

KBDM

Task Force: Cooperation with AA

Topic:

To discuss and generate some ideas regarding improving cooperation with the Ohio A.A. Convention, and its planning committee. To propose and clarify the roles and responsibilities of Al-Anon members participating in an A.A. Convention. Develop a three-year A.A.-Al-Anon liaison position description if deemed appropriate. Provide proposed Handbook wording changes (similar to OAC guidelines) to the AWSC and Assembly through a KBDM.

FRAMING:

During the Fall 2019 Two Day Fall Assembly, Theresa M., Delegate, brought up under new business that we need to encourage all districts, intergroups and maybe individual groups to improve connections between Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc. (AFG of Ohio) and A.A. An elected or an appointed contact between A.A. and Al-Anon at different levels: intergroup, district, and Area may be needed to coordinate this. We would be able to participate in the A.A. conventions more fully. A suggestion was made that the liaison would take a position for 3 years as opposed to one year so that the A.A.'s know who to contact. The discussion followed that we need something in our handbook, a guideline, to say how the cooperation works. A Thought Force was formed.

The Thought Force: Cooperation with A.A. Convention prepared a KBDM for the Two-Day Fall Assembly 2020. They made five different points. a.) Being involved early in the Convention planning process allows for clearer definition of responsibilities particularly in regard to financial matters. b.) Having clear links of service allow for this early participation to take place. c.) Clearly defining the role of Al-Anon in making the connection with A.A. to provide convention support. d.) Clarifying the Handbook budget amount of \$200, specifying either what it is intended for, or preferably leaving it up to the local committee to determine, would be helpful. e.) Finally, and perhaps most importantly, fully participating in an A.A. Convention fosters growth in Al-Anon as expressed in our 6th Tradition and may facilitate more communication and cooperation between our groups, allowing for a more integrated Convention.

After a discussion at the Assembly, a consensus of GR's present voted to move this to a Task force to clarify how AFG of Ohio cooperates with the yearly Ohio A.A. convention.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: What we know:

Historical perspective:

The Al-Anon WSO Guideline, G-7, "Al-Anon/Alateen Participation in an A.A. Convention" describes the guidelines and procedures for participation in an A.A. Event.

Existing Motions that appertain to this topic:

From: Handbook of General and Committee Working Procedures

For Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc.,
<https://www.ohioal-anon.org/documents/HANDBOOK-OAA.pdf>

Section XV, Ohio Alcoholics Anonymous Conference, October 2020, page 22.

- “A. Committee: The Delegate shall appoint a liaison to the Ohio State AA Conference who resides near the conference location. The Delegate shall be a member of the planning committee for this event. Local Al-Anon Family Group members shall make up the planning committee for this event. (motion # 2008/10-#08)
- B. Funds: Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc. donates to the host committee the sum of \$200.00 towards the expenses of the Ohio State AA Conference. (Motion #2008/10-#09)”

What do we know about our member’s or prospective member’s wants, needs, and preferences that are relevant to this discussion?

Concept 4 - Participation is the key to harmony.

From WSO Guideline G-7:

“Al-Anon, almost from its beginning, has participated in A.A. events. Such participation often led to the growth of Al-Anon, the added success of the A.A. convention, and an enhanced spirit of cooperation between both fellowships.

It is through the application of our Traditions that this spirit of cooperation is encouraged. Tradition Six states that: “. . . Although a separate entity, we should always cooperate with Alcoholics Anonymous.” The basic ingredients for a successful convention, as in all our service work, can be found in the application of all our Traditions: unity, reliance on our Higher Power, and the need to place principles above personalities.”

What do we know about the capacity and strategic position of the organization relative to this issue?

AFG of Ohio, Inc. has provided a contact and a budgeted amount of money for the annual Ohio AA convention since 2008, per Section XV of the Handbook of General and Committee Working Procedures For Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc. (October 2020, page 22).

What do we know about the current realities and evolving dynamics that are relevant to this discussion?

- A.A. requires all convention attendees, including speakers, to register and pay the registration fee.
- There is a need for clarification of the as to use of the funds donated for the A.A. Convention.
- It has been 13 years (2008) since \$200 was allocated to the committee, and we believe this needs to be increased.
- The connection or link of service, between A.A. and Al-Anon appears to be broken. This, combined with the broken links from local groups, with missing GR’s, and DR’s, have made the communication from A.A. to the Area difficult or non-existent.

- With the evolving shift to virtual meetings and conventions, Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc. desires to remain flexible and resilient in these changing times. It is our hope to always maintain and foster our relationship with Alcoholics Anonymous.

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

Our recommendation is to proceed with the following:

- A. Create a new position titled, **Area AA Liaison**. This would be a 3 year appointed Special Standing Committee Chair, and listed as such in our Handbook, Section XI - Special Standing Committees, (October 2020, page 15) as #8.

Duties and responsibilities, (page 16, as #8, October 2020).

- Establish and maintain contact with the Delegates of the four AA Areas (53, 54, 55, 56).
- Assist the Al-Anon Area Delegate in appointing a local Al-Anon Committee Chairperson for each State AA Convention.
- Serve on the Al-Anon Committee planning for the AA Convention.
- Provide the local Al-Anon Committee Chairperson for each AA convention with the tools and information (i.e. Guideline G-7) necessary for the planning committee.
- Report to AWSC and the Area Assembly with timely AA information.
- Facilitate Al-Anon cooperation as requested by AA.
- Extend invitation to AA to participate in Ohio Area Convention (OAC).

- B. To revise Section XV of the Handbook of General and Committee Working Procedures for Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc., October 2020, page 22, to read:

Section XV - Ohio State AA Convention

1. Committee: The Area AA Liaison shall assist the Area Delegate to appoint a local Al-Anon Committee Chairperson for each State AA Convention. The local Chairperson shall reside near the A.A. Convention location and will recruit other Al-Anon members to make up the local Al-Anon planning committee for this event.
2. The Area Delegate and Area AA Liaison shall be members of the local Al-Anon planning committee for this event.
3. Funds: Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc. donates up to \$400 to the local Al-Anon planning committee. These funds are to be used at the discretion of the committee and may include such items as a hospitality room (rent and/or supplies), speakers registration fees or expenses, publicity and outreach expenses, or other expenses as approved by the local committee.

Pros:

We believe these changes will show our spiritual principles of simplicity, efficiency, respectful collaboration and consideration by:

- a. Providing year to year continuity in how Al-Anon interacts and cooperates with the AA Convention.
- b. Providing consistent support and guidelines for each local committee to follow.
- c. Allowing for more advanced planning with each AA Region.

Cons:

We will be creating an additional Area position which may be difficult to fill.

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

We don't have prior experience with this position. We don't know if this will improve our connection with A.A.

We also don't know how having an Area A.A. Liaison position will help the local Al-Anon Committee Chairperson for the A.A. Convention.

Questions and clarification- no timing at the mic

Need for a motion? Yes

Presented By:

Cooperation with AA Task Force

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