# SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DELEGATES MEETING (SWRDM)

### THOUGHT FORCE REPORT

(9/17/2022)

**CHARGE:** Evaluate who the Utah Area AFG sends to the Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting (SWRDM) and when, including cost and funding.

**FRAMING:** Each year at Fall Assembly, the Group Representatives are asked to vote whether to send (with financial support) the Area Chair to the Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting. Many GRs are unclear as to the need for this vote, not understanding 1) the purpose of SWRDM, 2) whether this event has value to the Area and its Groups, and 3) who, if anyone, the Area should financially support to attend. This Thought Force has been asked to use the Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM) process to provide GRs with sufficient information to consider:

- 1. Should the Utah Area continue to participate in SWRDM?
- 2. Should the Area continue to financially support the Area Delegate's attendance at SWRDM?
- 3. Should the Area continue to financially support the Area Alternate Delegate's attendance at SWRDM?
- 4. Should the Area financially support the Area Chair's attendance at SWRDM?
- 5. Are there other Trusted Servants who should be supported in attendance at SWRDM?
- 6. When and how should specific Trusted Servants be supported to attend?

**BACKGROUND/HISTORY:** The Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting (SWRDM) is an annual gathering of Al-Anon "...current Delegates, Past Delegates, current Trustees, Past Trustees, and any other Al-Anon, Alateen or AA member interested in Al-Anon service and or information..." Al-Anon's Southwest Region encompasses these Areas: Arizona, California (N), California (S), Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico/El Paso, and Utah.

The purpose of SWRDM is "to bring together the Delegates of the Southwest Region preceding the World Service Conference each year to:

- 1. Welcome and support the new Delegates,
- 2. Provide current Delegates an opportunity to share Conference practices and procedures,
- 3. Keep past Delegates connected, involved, and informed."<sup>2</sup>

The first SWRDM was held March 12, 13, 14, 1976 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma when Delegates from the newly formed Al-Anon Region were invited to attend to learn about their role at the upcoming World Service Conference (WSC). The meeting was organized as an Al-Anon

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Guidelines for the Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting, Updated 3/9/21.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ibid

counterpart to Alcoholic Anonymous' Delegate Assembly which occurred the same weekend at the same location.<sup>3</sup> "Present were 16 delegates and one alternate." In 1980 the Al-Anon Regions were reorganized. Utah became part of the Southwest Region and sent its Delegate, Adean M. (Panel 18) to SWRDM. The Regional Trustee, Lorain B. also attended and was given a history of SWRDM to present to the World Service Office (WSO.)<sup>5</sup>

SWRDM is hosted, year to year, by its own attendees, typically Past Delegates who bid for the opportunity. SWRDM is self-supporting but depends on the Areas for financial support through an Area Fee. Participants (other than interested visitors) are charged a Badge Fee. The 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition is also practiced. Currently the Area Fee is \$250, and the Badge Fee is \$20.<sup>6</sup> Travel, lodging, and food costs are the responsibility of the attendees; however, the Areas typically pay all costs for Delegate attendees as well as others as determined by the Area (Alternate Delegate, Area Chair, others.)

The agenda for each year's SWRDM is developed by the elected Program Chair. Examples of agenda items include: practical ideas for success at the WSC, introductory speeches given by new Delegates (practice for their introduction at the WSC,) Area Highlights, discussion of Chosen Agenda Items (topics suggested by the Delegates for discussion at the WSC,) Conference procedures and etiquette (including how to speak in Conference at the microphone,) the Regional Trustee's Annual Report, and separate breakout sessions for Delegates, Alternate Delegates, Trustees, Area Chairs, and other visitors. An Area's immediate Past Delegate typically introduces a new Delegate. Procedural business is also conducted with past and present Delegates and Trustees having voice and vote. Alternate Delegates and Area Chairs have voice in the sessions, but no vote.

