KBDM: Action Committee and Assembly Agenda Task Force

Framing/Back ground:

At the Fall 2020 Fall Assembly in Coralville, there may not be room for Action Committees (3 rooms). There has been discussion of how the Action Committees are working? Is there a better way to engage GR's during the Assembly?

Discussion began in the 2017-2019 term for the AWSC agenda – the revision of the AWSC agenda and start using electronic reports was implemented for a test period and at the August 2019 AWSC meeting, the trial period ended with a vote to continue the AWSC agenda as presented and electronic reports. It was agreed that the next step would be to transition the Assembly Business Agenda to include electronic reports.

A Task Force (members included the Officers) have completed background information on Action Committees and the Fall Assembly Agenda.

The Iowa Area Policy and Procedure Guidelines manual states that the primary function of the AWSC should be to plan for the general improvement of both the assembly and the groups. We originally understood that there might not be room at the Fall 2020 Assembly to break out into our three Action Committee groups. We have since learned that AA has made efforts to accommodate our needs and we can hold our Action Committees, but this information reignited a thought that has been germinating since at least 2012 to replace Action Committees with what the WSO is currently practicing at Conference; Thought Forces, Task Forces and Workshops. The 2015 Area Inventory Committee Our past Area Inventories indicate that members want more information to take back to their groups, and while they like the Action Committees they may find workshops or break out sessions very beneficial to the growth and health of their groups.

During the last term from 2017-2019 the AWSC utilized a Thought Force and Task Force to recreate our agenda. Some changes we made included moving from reading all reports to providing them digitally. We upgraded our time to 9-1 to allow for more working time. We've implemented workshops, breakouts and presentations by our AWSC members. We voted to make this a permanent change at the August 2019 AWSC meeting.

Since we don't know what we don't know, and our charge is to plan for the general improvement of Assembly, the Officers gathered background information in a Task Force to explore the pros and cons of replacing the Action Committees with an additional workshop at the Fall 2020 Assembly.

Our second Task Force also comes directly from the 2018 Area Inventory which states in many ways that members want access to the agenda, information and reports. Our current technology supports providing online access to reports so that all who wish to may download or access the reports that will be presented at Assembly.

The flow of information would be similar to the AWSC process - reports will be received prior to Assembly at a date set by the Chairperson, scrubbed for anonymity by the Officers and posted to the Website in a timely manner.

The following questions were completed by the Task Force Members and a compilation of responses were sent to AWSC members to inform and be ready for discussion.

What are the pros and cons for Action Committees?

Can eliminating the Action Committees be consistent with our spiritual principles?

What do we wish we knew, but don't know about eliminating Action Committees?

What do we know about our members in regards to the Assembly Business Agenda?

What do we know about the resources used and the purpose of the Assembly Business Agenda that is relevant to this topic?

What do we know about the current Assembly Business Agenda and the changes in our Area Group, and Al-Anon as a whole relating to this topic (electronic reports)? Pros and Cons

What do we wish we knew, but don't know about the Assembly Business Agenda?

In continuation of the Task Force, the Members would like to present the following recommendations:

1. Bring the Task Force information about the change from Action Committees to a Workshop to the 2020 Spring Assembly for discussion and possible vote.

2. Recommend a 2-year trial period of replacing Action Committees with a Workshop.

3. Recommend a 2-year trial period of providing a link to electronic reports written for the Assembly by Officers/Coordinators/District Representatives (AWSC members) on our Area Website. The link may be accessed by all members. Reports will be scrubbed by Officers prior to posting. Reports will still be read.