SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DELEGATES MEETING

(SWRDM)

**TASK FORCE** REPORT

(3/23/2024)

**CHARGE**: Using the information provided by the Utah Area Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting (SWRDM) Thought Force, propose the best practices for moving forward as a member of the Southwest Region. This proposal should include, but not be limited to, who to send to SWRDM, and how often, how to budget for SWRDM, and suggestions on hosting SWRDM every eight years. This **Task Force** may also want to consider how to approach decisions made at SWRDM that affect the Utah Area.

**FRAMING:** During the Utah Area 2023 Spring Assembly the Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting Thought Force presented its work. The Thought Force had been tasked with “evaluating who the Utah Area AFG sends to the Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting (SWRDM) and when, including cost and funding.”[[1]](#footnote-1) Following the Thought Force presentation, the assembled GRs agreed that further work was needed. The Area Chair formed a **Task Force** to make specific recommendations consistent with the above Charge.

The SWRDM Thought Force Report provided extensive history and background regarding the Utah Area’s connection with and support of SWRDM, along with recommendations. The Thought Force Report is attached to the present document and should be reviewed in conjunction with this report.

 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…”[[2]](#footnote-2) Al-Anon’s Southwest Region encompasses these Areas: Arizona, California (N), California (S), Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico/El Paso, and Utah.

The SWRDM Thought Force and this **Task Force** were created to contribute to a Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM) conversation about who the Area should financially support in attending SWRDM.

**BACKGROUND:** Fundamentally, SWRDM may be viewed as a leadership seminar, wherein Al-Anon members who attend have the opportunity to participate in conversations ultimately affecting our Groups, Districts, the Area and Al-Anon as a whole. Although SWRDM’s primary purpose is to “1) Welcome and support the new Delegates, 2) provide current Delegates an opportunity to share Conference practices and procedures, and 3) keep Past Delegates connected, involved and informed,”[[3]](#footnote-3) all Al-Anon members are welcome to attend. New Delegates are brought up to speed on topics to be addressed at the World Service Conference (WSC). Delegates are helped to prepare for the demands of the Conference. Immediate Past Delegates attend to introduce and support their replacement. Typically, there are breakout sessions for each group of attendees, including Area Chairs and other Trusted Servants. Attendees hear the Southwest Regional Trustee’s annual report, develop an understanding of current issues under consideration by Al-Anon’s Board of Trustees (BOT), learn about the activities and issues in the other seven Areas of the Region, interact with trusted servants from throughout the Region, share the strength of the Utah Area with members of other Areas, and practice recovery while developing skills and abilities necessary for service beyond the Group level.[[4]](#footnote-4) As an example, the 2024 SWRDM agenda is attached as Attachment 3.

The annual SWRDM is organized and presented each year by Past Delegates. The venue rotates through the eight Areas of the Southwest Regions. Thus, our Utah Area Past Delegates host SWRDM once every eighth year following a fixed rotation. In addition to providing leadership training for the Delegates and other attendees, SWRDM often considers issues and conducts business that affects the Areas within the Region. For this reason, Utah Past Delegates hosting SWRDM in Utah should communicate often with the Area Chair and the AWSC. Current and Past Delegates along with Current and Past Trustees exercise the right to vote on any measures discussed at SWRDM. Alternate Delegates and Area Chairs have voice, but no vote in the general sessions. All attendees participate in breakout sessions.[[5]](#footnote-5)

Currently, our Utah Area reimburses the cost of attending SWRDM for our Delegate, Alternate Delegate, and our Area Chair only if approved by GR vote at the Fall Assembly. The annual vote about sending the Area Chair to SWRDM is cumbersome and confusing.[[6]](#footnote-6) The Area also provides a $100 stipend for “active Past Delegates” who wish to attend SWRDM.[[7]](#footnote-7) The **TASK FORCE** members unitedly recognize that a $100 stipend is hardly useful in assisting Past Delegates’ attendance at SWRDM. Without a more realistic commitment to helping our Past Delegates, our Area risks losing their guidance, wisdom, and vote on matters affecting the Area at SWRDM.

**RATIONAL:** Concept Nine reminds us that “no matter how carefully we design our service structure…the operating result of our structure can be no better than the personal performance of those who serve and make it work.”[[8]](#footnote-8) For over forty years the Areas of the Southwest Region have gratefully participated in and provided support for a Delegates Meeting, open to all members interested in developing good leadership skills. How the Utah Area continues its participation in SWRDM is an important decision for our GRs.

