

THOUGHT FORCE REPORT • SUMMER 2026 ASSEMBLY

# Al-Anon Separation from AA for Assemblies

*Exploring the benefits and downsides of holding Colorado Assemblies separately from, or jointly with, AA.*

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## PURPOSE

# Thought Force Charge

*Explore the benefits and downsides of holding our Assemblies separate from AA, or in conjunction with AA — assessing issues, concerns, and how each option would best serve our Colorado Area.*

Origin: Report to the AWSC, 6/8/2025      Date of Charge: 12/5/2025

## KEY QUESTIONS THIS THOUGHT FORCE IS CONSIDERING

- What logistics an independent Assembly requires: scheduling, location, hosting, registration, hybrid capability, and additional service positions
- The costs associated with holding an independent Assembly
- Site selection and the planning process for an independent Assembly
- Past AA-joint expenditures — Al-Anon's contribution, hotel and lunch costs — and what it means to be self-supporting

## HOW WE'RE DECIDING

### KBDM Process

Is there a current need? Have members asked for this? How would coordination happen?

### No decision has been made.

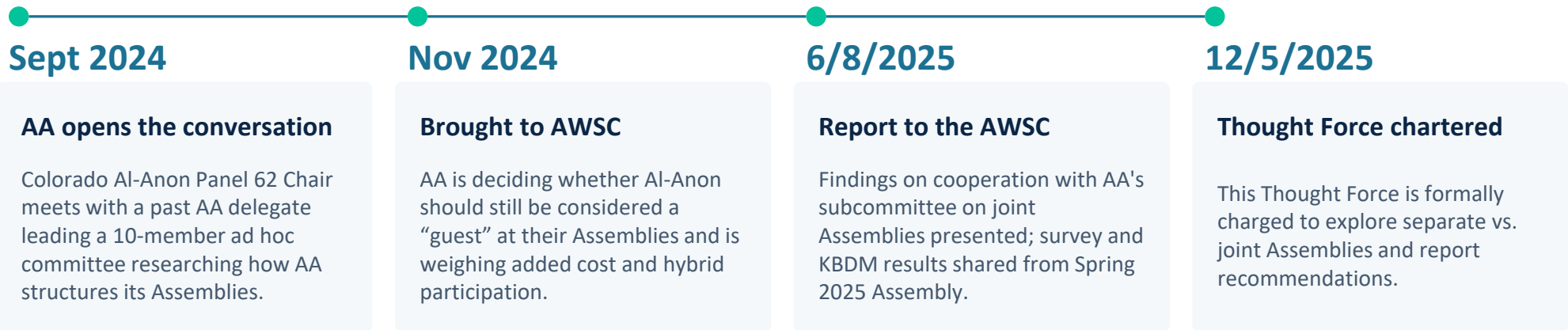
The goal is research and recommendations — not separation.

### Final report:

Presentation, findings, and recommendations to the AWSC using the Task Force Final Report template.

## BACKGROUND

# Why We're Working On This



## WHAT AA TOLD US

**81%**

of surveyed AA Areas are NOT allied with AI-Anon for Assemblies

**1–2 yrs**

AA's estimated timeline for reaching a decision

**150–175**

typical AI-Anon members attending our Assemblies

## SCOPE OF WORK

# Thought Force Tasks

*Four areas of research assigned ahead of the Summer 2026 Assembly report.*

**01**

### **Cost Comparisons**

Reach out to comparable AI-Anon Areas (e.g., SWRDM, Texas, Arizona, Utah) to benchmark Assembly costs and formats.

**02**

### **Historical Financial Data**

Review Colorado's own Assembly spending: contributions to AA, hospitality costs, and lunch ticket purchases.

**03**

### **Hybrid Feasibility Analysis**

Assess the hybrid task force's trial period, volunteer capacity, and ability to meet Assembly needs.

**04**

### **Discussion with AA**

Learn where AA is in its own process, whether a timeline exists, and whether collaboration remains possible.