At the 1980 Spring Assembly, the Utah Area Group Representatives (GRs) voted to begin sending our Delegate to SWRDM using available Area funds. At the 1985 Fall Assembly a decision was made to send the Alternate Delegate along with the Delegate. In 1991, at the Fall Assembly, the GRs voted to send the Area Chair to SWRDM for the first time. Subsequently, during the 2015 Fall Assembly, the GRs voted to decide each year whether or not to send the Area Chair to SWRDM. Currently, the Area also provides any active Past Delegate wishing to attend SWRDM a \$100 stipend. Area expenditures for SWRDM are described in the *Utah Area Budget and Reimbursement Guidelines* and reported annually at the Fall Assembly during the Treasurers Report.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Minutes of First Annual Al-Anon Southwest Region Delegates Meeting, March 12, 13, 14, 1976, at Holiday Inn West, Oklahoma City, Okla.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Southwest Regional Delegate's Meeting Registration Flyer

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Utah Area Archives, Motions Book, p.5

<sup>8</sup> Ibid, p.6

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Ibid, p.8

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Utah Area Archives, Minutes, Area 55 Fall Assembly, September 26, 2015

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Utah Area Budget and Reimbursement Guidelines, IIIe

**COST:** The cost of SWRDM varies from year to year due to travel costs, meal selection, and lodging choices. For example, a SWRDM attendee may choose not to attend the annual banquet, thus reducing the meal cost. Some Areas, such as Colorado and Nevada, have a set amount budgeted for SWRDM each year; if there are funds left over after sending the Delegate and Alternate Delegate, other members may be supported to attend. In the Utah Area, the amount budgeted for SWRDM is the best estimate of the Area Treasurer and the Finance Committee based on previous year' expenditures and the location of the next SWRDM. The Treasurer reimburses attendees when receipts and the *Area Reimbursement Form* are submitted. Attendees may request an advance.

Here is a six-year recap of Utah's SWRDM expenditures. The 2023 numbers are budgeted amounts. 12

Table 1

	Tuble 1								
Year	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017		
Location	SLC, UT	Tucson, AZ	Virtual	San Rafael, CA	Hilo, HI	Reno, NV	Denver, CO		
<b>Total Cost</b>	\$ 1,200.00	\$3,011.47	\$ 330.00	\$ 3,303.50	\$ 2,091.95	\$ 1,545.30	\$ 1,933.69		
Delegate	\$ 700.00	\$ 923.07	\$ 270.00	\$ 1,466.80	\$ 1,175.69	\$ 794.05	\$ 899.25		
Alt Delegate	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,049.13	\$ 20.00	\$ 1,011.05	\$ 916.26		\$ 305.00		
Area Chair	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,039.27	\$ 20.00	\$ 725.65		\$ 651.25	\$ 629.44		
Past Delegates	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00		
	\$ 1,200.00	\$3,011.47	\$ 330.00	\$ 3,303.50	\$ 2,091.95	\$ 1,545.30	\$ 1,933.69		

The cost of SWRDM per person attending per year is summarized in the following table. The year 2021 has been excluded from the table as it was virtual, resulting in minimal cost. Past Delegate stipends are not included. The five-year average per person cost is \$796.97. 13

Table 2

YEAR	P/Person
2022	\$920.49
2020	\$1,001.17
2019	\$895.98
2018	\$622.65
2017	\$544.56

**SUMMARY:** At the 2021 Fall Assembly, there was some confusion among GRs regarding the need to vote yearly on sending the Area Chair to SWRDM and regarding their understanding of SWRDM altogether. Subsequently, members of the Utah Area World Service Committee (AWSC) began discussing this confusion. The AWSC discussions ranged from how to better inform the voting members of the Assembly about SWRDM to whom among our Trusted Servants is it best to financially support in attending SWRDM, if any. These discussions

<sup>13</sup> June T., Thought Force member

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Area Treasurer

convinced the Area Chair of the need to establish this Thought Force to enable the members of the Assembly to participate in a fully informed conversation around this topic.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**: Based on the extensive research and discussion by the members of this Thought Force, the following recommendations are made:

#### General

- That this conversation about Utah Al-Anon's participation in the SWRDM continue into the next Panel.
- ➤ In as much as SWRDM will be held in Salt Lake City on March 10-12, 2023, all GRs are invited to attend in order to experience SWRDM for themselves. (The members of the Thought Force believe that, if possible, incentives for the GRs to attend should be offered. These could include reimbursement for transportation or lodging or other means.)
- ➤ That a vote on which Trusted Servants, if any, the Area wishes to support in attending SWRDM should not occur until after next year's SWRDM when the voting members and other interested Al-Anons will have had the opportunity to experience and gain first-hand knowledge of SWRDM.

