

HOLDING ASSEMBLIES IN CONNECTION WITH OR WITHOUT A.A.

Responses

52 Responses Received

March Assembly, 2025

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

- AA hosts and Al-Anon has it's own thing.
- AA gets a good venue rate.
- We are kind of an offshoot of AA
- Bigger Fellowship opportunity.
- Sharing resources and hearing both Al-Anon and AA speakers add to the depth of the experience.
- Less Costs for attendees therefore group expenses.
- Hearing both AA and Al-Anon member stories.
- Diversity, compassion, and more understanding.
- I like it feels like we are cooperating with them.
- But I don't interact with them other than the speaker in the evening.
- Seems like the pricing is better with a larger group.
- History of it all.
- Cost is probably less. Greater #'s = greater discounts.
- Coordination of food.
- Financial, fellowship.
- Facilitate a spirit of fellowship and collaboration for the two sides of the coin.
- Increase #'s of participants may *arrow pointing down* [lower] costs per participant (e.g. group rates for rooms).
- Family members (e.g. husband & wife) in both programs can attend together.
- Fellowship with AA.
- Probably most economically viable from an individual perspective.
- Volunteer pool.
- Sharing expenses, fellowship, speakers from both AA/Al-Anon helpful for people in both.
- Keeps in line with our Tradition 6 to cooperate with AA.
- Sharing in food expenses, reduced room rates.
- Helpful for families in both.
- Not as expensive for Al-Anon.
- The work of finding a place is done for us.
- We could choose our dates.
- The hospitality room is mostly staffed by AA.
- AA has the experience and knowledge of finding and managing a site.
- Hospitality, info sharing, tradition?

- Fellowship, cooperation.
- HOPE all spouses can attend (is a plus if they are dual household(s)).
- Discount savings at venues.
- Get to hear the AA as well as Al-Anon speaker.
- Any perks to staying and meeting in larger hotels.
- Healthy interactions between AA and Al-Anon members.
- Chance for greater joint community.
- Individuals who identify as dual members have a chance to attend workshops [?speakers?] from either group.
- Better access to facilities per larger overall numbers.
- They (AA) take on the brunt of responsibility for \$, contracts, communication between them and the venue chosen.
- La comaderia quie se a creado con lost miembros que has concoido en mi camino espiritual, el carino especial que recibes en in abrazo.
The camaraderie that has been created with the members you have met on my spiritual path, the special affection you receive in an embrace.
- Yo amo los coradover del sabado y me entistece que perderiamos esa parte especial de su experience, fortaleza y experanze de ellos.
I love the Saturday hearts and I'm sad that we would lose that special part of their experience, strength, and hope.
- I like the history of the AA and Al-Anon working together.
- Helps us financially, plus we can do a financial “out reach” to help AA.
- I also dee the advantage of seeing the success of AA members.
- Collaboration with AA seems to work well.
- I see us as sisters and brothers in fellowship.
- It seems to make sense financially.
- Shared expenses.
- Comradery, ability to hear AA speakers. I love them hear Al-Anon speakers.
- More people to contribute to group meals (although, I find them expensive and haven’t purchased them, except for my 1st assembly 4 years ago).
- We are getting off “scott free” contributing only \$700.
- It is financially beneficial to both groups.
- Tradition 6 – cooperation with AA – this is one of the major ways that we do cooperate.
- Tradition 5 – by doing this together we are encouraging and understanding the alcoholics.
- Members who are dual members can easily participate in both assemblies (even though by nature no one would be voting in both).
- Families who have members in both programs could attend together.
- Opportunities for fellowship across programs.
- AA’s bring fun, engaged energy. It’s contagious.
- Al-Anons benefit from AA volunteers (hospitality room).