## FINDING • TASK 04

# Where AA Stands Today

### Correspondence with Marilyn Blake and AA leadership (April–May 2026)

- AA is working through a list of committee recommendations; the question of continuing joint Assemblies with Al-Anon is last on that list.
- A decision is estimated sometime in 2027. Because AA bids venues a year ahead, any separation likely would not take effect before Winter 2028 — AA's own estimate, not a commitment.
- AA's current Assembly Guidelines do not allow Al-Anon to take part in planning or decision-making.
- Those guidelines could be revised to include Al-Anon, but that discussion won't happen until AA knows whether joint Assemblies will continue.

### ESTIMATED TIMELINE

#### 2026

AA continues internal committee review of Assembly recommendations.

#### 2027

AA expects to reach a decision on continuing joint Assemblies (estimate).

#### 2028

Earliest possible Winter Assembly where separation could take effect, due to advance venue bidding.

*All dates are AA's own estimates and are not guaranteed.*

## FINDING • TASK 01

# Cost Comparisons: Other Al-Anon Areas

| Area    | Format                                                                                           | Notes                                                                                                                        |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Texas   | 3-day Assembly, same site, twice a year — no AA involvement                                      |                                                                                                                              |
| Arizona | 1 Assembly (2–3 nights) + 2 one-day AWSC meetings + 1 Delegates Day; election Assembly is 3 days | Area covers hotel/mileage for officers, coordinators, past delegates, and trustees only. Has a dedicated Events Coordinator. |
| Utah    | Meets twice a year — once with AA, once alone; 1 night each                                      | Hotel \$150–\$250/night; meals mostly on their own except paid Saturday lunch (~\$15)                                        |
| SWRDM   | Rotates host sites; typically, 85–100 attend                                                     | Recent net income ranged from about \$230 to \$4,660 depending on year and venue                                             |