#### Charge related

- ➤ That the Area continue to support SWRDM (by payment of an Area Fee and Badge Fee for voting members).
- ➤ That the Area continue to support (by reimbursement of travel, lodging, and meal costs) the attendance of the Delegate at each annual SWRDM.
- ➤ That the immediate Past Delegate attend SWRDM the first year of a new Panel to introduce, support, and mentor the new Delegate. The Area would reimburse for travel, lodging, and meal costs.
- > That the Alternate Delegate attend SWRDM with financial support from the Area (badge fee, travel, lodging, and meal costs) the second year.
- That the Area Chair attend SWRDM with financial support from the Area (travel, lodging, and meal costs) the third year.
- ➤ That a Past Delegate receive financial support (travel, lodging, and meal costs) to attend SWRDM with the Alternate Delegate if the Alternate Delegate must assume the role of Delegate.
- ➤ That only the Delegate attend SWRDM when it is held in Hawaii.
- > That all expenditures related to SWRDM reflect sound financial decisions based on the Utah Area's annual budget.
- > That the Area World Service Committee (AWSC) be empowered to resolve any issues that arise regarding supporting our Trusted Servants' supported attendance at SWRDM.
- > That the on-going conversation about this issue include the continuing support for past Delegate attendance at SWRDM.

Submitted by: Amy W. Heather M. June T. Patrick M.



### Knowledge-Based Decision-Making Background and Rationale



**Summary**: Knowledge-Based Decision-Making means information gathering and discussion *before* a possible solution is crafted, and a decision is made.

#### The essential elements of the KBDM process are:

- Open communication between all members.
- Dialogue *before* deliberation and decision.
- All decision-makers have common access to full information.
- The idea that everyone participates is a spiritual principle. The KBDM process models this principle.
- Opinions are backed up by experience, principles, or knowledge.
- We are all equal and everyone is valuable. We respect all ideas and do not tolerate domination.
- We speak and listen in a culture of trust and good will.

#### Why it is a good model (from *Conference Summary*, 2006).

- It allows thorough examination of issues without an end in mind.
- It is not necessary to choose sides or develop evidence with an end in mind.
- It allows those who make the decision to become far less important than the fact that a good decision is made.
- The outcome is not as important as the way we got there (discussion and an environment that encourages healthy thinking).
- It provides for open dialogue, so everyone's needs are heard, expectations and preferences are acknowledged, and ethical dimensions are considered.
- How we talk and listen to each other is more important than the decision we come to. Our Higher Power is present in the process of speaking and listening.
- Conference Summary: http://al-anon.org/members/pdf/summary/2006summary.pdf

#### **KBDM** alignment with Al-Anon Principles

- Tradition #1: Our common welfare comes first; personal progress for the greatest number depends upon unity.
- Concept #4: Participation is the key to harmony.
- Concept #5: The rights of appeal and petition protect minorities and ensure that they be heard.
- General Warranty #3: All decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by unanimity.

#### The benefits for our groups

- Group members are more likely to support the decision made.
- Group effort is more likely to yield better results.
- Participants become part of the process, more voices are heard, and more solutions are generated.
- There is recognition that responsibility for action rests on everyone.
- Actions tend to lean toward the greater good for the organization.
- Negativity is diffused.

### SWRDM THOUGHT FORCE KNOWLEDGE BASED DECISION MAKING (KBDM)

Following extensive thought, discussion, reliance on the KBDM rationale, and appeals to a Power Greater Than Ourselves, the SWRDM Thought Force offers these answers to the four KBDM questions. It is hoped that our work will provide a solid foundation for a meaningful conversation about sending our Trusted Servants to SWRDM.

# 1. What do we know about our members' (and prospective members') needs, wants and preferences that relate to this issue? What do we wish we knew, but don't?

(How important is it? Is it what our current members want? What purpose would this serve? Is it necessary? Is it helpful? Might our decision have unintended consequences?)

