

Ask-It Basket Questions and Responses:

Q: Are group business meetings ok to post on a Google drive and does this violate anonymity?

P. 102 of the Service Manual

Who is responsible for scheduling a group conscience for a group?

Marcia S. P.146-47 of SM: group conscience decides, tradition 2

Q: Can group members (who normally attend business meetings), who are unable to make a particular business meeting, send in an "absentee" vote for something that is going to be voted on?

A: Marylin - For an absentee vote to be considered, the meeting should take a Group Conscience and be in agreement with all of the details on how and when an absentee vote can be delivered.

Page 48 of the current Service Manual outlines the Group Conscience process:

"The group conscience is the result of the group's business meet-ing discussions. The group conscience is the will of the group. The guiding principles for the group conscience are always the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts of Service. It may be helpful for the group to review these principles prior to any group discussions. Some simple group decisions may be decided quickly; however, oth-ers may take time. It is by taking the time necessary to hear from all members who want to participate that a group conscience evolves.

In order to make an informed group conscience decision, mem-bers need access to all the information about the issue they are being asked to discuss, they need clarity on what their discussions hope to accomplish, and they are asked to trust each other's motives and capabilities. By sharing information as equals, taking time for discussion, and maintaining principles above personalities during the discussions, groups are often able to reach unanimity in their de-cisions. If unanimity is not reached in the allotted timeframe of the meeting, discussions may continue at another time. Once a group conscience decision is made, the entire group supports the decision."

Acceptance of an absentee vote might mean that the person doing the absentee voting was not able to be fully informed by the group conscience process. Also, minority opinion during discussion at the group level can often change a members mind on how they may vote and absentee voters would not have the opportunity to hear minority opinion or provide additional information to the discussion.

Q: Please explain what the Equalization Fund to the WSO is.

A: Tom - Page 169 of our Service Manual describes the Delegates' Equalized Expense:

"Because costs of travel to the World Service Conference are different for each Delegate, a formula was developed to provide a fair equalization of expenses: The Delegate's Equalized Expense is calculated by dividing the Full Amount for Delegates to attend Conference by the number of Delegates. The Full Amount is the total estimated travel, hotel, meal, and incidental expenses for the Delegates, including their portion of the costs of Conference supplies. This Full Amount is reported to the Board of Trustees. A substantial portion of the Full Amount, as determined by the Board of Trustees, is the Equalized Expense and is paid by the Areas. The balance of the Conference costs is paid out of AFG Inc.'s General Fund. The Conference Leadership Team informs each Area that this Equalized Expense is to be sent to the WSO by the Area Treasurer before January 1. The Delegates' travel and incidental expenses are defrayed by these funds, regardless of distance traveled.

In gratitude, many Areas choose to contribute additional funds up to or more than the Full Amount."

Q: How many Delegates for our Region?

A: Tom - Our region is the Southwest Region, and the Region currently consists of 9 Areas, each of which has a Delegate. The nine areas are: Arizona, California North, California South, Colorado, Global Electronic, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico-El Paso, and Utah.

Q: How many Trustees from our Region?

A: Tom - This number can vary, currently there are 4 Trustees that are from the Southwest Region:

1. Cindy M., AZ – Regional Trustee
 2. Kathi M., CA S (Formally from Alaska) – Trustee at Large and Chairman of the Board
 3. Jayme C., CA N (Formally from California South) – Trustee at Large and 2025 World Service Conference Chair
 4. Marco R., NV – Trustee at Large
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Q: What is the purpose of recording per-entity average values? It is meaningless and misleading if the entities are not homogenous. The question brought up \$99 and less than.

A: Grete - The intention and purpose of the per-entity average Values was to inform Groups of what it would take if all things were equal to meet our income goals. It would never try to suggest that a group that could not afford that amount be held to those numbers. We are only trying to provide as much transparency as possible. This is also modeled after the information provided to us by the WSO. They tell us how much it costs to support each group. We choose to

inform the groups of the income instead of the expenses. I appreciate your question and comment as it has reminded me to be more clear when presenting these stats to the Assembly.