- Feels like cooperation with and fellowship with AA which I think benefits both sides.
- Shared resources are benefits to both programs.
- I think there are fewer members in Al-Anon, therefore fewer human resources available for assemblies.
- Pooling resources makes sense.
- I've always been proud of our "participation" and "harmony" found in Colorado Assemblies.
- Builds fellowship potentially however I do not see a lot of "mixing" other than those who come as a couple.
- For families who both individuals participate in assembly work it is a big advantage. It seems they can plan around that weekend together.
- We are all in this together!
- I think it would be a great loss to break up the two.
- Cost.
- Fellowship.
- Cooperation.
- Interaction with people from AA to understand how AA transform their lives.
- We don't have to make the booking, do the ground work.
- We feel like we're supporting AA. That may or may not be true.
- Cost savings and this allows opportunities for both groups.
- Have time to talk and support each other.
- We may have better facilities and price when working with AA.
- AA members are more numerous and have ability arrange assembly.
- AA people are nice.
- Alcoholics are fun.
- Joint speaker meetings.
- Cost-sharing.
- Fellowship.
- Cooperation with AA.
- Possible cost savings.
- Access to speakers from each group, AA/Al-Anon.
- Maybe less coordination problems – each entity can do their own thing.
- Economical – I've heard that it's money saving in general to assemble jointly.
- One statement I've heard, "We (Al-Anons and Aas) are 2 sides of the same coin).
- Tradition 6, also like the intended spirit of "support" we (Al-Anon) and they (AA) we give each other. Alcahthon and conventions also. Great practice in being together at these times and the carryover to Step 12 "in all our affairs."
- Divides up the work, more people to make decisions, plan.
- Cooperation and connection.
- I believe it keeps costs down for Al-Anon.

- Nicer facilities – fellowship.
- There is a rich exchange and cross support of our recovery between Al-Anon and AA.
- In our opening – we say part of our purpose is to offer understanding to the alcoholic.
- I also submit that the Al-Anon benefits as much or more in their recovery by learning about the struggles and growth of the alcoholic.
- Causa la conciencia y ellos siempre nos tienen en cuenta porque nos dan espacio. Cause consciousness and they always take us into account because they give us space.
- Cost sharing for the venue to make it more affordable for each group.
- The fellowship between AA and Al-Anon, the shared experience of having the AA and Al-Anon.
- It promotes fellowship between the program. There is sometimes a false belief that Al-Anon members sit around and talk about AA members. This helps us break down those divisions.
- The cost to the Al-Anon Colorado Area could be lowered for each assembly that AA bankrolls.
- The AAs and Al-Anons generally get along.
- Family recovery.
- Visibility than [they] see us and we see them.
- Continuity of planning.
- Economy of scale.
- Shared hospitality and community.
- Love the AA speakers.
- It is working, why would we change things as they are.
- Having both programs in the same assembly shows and demonstrates joint collaboration of similarities between programs.
- The programs feel like the flip side of the same coin, so having both at the assembly feels appropriate.
- Cooperation, a liaison with AA.
- Cost effectiveness (more people, lower costs?)
- Spreads out need for volunteers (hospitality, etc.)
- Awareness/experience through fellowship after formal agenda and through speaker meetings.
- Friends and family travel together regardless of which fellowship they are in.
- Social connections with recovering alcoholics.
- AA has always covered Al-Anon financially – it's an advantage to some of us.
- I happen to think autonomy of each program is compromised as a result – and fellowship becomes more important than service.
- Shared costs of venues
- Shared effort of organizations.

- Opportunity for joint fellowship.
- AA covered some of the cost.
- Joint AA and Al-Anon speaker meetings.
- Some socialization between the two fellowships.
- Perhaps less work for Al-Anon.
- Couples can attend together.
- Al-Anons get exposed at the Saturday speakers to issues they may have never considered.
- The hospitality room can be shared by both programs and friendly socialization happens.
- Many Al-Anons have no idea what it feels like to be in big crowds of 12 steppers.
- As we get better with Zoom options, the numbers for hotels and room access might actually shrink from what it has been.