The **Task Force** began its work with a careful and thorough review of the Thought Force Report

which was presented, discussed, and accepted at the Spring 2023 Utah Area Assembly. The **Task Force** members viewed the acceptance of that report as confirmation that the Utah Area affirms its support of and continued involvement in SWRDM. It is recognized that a minority opinion was expressed during the Thought Force conversation. This minority opinion suggested that attendance of Trusted Servants other that the Delegate at SWRDM was not of value and should not occur. However, the members of this **Task Force** unanimously agree that there is value in having multiple Trusted Servants from our Utah Area attend SWRDM. The majority voice of the Assembly, offered during the Thought Force discussions, also agreed there is value in financially supporting multiple attendees at SWRDM.[[9]](#footnote-9)

Here is the **Task Force**’s consideration on who our Area should send to SWRDM (please see the Thought Force report for additional pros and cons):

* The Delegate. SWRDM primarily exists to prepare the Delegate for the World Service Conference (WSC). “It is meant to help the Delegate increase his/her understanding of the structure and how Conference will work. An Area has a choice to help strengthen its support for a Delegate or choose to withhold it. Why would an Area withhold something good?  A common philosophy when we enter service is that we want everyone to be successful.”[[10]](#footnote-10)
	+ Pros
		- For over 45 years our Delegates have benefited from attending SWRDM as they prepare to represent the Groups of our Area at Al-Anon’s World Service Conference.
		- Delegates from other Areas benefit from hearing the experience, strength, and hope, as well as the opinions of our Utah Delegate as they prepare for Conference.
		- Our Delegate develops or improves the skills necessary to keep our Groups informed about issues of importance to Al-Anon at the World Service level.
	+ Cons
		- The **Task Force** offers no Cons with regard to financially supporting the Delegate’s attendance at SWRDM.
* The Alternate Delegate. “The Alternate Delegate works with the Delegate as much as possible in communicating with the groups. He acquaints himself with all the Delegate’s duties, so that if the Delegate is unable to finish his three-year term, the Alternate can step in to complete it.”[[11]](#footnote-11)
	+ Pros
		- SWRDM can help the Alternate Delegate prepare to assume all the duties of the Delegate if necessary.
		- SWRDM can help prepare an Alternate who later wishes to stand for Delegate.
* Cons
* The Alternate Delegate can obtain necessary information and preparation directly from the Delegate as needed.
* If a Delegate is unable to attend WSC there will likely be sufficient time for the Alternate to attend SWRDM before the WSC.
* The Immediate Past Delegate. An Area’s Immediate Past Delegate is expected to introduce the new Delegate at SWRDM and support the new Delegate’s preparation for the WSC at SWRDM.
	+ Pros
		- The new Delegate receives primary support and guidance from the Immediate Past Delegate.
		- The Immediate Past Delegate has the clearest understanding of issues under consideration at the WSC.
		- The Immediate Past Delegate has vote at SWRDM.
* Cons
	+ - The **Task Force** offers no Cons with regard to financially supporting the Immediate Past Delegate’s attendance at SWRDM.
* The Area Chair. The Area Chair does not have vote at SWRDM but does have voice in the general sessions and breakouts. This provides additional opportunity for the Utah Area to be heard and share with other Areas in the Region.
	+ Pros
		- The Chair supports the Delegate in delivering the annual Area Highlights at SWRDM.
		- SWRDM can provide the Area Chair with information and instruction important to the Area. (For instance, an Area Chair may see how KBDM works at SWRDM and in other Areas and thus find ways to strengthen our own processes).
		- Attending SWRDM may help the Area Chair prepare to stand for Delegate in the future.
	+ Cons
		- Without a vote at SWRDM, the Area Chair’s input is limited.
* Past Delegates. Utah’s Past Delegates are the custodians of SWRDM and host the gathering in rotation with the other Areas in the Region. SWRDM is the means by which Past Delegates continue to share experience, strength, and hope at the World Service level.
	+ Pros
		- At SWRDM Past Delegates contribute to World Service level conversations and safeguard our Area’s interests in these discussions.
		- Past Delegates have vote.
		- Since the Past Delegates host SWRDM, regular attendance helps maintain awareness of SWRDM trends and direction.
* Cons
	+ - The **Task Force** offers no Cons with regard to financially supporting Past Delegates attendance at SWRDM.
* A member of the Area World Service Committee. Sending an interested Al-Anon member may give that person a wider view of Al-Anon (beyond the Area level) They may return to the Utah AWSC and Utah Area more experience, strength, and hope.
* Pros
	+ Attendance at SWRDM can expand a member’s awareness of Al-Anon beyond the Area level.
	+ SWRDM can help a member prepare to eventually stand for Delegate or other service positions beyond the Area.
	+ Cons
* Without voice or vote, the AWSC member’s input at SWRDM is limited.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** The members of the SWRDM Thought Force and the members of the SWRDM **Task Force** closely considered the financial impact of supporting our Trusted Servant’s attendance at SWRDM and concluded that SWRDM attendance is worthy of our financial support. The **Task Force** members relied upon the spiritual principal of abundance throughout our discussions. A passage from one of our daily readers reminds us, “when I contribute my part to keep my meetings self-supporting, I contribute to my recovery.”[[12]](#footnote-12) For many years our Utah Area has been blessed to have the financial means to accomplish all our goals. The principal of abundance suggests we will continue to do so in the future. As always, the Finance Committee will prudently review the Area’s annual financial situation and only recommend an appropriate budget.

