

IF
Permanent Electronic Groups are Voted in at the 2022 WSC
THEN
a group requests to join the IOWA AREA

The October Assembly presents the opportunity for the Group Representatives to share their thoughts on including electronic groups into our structure or deciding to let electronic groups remain in the forming Electronic Area.

Each GR has had the opportunity to research this topic, speak with other GRs as well as their DR and the AWSC. We come to this weekend with some understanding of the impact the GRs' choice will make on our Area.

Let's do one final walk through of the process by following one group.

Group ODAT was created last year by a core group of long-term members in Serenity, IA. This permanent electronic meeting is focusing on the three Legacies. It is registered with the WSO so members and prospective members from all over the world have access to the meeting. The meeting has about 6 local attendees and 2 to 3 members from other places in the world. This group would like to let local members know that they are holding the meeting online, but since they are not a part of the district where they live, or where the members from across the globe live, they cannot include the meeting on their local meeting schedule or District or Area websites. The meeting is preparing to celebrate its first anniversary. They will use personal emails to invite friends in the fellowship to attend. They hope their anniversary will be an opportunity grow the size of the meeting and bring more new members into their group.

Some members of the group feel the meeting would benefit by joining the local district so that it can include its meeting information on the district meeting schedule. The district has about 25 meetings and isn't sure it wants to include an electronic as a part of the district because it will need to accommodate the group electronically at district meetings as well as including links to the group on its meeting schedule. The ODAT group is poised to elect a GR and one of the members considering standing doesn't live in Iowa. The group is planning a group inventory to decide if it wants to petition the Area to join it since it is part of the Electronic Area and there isn't a protocol in place yet for including electronic meetings.

...This brings us to our current moment in time....

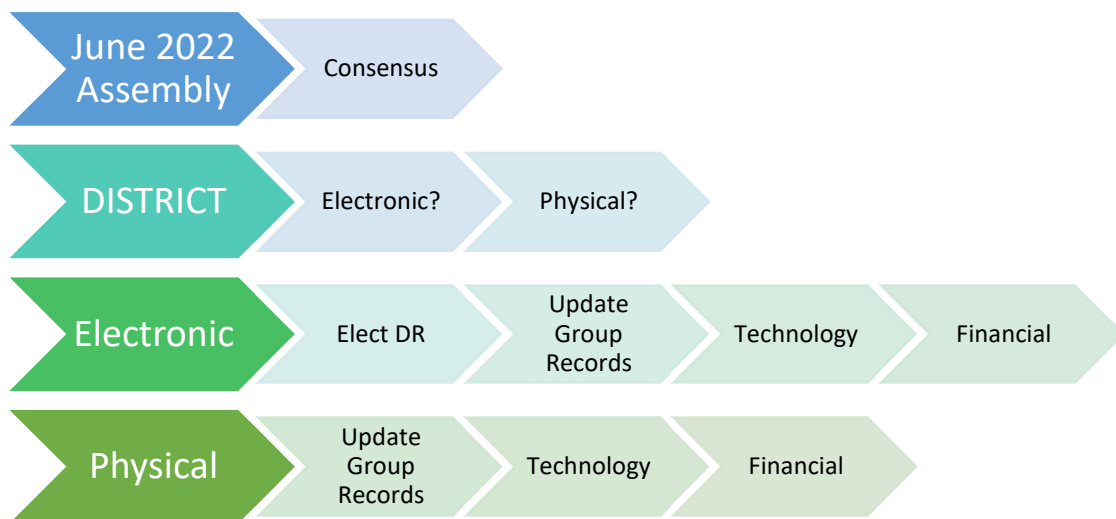
The Area has been discussing this possibility with the Iowa Area members since April 2021. If the GRs vote in favor of including electronic meetings into the Area service structure, then the AWSC will form a committee to begin putting policy into place so that our Area is ready as early

as May 1, 2022, which is the first time an Electronic Group would be eligible to request to leave the Electronic Area and join the Iowa Area. If the GRs guide the AWSC to pause and wait for a group to request to join the Area, then the process we are currently discussing will be brought to the Area again. We have been working to be proactive with the information that we have and ultimately will know more once the World Service Conference has taken place in April 2022. Thank you for joining us in the front-line process as we participate in historical changes to Al-Anon Family Groups.

CONSIDERATIONS

There are many considerations to review, and the AWSC knows that Policy is ever evolving.

The chart below helps us to identify the flow of change as we prepare for the possibility of admitting electronic groups into the Iowa Area service structure.



Will the Area create an Electronic District or will Electronic Groups merge into physical districts?
Or a combination of both?

Physical

Will the district be able to support hybrid capabilities both financially and technologically?

Updates to meeting schedules will need to be made to include electronic links.

The Group will need to consider budget perimeters for GR travel to District meetings/Assembly.

If an electronic member became DR, how would they visit all the groups in their district?

Electronic

Will the Electronic District DR be required to physically attend a minimum amount of Area meetings?

Will the Electronic District DR be eligible to stand for the Delegate?

Will Electronic members be able to stand for Coordinator positions? How will this affect our budget?

AREA Considerations

Will we include electronic groups at workshops, weekend events?

Will the Area be able to support the technological needs of an electronic district?

Will AA support our virtual needs at the Area Assemblies?

Will we have the right volunteers to support our technological needs (website, virtual meetings, tech troubleshooting)?

Many more questions will be asked and addressed along the way. We know that a loving Higher Power and our Legacies will guide our discussions. We appreciate the time and attention that each of you have given this matter and look forward to the consensus of the GRs.

On behalf of the Area Officers,

Katy P.

Iowa Area Delegate

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