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

- AA determines where/when.
- Al-Anon becomes too reliant on AA support and does not build an independent and strong base of our own.
- May/may not be as beneficial.
- Confusing where to sign in and who you're sitting next to in the hospitality room, sometimes uncomfortable.
- Too large and hard to get rooms in the hotel.
- Maybe more venue choices if we were alone.
- Don't know what cost for Al-Anon would be if not in conjunction with AA.
- Tradition 4 – Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting another group or Al-Anon or AA as a whole. At present, Al-Anon is not doing its share financially in supporting AA cost and expense for hosting. Maybe Tradition 7 also.
- Al-Anon always feels like a 2nd fiddle, more taco bars and ice cream socials.
- Are we self supporting?
- Congestion.
- Maybe limited fellowship interaction due to agendas.
- History but no documentation.
- Can't think of any.
- More costly to Al-Anon, smaller venues, loss of diversity in speakers/meeting/fellowship, less services available in the Assembly.
- Will cost us more.
- More work involved.
- Not seeing and talking to AA friends.
- Communication issues.
- GR speaking , I haven't been to many but as an Al-Anon it was tough to get a handle on all the info and details.
- If we are new, we were not in the loops of knowledge.
- It felt awkward and embarrassing.
- My DR had to do a ton of work for me! The website update might help us.
- Can't think of any, unless we feel dependent on them.
- No say over where the assemblies occur or if AA changes duration/format.
- They dictate where the assemblies are held and not always the best place/time. Like Cripple Creek a weekend before Thanksgiving in a potential snowed in place.
- yo no re ningunai pero me gustana escuchar las opinioner de quienes encuentren una desuentaja.
I don't know any of them, but I would like to hear the opinions of those who find a disadvantage.

- I feel we obligated to go from Friday to Sunday, and not sure if we really need to do that.
- Al-Anon has no voice/choice in selection of location.
- Increased nightly costs associated with large hotel spaces.
- Going wherever AA decides to hosts, not always excited about it.
- I see no disadvantage.
- Accommodations – I wasn't able to book a room at this hotel so I could only attend for the day today, and I was not able to park at the hotel – I almost thought I was going to have to turn around and go home.
- Harder to find venues.
- Parking gets full.
- You can hear them having more fun than us.
- I don't see disadvantages in continuing to hold joint assemblies.
- Al-Anon has to go where AA goes and has minimal to no input.
- Limits Al-Anon's options regarding length of assembly because contract with venues would be very complicated if Al-Anon was, for example to meet, only Saturday. This also applies to how frequently we meet.
- It is impossible right now to confirm that Al-Anon is being self supporting. This may cause Al-Anons to stay away.
- None.
- No control over venue, dates, areas we meet.
- We don't have a say in the city, hotel, etc ...
- We don't mix at the assembly except for lunch and a speaker.
- AA would likely ask us to pay more to offset their cost.
- Too expensive. Many Al-Anons sit out.
- I would not be in favor of paying more (fully self supporting) unless we get to have more say in the city/district and venue.
- Al-Anon are limited choice when and where for assemblies if we are beholden to AA to when and where AA chooses.
- We have less ability to determine best location and date.
- More or less expense?
- Too many people in hospitality room.
- Are we self supporting?
- No control over where we meet.
- Becomes complicated if we move to occasional assemblies completely online.
- Too big! Too expensive.
- The more people the more problems of having enough rooms available and cost of venue.
- Longer time for assembly – 2 days vs. maybe 1 day with just Al-Anon.
- Very large meeting. My co-traveler and I had to get a room in a different hotel.
- Size, control.