The Area Treasurer (also a member of this **Task Force**) brought the **Task Force** recommendations to the Finance committee for preliminary discussion and to assess impact of these recommendations on the Area budget. Upon review, the Finance Committee has communicated to the **Task Force** that there are ample funds available to support the following proposal for consideration.

Finance Committee Proposal:

* + 1. Budget for and finance sending three Area members to SWRDM annually (as we have done for the last 10 years.
			1. Year one of panel: Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Immediate Past Delegate
			2. Year two of panel: Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Area Chair
			3. Year three of panel: Delegate, Alternate Delegate and an interested, randomly chosen Area World Service Conference (AWSC) member.
			4. For planning, the Finance Committee would use SWRDM costs for the year 2020 (the highest in past 6 years) plus 25% to account for inflation. The 2025 proposed budget for three Trusted Servants to attend SWRDM would be $4,130.
			5. Expenses for these members would include Area fee, badge fee (registration), lodging, meal package and Travel (Airfare or Mileage). It does not include any extra-curricular activities associated with SWRDM.
		2. Budget sufficient funds to assist current Past Delegates to attend SWRDM annually.
			1. Our 2024 suggestion is $2,000 to be equally divided among the number of active Past Delegates wishing to attend.
			2. Reimbursement to an attending Past Delegate shall not exceed the actual cost.
			3. The budgeted amount for Past Delegates will be reviewed by the Finance Committee of each new panel.
		3. If any of the above stated members are unable or unwilling to attend SWRDM, an interested AWSC member or Past Delegate may volunteer to go. If more than one member wishes to go, a name will be picked from the hat.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** It is important to mention that the annual vote on sending the Area Chair to SWRDM has never been about having enough money in the budget. While it might be easy to make money the driving force of our decisions about SWRDM, our Area has always focused on the potential benefit offered to its attendees: leadership training (consistent with Concept 7), assuring that the voices of our Groups will be heard at the World Service Conference through our Delegate (consistent with Concepts 1 and 3), and share experience, strength, and hope with representatives from other Areas in our Region (consistent with Tradition 1 and Concept 4). Our Area has always been blessed with the abundance we need to accomplish our goals. For these reasons, the **Task Force** members recommend we the Trusted Servants mentioned above to all Southwest Regional Delegate’s Meetings including Hawaii.

1. Continue to support the Utah Area Delegate’s attendance at SWRDM annually by paying the Area fee, badge fee, transportation costs, lodging, and meal package each year.
2. Continue to support the Utah Alternate Delegate’s attendance at SWRDM annually by paying the badge fee, transportation costs, lodging, and meal package each year.
3. Fund a third attendee which would rotate each year among the immediate Past Delegate (first year of the panel), the Area Chair (second year of the panel), and a randomly chosen member of the Area World Service Committee (third year of the panel) who expresses interest.
4. Include in each annual Area budget an amount recommended by the Finance Committee to be shared by all Past Delegates who wish to attend SWRDM. The Finance Committee would make its recommendation at the beginning of each new panel. Financial support for any Past Delegate would not exceed the cost of the badge fee, transportation, lodging, and meal package.
5. In the event a Trusted Servant for whom monies have been budgeted cannot attend SWRDM, the Area Chair, in consultation with the AWSC, may designate a replacement.