## **\*** Members' (and prospective members') needs, wants and preferences that relate to this issue:

- > The GRs often seem confused about this process and find coming to a majority vote difficult
- Newcomers and those that attend meetings are only somewhat aware of the structure beyond the groups. The success of this program is linked to the groups. While each person has their own program to work, the support offered at the group level is crucial.
- ➤ All Al-Anon members are invited to attend SWRDM.
- > SWRDM could be very helpful for new delegates.
  - The process of the World Service Conference (WSC) meetings sounds quite brutal, and not knowing what to do would be overwhelming.
  - Important topics are discussed and are brought forward that can impact all of the groups in one way or another.
  - Knowing the "rules" of WSC, so a Delegate can ask a question or speak to the issue at hand, is important. This is one way that minority needs are heard.
- ➤ It could benefit the newly elected delegate if the immediate past Delegate attended SWRDM to offer mentorship at the Delegate's first SWRDM.
- Learning how other areas do things can be beneficial to the Utah Area.
- ➤ Utah Area Al-Anon has maintained a position of forward thinking and leadership at the regional and world service level. Having our leaders at SWRDM sustains this.

#### **\*** What do we wish we knew, but don't:

- > Is this meeting needed for the support of the structure?
- ➤ Do the GRs see a benefit to sending the Delegate, Alternate Delegate, and/or the Chairperson to SWRDM? Do the GRs think that SWRDM is beneficial to the area?
- > Do the GRs wish to continue Utah's support of SWRDM and want to continue to send the Delegate and Alternate Delegate to SWRDM?
- > Is the Alternate Delegate any more prepared to attend WSC by attending SWRDM?
- > Does sending the Alternate Delegate benefit the area? Does it need to?
- ➤ Has the Utah Area Chair, who is not a voting member of SWRDM, ever attended WSC?

- ➤ Did past Area Chairs who attended SWRDM find value for the Area in the experience?
- ➤ Is this the best, or only way for our delegate to be prepared for WSC?
- ➤ Will our Area's commitment to "Abundant Thinking" continue to provide a level of financial support of all our proposed activities?
- At this time, neither the Alternate Delegate nor the Chairperson have vote at SWRDM. Will they ever have vote in the future?

# 2. What do we know about the resources and our vision for Al-Anon and our meetings that are relevant to this issue? What do we wish we knew, but don't?

(What are our resources? Can we afford it? Do we have enough volunteers to make it happen? Do we have any background information in our archives that can help us answer this question?)

#### **\*** Resources and vision:

- Some other areas encourage and support (spiritually and financially) past Delegates and Area Chairs to attend SWRDM, and they find this beneficial to the area.
- ➤ Utah has sent our Area Delegate to SWRDM since its beginning.
- > Currently the Utah Area also financially supports the Alternate Delegate's attendance at each SWRDM and votes each Fall on whether to send the Area Chair.
- ➤ Currently, the Area also provides any active Past Delegate wishing to attend SWRDM a \$100 stipend. (Currently this could total up to \$900.)
- ➤ Utah Al-Anon members can feel (feelings aren't facts) that the area does not have the funds to send the area chair to the Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting.
- ➤ Utah area has always been financially able to send the chair to Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting (when GRs voted to do so).
- > Our approach to Area financial health through Abundant Thinking has always provided us with sufficient funds.
- There are no musts in Al-Anon, but it is expected that each Area will host SWRDM on rotation.

#### **\*** What do we wish we knew, but don't:

- ➤ Other than meeting other delegates in person, what occurs at SWRDM that cannot occur in a more reasonable (financially) manner?
- ➤ Does the area benefit by sending more people to SWRDM?
- ➤ Is this the best place to spend financial resources?
- ➤ Is it just about having financial resources?
- ➤ With rising costs, will we have the funding to support sending our Trusted Servants to SWRDM?
- ➤ If the area has enough money that we send multiple people to SWRDM, why do we have a cost associated with our Assemblies?
- ➤ Should we not be fully self-supporting before we spend money on other people attending SWRDM?
- ➤ Will SWRDM ever move to offering electronic attendance at SWRDM?
- ➤ Who pays for trustees to attend? And past trustees?
- ➤ Did past Area Chairs who attended SWRDM find value for the Area in the experience?
- ➤ Will our Area's commitment to "Abundant Thinking" continue to provide a level of financial support of all our proposed activities (such as billboards throughout the state, or other high-cost Public Outreach efforts?)

3. What do we know about our "culture" and "environment" that is relevant

**to this discussion?** In other words--Will our decision be consistent with our principles, policies, and legacies: the Twelve Steps, Traditions, and Concepts? What are the implications of our choices? What do we wish we knew, but don't?

