KNOWLEDGE BASED DECISION MAKING FORM

Topic: Does Ohio Area 44 want to Opt-In to offer Alateen Electronic Meetings in the Ohio Area.

FRAMING:

- Ohio currently has one Hybrid Alateen meeting which has In-Person and Electronic components. They have until Oct. 31, 2027 to certify as AMIAS-E and as an E-Group, to continue the zoom portion.
- To have any Electronic Alateen meetings *including Hybrid Alateen meetings* in Ohio after the Oct. 31, 2027 deadline, the Ohio Assembly needs to agree to proceed with new procedures created for Handbook, and the Chairperson needs to file paperwork with WSO to Opt-In for Electronic Alateen meetings in Ohio Area 44.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: What we know:

Historical perspective:

- During COVID and currently in one Ohio Hybrid Alateen meeting, teens have had access to an Ohio Alateen Electronic meeting
- Previously and currently, Ohio Alateens can join an Electronic Alateen meeting on the AFG app.

Existing Motions that pertain to this topic: None

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

- Our one Ohio Hybrid meeting would like to continue its Electronic Alateen meeting as part of their Hybrid Alateen meeting.
    - Without the Ohio Opt-In for Electronic Alateen Meetings, this group could only meet in person.
- Some teens have benefitted from Electronic Meetings during Covid and currently in our one Ohio Hybrid Alateen meeting. This Alateen meeting currently has 1 teen always on zoom and up to 5 teens attends in person or on zoom.
- Three of the current AMIAS sponsors from this Hybrid meeting are willing to become certified as AMIAS-E for 2027. This is the minimum needed to proceed.
    - For a Hybrid meeting, the AMIAS-E in the Electronic portion is governed by WSC EASBR and the AMIAS-E in the In-Person portion is governed by the

Area's ASBR – so in Ohio ASBR, we require 1 AMIAS in an In-Person meeting but recommend 2.

- Some teens have expressed unwillingness to join Electronic meetings because of lack of privacy in their homes.
    - Finding safe places to share online may be difficult for some teens.
    - Currently, teens took their phones outside or talk quietly with volume down low
    - Wearing air pods or type in chat to share can provide privacy

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

- WSO is offering Areas the opportunity to Opt-In starting Sept. 1, 2026.
- We need to present information to the Assembly, so to make an informed decision whether Ohio wants to Opt-In for Alateen Electronic Meetings.
- After the Assembly votes to Opt-In for Electronic Alateen meetings:
    - The elements to be developed if/when the Ohio Area Assembly wishes to Opt-In are new Handbook procedures, AMIAS-E certification form, and AMIAS-E training *including Mandatory Reporting*
    - WSO does not review our new procedures, Ohio is responsible for being compliant with Ohio law and meeting requirements contained in the WSC EASBR
    - After *all* elements are developed, the Ohio Chairperson signs the legal document (Opt-In Form for Electronic Alateen Meetings) which will be filed with WSO (AFG, Inc.)
- All AMIAS-E and Ohio Electronic Group Certification and Annual Recertification are by processed by the Ohio AAPP
    - *Where the AMIAS-E resides determines the Area where they are certified, per the WSC EASBR.*
- The WSO June 15th annual deadline is not negotiable. All parts of Recertification must be completed or the Ohio Area cannot have any Alateen meetings?
    - Currently, no new Hybrid meetings can be certified – but in 2027 our existing Hybrid can recertify before the June 15th deadline and continue until Oct. 31, 2027 deadline.
    - If Ohio Opts-In after the June 15 deadline, we have to certify any AMIAS-E and certify the Hybrid meeting under the Electronic Group certification process, before the Oct. 31, 2027 deadline.
    - Our earlier Recertification deadlines are critical to have all the extra needs of AMIAS-E and Electronic Meetings to be processed
        - Deadlines: Dec. 31st of prior year for all Fingerprinting to be completed

- April 1st for all AMIAS and AMIAS-E recertification forms to AAPP
- AMIAS-E Training May after Assembly - TBD

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

- For Ohio to Opt-In for Electronic Alateen Meetings in Ohio Area new policies *must* be added to the Ohio Handbook to meet the requirements outlined in WSC EASBR (World Service Conference Electronic Alateen Safety & Behavioral Requirements). The WSC EASBR is universal, no one can edit it, it's non-negotiable
    - WSO said WSC EASBR is Universal – they said the WSC EASBR protects teens in US, Canada & Bermuda.
    - States can add requirements pertaining to their state laws for their AMIAS, but as far as AMIAS-E that request to serve in their Area in an Electronic Alateen meeting – a state's AAPP can only confirm to the other Area's AAPP that the AMIAS-E has completed the AMIAS-E training in their own Area. ie. A state can't require an AMIAS-E from another state to take their Area's AMIAS-E training, but NY requires all AMIAS to be 25 years old – so they can restrict an AMIAS-E from another Area to not be eligible to serve in the NY Area, if they are not at least 25 years old.
    - Have Ohio Attorney review Ohio Handbook Appendix EASBR
    - Develop an AMIAS-E certification/recertification form
    - Develop Training for AMIAS-E, including Mandatory Reporting aligned with Ohio law
    - Develop the process for new teens to join an Electronic Alateen meeting per the WSC EASBR
        - Have 2 AMIAS-E in the process
        - The WSC EASBR protects teens in WSC Structure.
            - Part of the teen process, is to confirm that they live in the US, Canada or Bermuda – otherwise they can't attend an Electronic Alateen meeting in the WSC Structure
            - Overseas teens can only attend on the App
- If Ohio does Opt-In for Electronic Meetings