**SUMMARY:** Since 1976 Utah Area Al-Anon has financially supported sending its Delegate and other Trusted Servants to the Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting (SWRDM). Over the years our Assemblies have expanded the number of positions supported at SWRDM and amended the manner by which positions are funded.

Beginning in 2015 our Area has regularly budgeted for three of our Trusted Servants to annually attend SWRDM: the Delegate, the Alternate Delegate, and the Area Chair. Each year at the Fall Assembly GRs have been asked to confirm their desire to actually send the Area Chair to SWRDM. This process has been cumbersome and confusing. Our current conversation seeks to clarify our current thinking on how to best continue our participation in SWRDM.

After thoughtful consideration, this TASK FORCE recommends that the Area continue to send three of our members annually to SWRDM: our Delegate, our Alternate Delegate, and once each panel on a rotating schedule our Immediate Past Delegate (1st year,) our Area Chair (2nd year,) and an interested AWSC member (3rd year.) We also recommend that the Area annually budget a reasonable amount for interested Past Delegates to share in offsetting the cost of attending SWRDM. Finally, we recommend that the Area Chair in consultation with the AWSC identify other Area members willing to attend SWRDM in the place of someone not able to go.

Hopefully the GRs at the 2024 Spring Assembly will find this report helpful in making knowledge-based decisions about our Area’s connection with SWRDM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Pat D.

Crystal H.

Mary Y.

Patrick M.

SWRDM **TASK** FORCE

**KNOWLEDGE BASED DECISION MAKING**

 **(KBDM)**

The SWRDM **Task Force** offers the following answers to the four KBDM questions in support of the Area’s conversation about SWRDM. Please also review the KBDM answers offered by the SWRDM Thought Force (page 14).

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?**
* Our members are committed to the Al-Anon Principles contained in the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts.
* The majority of our members see value in sending some of our Trusted Servants to the Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting (SWRDM).
* SWRDM helps our Delegates and others understand how the World Service Conference (WSC) works.
* Will sending non-voting individuals to SWRDM help prepare them for further leadership positions in Al-Anon?

**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?**

* + Some other areas encourage and support (spiritually and financially) past Delegates and Area Chairs and others to attend SWRDM, and they find this beneficial to the area.
	+ Our Area is financially abundant. We have the recourses to accomplish our goals.
	+ Supporting our Past Delegates attendance at SWRDM is a good way to maximize the experience and wisdom they have gained through Al-Anon service.
	+ Our Area is expected to host SWRDM in rotation with the other Areas in the Region.
	+ 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?**

* 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.
* Some members recognize sending the Area Chair or other members to SWRDM allows her/him to network with others, bring current information and procedures that may keep the Area current and progressive back to the Area, and provide to other Areas innovative ideas developed by the Utah Area.
	+ Every Area is different in how they support their own Regional Delegate’s Meeting. How we structure our support is entirely up to us.
	+ Traditions 1 and 5, along with Concepts 4 and 9, support our involvement with SWRDM.
		- Are we benefitting the most people by spending our abundant resources this way?

**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?**

* Our current method of deciding who to support in attending SWRDM has been cumbersome and at times contentious.
* SWRDM decisions may impact all the Areas of the region, including Utah. Adequate representation at SWRDM is important.
* How will SWRDM and our Area evolve in the future and how might this change our relationship?
* The work of the SWRDM Thought and Task Forces has given GRs the opportunity to make fully informed decision.

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…”[[13]](#footnote-13) 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.”[[14]](#footnote-14)

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 counterpart to Alcoholic Anonymous’ Delegate Assembly which occurred the same weekend at the same location.[[15]](#footnote-15) “Present were 16 delegates and one alternate.”[[16]](#footnote-16) 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.)[[17]](#footnote-17)

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 7th Tradition is also practiced. Currently the Area Fee is $250, and the Badge Fee is $20.[[18]](#footnote-18) 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.[[19]](#footnote-19) At the 1985 Fall Assembly a decision was made to send the Alternate Delegate along with the Delegate.[[20]](#footnote-20) In 1991, at the Fall Assembly, the GRs voted to send the Area Chair to SWRDM for the first time.[[21]](#footnote-21) Subsequently, during the 2015 Fall Assembly, the GRs voted to decide each year whether or not to send the Area Chair to SWRDM.[[22]](#footnote-22) Currently, the Area also provides any active Past Delegate wishing to attend SWRDM a $100 stipend.[[23]](#footnote-23) 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.

