

Knowledge-Based Decision-Making



January 2015

Goals

At this session, you will:

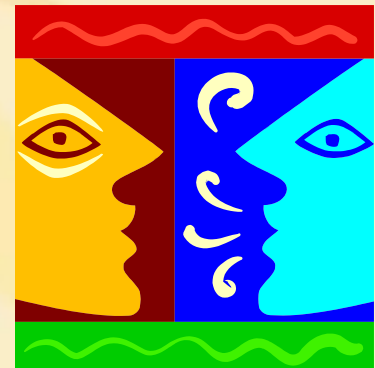
- Learn the basic processes of KBDM
- Practice leading and participating in KBDM sessions
- Have documents and reference materials to share with your meetings
- Be able to help others use KBDM sessions in your meetings

KBDM alignment with Al-Anon principles

- **Tradition #1**: Our common welfare comes first; personal progress for the greatest number depends upon unity.
- **Concept #4**: Participation is the key to harmony
- **Concept #5**: The rights of appeal and petition protect minorities and insure that they be heard.
- **General Warranty #3**: All decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by unanimity

KBDM's basic steps

- Announce topic 2+ weeks in advance – describe problem/issue
- Pick a facilitator & note-taker
- Adopt guidelines: time overall, time per share, stay on topic etc



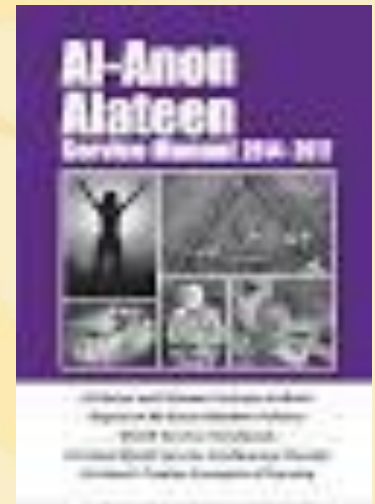
Information Exchange

1) Frame/clarify the problem

2) Facts on the topic are gathered:

- historical perspectives
- archival information
- previous motions
- information in our

Service Manual

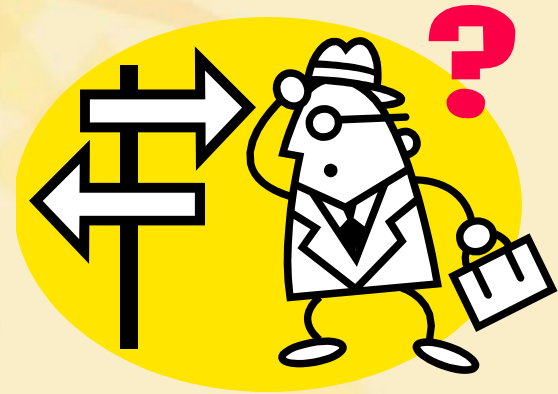


Five KBDM Questions

The answers to the questions provide a basis for discussion.

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

They provide common information so everyone can be on the same page.



Question 1



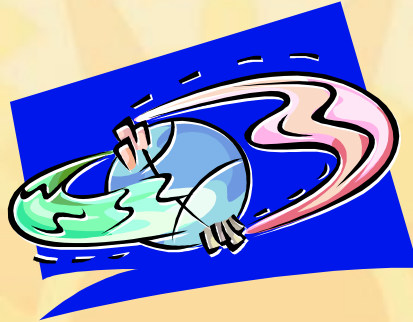
What do we know about our members' or prospective members' **needs** that is relevant to this discussion?

Question 2



What do we know about the **resources** and our **vision** for the organization that is relevant to this discussion?

Question 3



What do we know about the **current realities** and **evolving dynamics** of the world and our fellowship that is relevant to this discussion?

What are the pros and cons?

Question 4

What are the ethical implications of our choices?

In other words...

Will our decision be consistent with our spiritual principles, policies, and Twelve Traditions?

Question 5



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

Summarize...

- You can summarize what's been said as the information exchange goes along...
- Or summarize at this point:
 - The problem description
 - The information that's been gathered

Before making a decision...

- Has everyone asked all the questions needed for clarity?
- Have all opinions, including the minority opinions, been heard?
- Does everyone feel they thoroughly understand the topic?
- Does everyone feel that an informed group conscience has taken place?

Decision-Making

Based on the information exchange, there are 3 options:

Option #1

A suggestion/solution may evolve from the discussion; facilitator can ask for a show of hands.



Decision-Making

Option #2

The topic is sent to a task force, committee, or individual for further research or gathering of more information.



Decision-Making

Option #3

No motion or decision is made and the “status quo” remains. No vote is taken.

We Accept the Group Conscience



In summary...

“ By being part of an informed group conscience, gathering the information we need, letting our loving God guide us, and remaining trusted servants, we are all part of the group and support its decisions.”

Paths to Recovery, p. 145