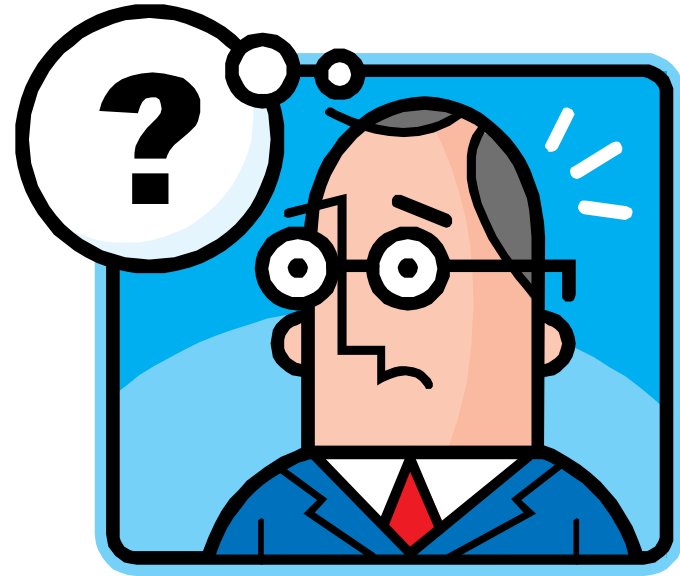
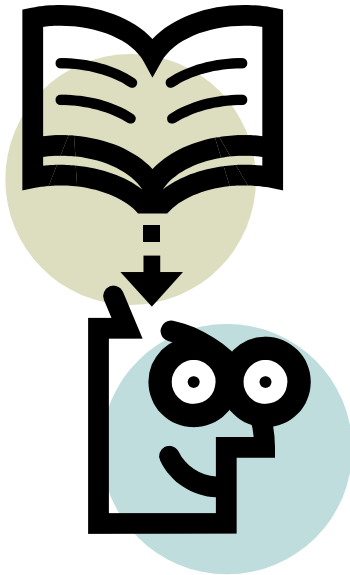


# What is **KBDM**?



# KBDM

**K**nowledge


**B**ased

**D**ecision

**M**aking

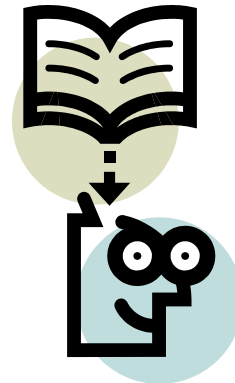
. . .for an Informed Group Conscience

# Knowledge Based Decision Making for an Informed Group Conscience

- Open communication 
- Dialogue before deliberation



- All decision-makers have access to all information



- Culture of trust—presume good will!

# KBDM Steps



- ◆ An issue is identified
- ◆ The Area Chair identifies a work group to work on the issue
- ◆ The work group is given a “Charge” to begin the KBDM process
- ◆ The nature of the issue is explained by “Framing”
- ◆ Background information is developed
- ◆ The workgroup uses the KBDM Questions to structure the work
- ◆ The work group prepares a summary of their work
- ◆ The work group makes recommendations
- ◆ The work group prepares and submits the KBDM Document
- ◆ The KBDM Document provides the informational foundation for the Assembly to discuss the issue and for the GRs to make a decision.

# The Six Elements of a KBDM Document

- The Charge
- The Framing
- The Background
- The KBDM Questions and Answers
- The Summary
- Recommendations





# Examples of a “Charge”

- Develop strategies that facilitate a welcoming and inclusive environment for all members at Al-Anon Area functions.
  - (THOUGHT FORCE: STRATEGIES FOR INCLUSIVENESS July 11, 2015)
- Should our Utah Area submit a bid to host the 2023 Al-Anon International Convention in Salt Lake City?
  - (Knowledge Based Decision Making KBDM for the 2023 ALANON INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION Utah September 23, 2016)
- How should we handle the Area Archives taking into consideration the past, the present and the future?
  - (Archives Thought Force Formed: Spring Assembly 2016)



# Examples of “Framing”

- “Whenever anyone, anywhere reaches out, let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen always be there and let it begin with me.” Our 5th tradition says “We have but one purpose to help families of alcoholics....we do this by welcoming and giving comfort to families of alcoholics”. As a fellowship...  
(THOUGHT FORCE: STRATEGIES FOR INCLUSIVENESS July 11, 2015)
- At the 2016 World Service Conference (WSC), it was announced that plans for the 7<sup>th</sup> 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. (Knowledge Based Decision Making KBDM for the 2023 ALANON INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION Utah September 23, 2016)
- At the 2016 Spring Assembly a conversation occurred about how the Area Archives should be handled. This 2016 Area Archives Thought Force was formed as a result. (Archives Thought Force Formed: Spring Assembly 2016)