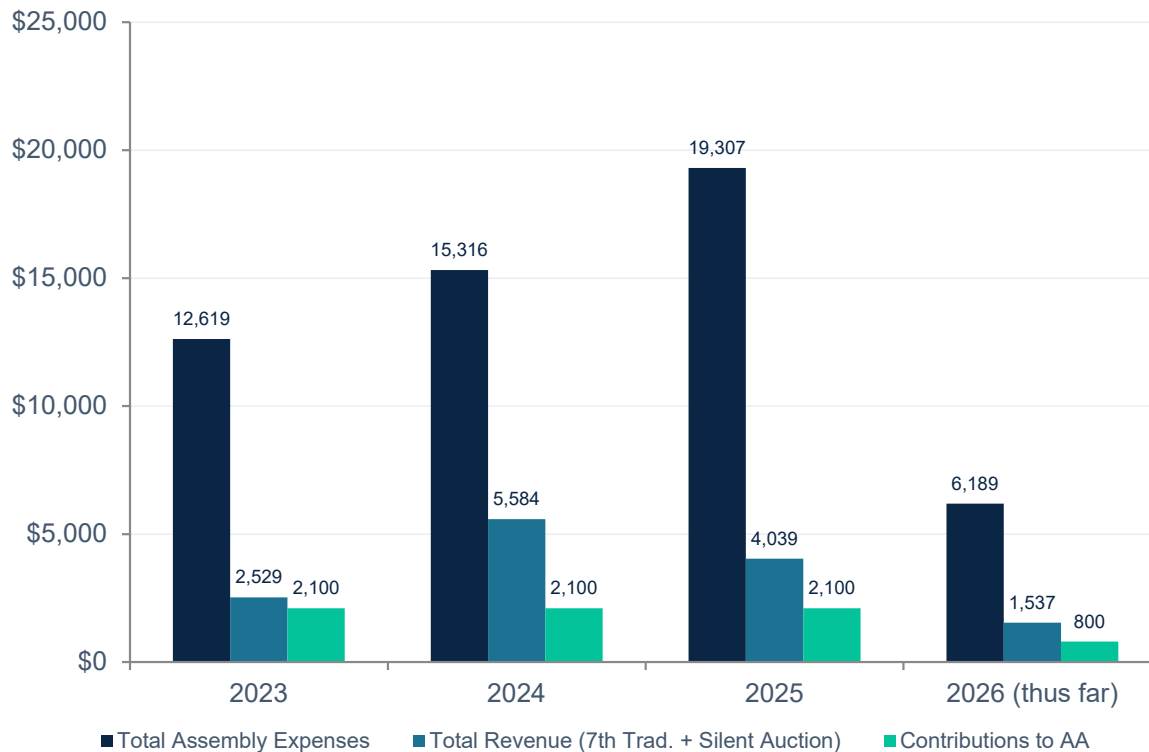
### TAKEAWAY

Areas that hold independent Assemblies keep costs down by limiting Area-covered expenses to officers and key roles, charging a modest registration fee (commonly ~\$20), and, in several cases, meeting fewer times per year or for fewer days.

\*Areas included in SWRDM: Arizona, California (N), California (S), Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico/El Paso, Utah, and Global Electronic Area (GEA)

## FINDING • TASK 02

# Colorado's Historical Assembly Costs



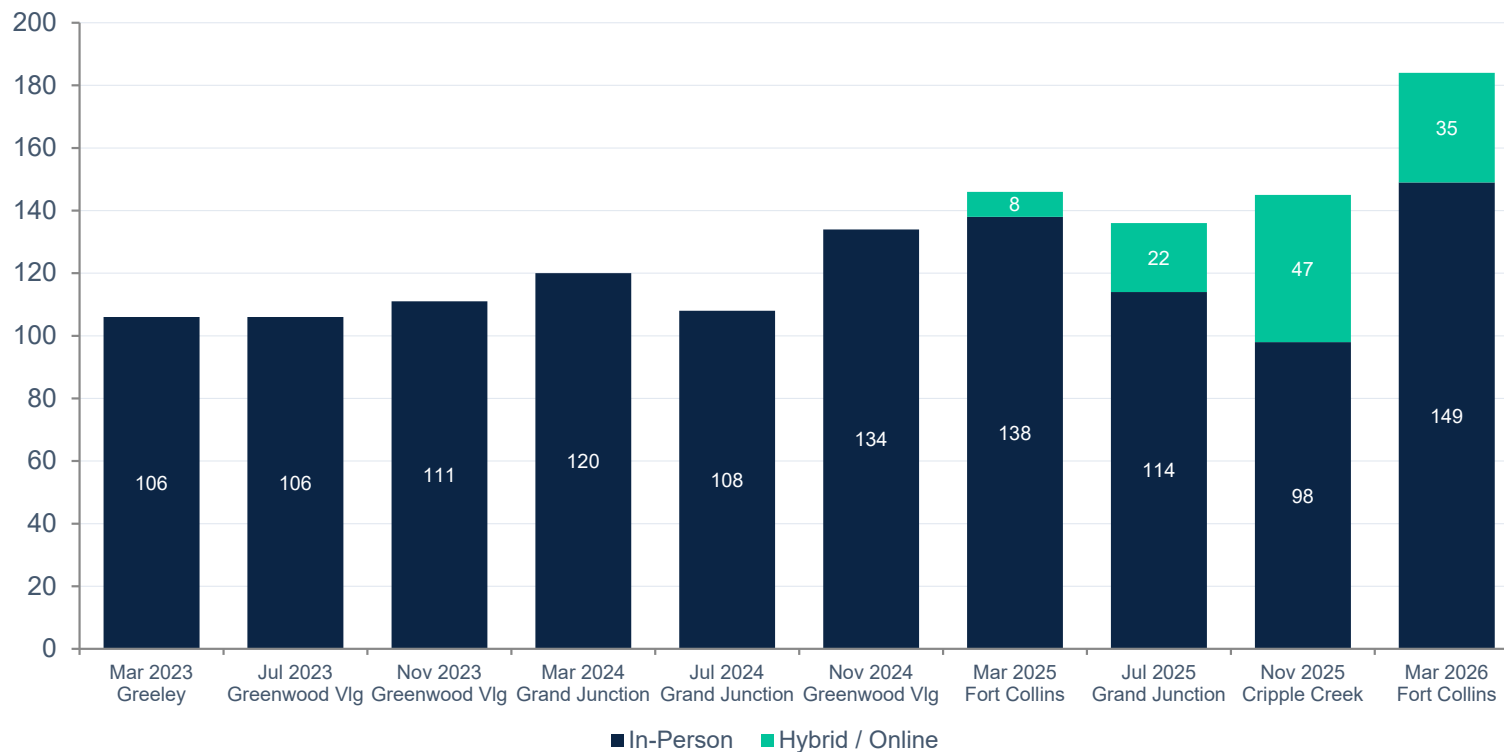
2023 revenue reflects the Mar. and Jul. Assemblies only — 7th Tradition and silent auction figures for Nov. 2023 were not recorded.