  Each Al-Anon member that wants to participate in Electronic Alateen Meetings (including in-person portion of a Hybrid Alateen meeting)
    - Must complete our regular AMIAS Certification/Recertification forms annually.
    - Must complete the AMIAS-E certification form with a background check every 2 years.
    - Must attend the annual AMIAS-E Training, including Mandatory Reporting, before AMIAS-E certification forms can be processed

        - Can serve as an AMAIS-E in Ohio at the specific meeting that they are listed in that E-Group's Certification/Recertification
        - Can request from our AAPP, to also serve in another Area that has Electronic Meetings or in the Global Electronic Area (GEA)
            - WSO said GEA, cannot certify AMIAS-E, so they will need to rely on the AMIAS-E that are certified in Areas that Opt-In
- The AAC (Area Alateen Coordinator) would be responsible for AMIAS and AMIAS-E training and inform the AAPP of those who attended.
- AMIAS can recertify to serve only in In-Person meetings (AMIAS-E is just an option – it is not required for all) Under Ohio law, Mandatory Reporting in our regular Ohio Alateen meetings will not be required
- Electronic Alateen meetings require a minimum of two AMIAS-E at each meeting – various roles are listed in the training.
- Hybrid meetings require a minimum of two AMIAS-E at the location meeting and a one AMIAS-E online.
    - For a Hybrid meeting, the AMIAS-E in the Electronic portion is governed by WSC EASBR and the AMIAS-E in the In-Person portion is governed by the Area's ASBR – so in Ohio ASBR, we require 1 AMIAS in an In-Person meeting but recommend 2.
- Each Area that Opt-In, can have one or more Electronic meetings
- WSC has decided that any hybrid meetings have until October 31, 2027 to become part of an Opt-In Area with all its requirements – or just become an In-Person Alateen meeting.
- Our current Hybrid Alateen meeting can offer us real-life input for our new policies – they have been using procedures similar to the WSC EASBR.

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

PRO

- Even if Ohio does not Opt-In, our Ohio teens can attend other Area's Electronic meetings by following that Area's EASBR
- If Ohio Opts-In, Ohio Alateens can attend Electronic meetings that currently don't have an Alateen In-Person meeting in their region
- If Ohio Opts-In, Ohio Alateens attending Ohio Electronic meetings can be part of the Ohio Area service and events. These include being involved in Ohio Spring or Fall Alateen Rally, annual KOMIAC, the Area Districts, Ohio Area Assemblies, and Al-Anon Conferences.
- WSO has provided resources that we can adapt to Ohio law for our procedures, AMIAS-E forms and training.

- State of Ohio organizations can be contacted to see if we can use their Mandatory Reporting training resources
- Electronic meetings can encourage In-Person event participation or create an additional fellowship online time.
- AFG of Ohio, Inc (Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc.) is incorporated and has liability insurance and protects the Officer that signs the Opt-In form
    - Whoever signs, is signing a legal commitment from our Area to be responsible – to protect teens in Electronic meetings as well as safe-guard AMIAS-E as they volunteer.
    - Of course, if an AMIAS-E does abuse a teen, they are personally liable and subject to legal action.

CON

- If the Ohio Area does not Opt-In, AMIAS cannot participate in Electronic Alateen meetings in Ohio or in any another Area. [Since the Area in which they reside determines where they need to certify to be an AMIAS-E, they will not be able to apply to be an AMIAS-E in another Area or in the Global Electronic Area (GEA)]
- With WSC deadline of October 2027, if Ohio does NOT file Opt-In forms (with all its requirements), any Hybrid meetings will become an In-Person Alateen meeting or become Inactive
- More work for the AAPP: additional processing of AMIAS-E forms, more frequent background checks, and verifying with other AAPP or GEA for requests from AMIAS-E to serve in the other Areas
- More work for the AAC: additional AMIAS-E training annually, before recertification forms can be processed
- Electronic meetings create some challenges of missing out on fellowship, that In-Person meetings provide.

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

- How many Al-Anon or current AMIAS, would be interested in serving at an Electronic Alateen Meeting?
- How many teens in Ohio would benefit from an Electronic Alateen meeting?

<u>Questions and clarification</u>-

- Questions for Attorney:
    - Does Ohio Opt-In for Electronic meetings affect our Ohio By-Laws?
    - What does Ohio laws say about professional that are required to Mandatory Report?
        - Are they required to Mandatory report when they are in a volunteer role? (At an In-Person Alateen meeting.)

- All AMIAS-E are required to Mandatory Report in an Electronic Alateen meeting and Hybrid Alateen meeting

Need for a motion?

Yes: a motion to pursue Ohio Opt-In process and start the Task Force

Presented By:

Revised: October 2018