(How would this affect our meeting? How would this affect our fellowship? Newcomers? Al-Anon (and A.A.) as a whole? Does our Service Manual provide any guidance about this issue? Pros/Cons: What might be the dis/advantages of this change?)

#### **&** Culture and Environment:

- > SWRDM is for new and current delegates.
- ➤ Utah has hosted SWRDM in rotation with the other Areas in the Southwest Region.
- Not all regional delegate meetings are the same.
  - Some are only attended by current and past delegates.
  - Each year there is a different chairperson who sets the agenda. Agendas vary.
  - What approach is the most effective?
- Every Area is different in how they support their own Regional Delegate's Meeting.
  - Some Areas have a set amount of money to spend on their Regional Delegate's Meeting.
  - Others budget for each attendee, reflecting Area autonomy.
- ➤ The culture of Al-Anon is one of support. We want everyone to succeed. SWRDM offers that support to new delegates, but if the support is for new delegates, why send others.
- Most people in the Groups don't even know about the Delegate, let alone SWRDM.
- Many members see SWRDM as an Al-Anon event designed to help prepare the Delegate for the World Service Conference (WSC) and provide a source of information for the Delegate and the Area regarding current world service level issues.
- Most areas send at least their delegate to a regional delegates meeting.
- > SWRDM may help prepare the Alternate Delegate to step into the role of Delegate if needed.
- Some members think sending the Area Chair to SWRDM allows her/him to network with other Area Chairs, bring back to the Area current information and procedures that may keep the Area current and progressive, and provide to other Areas innovative ideas developed by the Utah Area.
- Many members across the country question whether sending any officers to the regional delegates meetings is worth the cost and suggest that since SWRDM is not part of the service structure, it may technically be an outside event. They question is whether the Delegate/Alternate Delegate is any more prepared to attend WSC by attending SWRDM.
- ➤ The financial considerations associated with sending our Trusted Servants to SWRDM are important. Some members ask, "What occurs at SWRDM that cannot occur in a more financially reasonable manner? [If the Area can send] multiple people to SWRDM, why do we have cost associated with registrations at Assemblies?

#### Principles, policies, and legacies:

- ➤ The regional delegates meetings are not part of the links of service. Some members across the country question whether sending any officers to the regional delegates meetings violates traditions.
- ➤ While our Service Manual makes no mention of Regional Delegate Meetings, it does (pp.90-94) talk about "other events" that Groups, Districts, and Areas can support.

- The Al-Anon Board of Trustees is aware of Regional Delegates Meetings and encourages Regional Trustees to participate. However, it does not fund the Trustee's attendance.
- > Applicable Legacies:
  - Tradition 1. Our Area needs to be united in understanding SWRDM and if/how sending our Trusted Servants to SWRDM can bring value to the Area. Is this the best way to have personal progress for the greatest number?
  - Tradition 5. Each Al-Anon Groups has but one purpose, to help family of alcoholics. Does SWRDM enhance our ability to help?
  - Tradition 9. We may create service boards and other committees. Would this apply to SWRDM?
  - Concept 4. SWRDM provides opportunities for participation with members from other Areas in our region.
  - Concept 9. SWRDM may provide opportunity to develop good personal leadership skills.

### Implications:

- ➤ How important to the Utah Area are the relationships that are developed at SWRDM?
- ➤ Since there are other Al-Anon conventions that the Utah Area might benefit from having the Area Chair attend, would SWRDM be the first choice?
- ➤ Does sending Trusted Servants to SWRDM strengthen our Links of Service?
- Are we helping friends and families of alcoholics by spending time and money on SWRDM?
- ➤ What is the impact on our Area Budget, as well as the time and travel commitment from those attending?
- ➤ Does the Area benefit by sending the Delegate/Alternate Delegate/Area Chair/a Past Delegate/others to SWRDM? Does it need to?
- Are we benefitting the most people by spending our abundant resources this way?

#### Pros and Cons:

#### > Pros:

- Sending our Delegate to SWRDM helps prepares her/him for the World Service Conference (WSC) and provides a source of information for the Area regarding the current world service level issues.
- Sending our Alternate Delegate to SWRDM prepares her/him to step into the role of Delegate if needed.
- Sending the Area Chair to SWRDM allows her/him to network with other Area Chairs, bring back to the Area current information and procedures that may keep the Area current and progressive, and provide to other Areas innovative ideas developed by the Utah Area.

