

Knowledge Based Decision Making
KBDM
for the
2023 AL-ANON INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
Utah
September 23, 2016

FRAMING

At the 2016 World Service Conference (WSC), it was announced that plans for the 7th Al-Anon International Convention had begun. Delegates were invited to consider submitting “a bid” to host the Convention which will be held the weekend before or the weekend after July 4, 2023.

THE QUESTION/CHARGE

Should our Utah Area submit a bid to host the 2023 Al-Anon International Convention in Salt Lake City?

BACKGROUND

Every five years, on the weekend closest to the 4th of July, Al-Anon holds an International Convention, inviting members and their families from all over the world to share experience, strength and hope, and to celebrate the worldwide Fellowship. For our first and second Conventions, we were invited to join with AA, participating as guests with that fellowship at their International Convention. In 1998, the Utah Area hosted our first independent Convention with AA participation. It was a huge success. In 1999 the WSC indicated a desire to hold separate Al-Anon International Conventions every five years beginning in 2008. Since that time International Conventions have been held in Pittsburgh and Vancouver, B.C. In 2018 our 6th International Convention will occur in Baltimore, Maryland (July 5-8.)

The GRs in attendance at the 2016 Delegates Day gave approval for the Delegate to explore whether Salt Lake City would meet the requirements to

host the Convention. Your Delegate, in consultation with the Salt Lake City Convention Center (Visit SALT LAKE) has determined that Salt Lake City and our Utah Al-Anon Area do meet the minimum requirements to host the 7th Al-Anon International Convention.

In as much as the 4th of July 2023 falls midweek, the WSO has invited bids for the weekend before, the weekend after, or both. The Salt Lake Convention Center is not available the weekend after July 4, 2023, so our bid would be for June 30—July 2, 2023 only.

Please review the attached letter to WSC members, which provides additional information about Convention requirements and the “bid” process. Please note that the Executive Director of Al-Anon and the WSC Convention Committee are responsible for budgeting, programming, registration, housing, meeting facilities, press relations, and other matter pertaining to the convention. Members of our Area will be asked to assist in implementing the Convention Committee’s planning as assigned.

THE KBDM QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

What do we know about the needs of the Area that is relevant to this discussion?

- Members benefit from contact with our WSO leadership and Al-Anon members from diverse locations.
- Area involvement in national and worldwide Al-Anon activities gives us an opportunity to share our strengths, and we know that we always get more back than we give.

What do we know or need to know about our resources, our vision and mission for the Area and our strategic plan or goals that could be relevant to this discussion?

- Many Utah Area members recognize the importance of Service Work and look for opportunities serve within the Fellowship.
- We think abundantly and seek to share what we have gained from our recovery with others.

- Our Area has a tradition of seeking to be among the leaders of Al-Anon.
- We will need to provide a local Host Committee of at least 100 members.
- The current Delegate and three following Area Panels will be highly involved in this effort.

What do we know about the current realities and evolving dynamics of the world and our fellowship that is relevant to this discussion? What are the Pros and Cons of the suggestions we are making?

- An International Convention is where members from Canada, the U.S., and many other countries gather together to speak the same language—the language of the heart.
- Hosting the 2023 Al-Anon International Conventions can expose our Area membership to the worldwide Al-Anon Fellowship in powerful ways, helping with individual recovery
- Our Fellowship is found worldwide and is growing internationally.
- Our International conventions provide the opportunity for Al-Anon members of diverse cultural and geographic backgrounds to gather, face to face, and share experience, strength, and hope.
- Al-Anon International Conventions are a great way to celebrate recovery, meet old friends, and make new ones.
- Hosting the convention could benefit the Fellowship by showing the strength of recovery in Utah Area Al-Anon.
- Hosting the International Convention with require commitment and effort from our Area leaders, Groups and members.
 - Pros
 - Our members will grow closer to one another because of the team work necessary to plan such an event
 - We will meet and greet Al-Anon members from all over the world. Those visiting members will bring an influx of experience, strength and hope found nowhere else.
 - We have the skills, knowledge and ability to host a world-class event. We've done it before and can do it again.

- The growth we experience will transfer to our own Assemblies and will make our Area stronger.
- Not only will our Fellowship benefit, but also our communities and the State will gain from the influx of 4000 or more visitors.
- Cons
 - The effort to host this event will be large. Are our Groups and their members willing to expend the necessary energy?
 - It will take a great deal of work to prepare the bid with no assurance that we will be chosen.
 - Although the Selection Committee has said a bid from Utah would receive the same consideration as any other, there may be a subconscious feeling on the Committee that Utah has hosted once and it's someone else's turn.

What are the ethical implications of our choices? In other words: Will our suggestions/decisions be consistent with our spiritual principles?

- Step 12 and Tradition 11 suggest we carry the message of Al-Anon to others by way of attraction rather than promotion. Hosting the International will raise awareness of Al-Anon in Utah and potentially attract newcomers.
- Tradition 1 indicates progress for the greatest number depends upon unity. Hosting the International can unite members of Utah and the world and increase the likelihood of progress in recovery.
- Tradition 5 defines Al-Anon's primary purpose. Hosting the International gives us an opportunity to practice the Steps of our recovery ourselves, and give welcoming understanding and comfort to friends, relatives and families of alcoholics.
- In Concept 9 we read about good personal leadership. Hosting the International could give many of our members the opportunity to develop and practice healthy leadership traits.

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

- Who will step forward to lead/form the local Host Committee?
- How many members will volunteer to help?