**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.[[24]](#footnote-24)

Table 1

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **2023** | **2022** |  | **2021** | **2020** | **2019** | **2018** | **2017** |
| **Location** | SLC, UT | Tucson, AZ |  | Virtual | San Rafael, CA | Hilo, HI | Reno, NV | Denver, CO |
| **Total Cost** | **$ 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.[[25]](#footnote-25)

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 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:

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Heather M.

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**Knowledge-Based Decision-Making**

***Background and Rationale***

**Summary**: **K**nowledge-**B**ased **D**ecision-**M**aking 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?)*

* Ethical 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?
	+ 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?

**GUIDELINES for the SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DELEGATES MEETING**

APPROVED 3/12/17, Wording in Site Selection Updated 3/10/18, Area Fee and Website Info. Updated 3/9/21

ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA (N), CALIFORNIA(S), COLORADO, HAWAII, NEVADA, NEW MEXICO/EL PASO, UTAH

**PURPOSE**

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.

**ATTENDANCE**

All Al-Anon members and invited guests are welcome to attend this meeting. Attendance is predominantly past Delegates, current Delegates, past Trustees, current Trustees, and any other Al-Anon, Alateen or AA member interested in Al-Anon service and or information, is welcome to attend~~.~~

**PARTICIPATION**

**Who can present**

Past and current Delegates and past and current Trustees having knowledge of current and informative Al-Anon topics are asked to do presentations by the Program Chairperson.

**Who has vote**

Past and current Delegates, past and current Trustees have vote.

**Who has voice**

Past and current Delegates, past and current Trustees, current Alternate Delegates, and current Area Chairs have voice in the general sessions.

When attendees are divided into smaller groups (breakout sessions), all attendees may participate in the breakout discussions. During these breakout discussions where a recorder is selected, any participant of the group may perform the duties of a recorder as well as presenting the report back to the General session.

**Seventh Tradition**

A 7th Tradition will be taken or a basket made available throughout the weekend. Everyone attending the SWRDM may contribute to the 7th Tradition.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

The business meeting timing will be determined by the Program Chair. Proceedings will observe\* the same rules as the World Service Conference: one time at the microphone, timed discussion, no applause, do not repeat if the point has been made by another, stay on topic, no side distractions etc.

AGENDA ITEMS:

* **Financial Reports**

The previous year’s site chair presents a final financial report of the income and expense from last year’s meeting.

The current site chair will present a preliminary report for this year, and after all expenses have been paid, a final report for the year is prepared and presented at next year’s meeting.

The preliminary report will reflect the current financial standing and include:

* prudent reserve
* the start off fund, or seed money
* the current year’s income
* anticipated expenses, which will include but not limited to,
* the final hotel bill,
* Regional Trustee (or reporting Trustee) expenses,

A final report for the year will be prepared and presented at next year’s meeting.

The site chair will also report on the 7th Tradition collected.

It will be a decision of each year’s voting member attendees to decide what to do with any excess monies after all of the approved expenses have been paid and before the start up fund is forward to the newly elected site chair.

* **Site Selection**

**Past Delegates of an Area** desiring to host the next SWRDM will present a detailed bid to the attendees. A presentation for an Area site will be made by members from the Area. It is suggested that presentations include hotel and meal prices, airport and airport shuttle accessibility or other transportation options as well as any other information that would make their site conducive for a weekend meeting.

Voting members present participate in the selection of the City/Area where the next SWRDM will be held. For site selection, a 2/3 majority of SWRDM voting members present is desired. If after three attempts, a substantial unanimity (2/3 of those present) is not reached, a selection is made from all remaining sites in the bidding by drawing one from the hat.

* **Trusted Servant Selection**

The following positions are elected each year to serve for the following year: (see position descriptions):

 General Site Chair

 Program Chair

 Secretary

Those elected should not hold a current Delegate or a current Trustee position during the time they would serve in these positions.

* **Other Business**

Any other item of business identified by a member or members of this group to

 Include, but not limited to, reports or presentations from Task or Thought Forces.

All motions will be done in a KBDM format, which means discussion before the motion. If it is not a simple motion but rather one where members request more information, a Thought or Task Force will be formed, and the presentation will be scheduled on the following year’s business meeting agenda.

