

**Charge: Conduct a Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM) process among the members of this Thought Force to Determine what is currently known about this topic and what remains unknown.**

**A. Consider if reformatting district boundaries would be beneficial to the Area/District Groups.**

**Strategy 1:** Not pursue redistricting. Discussion within this thought force has been that if we reformat districts to absorb unrepresented districts, we will still have the problem of uninvolved/underrepresented groups. Strategizing to reconnect these groups without representation has some broad implications. We don't really know (especially for Districts 5, 6, 10, 12 and 15) their needs. Yet we are not sure they know what their needs are. The saying, "You don't know what you don't know" comes to mind. What we do know is that links of service, continuity and relief vs. recovery are major elements to the health of a group. Some of the thoughts that came forward are:

- We recognize this may be a strain on remaining districts emotionally/spiritually and financially.
- We are not alone. AFG Connects has questions/comments from other Areas that are struggling with underrepresented Districts. District Representative (DR) would maybe acquire multiple new groups they need to support and could be emotionally draining on the District level.
- Tradition Four: *Every group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting another group or Al-Anon or AA as a whole.* It could be harmful to the unity of the Area if Districts are mandated by the Area to redefine their historical identities.

**B. Develop strategies to reconnect districts without representation to the Area structure.**

**Strategy 2:** Develop a work group to determine if 'job shadowing' and/or 'adopt a struggling/unrepresented Districts'. Possible discussion topics:

- Initiate communication with Districts that are active to be a resource by putting a hand out to the struggling Districts. Offering them the opportunity to do a **job shadow** to see what is required to become active again.
- Communicate with CMA's in unrepresented Districts the responsibility to discuss the importance of Al-Anon group service opportunities.
- Active Districts could offer **to adopt a struggling/neighbor District**. This would include sharing positive aspects of being a part of the Iowa Al-Anon Service structure, the Public Outreach opportunities, and the new technology that would make it easier to attend Area Assemblies and the AWSC. *Let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen always be there.*

**Strategy 3:** A task force to develop a method to understand the organization of the groups within the districts without representation, specifically Districts 5, 6, 10, 12 and 15. Without knowing the organization, whatever approach we take could be useless, and even harmful. Possible discussion topics:

- If groups' meetings are aiding members as an Al-Anon group:
  1. Are these groups using CAL literature and principles of the program; along with the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts of Service?
  2. Do groups know there are district level supports or other newly formed groups that could use the wisdom, knowledge, experience of firmly established groups within Iowa?
  3. Contact the CMA and/or GRs for the groups in unrepresented Districts and ask them to have a conversation via Zoom 'a group of 3 AWSC members' and find out where there are in regard to

service or within their District. We suggest having a script of what we want to know – what they want to know.

- Develop a type of Area outreach to see if we need to address if enough is being done at AWSC level. to help reach underrepresented parts of the area.

Every group is autonomous and every district is autonomous. Tradition Four: *Every group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting another group or Al-Anon or AA as a whole.*

**C. Identify ways to use our current resources to provide easy access to Area information to all groups.**

**Strategy 4:** Develop/address how we effectively communicate with all groups within the AWSC so it is inclusive for all levels of membership and to increase links of service, continuity, and relief vs. recovery, including what current resources could be used.

- Coordinate with Newsletter Committee (Task Force?) working on Area Communication.
- After researching on Area and WSO contributions and hearing from groups, we feel some groups are receiving updates. Reach out to Groups in unrepresented Districts and ask how they are getting Area and WSO communication.
- Continue GR and DR salons/workshops virtually to allow more opportunities for growth.
- Have a laptop available at GR registration table for GR's to sign up for In The Loop and the Area Newsletter.

Recommendation – The Reconnecting with all Districts Thought Force recommends using our current resources as outlined in Strategy 2, 3 and/or 4 to connect with members in underrepresented Districts. We do not recommend re-districting at this time.