- As the amount of attendance of members can increase where it limits where to hold assemblies.
 - Zero.
 - We are yanked around the state based on their demographic and convenience rather than choosing a location more convenient to our body.
 - Creo que hoy hay desventajas porque ellos siempre nos dicen de quien en cuenta para organizarlo, solo que no hay híbrido y a veces, si se requiere una interpretación.
- I think there are disadvantages today, but they always have no one in mind to organize it, only there is no hybrid and sometimes, it does require an interpretation.
- Finding affordable venues – Although Al-Anon would use a smaller venue for our assemblies if it was just our group.
 - Our costs would go up and then participation would potentially go down.
 - Al-Anon having no say in time or location of the assemblies.
 - No decision making in the details, i.e. location, timing, etc.
 - We are beholden to the desires of the AA area.
 - We don't (haven't) had a choice of where the assembly happens.
 - Any deviation of routine could be disruptive.
 - Wheel reinvention?
 - Who would do this work? Special work? Paid position?
 - Will online participation result in significant impact on revenue from coffee, lunch and ice cream?
 - Not sure, maybe cost.
 - Venues crowded, rooms sell out, less say in location.
 - AA calls the shots.
 - We have not had an assembly in Colorado Springs in years.
 - We do need hard numbers. Why is it a gray area how much hotel rooms etc.?
 - AA approached us – hope we can all work together.
 - Better deals for Al-Anon at hotels etc.
 - We pay AA \$700.00 per assembly.
 - Size of venues. to host both assemblies, as well locations.
 - Other than same cost and effort, there are no direct correlation between the two assemblies.
 - Are we being fully self supporting?
 - Cost of large enough venue for joint assembly.
 - Smaller voice in decision process for venue, dates, number of assembly.
 - Junior partner – appearance to AA.
 - Lack of Al-Anon flexibility, 3 assemblies don't "have to" be the same 3 day format.

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

- Being fully self-supporting.
- Allows Al-Anon to grow independent of AA and keeps the focus on ourselves.
- Al-Anon can more easily make changes beneficial to Al-Anon.
- All Al-Anon protocols in place.
- Feel safer without fear of being around former alcoholics (if they ever were/are sober).
- Maybe smaller districts could host.
- We would need to be self supporting which is our Traditions.
- It would be purely Al-Anon in choosing when and where ...
- Would be great to have 100% Al-Anon.
- Fully self supporting.
- Less congested.
- Greater choice of venues since smaller number of participants.
- ? Lower cost if smaller venue.
- Control of date/venue/content (most likely at greater cost).
- Autonomy in venue selection, speakers, food, etc.
- Strengthens Al-Anon fellowship.
- May give some Al-Anon members a less intimidating experience.
- We would be self-supporting.
- Could choose our dates.
- Possibly more anonymity and comfort. I find my comfort level increases when I am in a space without alcoholics, even when I love many of them. I have experienced years of trauma, so I put up my guard around perceived gruffness, loud, smoking, familiar men who were abusive. “The body Keeps the Score”, a book on trauma.
- We can hold meetings in smaller venues, maybe in the mountains. We could have more choices.
- We could find out what it would cost to be fully self-supporting.
- Closer adherence to the financial tradition/principles to be self-supporting.
- We pick time and place. It may not always be spring/summer on western slope, winters in Denver.
- There are other places like Pueblo, Colorado Springs where more members would attend.
- Saber como entidad que significa ser autosuficiente en este aspecto. Knowing as an entity what it means to be self-sufficient in this regard.
- We would be independent and supporting ourselves – Tradition 7.
- We could shorten the assembly length. (Friday could be a zoom meeting for new GRs), Saturday – Assembly, we could have food catered in wherever we are., Sunday – nothing.
- Also, only have 2 assemblies, not 3.

- Autonomy as to fully self-supporting our fellowship.
- Decision making about where we want to hold assemblies, not bound by their choices.
- Could choose less expensive facilities, possibly a church, school, or nonprofit who might give us a deal.
- Don't need as much space with far fewer people attending.
- People can stay at whatever hotel they choose.
- Could get cheaper catering outside of hotels.
- I don't see any particular advantage.
- Tradition 7 – being fully self-supporting.
- Not sure if it would be cheaper or more expensive to break off – on the one hand, maybe we would have more flexibility to find a less expensive venue – on the other hand, we might lose the opportunity to get discounted rates.
- Smaller, cheaper (?) venues.
- More freedom in planning, I imagine.
- More variety in venues – less time at the Double Tree.
- No financial contribution to AA – could go solely toward our expenses.
- I guess new “opportunities” for growth would be available to us.
- Service work would be brought to light and our willingness to step up would be highlighted.
- Opens up possibility of total on-line assembly if wanted.
- Opens room to consider fewer or shorter assemblies.
- There are sometimes Al-Anon members who don't feel “safe” around AA.
- I wonder if Al-Anon would be able to include and support Alateen at an area level better.
- It feels like we are more partnered with AA than Al-Anon.
- None.
- Choice of venues, dates, areas we meet.
- We can decide the city/district and venue – what makes the best sense for us (members) and our finances.
- We could do one-day meeting at a church, saving money.
- Less expensive if we plan well.
- That plus zoom means great participation?
- Both programs help each in recovery and should stay together.
- More freedom to determine locations and dates.
- ? Less people in the “Relaxation Room”.
- We can choose where we hold assemblies.
- We can opt to hold occasional assemblies online without impacting AA and vice versa.
- Maybe could do everything we need to do in 1-2 days – only one overnight required?
- This would save \$\$ with increasingly higher costs venues are charging.