Rick: What are the requirements to be a Southwest regional trustee?

Go to the Alanon website and search trustee application and what the requirements are.

Are we working on coordinating communication with GEA? I.E. New GR training?

GEA is established by area. It is not really a GEA per say here but there

The Southwest regional area includes the Global area.

Does each District have an Outreach Coordinator?

It depends on the district, the size and availability.

I was the Outreach Coordinator for District 8 but there isn't one now. That was my passion. If you are passionate about something you can become a coordinator easily.

Is CO area 10? No. We are the CO area. It used to be 65 a long time ago. AA is area 10 for CO.

Mike: Was it on our email addresses? Area 5 is old. Seek an update from tech.

Q: ¿Cuándo se publicará la Talleres de Custodios para cada posición, dado el área, regional?
Translated: Is it possible to do workshops to learn about Trustees from the region?

A: Linda - Yes. We can. A good place to start is the handout used at GR connection. GRs can request a topic any time.

P. 90 of Service Manual, your district can host a workshop also. Your own district can host a workshop. Ex: KBDM workshop. You can request that at your own level.

Marilyn: Another option is to request a Spanish speaking trustee to come speak to our area, at our expense.

Lisa: Is that a question or a request? Is this a request or a question?

Asker: both. She's asking if it can be done and now that she knows, she would like to have it done.

L: We try to have our GRs request. Let's talk about this at the GR breakout this morning.

Teri: If you want to see the trustees, go on a road trip - one coming up in Omaha, NE

Q: When will all of the upcoming events be posted on the website?

A: Linda - Website coord. Sheila. Email website.org. Content needs to be generic. If personal, that posting needs permission to be posted. I'm sure Sheila posts it in a timely manner.

We have website guidelines concerning anonymity. With written permission, the area 5 website. Our website is not password protected. One flyer had a name blanked out and Sheila may have done that for quickness to post. Personal emails need permission. Website guideline on our website, website personnel coord.

Q: Do we have statistics on the number of attendees before and after the pandemic? Is hybrid increasing the number of participants?

A: The secretary has that information on a hard drive. We can research that. This could be a question for the hybrid committee.

Q: When and how do the GRs know who is elected as a trustee?

A: TMF - See assembly notes. End of April, start of May is when it is complete.

Q: Would it be possible for our delegate to continue his report on a zoom call?

A: TMF - See answer in assembly notes. We are all here. Is anyone interested in a zoom call to go over my delegate report?

Q: My district has a lot of dual members. Has a dual member ever asked to be a GR?

Rick: Yes and group, yes. It fell upon Rick

Chris: I'd love to have a forum with AA and Alanon to discuss this. It is becoming more of an ordeal for me and my district

Tom, panel 47, In addition to zoom call, the districts can invite our delegates to do a whole presentation in our district funding available.

Q: Can a GR represent a group who is Spanish and English at the same time? A GR cannot represent 2 groups at the same time. You can only have one vote at an assembly.

TMF: Is it ok for the GR to talk to a member about sexual assault from other members?

The impression I got is if a member is experiencing sexual assault, it is appropriate to talk about that. See assembly notes.

Mike: Our district was familiar with this situation. The alleged perpetrator switched meetings and it worked itself out. He saw people in other meetings. A GR came to Mike and he reached out to TMF. We resolved it using traditions and concepts. Tradition 4 each group can police itself. The

accused was confronted and given choices and consequences. We worked together. As a new GR, use all your resources.

Question 16:

"I was verbally abused at this Assembly and I'm wondering what is the best way to address this? I'm okay, but I do not want this to happen to anyone else, ever."

Answered by Rick G. and TMF

Answer: Rick -

1) If this happens to you please report it to the trusted servant of the group or in this case at the assembly, please report it to the Area Chairperson as soon as you can.