\*Change in wording at the 2020 SWRDM, per Motion

**GENERAL-SITE CHAIR RESPONSIBILITIES**

**LOGISTICS:**

* Choose the meeting location (i.e. hotel or motel) for the next meeting and make all local arrangements
* Reserve an ample block of guest rooms to meet the needs of the group
* Reserve a hospitality room, if feasible
* Reserve a large conference room
* Reserve all equipment as needed for presentations (microphone system, projectors, etc.)
* Have water, coffee, and tea available
* Arrange for a Saturday luncheon and Saturday night banquet and supply tickets for each.
* If speakers are to be taped, a motion has been approved and permission has been secured, taping arrangements must be made

**REGISTRATION:** By January 15th, send out to each member:

* An information sheet with details of meeting dates, airport shuttle information and cost
* Registration Form including room rates, hotel contacts, and a reservation deadline
* Coordinate with the Program Chair to send out a separate "Welcome letter" to New Delegates
* Include the payable name and address where each area is to send the area assessment fee and payable name and address where each attendee is to send their own member badge, meals and activity fees
* Post the above information to the SWRDM groups.io site

**ON SITE:**

* Make arrangements for an efficient Registration Table with a SWRDM Roster, staffed by Al-Anon volunteers to provide a name badge, meeting information, and a program schedule
* Included in program should be the purpose of SWRDM, who attends and participates, who has voice and vote
* Act as the SWRDM Treasurer; receive all monies and pay all bills
* Give the previous year’s Treasurer’s Report at the Friday night opening session
* Send final written Treasurer’s Report to be uploaded to the SWRDM groups.io website
* Turn over remaining fund balance to the next General-Site Chair by June 30th

**PROGRAM CHAIR RESPONSIBILITIES**

**PROGRAM COORDINATION:**

* Follow the SWRDM Guidelines
* Communicate and coordinate with the General-Site Chair in sending information by January 15th to all current and past Delegates (including new Delegates) and current and past Trustees in the Southwest Region the dates and location of the meeting, the purpose of the meeting and who normally attends. Included in this mailing should be a brief outline of the weekend, including when registration opens, approximate times of meetings, and a request for agenda topics or ideas as well as suggestions for Saturday banquet and Sunday morning speakers
* Post the information above to the SWRDM groups.io site
* Plan the program and select members to chair each session, with timely notification. First-year Delegates will be invited to tell their story on Friday evening. Second and third year Delegates and current Trustees will be given the opportunity to choose how much they wish to be involved in the program
* Suggested sessions to be part of the program include break-out sessions for current Delegates and Trustees, past Delegates and Trustees, Alternate Delegates, and Area Chairs and time for past Delegates to share their feelings and experience as they rotated out of the Delegate position
* Direct the entire program or appoint someone to help with this responsibility
* Arrange to have the Agenda available when Registration opens
* Assign the Steps to be read Friday evening, the Concepts on Saturday, and the Traditions on Sunday morning
* Create and collect an Evaluation Form for use in planning future meetings

**SECRETARY RESPONSIBILITIES**

* Verify content and correctness of the Minutes of the previous year at the Friday night meeting, and entertain a motion to approve those Minutes.
* Take roll call at the Friday night meeting.
* Verify and update information on the current roster of members. Provide a copy to each attendee, if requested, and post to the SWRDM@groups.io
* Take Minutes of all presentations and meetings while in progress.
* Compile the completed minutes by June 30 and post to SWRDM@groups.io ~~submit to the Web Site Administrator for posting~~ Post the draft and final minutes of SWRDM to the SWRDM@groups.io, along with the current year Financial Report.
* Mail hard copies to those who request them.
* Update the Listing of Motions on Policy, by adding any new motions from current SWRDM folder.
* Be ~~an Administrator of the SWRDM List Server~~ available to post any SWRDM documents for other members who desire technical support.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Area Assessment Fee**

1982 increased to $30.00
1989 increased to $50.00
1997 increased to $60.00
2009 increased to $100.00

2013 increased to $150.00

2020 increased to $250.00
And
Badge Fee for those with voice - $20.00

**~~LIST SERVER~~**

~~The SWRDM members may elect or appoint one or more Administrators for the SWRDM List Server, who may assist the General/Site Chair, the Program Chair and Secretary as requested.~~

~~Currently Serving Administrators of the SWRDM Web Site:~~

* ~~Technical issues, computer and electronic communications: Art B. Panel 34 CA (N)~~
* ~~Address additions, deletions, and changes: Judy P. Panel 28 HI and Kathi L, AK, CA(S)~~
* ~~Current and Past Secretaries~~

**MEMBERS’ ACCESS TO SWRDM@GROUPS.IO**

Subscription (Membership) to this group includes Delegates, Past Delegates, Trustees and Past Trustees.

