

1. What do we know about our members, or prospective members and their needs regarding permanent electronic groups? What do we know about the current realities and evolving dynamics that are relevant to permanent groups coming into our Area?

- We know they need the electronic groups due to being older & health issues. Daycare issues. Homebound. Current realities- People are not ready to be back at face-to-face meetings. Feel like meetings will become permanent electronic groups.
- Inevitable.
- Making electronic group names specific (to include or not include the state i.e. Iowa)
- Electronic Group Meeting List.
- Equal access to participation - Loss of members – new members don't feel. Like they don't have a chance to sharing. Took too long connect –
- They are not going away, what will happen with my group?
- What if my group goes f2f how do I start a new group and how do I stay in service?
- People enjoy electronic groups.
- People have found EM to be a good fit for safety, time and health.
- These groups are already in place and they are not getting needed representation. Groups want choices. Ready to move forward. Everyone unsure and we are all learning
- the changing dynamics that there are more groups going electronic and the comfort of them, open minded doing electronic and believe they should have a voice. My home group is a very strong group with 12-14 people that meet face to face so wouldn't go to zoom. People with young children appreciate the zoom. Distance of travel would help with the zoom. Disabilities

2. What are the ethical/moral implications of our choices (pro and cons) on how we proceed with permanent electronic groups? This includes consideration of how the Legacies apply to this issue. Identify both pros and cons.

- Is it Welcoming enough? Meeting in Iowa but people from other states there do we want the person from Alaska (exp) to be our GR.
- Have to be aware of the us versus them perception. How do we stay connected? Currently using several different platforms. AI-Anon is all inclusive, which includes electronic meetings. Will language be an issue? Possibility of having a Delegate from outside of IA, is this what we want
- Believe that they should be treated the same as f2f, make us more unified, area or district, what better way to carry the message,
- Con's people getting access that are not members
- Allowing people to attend a meeting
- New is scary, work out the bugs.
- Nice to have the option when weather is bad.
- Ethical- in all of our procedures and traditions, everything starts at the group level, this was from the WSO down. This was petitioned by groups and not the other way. -
- Easy to access – especially with weather
- Loses personal touch – hugs
- Trust issues – who's hiding
- Vulnerability – Are you as open during a virtual meeting?
- Finances – loss of self support
- adding to - not taking away from the member.

- hosting a zoom workshop on security

Technology:

3. What would be your concerns if we would include a hybrid portal at each AWSC/Assembly business meeting in the future? Should we establish regular hybrid business meetings, even if we do not establish a proposed electronic district? What type of equipment or setup would you envision necessary for fixed Area hybrid business meetings?

- It would be great, but people are going to get comfortable at home and we could possibly lose a lot of in person attendance. Cost: would we be putting a burden on AA. Will Hybrid always be an option.
- Tech Coor needed, but will someone be willing to stand for this position? If no Tech Coor, this is a lot of extra work for Delegate and Chair should hybrid become part of the business mtgs, what type of equipment.
- Getting the technology set up so being pro active there.
- Would all the assemblies, serenity planning weekend, AWSC always have to have the option of hybrid. F2f is better but nice to have that option available. Imperative that if we do this that PEG, we need to have hybrid
- Online meetings are a good way to not attend in person. These will benefit and allow people to attend.
- Allows all people to be in service
- Easy to allow groups to decide to be online, save money for group's cost of mileage and room.
- Opens access to those with travel complications
- Inevitable.
- Equipment – Available at most facilities or would the Area need to purchase.
- What about facilities that don't have the technology available? Coming as guests of AA limits are ability to dictate.
- Laptops – Tech person would have to bring 3 laptops, mics, cameras.
- Financials – technical – hurdles.
- quick turnover of electronics - aka upgrades - purchasing may not be beneficial

Finances:

4. If we had a proposed electronic district, what costs or financial obligations could you envision for the Iowa Area? How do you envision the Area budget being impacted by allowing permanent electronic groups/electronic district into our Area? What might be some costs or financial obligations if we have to purchase equipment for hybrid meetings to allow for permanent electronic groups/district?

- The expense of computer equipment. Travel expense to Assembly & AWSC when they could possibly be from outside the state. Hybrid option would have to be always available.
- Yes, hybrid is here to stay and will be changing as we speak. Include more at assemblies than just the business meeting?
- financial obligation would be have to get some equipment to be self-sustaining.
- We are blessed to have members that bring their computer to use.
- Would we need to provide technology, computers...

- Service workshop would we be able to run that online/ hybrid?
- Regular AWSC expenses
- Cap on coordinator fees – someone from another state wanting to stand for an AWSC position.

5. Do you feel members of the permanent electronic groups would be willing to support an electronic district? How could/would the 7th Tradition be handled for these groups or district?

- **Group Autonomy.** Faith that the Group will be self-supporting
- Cost/obligations – purchase equipment and maintaining of equipment would need to be budgeted.
- that they would be willing to support an electronic district. 7th Tradition- however they will meet. When we have the assemblies, AWSC meetings that the younger generation will be willing to support.
- Trying to find a way to collect money to meetings and districts and Area...
- EPayment system
- 7th Tradition
- survey would ask if your group would plan/consider to be a permanent electronic group and would you stay in your district or join the electronic district - or would they stay in the electronic area

AWSC/Assemblies:

6. Currently, Iowa Policy requires attendance at a minimum of 3 of the 5 AWSC and Area Assemblies meetings each year for each full term for members who wish to stand for an Area Officer position. This can be hybrid or in person. What would be your expectations for actual “physical” attendance at AWSC meetings for any DR, Coordinator or Officer and any GR at Assemblies? Do you feel this policy may need to be changed because of permanent electronic group or an electronic district?

