



Al-Anon's Participation with A.A. in Assemblies

**Colorado Area World Service Committee
and
Colorado Area Assembly**

**July 18 and 19, 2025
Grand Junction, CO**

Thank you

We would like to express our thanks and gratitude to A.A. Colorado Area 10 for including our Area in their Ad Hoc Committee process and conversation.

It has been an ongoing process that we have felt included in and our voices heard.

We would also like to thank the A.A. Ad Hoc Committee for providing us with their reports and recommendations.



A.A.'s Recommendations to their Area Assembly.

1. Assembly Scheduling Recommendation 1 – Moving the Fall/Winter Assembly to late August/early September and to move the Summer Assembly from July to June.
2. Assembly Scheduling Recommendation 2 – Move the A.A. State Convention from late August/Early September to mid-October/early November.
3. Assembly Scheduling Recommendation 3 – That A.A. hold a standalone virtual (online only) Election Assembly in late September or the first weekend in October of even number years. They are considering doing this on a trial basis.

A.A.'s Recommendations to their Area Assembly.

4. Assembly Scheduling Recommendation 4 – To hold discussions so that the Area can come to an informed Group Conscience on whether (and how) to continue to hold the Colorado State Convention.
5. Assembly Bidding Recommendation – That A.A. affirm the existing process that districts bid for Assemblies with the assistance of the A.A. Area Contract Coordinator.
6. Assembly Format Recommendation 1 – That A.A. have a trial of up to three hybrid assemblies to be scheduled as determined by the A.A. Area Chair.

A.A.'s Recommendations to their Area Assembly.

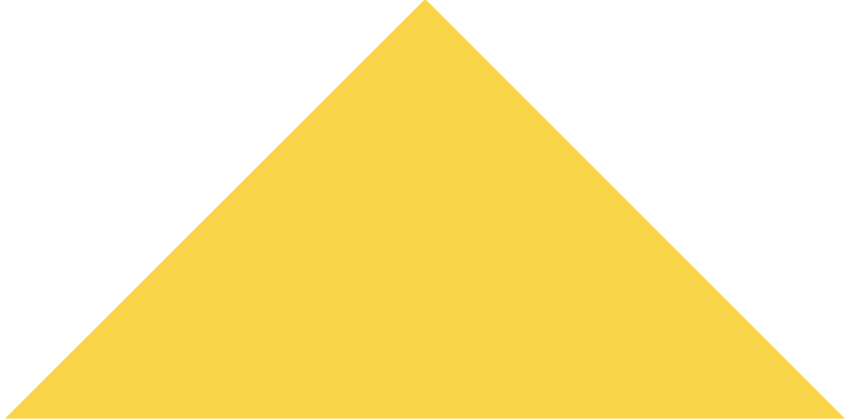


7. Assembly Format Recommendation 2 – That A.A. hold a trial of up to three two-day Assemblies (Friday and Saturday) with their Area Committee meeting held virtually on a different day (either before or after the assembly), trial dates to be determined by the A.A. Area Chair.

A.A.'s Recommendations to their Area Assembly.



Our focus for today's conversation:

8. Cooperation with Al-Anon Recommendation: That A.A. continue the practice of holding its assemblies with Al-Anon. As A.A. progresses with its other changes to assemblies, A.A. can then come back to readdress the issues with Al-Anon. It would then be up to the A.A. Area Chair to reopen discussions.



As you can see from A.A.'s recommendations, several of their recommendations would have a direct impact on how AFG of Colorado conducts our Area Assemblies, if A.A. and Al-Anon Area Assemblies continue to be held in conjunction with each other.

Minority Opinion

- **Cooperation:** Just because we have separate assemblies doesn't mean we aren't cooperating with each other. Honestly, we are not truly cooperative now. If we were actually cooperative, Al-Anon would have a voice and a vote in the process. This cooperative gesture began in the 1960's with no indication of a discussion or vote. While this was not the original intent, AA has taken control over when and where Al-Anon Area 5 has their business meetings.
- **Self-Support:** Both AA and Al-Anon have expressed wanting to be self-supporting. Neither one of us is self-supporting with this current process.

Minority Opinion

- **Shared Experience:** If we look up our service structure inverted triangle, our Districts don't hold their business meetings in conjunction with Al-Anon. Looking down our service triangle, our General Service Conference is not hosted in conjunction with Al-Anon. Looking at the Area level of the service triangle, subcommittee #4's research revealed about 83% of Area's also don't hold their assemblies with Al-Anon. This is clear data that the shared experience overwhelmingly supports having separate assemblies.