## WHAT'S DRIVING THE INCREASE?

- Overall Assembly expenses have grown from \$12,619 (2023) to \$19,307 (2025).
- Revenue from the 7th Tradition and silent auction has not kept pace with expenses in most years — peaking at \$5,584 in 2024 versus \$15,316 in costs that year.
- Al-Anon's per-Assembly contribution to AA rose from \$700 to \$800 in 2026.
- 2026 figures reflect year-to-date spending and revenue, not a full year.

## FINDING • HYBRID FEASIBILITY

# Assembly Attendance: In-Person vs. Hybrid



Colorado did not offer a hybrid option for Assemblies prior to 2025.

### HYBRID SHARE (last 4 Assemblies)

**5%**  
Mar 2025

**16%**  
Jul 2025

**32%**  
Nov 2025

**19%**  
Mar 2026

*Hybrid demand has grown but is volatile — it's currently offered for only one day of the three-day Assembly.*

## FINDING • TASK 03

# Hybrid Feasibility Analysis

The hybrid task force is currently operating under a trial period that ends in November 2027. Whether Colorado Assembly will continue offering a hybrid option after the trial period remains undecided.

Through a KBDM process and evidence gathered from the hybrid task force, this Thought Force found that the hybrid option continues to struggle with volunteer support and is only able to offer hybrid access for one day of the three-day Assembly.

If hybrid is approved to continue, it may take several Assemblies to transition from current task force members to new, trained volunteers — which could affect attendance and add expense to the Assembly budget.

### **7 volunteers + 1 IT lead**

currently cover every hybrid role — IT/Media, Presentations, Spotlight, Votes, Hospitality, Chat, and remote Tech Support — for a single day of Assembly.

### **WHY IT MATTERS**

*These factors could influence how future Colorado Assemblies are budgeted and managed. This does not, however, affect the separate question of whether Assemblies are held independently or jointly with AA.*

# THOUGHT FORCE RECOMMENDATION

## Launch a Planning Task Force for Independent Assemblies

*Explore and plan the implementation of independent Assemblies, addressing the following logistical and operational factors, while mitigating risk throughout the planning process.*

### Admin & Finance

- Registration fee (~\$20; higher for hybrid)
- Detailed Assembly budget
- Insurance & liability review
- Venue payment methods (card, deposit, master bill)

### Venue & Space

- Contracts, Food & Beverage minimums, room blocks
- Additional AV and IT costs such as audio/sound patch connection
- Hotels, churches, other venue types
- Main space + breakout rooms, hospitality, coordinators, translation, hybrid & auction space
- ADA-compliant access & parking

### Scheduling & Hosting

- 2–3 Assemblies per year; length of each
- Front Range, Western Slope, rotating, or virtual sites
- Area-hosted vs. rotating District responsibility
- Online registration process

### Hybrid & New Roles

- Hybrid technology, equipment & trained volunteers
- Venue/Hotel Coordinator
- Fundraising Coordinator
- Hybrid Coordinator

*A volunteer survey will also determine capacity and interest across these areas before recommendations advance.*

## THE MOTION

**The Colorado Area approves the recommendation by the *AI-Anon Separation from AA for Assemblies* Thought Force to launch a task force to explore and plan the implementation of independent Assemblies. This task force will address the logistical and operational factors noted by the Thought Force, while identifying and addressing financial, staffing and operational risks at each stage of the planning process.**

*A volunteer survey will also determine capacity and interest across these areas before recommendations advance.*