- Less time – maybe a one day instead of 2 day event?
- Smaller attendance – just Al-Anon, may allow for more focus time on just Al-Anon??
- Make our own assemblies decisions.
- Smaller venues may make it possible to have assemblies in smaller communities.
- Independent planning, more choice, possibly more flexibility.
- Smaller more intimate venues available.
- More concentrated focus on Al-Anon and Al-Anon fellowship.
- Better and more parking areas. Parking lot was completely full this morning.
- Zero
- Porque el programa hace gu cauf. Para orginzarto y si requerimos si se requiere interpreta aur d zoom hibrido.
Because the program makes you captive. To organize and if required, interpret a hybrid zoom.
- Other than getting a discount because of the total number of people (Al-Anon and AA) who attend, there doesn't feel there are advantages.
- The assemblies feel like very independent events at this point in time (since we don't see to have joint events ... except for the lunch/ice cream social).
- We can choose the venue.
- Ability to decide the details.
- We could come up with inventive new ways to conduct Al-Anon area assemblies.
- We could choose other dates for assemblies.
- It's comfortable, predictable – an example of dis-similar groups area unity.
- I think no matter what Al-Anon would be okay either way.
- If we were independent we could hold assemblies wherever Al-Anon wants to.
- Possible less dilution of Al-Anon energies in one space – potential triggers for some members being around members of AA.
- Keeping Al-Anon, Al-Anon.
- Autonomy of our fellowship – can pic location, time, etc.
- We'd be fully self supporting.
- Al-Anon chooses where they have the most likelihood of people coming. For instance, Colorado Springs has the most meeting in the State or close to it.
- Al-Anon would be fully self-supporting.
- Al-Anon would not be bound by decisions made by AA.
- May be less complicated to organize.
- Al-Anons could consider a 1 or 2 day in-person/hybrid assembly.
- Fully self supporting.
- More options for venue and number of assemblies.
- We are much smaller may be able to hold costs down.

- Tradition 7 adherence.
- Great flexibility for venues (smaller) for Al-Anon only.
- Independent decision making.

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

- Cost.
- Planning.
- Less in the way of shared resources and traditional activities of shared speakers.
- Change the dynamics to a degree.
- Missing being with AA, it just feels right.
- Probably less incentive for vendor to discount cost as numbers attending would probably – most likely – much decreased.
- Financial.
- Hospitality room could be an issue.
- Couples/family members not being able to attend together.
- ? Higher costs – less bargaining power, lower number of participants.
- Less of fellowship and interaction with AA.
- Greater individual expense (possibly).
- Getting enough volunteers.
- More costly to Al-Anon financially.
- More service and volunteers needed in planning.
- Loss of help from AA.
- Loss of diversity and cooperation between AA and Al-Anon.
- More work.
- AA/Al-Anon couples might not like it and quit service.
- Cost – cost is always the barrier. But as our programs are not for profit, couldn't we ask for discount rates?
- It may be more expensive, leading to fewer GRs attending – more may attend by zoom.
- Cost of independent assembly.
- Organization/infrastructure/connections needed to get comparable pricing/services, dates.
- Recommendation: Can we track Al-Anon separate from AA participants at summer and winter assembly to get some data? # of rooms, # of tickets, Donations (amount).
- The responsibility of guaranteeing we meet hotel rooms/meals. It could be a bust or a great change.
- Perder esa cooperacion que existe hasta hoy.
Losing the cooperation that exists until today.
- We would not be able to find a place we could afford, possibly people would not come it too expensive.
- It would be helpful to understand the AA reason why they don't want to continue this relationship. If it's just finances, why?