Subscriptions to this group require approval from the moderators/”owners.”

All members can post to the group.

Posts to this group do not require approval from the moderators/”owners.”

Messages are set to reply to group and sender.

Members have a choice of e-mail delivery: individual messages or a digest (grouping of 12 e-mails in one document).

**ARCHIVES**

The physical archives of SWRDM may be stored at the office of any area within the Southwest Region upon the vote of the members. ~~The~~ Currently, all Archives have been scanned and are now posted electronically on the SWRDM@groups.io site. ~~List Server at~~

[~~http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/swrdm/~~](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/swrdm/.)~~. Currently (2017) housed in Denver, Colorado with the Colorado Area Archives.~~

 **FUNDRAISING**

SWRDM participants are requested to refrain from fundraising activities for their Area or any other entity during the weekend.

**TAPING**

Taping of speakers or any presentation is optional and with the approval of the Speaker and/or the presenters involved.

TASK FORCE 3/15/09 TO UPDATE SWRDM Guidelines - Joan, Joyce, Luz, Michelle, Hester with valuable additions from Art B.CA(N) and Tina B. NV

TASK FORCE UPDATE 12/10 - Joan, Joyce, Luz, Sandi, Cindy

Task Force Update 2011-2012 Art B, Chris M. Cindy M, Joan A, Joyce B, Kathi L, Luz N, Roxy C

Task Force Update 2016-2017 Nancy B, Karen R. Judy P. plus a wording update in site selection on 3-10-18

**2024 SWRDM AGENDA**

**Friday, March 8th, 2024**

3:00 p.m. **Registration Opens**

4:00 – 5:00 p.m. *Area Highlights* -- Penni S (HI) Program Chair

AZ, CA N, CA S, CO, GEA, HI, NV, NM/EL, UT

5:15 – 6:45 p.m. Dinner 5:00 -- 6:45

7:00 p.m. **SWRDM Opens** -- Penni S (HI)

-- Opening w/ Serenity Prayer -- Tim P (CA S) Site Chair

 -- 12 Steps -- Marilyn Blake (CO)

-- Roll Call -- Chris M. (NM/EL)

-- Purpose of SWRDM -- Judy P (HI)

-- Site Chair Announcements -- Tim P (CAS)

Approval of Minutes (2023) -- Rosanna H. (CA N) 2023 Secretary

Financial Report (2023) -- Mary Y (UT) 2023 Treasurer

7:30 – 8:00 Motions:

Motion 1 -- Seating:

That the following persons be seated at the 2024 SWRDM:

* With voice and vote: all current and past Delegates of the Southwest Region, all current and past Trustees, and Past Delegates who have permanently moved into the Southwest Region provided that they are not voting members in another Region;
* With voice, but no vote: Current Area Chairs and Current Alternate Delegates;
* With Voice limited to the Breakout Sessions and Breakout Session Report--Backs: All other Al--Anon members attending

Motion 2 -- Photo:

That still photos be allowed, but it is suggested that individual members be checked with before any photo is taken

Motion 3 – Recording: (For minute taking purposes only.) That the Secretary be allowed to use a personal recording device for the taking of the 2024 SWRDM meeting minutes.

8:00 -- 8:05 Conference Etiquette

8:05 – 8:30 Introduction of New Delegates (Panel 64) 8 mins each

Chris M (CA N) -- Introduced by (please let me know who)

Teresa F (CA S) -- Introduced by (please let me know who)

Kaui P (HI) -- Introduced by Penni S. (HI)

8:30 – 8:40 New Business:

 *Is SWRDM Self--Supporting?* -- Teri M

 Old Business:

Thought Force Reports and Presentations

8:40 ---- 9:05 *Finance & Banking* Update -- Tom B (CO)

9:05 ---- 9:25 *Enhanced Delegate Participation* Update -- Kari O (CO)

9:25 -- 9:30 Announcements & Reminders -- Tim P (CA S)

 **SWRDM Closes**

**Saturday, March 9th**

6:30 -- 7:30 Early Bird Meeting -- Kathi M (CA S) TAL

7:00 – 8:00 Breakfast

8:30 a.m.  **SWRDM Resumes** -- Penni S (HI)

-- Serenity Prayer -- Kaui P. (HI)

-- 12 Traditions -- Chris M (CA N)

8:35 – 8:45 Roll Call -- Chris M. (UT)

8:45 – 8:50 Site Chair Announcements -- Tim P (CA S)