# Examples of “Background”

- Our Area initiated a ‘Diversity’ Thought Force at the Fall 2014 Area Assembly following an impassioned speech by the Delegate . This speech focused on how to go about more fully involving non-English speaking members in all Al-Anon activities. After some discussion by the Assembly, a Thought Force was established to develop strategies for more fully involving all diverse subgroups in our Area activities...(THOUGHT FORCE: STRATEGIES FOR INCLUSIVENESS July 11, 2015)
- Every five years, on the weekend closest to the 4<sup>th</sup> 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... (Knowledge Based Decision Making KBDM for the 2023 ALANON INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION Utah September 23, 2016)
- The Utah Area Archives consist of a well-organized collection of materials stored in approximately 25 plastic “totes” filled with binders, folders and memorabilia and stored in the home of the current archivist. The materials in the Archives consist of a wide variety of documents and collectables with a comprehensive index. These materials date from 1945 when...(Archives Thought Force Formed: Spring Assembly 2016)





# The KBDM Questions

1. What do we know about the needs of the Area that is relevant to this discussion?
1. 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?
1. 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?
1. What are the ethical implications of our choices? In other words: Will our suggestions/decisions be consistent with our spiritual principles?
1. What do we wish we knew, but don't?



# One KBDM Answer from the Inclusiveness Thought Force

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

- Our message needs to be available to all; the benefits of involvement and service at the Area level need to be available to all: Step 12.
- We have an interest in our common welfare, which depends upon unity/participation is the key to unity: Tradition 1.
- We hope all will be involved and participate: Concept 4.
- We welcome and give comfort to families of alcoholics: Suggested Al-Anon Preamble to the 12 Steps; Tradition 5.
- When anyone reaches out of help let my hand be there: Al-Anon Declaration.
- Attraction not promotion: Tradition 11.



# One KBDM Answer for the 2023 International Bid

*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.

# One KBDM Answer from the Archives



## Thought Force

*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?*

- Worldwide, and within our Fellowship, there is currently a strong movement towards the digitalization and electronic storage of all things paper.
- In the world of historical archiving, some paper-based materials have intrinsic value and must be maintained, even if digital copies are created and stored.
- Our Fellowship resists “either/or” thinking and is receptive to changes and solutions that incorporate ideas that are creative, inclusive, and flexible.

# Pros from the Archives Thought Force



## *Pros:*

- Digitalization and electronic storage of archived material safeguards our historical documents against physical loss from fire, flood, insects, and the effects of time. A vendor can automatically back up such documents; thus insuring that documents will never be lost.
- Cloud storage is inexpensive, safe, and reliable.
- An electronically based Archive could be easily accessible to members and researchers regardless of the person's location.
- Ongoing contributions to the Archives can be made easier through email and other methods of electronic transfer and cloud storage.

# Cons from the Archives Thought Force



## *Cons:*

- Not all materials in the Archives can be digitalized, i.e. books, mugs, other “collectables.”
- Some paper documents have intrinsic value and, while having a back up copy is recommended, original correspondence, signatures, flyers, and minutes, etc. must be retained.
- Therefore, a physical Archive must endure even if a part of the Archives are digitalized.
- Issues that currently exist surrounding the maintenance of a physical Archive will continue.
- There is a monetary cost associated with electronic storage methods.
- The transfer of even a portion of the current physical Archive to an electronic format will be a formidable task requiring hundreds of man-hours likely spanning many years.
- Many documents in the Archives contain information that clearly identifies past and current AI-Anon members. Those documents, if made generally available electronically (such as on a website), would need to be physically redacted before being digitalized to preserve anonymity.

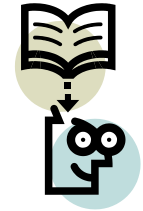
# Example of Summary from Archives Thought Force

## SUMMARY

- The good news is that we have a robust, rich, and extensive Area Archive that has been faithfully maintained over the years by some dedicated archivists and other interested members. Our Archives are replete with interesting, valuable, historical, and meaningful items. On the downside, our Archives are not easily accessible and likely not recognized or understood by the majority of our members. The expectations of the Area archivist with regard to educating members about the Archives have been dependent on the enthusiasm of the archivist, as no Area Guidelines per the Archives exist. Likewise, there is no clear Area guideline as to exactly what materials belong in the Archives or how to assure they are collected. Finally, the storage and safety of our Archives is a matter of real concern with the regularly changing physical location, undetermined risk factors, and no safeguards for borrowed items. How to move our Archives into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century offers our Area an exciting, challenging, and potentially difficult opportunity.



# Example of Recommendations from Archives Thought Force



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Create an Area Archives Guideline
- 2) Continue creating a digital copy of the Archives.
- 3) A detailed catalog should be made publicly available so members can access it.



# Take a look at the whole document to see how it all comes together

*(See the complete document in your packet)*

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE UTAH AREA ARCHIVES

Presented to the Utah Area 2016 Fall Assembly

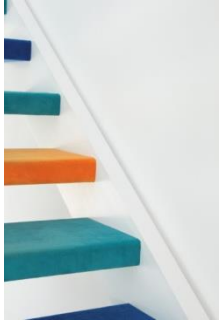
Archives Thought Force

Formed: Spring Assembly 2016

Patrick M, Jason C, Chris C, Denise L, Mary Y, Jacklyn J, Beverly J, Norma D, Glenna C, Roberta A,  
Michelle G (chair)



# Later today we'll continue the conversation about our Archives



- A report from the Guidelines Committee
- A report from the Archives Task Force