2) Page 50 in the Service Manual addresses "Group Problems and Solutions" and it deals with safety in Al-Anon meetings. (Rick read the following paragraphs from page 50 to the GRs)

Al-Anon and Alateen members expect a safe* and pleasant environment when they attend a meeting, and when one member causes unrest due to inappropriate or intimidating behavior, the entire group could be affected. Groups are within their autonomy to establish group behavioral guidelines in a manner that reflects their group conscience and abides by the Traditions, as long as they do not impact another group, Al-Anon, or A.A. as a whole.

Some members may discuss specific religious tenets, forgetting that membership is open to all. One or two members may dominate the group, ignoring the principles of rotation in leadership. Some members may talk about what they hear in meetings, violating our principles of anonymity and confidentiality. The spiritual principle of anonymity suggests that each member should be able to feel confident that nothing said in the meeting will be repeated, by a Sponsor or other members**—that every Al-Anon/Alateen member feels bound to keep in strict confidence any personal matter heard at a meeting or from an individual.

When the behavior of any member impacts the group, members apply the Traditions to the problem, and determine how best to approach the individual(s) involved, to ask the member to change the behavior in question. This can be an exercise in applying Al-Anon principles so that the message is not a personal attack, but rather a request based on what is best for the Al-Anon group. The Using Al-Anon Principles to Resolve Conflicts Kit (K-70) is a service tool designed to aid members and groups to resolve conflict in a principle-based manner. The "Three Obstacles to Success in Al-Anon" are: discussion of religion, gossip, and dominance. Study of this passage from the pamphlet Alcoholism, the Family Disease (P-4) has helped many groups deal with these group problems. (The passage is re- printed under "Optional Readings" in the "Suggested Meeting Out- line.")

The books Al-Anon's Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions (B-8), How Al-Anon Works for Families & Friends of Alcoholics (B-32), and Paths to Recovery—Al-Anon's Steps, Traditions, and Concepts (B-24), give detailed suggestions on the application of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service to solve group problems.

* See the document "Let's Talk about Safety in Al-Anon Meetings!" on al-anon.org for more information.

** It is important to remember that Al-Anon/Alateen meetings are not above the law. Members need to exercise care in sharing information that could require outside reporting to local, state, provincial, and national authorities.

3) The attached Al-Anon PDF document, "Let's Talk about Safety in Al-Anon Meetings!" is also very helpful to use when dealing with a member's bad or unacceptable behavior. I strongly recommend you share it with your group. I've asked our secretary to include the PDF in the minutes of the Ask-It-Basket questions and answers.

It's important to use Al-Anon traditions and principles to try to resolve bad or unacceptable behavior with the offending person. Most of us had various bad behavior when we first joined Al-Anon, but fundamentally we were all good people. So that is why it is so important to address the person's behavior and not the person themselves.

There is also available to purchase the Al-Anon "Using Al-Anon Principles to Resolve Conflicts Kit" (K-70) which can be helpful.

It's also important to remember that Al-Anon meetings are not above the law. If it is illegal outside an Al-Anon meeting is illegal inside an Al-Anon meeting.

I've asked TMF to team up with me on this question.

TMF: additionally, the situation and context was about the appropriate languages spoken at assemblies. Tradition 10

In my personal life, I have strong political opinions. I leave that at the door - those are outside issues. Whatever I believe as a person, I leave that at the door and don't bring that with me. We are the family groups.

At conference, every day, we are a trilingual program. French, Spanish and English. Every day at conference we changed the language every single time. Only a 3rd of the time I understood what I was listening to. Steps, traditions, concepts and general warranties - it was amazing to hear our steps, traditions, etc. in other languages. We could do a better job of this in Colorado. I'll verify with Linda. This allows all of us to get more familiar with all of our family members.

Tradition 10. Acknowledge that we want to keep assemblies as safe as possible. What we see on the news is an outside issue.
