

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WORLD SERVICE


“How Can Southern California World Service (SCWS) Support Districts and Intergroups in Dealing with Groups 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 the Al-Anon name.
- Pros and cons.

BACKGROUND/FRAMING:

- 2005-present: World Service Conference (WSC) discussions including *The Forum* articles
 - 2009 WSC discussion identified this consistently-surfacing issue frustrating many US and Canadian Areas
 - 2010 WSC formed a Thought Force (ThF) to examine practices in meetings that were not consistent with Al-Anon policy, which affected Al-Anon as a whole
 - 2011 ThF identified 10 practices of concern, with a presentation on “Use of Material that was not WSC-Approved.” 2011-12 WSC TF developed workshop on CAL usage
 - 2011 Board of Trustees presented “Do Not Refer” discussion, needing Area policies
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BACKGROUND/FRAMING

- SCWS does not have a written Area policy and recognizes the Information Service Centers' autonomy regarding listing meetings
- 2012 SCWS Board created ThF to identify Area practices and develop possible strategies to deal with them

THF USED KBDM FOR AN INFORMED GROUP CONSCIENCE

ThF met from October 2012 through October 13, and after 12 months of frequent conference calls, discussions and study, and were “bumped” from the agenda 3 times.

What follows is a summary of our findings from answering the 5 questions of KBDM, identifying key issues and discussing strategies with pros and cons for each.

As we realized the scope of the topic and charge was enormous, we focused on 3 comprehensive issues to establish a recommendation.

Thinkers, not doers. No decisions or policies were made.

THF USED KBDM FOR AN INFORMED GROUP CONSCIENCE

Thank you to dedicated members of this ThF.

Enid Mintz, GR, Alt DR 17, now DR 17

Carol Goold, Fmr Alt DR 60, now Alt GR, Orange County IG Liaison

Billy McCall, Fmr IE Service Bd Chair, DR 36, IE IG Liaison

Cathy Lindstrom, Fmr DR 17, Now DAL 17

Marlene Murphy, Fmr GR, now DR 60

Jennifer Volbrecht, Fmr DR 45

Arlene V., Fmr Alt DR 27

Sandra Linnage, Immediate Past Delegate, Chairman

IN ANSWERING THE 5 QUESTIONS OF KBDM WE:

- Recognize that Al-Anon groups are created with one primary purpose: To help families and friends of alcoholics
- They are based the spiritual principles of the 12 Traditions, 12 Concepts of Service and the Warranties of the Conference
- Need to balance freedom and responsibility in support of Tradition 4 (understanding group autonomy)
- Need to frame Area policy to assist in fostering unity as stated in Tradition 1
- GR participation is the key to harmony as stated in Concept 4

Group Conscience, and provides guidelines and policies for all Al-Anon groups

WE KNOW THAT:

- Newcomers can be confused or misled about Al-Anon's purpose at meetings displaying, reading or recommending outside literature or practices (ie. "meditation meetings")
- Individuals' sharings using religious or political references, chanting and common use of such treatment-center jargon as "co-dependent," "significant other," and "qualifier" can mislead
- Members can leave meetings and sometimes even th Al-Anon program when the 12Traditions, principles, guidelines and policies are not followed

MAJOR CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES

- Use of materials not Conference Approved
 - ❖ Area-wide workshops, discussions, use of WSC PowerPoint presentation and other means to explain CAL policy
 - Controlling sponsorship and groups
 - ❖ Encourage use of Sponsorship Bookmark and Pamphlet. Discuss Tradition 2 in meetings
 - ❖ Workshops, presentation, more Q&A, understanding of how AI-Anon can be distorted, diluted
 - Lack of understanding of the 12 Traditions and their meanings, lack of information, communication, loss of connection with the Area
 - ❖ AND...we recommend all of these issues should be addressed and incorporated in the main strategy at large...
- Create a Task Force to prepare an Area Policy to help meetings remain consistent with AI-Anon Traditions and policies as presented in the *Service Manual*.**

CONCLUSION:

WE RECOMMEND all of these issues should be addressed and incorporated in the main strategy at large...

Create a Task Force to prepare an Area Policy to help meetings remain consistent with Al-Anon Traditions and policies as presented in the Service Manual.



THE AL-ANON DECLARATION

“LET IT BEGIN WITH ME”

When anyone, anywhere,

Reaches out for help,

Let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen

Always be there,

And let it begin with me.



POSSIBLE OPTIONS AND PHRASING OF MOTION(S)

1. Do nothing. No motion required.
2. Support Strategy and Conclusion. Motion to read:

“I move to create a Task Force to draft an Area Policy to help meetings remain consistent with Al-Anon Traditions and policies as presented in the Service Manual. This body is to consider the challenges and strategies as presented in Thought Force report.

(This motion only requires majority vote [most votes] because it only approves the writing of a policy, not acceptance of a policy.)

“The WSO will register a group with the understanding that the group will abide by the 12th Tradition and not affiliate with or endorse any outside entities or purpose.” This is the agreement made by the groups and WSO which entitles a group to use the Al-Anon name. (SM, p. 31)