

Electronic Group Task Force

CHARGE: Create a procedure to be presented for approval at the 2022 Fall AWSC, to send to the 2022 Fall OAA, that will be used by any group, including an Electronic AFG, requesting to enter into AFG of Ohio, Area 44 .

Recognizing that in accordance with Concept One the ultimate responsibility and authority for AI-Anon services within our Area belongs to its AI-Anon groups, use the KBDM process to create a uniform procedure that will allow an AI-Anon Family Group to join the Ohio AI-Anon Area (44)

This Task Force is now charged with creating a procedure that will be presented to the Ohio Area Assembly for approval. Once a procedure is approved, Ohio Area will be able to list meetings as physical or electronic.

FRAMING:

Prior to the 2021 World Service Conference, groups, meeting electronically were not part of any service structure. At the 2021 World Service Conference, (WSC), Electronic Meetings were recognized as AI-Anon Family Groups. A motion was passed to remove the Electronic Meetings section, page 88-89 from our Service Manual.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: What we know:

Historical Perspective:

April 2021 World Service Conference (WSC): The Permanent Electronic Meetings listed on the World Service site (al-anon.org) were recognized as AI-Anon Family Groups. A non-paneled Area was formed to include these Groups.

August 2021 Area World Service Committee (AWSC): An Electronic Meeting Work Group(EMWG) was formed to study the issue of bringing permanent electronic AI-Anon Family Groups (e-AFGs) into the Ohio Area service structure.

October 2021 Two Day Fall Assembly: The Assembly voted to proceed with this issue and a Thought Force was charged with creating a Bylaws Motion that would address allowing electronic AFG's to join the Ohio Area.

April 2022 World Service Conference (WSC): The 2021 Non-paneled Electronic Area (Global Electronic Area, GEA) was admitted into the WSC and became Area **98**. The WSO has requested that Areas notify them when they are ready to accept Electronic AFG's into the Area.

May 2022 Spring AWSC: A Bylaws motion to expand the definition of an Ohio AI-Anon Family Group was approved and sent to all Groups one month prior to the 2022 Spring Ohio Area Assembly (OAA) for discussion and vote.

Existing Motions that pertain to this topic:

2022 Spring Ohio Area Assembly (OAA): The following amended motion was approved by a substantial majority of Group Representatives and group proxies present:

Motion 2022/05-#1. Revise Ohio Area Bylaws, Article III-Policy, Section A, 5. Territorial Definition, to include: Ohio Area Assembly participation is limited to groups meeting within the boundaries of the State of Ohio, [as well as other registered AI-Anon Family Groups that have petitioned by motion, and been accepted to join the Ohio Area.](#)

1. What do we know about our member's or prospective member's wants, needs, and preferences that are relevant to this discussion? What do we wish we knew, but don't?

Concept 4 - Participation is the key to harmony.

The Task Force discussed past procedures for admitting Groups into the Area. It was agreed that the decision was always made at Assembly, with a vote of the groups. The Task Force agreed there is no need for a Group Representative to be present for this vote.

Members want inclusion and ease. The Task Force not want to put restrictions on the Electronic Groups that were additional to what we have for physical groups.

2. What do we know about the capacity and strategic position of the organization relative to this issue? What do we wish we knew, but don't?

Our Service Manual, (P24/27, 2022-2025), page 162 says, "Groups or Districts located in one Area contiguous with another Area may, through group conscience and following Area procedures, choose to participate in the second Area and give up participation in the first Area, as agreed upon by both Areas."

3. What do we know about the current realities and evolving dynamics that are relevant to this discussion? What do we wish we knew, but don't?

We believe there are Groups in the Ohio Area who have registered with the WSO as Electronic AI-Anon Family Groups who wish to have voice and vote in their local Area Information Service (AIS) and in the Ohio Area Assembly (OAA).

We believe there are Groups meeting temporarily on electronic formats (ZOOM and conference call), that do not intend to return to a physical locations.

We do not know what the impact will be of these Groups joining the Ohio Area.

4. What are the ethical implications of our choices (pro and cons)? This includes consideration of how the Legacies apply. Identify both pros and cons.

What do we wish we knew, but don't?

Pros:

Electronic Groups joining the Ohio Area, will extend the hand of Al-Anon to new electronic AFGs and existing electronic AFGs that have not been able to participate in the Area Service structure.

Opening our Area to Electronic AFGs increases the Area's ability to reach people looking for help.

Cons:

There may be some confusion regarding supporting our Ohio Area Service Structure.

At the present time the WSO is not able to list in the search function the information for Area Electronic AFGs.

Questions and clarification-

Need for a Motion? Yes

Presented By: Electronic Groups Task Force