's discussions and actions about this topic. (Reference: Conference Summaries from 2005-present for full discussion.)

At first, the term "Pyramid Sponsorship" was used to describe the groups of concern. As a direct result of this discussion in Panel 46, the "Sponsorship—Working Together to Recover" bookmark (M-78) was designed and produced.

In 2010, practices of some of these groups were discussed in a "Chosen Agenda Item" session regarding "Healthy Meetings." As a result of this discussion, a ThF was formed to report in 2011 on "Support Areas in Dealing with Groups Whose Activities Fail to Consider Al-Anon or Alateen as a Whole."

Although ten practices of concern were identified, one, "Use of Material that was not WSC Approved" was used for 2011 presentation. As a result, 2012 WSC Task Force developed workshop on CAL only usage in meetings, which our Current Delegate also presented in 2012 at an Assembly.

Another result of 2011 ThF presentation was discussion on possible implementation of "Do Not Refer List," where potential newcomers calling the WSO 800 number would not be referred to meetings that the <u>local World Service Area identified as not following Al-Anon policies</u>. This would be SCWS.

SCWS does not have a written Area policy but has recognized the Information Service Centers' autonomy regarding listing meetings. The SCWS Board created this ThF not only to identify Area practices and develop possible strategies but to evaluate the need to have a written Area policy in the event the "Do Not Refer" discussion at the World Service Conference continues.