- Could be financial.
- Would miss interaction with AA members.
- Meeting outside of a hotel, disperses us to different locations and could diminish comradery.
- Less people, less bargaining power for price negotiation.
- A lot more planning on our end. What committee will make food, location and hotel block decisions?
- It would be more expensive for Al-Anon members to attend assemblies.
- Decreased opportunities for fellowship.
- Some people have husbands/wives on the AA side and it make planning easier if they both need to to.
- I have friends on the AA side and enjoy seeing them.
- Would we be able to afford on our own?
- Would discounts be reduced if we were a smaller group?
- What volunteer gaps would there be without AA?
- We shall “see” I guess. Hard to see at this point.
- I don’t believe that it would be a lot more responsibility and work on Al-Anon’s part.
- Are we up for the challenge?
- Loss of Al-Anon members who attend because their spouse attends AA.
- Create conflict within families with calendar issues.
- Increases WSC [AWSC] workload or makes it necessary to have members planning assemblies (venue).
- The power of many adds to our larger understanding.
- Cost.
- Loss of cooperation/interaction.
- Extra service work.
- Could an Al-Anon assembly be more efficient if we limited to one day, three time a year. These weekends are looong
- Based on what I know, have seen, I’m in favor of splitting. “Cooperation, not affiliation.”
- There is cost advantage to holding assemblies together.
- Fewer people available to run assembly.
- More expensive?
- No AA speaker and extra activities like ice cream social.
- Possibly more expensive.
- Less fellowship opportunity and no joint speaker meeting (possible to solve by inviting a speaker for one night.)
- It might require even more cooperation among the Districts than already exists.
- No opportunity to participate with AA events – open AA meetings, speakers, meals together, etc.

- Can Al-Anon afford it financially since we have markedly fewer members?
- I personally enjoy listening to and asking questions of certain AA's I've talked to during assemblies. It's informative for me and they ask questions about Al-Anon service, etc.
- Some people have spouses with family members in the other group, can attend at the same place and time, even if different rooms.
- Cost concerns.
- Less resources sharing/overall cooperation.
- Costs will go up – for in person costs.
- Don't want to be that ingrown.
- Que aveces no gastauios lo del suelo ya gre aveces ellos lo neven el saleit o el lugar. y aveces, solo haceuios el hrabajo, ceuro la corordinaceas y truer, niestoa comide.

That sometimes they don't spend the money on the land, sometimes they spend the money on the sale or the place. And sometimes, they just do the work, except for the coordination and true, not even food.

- Cost – Didn't realize that Al-Anon is the guest of AA at the assemblies until today. I was surprised at how little Al-Anon pays for (or towards) the cost of the venue. It seems like the cost of venues for independent Al-Anon assemblies would be far more that what the cost for Al-Anon is now.
- Are we being totally “self-supporting” when we do not share equally with AA the cost of the assembly.
- Cost.
- Lack of fellowship between programs.
- We'll need to use our brains to figure out what we can afford to spend in the process.
- We can't blame AA for a flop of an assembly (if one ever happens).
- Would this be a disservice to new members, learning cooperation.
- Loss of community with AA.
- Changing the format of assemblies could require a higher learning curve for setting up/organizing if half of our “help” is removed.
- Costs (potentially)
- Do we have enough volunteers willing to serve to make for successful meetings.
- We are alcoholic magnets and would miss the drama, chaos and excitement, fun that they bring.
- Potentially higher costs if we continue as a 3 day assembly, which possibly would be offset by a 1 or 2 day assembly.
- Fellowship between Al-Anon and AA.
- Cost and how it will effect budget.
- Less “negotiating” power for a smaller economic impact.