#### Cons:

- Financially supporting attendees at SWRDM diverts funds that could be utilized elsewhere, i.e., Public Outreach.
- Multiple attendees are not needed to bring ideas back to the Area from SWRDM, one should be sufficient.
- The cost of sending multiple attendees may not be sustainable for the Area.
- Sending Trusted Servants, other than the Delegate and Alternate Delegate (e.g., the immediate past Delegate), may have value (as in introducing and supporting the new Delegate.)
- Greater financial support for past Delegates from the Area to attend SWRDM might be more in keeping with SWRDM's stated purpose.

#### **❖** What do we wish we know, but don't:

- Are Delegates expressing the needs of the Groups at SWRDM?
- ➤ Are donations from SWRDM to WSO sent directly from SWRDM or from a designated individual member?
- ➤ Is SWRDM an outside entity?
- ➤ How important to the Utah Area are the relationships that are developed at SWRDM?
- ➤ Do other Areas support their Area Chairs in attending SWRDM? If so, how?
- ➤ Is there value in attending SWRDM that we don't fully recognize? Is there a better way to bring value to the Area?

# 4. What are the ethical implications of our choices? Would we be practicing our "principles in all our affairs"? What do we wish we knew, but don't?

(Is our decision legal? Will our decision help us fulfill our primary purpose? If we decide to take an action, will it be the "right" thing to do?)

#### **thical Implications:**

- > SWRDM attendees are sometimes asked to report their experience at Area Assemblies, but this rarely happens in any meaningful way, as evidenced by the current lack of understanding among the GRs.
- > There can be a lot of contention during the vote to send the chair to SWRDM. This is not a good use of time and can create "bad feelings."
- ➤ It has been said at Utah assemblies that the chair attends world service conference if neither the delegate nor the alternate delegate can attend.
  - This is not reflected anywhere in Utah guidelines nor in the service manual.
  - In early 2022 WSO asked the current delegates who from their area would be attending WSC. Specifically, WSO asked that if the delegate was not attending, would the area be sending the alternate delegate or a past delegate? They did not ask if an area chair would be attending.
  - When a Delegate cannot attend, it is usually known in advance and WSO will know who is being sent as a replacement. If in the unlikely case of a last-minute replacement, the Area may not be represented at SWRDM.
  - When SWRDM makes changes, they are voted on by SWRDM members. Voting members of SWRDM are current delegates, past delegates, current trustees, and past trustees.
    - Each Area sends a different number of voting members.
    - Larger areas may be able to send more members (typically the hosting area has many voting members attending).
- Our GRs have been asked to make decisions regarding SWRDM without being fulling informed of the issues.
  - This is inconsistent with the Area's commitment to Knowledge Based Decision
     Making and decision making by unanimity whenever possible (General Warranties.)
  - All options of how to utilize SWRDM to the best advantage of the Area have never been explored.
  - Fully exploring the Area's relationship with SWRDM will assure the proper use of the Area's funds and assure decisions are made according to a valid group conscience.

- > SWRDM is not part of the service structure and, therefore, may technically be an outside entity.
  - If the area has so much money that they are sending multiple people to SWRDM, why do we have cost associated with assemblies that are part of our service structure?
  - Should we not be fully self-supporting before we spend money on outside entities?
- ➤ Is the Area paying for someone that should not be going?
- $\triangleright$  Our suggestions and ultimate choices in this matter are entirely our own and consistent with our Traditions (1, 2, 5, 9).

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

- ➤ Will the regional delegates meetings change now that there is an electronic area (GEA)?
- Are we benefitting the most people by spending our abundant resources in this way?
- ➤ Should the money donated to the area be used for things that the ones donating the money do not fully understand? How can we get the understanding of SWRDM (and issues discussed) to the Group Representatives?
- ➤ Is SWRDM truly self-supporting?
- ➤ If Utah is only sending 2-3 members, is the Utah Area voice adequately represented? Does it need to be represented?
- ➤ Is it a good use of funds to send 4 people when really only the new delegate and a mentor is needed? Should the use of funds go towards people that have a vote at SWRDM?
- ➤ Just because the Area can afford to do something, should they do it?
- ➤ Does Utah have a guideline, or has there been a discussion, by a committee, of who attends WSC if the neither the delegate nor the alternate delegate can attend?
- Are we helping friends and families of alcoholics by spending time and money on this?