Minority Opinion

- **Alienating Area 10 Districts:** In Area 10, we have inadvertently eliminated several districts from being able to host assemblies because there is not an affordable venue that will hold both of our groups simultaneously. I have witnessed the frustration from districts who are excited to bring an Assembly to their district but become disappointed when unable to find an affordable venue to host both groups.
- **Burden on AA Trusted Servants:** Another consequence is that certain trusted servants bear the burden of ensuring Area 5 Al-Anon's needs are met for their assemblies. In particular, the Area Chair, Contract Coordinator, and District Host Committee Chairs spend a good amount of time lining up the details for both groups. This diverts those trusted servants from serving the needs of the AA Area 10 Districts and groups.

Minority Opinion

- **Which question to answer first:** I think it has been this committee's stance that when/if we make changes to other aspects of our assembly process, Al-Anon will choose to go their own way based on those changes. I have the opposite view. My hunch is that one of the questions that is going to arise with our recommendations regarding schedule, format, and location is going to be, "what about Al-Anon?" If the Al-Anon question is answered first, Area 10 is now free to focus on our own Assembly needs and have a nimbler response to the overall recommendations of the committee.

Other Information Considered

Responses to the 4 questions asked at the March 2025 Assembly:

1. What do you see as the advantages of continuing to hold Assemblies in conjunction with A.A.?

- Members believe that we are able to receive better rates on hotels because of the combined number of attendees.
- There is a feeling of cooperation and collaboration with A.A.
- They enjoy the combined speakers on Saturday night.
- It is financially better for the fellowships to join together.
- Acknowledgement that A.A. has the experience and knowledge of finding and managing a site.

Other Information Considered

- Acknowledgement that A.A. does the majority of the planning.
- Better access to larger facilities.
- Participating in the purchase of lunch and coffee to offset contract expenses.
- Al-Anon benefits from A.A. volunteers in hosting the hospitality room.
- “We are getting off “scott free” contributing only \$700.”
- Enjoy the ability to fellowship with A.A. members.
- This keeps the costs down for Al-Anon.

Other Information Considered



2. What do you see as the disadvantages of continuing to hold Assemblies in conjunction with A.A.?

- A.A. determines when and where.
- Too large and hard to get rooms in the hotel.
- Are we self-supporting?
- Smaller venues would cost us more.
- A sense that because A.A. has 3 days of business, that we too need to have 3 days of business. This may also affect the contracts with the venues.
- Our costs would go up and the possibility of participation would go down.
- There is a lack of information on the additional costs to A.A. to have the AI-Anon participation.

Other Information Considered



3. What do you see the advantages of Al-Anon holding Assemblies independently?

- We would be fully self-supporting both financially and independently.
- It would allow us to select dates and venues.
- Possibility of some of our smaller Districts ability to host the Assembly.
- Possibility of lower costs at a smaller venue.
- Possibility of a shorter Assembly and frequency.
- A general sense the costs would be less for us.
- Hybrid Assemblies for Al-Anon without affecting A.A.
- We could come up with inventive new ways to conduct Al-Anon area assemblies.

Other Information Considered

4. What do you see as the disadvantages of Al-Anon holding Assemblies independently?

- Costs and planning.
- Miss being with A.A.
- Getting enough volunteers
- Loss of support from A.A. in the planning and selection process.
- Loss of interaction with A.A. members.
- Fewer Group Representatives attending because of increased costs.

Other Information Considered

- “Are we up for the challenge?”
- Possibility of creating conflicts for couples (families) when both A.A. and Al-Anon members attend if different dates and locations are used.
- Not being able to hear A.A. speakers.
- We would have less negotiating power as a smaller group when selecting venues.
- Currently, we do not have the service positions or procedures established to select venues and negotiate contracts.

Let's have a conversation



Discussion should be focused on what information do we need from our GRs, our Districts, and our members as it relates to this matter. Additionally, what items do we need additional research on as it relates specifically to the needs and future of our Area Assembly.

Let's have a conversation

Items that A.A. considered in their discussion included:

Spiritual Inequality

Logistical Issues

Hotel Room Blocks

Trusted Servant Workload

Cost vs. Benefits

Attendance

Anonymity

In-person Attendance Requirements

Good vs. the Best

Laziness

Cost Variability

Unintended Consequences

Recommendations

- Eloy M. and Tom B. will continue to act as liaisons with A.A. on this matter.
- Based on the conversations with the Area World Service Committee (AWSC) and the Assembly, that our Chairperson establish the necessary Thought and/or Task Forces.

Thank you