- Why would we change it? The same expectations would be in place.
- How would electric groups donate regarding 7th Tradition? Might be less income for the Area.
- Some adjustment, but at the same time anybody can make it via hybrid, in that Iowa district that is from should be able to do a hybrid or f2f would be great that it would be f2f.
- People have been hired to work from home and are never required to show up to a building for work, why are we considering this as a requirement?
- Gives more opportunity for people when they are not required to be in person.
- Is the information being shared from the meetings?
- Physically present?
- To stand for area officer – need to attend some in person
- Attend 3 of the 5 in person seems attainable.
- There is a difference face to face. See that thru Schools. It’s necessary.

Possible Electronic District:

7. What possible struggles or conflicts do you envision Iowa Area Al-Anon might have if we went forward with a proposed electronic district?

- Counter productive to people out state. Talking about Iowa Area not applicable to out of state members. Get more outside of my normal realm.
- Felt zoomers should be considered in be "in person". Question if on Zoom, but are they really participating?
- If you don't have many PEG meetings in it initially. Views and inputs may be limited. With time we will see some adjustments and welcoming and feel included, be very inclusive.
- Learning curve and an educational opportunity.
- Possible conflicts - only get one vote - no double headed management.
- Opening our area beyond the geographic boundaries is scary
- How often will groups jump districts?
- Not much of a struggle, the committee will work on it and figure it out.
- Online is an off shoot of in-person. Will we lose the interaction with others.
- Lose contact with those from our district when they move to online district - maintain boundaries with the Traditions. More tradition focused workshops.
- Links of service - drop of communication possibility with not notifying online members of upcoming events.
- Educate Educate Educate etools (google share, one drive, etc.) website, links of service, zoom, webex, etc. education
- Question if on Zoom, but are they really participating if their video is off and there is silence on their end?

8. What could be/should be the boundaries for a permanent electronic group joining the proposed Iowa electronic district? Possible groups based anywhere, only Iowa based groups, groups based from contiguous (adjoining) states or some other proposed boundary? Would the proposed electronic district be open to only electronic groups? Could any group join electronic district?

- Must be a contiguous state. Open to anyone and not be so grounded to in geographic locations. Fear based questions. Lots of What If's
- Might be people standing for positions that lack service experience?
- some boundaries for our physical district, are we going to take them from everywhere? If your electronic your electronic if you are F2F you are F2F. Think in the state of Iowa only boundaries. Make it easier for running for positions, get them outside of the area then would they still go by Iowa policy and not the outside areas policy
- Setting boundaries sounds better
- At least XXX of your group needs to be physically in Iowa .

- Don't see groups based elsewhere wanting to join our area.
- Changes the dynamics – of the area.
- Would physical/unrepresented groups want to join the electronic district
- Based on finances - how self supporting will the electronic district be?
- Inactive districts may want to be part of.

9. With the electronic aspect being available for groups/districts, there may also be the possibility of the Area having an AWSC member (DR, Coordinator, Officer) not physically located in Iowa. In striving to allow for inclusivity and unity, on all levels, in what ways could/would our Area be possibly impacted?

- Agreed that if standing, they should be from Iowa. Have that as a guideline. Keep it simple.
- if outer area and want to be an officer for the area do, we see problems with this? Think there would be problems and need to establish our Iowa Policy and staying with that.
- Finances: the Area controls the Area budget and how expenses are paid for Area service positions
- Interaction with the Iowa P&P and other committees (i.e. budget, inventory, etc.) – work together.
- would Iowa consider having any positions that are fully electronic - not have to be present physically at Assemblies and AWSCs.

10. As an Area and if we go forward bringing in electronic aspects of groups/district, we have to be aware we are opening the door to all things electronic. How could/would our cooperation with AA be possibly affected if we choose to continue to have a mandatory option of hybrid business meetings at our Assemblies? How can we or should we be more self-supporting as we cooperate with our AA hosts? Would other options be needed to continue with hybrid business meetings?

- Continue to charge registration fee for hybrid meetings. Possibly having the Area contribute more to the actual cost of the Assemblies.
- Costs associated with assemblies – be self-supporting and hold our own? What would that look like? Open to ideas. Zoomer pay for registration fees required.
- We would just be making it to the business meeting, we still do register and then if circumstances happened, they have to pay so much for the rooms, meals, but can still be hybrid. Think we can still pay registration to help with expenses
- Keep Iowa Area Al-Anon needs to the forefront in regards to Assembly.

11. Looking forward 2-5-10 years into the future, what do we wish we knew but don't about permanent electronic groups/district?

- How is going to affect us financially, will groups be smaller, will there be attendance at District meetings and Assembly. Fear based right now.
- Comments; Like Face to Face meetings.
- Will less people stand for Service positions? Will in person groups decrease in size. Positive – will it get the “dark” districts to participate more? It could allow for even more recovery!!
- how many groups will actually do this. Do outside the area really want to join in our Area. How do we get this out to show that it is available? How service orientated are these PEG is going to be. Are they going to do service or just be there? Do they want to have a vote?
- I think they will grow
- What does fellowship look like in the future?
- Will the members stay? What will keep them attracted to Al-Anon?
- You can reach out to others in different ways. Anonymity?