8:50 – 9:00 WSC Theme: *Our Path Toward Grace, Unity, & Understanding*

 -- John Mc (CA N)

9:00 – 10:00 *Who Has Authority?: Our Concepts & Our Charter* -- Tom B (CO)

10:00 – 10:15 **Break**

10:15 – 11: 45 Breakout Sessions

 Our Breakouts and Leaders are:

-- Current Delegates with John Mc (CA N)

-- Past Delegates and Trustees with Art B (CA N)

-- Area Officers and Coordinators with Cathy C (CA N)

-- Guests with Marcia M (CA S)

Suggested Questions:

* How do we balance service authority and service responsibility?
* When out of balance, what spiritual principles can we use to bring us back into equilibrium?

11:45 – 12:00 **Break**

12:00 – 1:00 Trustees’ Report -- Cindy M. (SWRT); Kathi M. (CA S) TAL;

 Jayme C (CA S) TAL; Norm W (NM/EL) Executive Committee

1:00 – 2:00 **Lunch**

2:00 – 2:10 7th Tradition Rocio (NM/EL)

2:10 – 3:30 Trustees’ Report -- Cindy M. (SWRT); Kathi M. (CA S) TAL;

 Jayme C (CA S) TAL; Norm W (NM/EL) Executive Committee

3:30 – 3:45 **Break**

3:45 – 4:45  *How Can SWRDM Best Support the Global Electronic Area?*

-- Burt P (GEA)

4:45 – 5:00 Sharing Ourselves: Panel 62 Delegates

-- Gene T (AZ)

-- Kari O (CO)

-- Burt P (GEA)

5:00 **Break**

6:00 – 7:00 **Banquet/Dinner**

7:00 – 7:50 Speaker: TBA

7:50 ---- 8:00 Announcements & Reminders -- Tim P (CA S)

 **SWRDM** **Closes**

Possible Game Night…TBD

Daylight Savings begins … we ‘spring forward’ 1 hour tonight.

**Sunday, March 10th**

6:30 -- 7:30 Early Bird Meeting -- Cathy C (CA N)

6:00 -- 8:30 **Breakfast**

8:30 **SWRDM Continues** -- Penni (HI)

 Opening w/ Serenity Prayer -- Teresa F (CA S)

12 Concepts of Service -- John M (CA N)

Roll Call -- Chris M (UT)

General Announcements -- Tim P (CA S)

a. Evaluation Forms: Please complete the Evaluation Form on Google at:

9:00 – 9:10 7th Tradition -- Gene T (AZ)

9:10 – 10:00 Spiritual Speaker: TBA

10:00 – 10:15 **Break**

10:15 – 11:00 Follow--up Conversations -- TBD

11:00 – 11:30 Selection of SWRDM 2025:

Site Affirmation

Site Chair nominations and elections

Program Chair nominations and elections

Recording Secretary nominations and elections

11:30 – 11:40 Financial Update (2024) -- Tom B (CO)

11:40 – Noon Appreciations, Take--Aways, and Reflections:

Members sharing about this SWRDM experience

Noon **SWRDM Closes**

VOTING OPTIONS

SWRDM **TASK FORCE**

QUESTION 1:

Continue to support the Utah Area Delegate and Alternate Delegate attendance at SWRDM annually by paying the Area fee, badge fee, transportation costs, lodging, and meal package each year *and* Fund a third attendee which would rotate each year among the immediate Past Delegate (first year of the panel,) the Area Chair (second year of the panel,) and a randomly chosen, interested, member of the Area World Service Committee (third year of the panel).

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| --- | --- | --- |
| o **YES**(Three position to SWRDM: every year the Del, Alt Del, and rotate Immediate Past Del, Area Chair, and AWSC member once each panel.)  | o **NO**(Leave things as they are: send the Delegate and Alt Del and vote each year on sending the Area Chair.) | o **NO**(Leave things as they are but continue this conversation and revisit proposed changes later, i.e. send back to Task Force for more work.) |

Question 2:

Include in each annual Area budget an amount recommended by the Finance Committee to be shared by all Past Delegates who wish to attend SWRDM. This year’s amount would be $2000.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **o** **Yes**(Past Delegates share an annually budgeted amount.) | **o NO**(Leave things as they are: Past Delegates received $100 stipend if going to SWRDM.) | **o NO**(Leave things as they are but continue this conversation and revisit proposed changes later, i.e. send back to Task Force for more work.) |

Question 3:

In the event a Trusted Servant for whom monies have been budgeted cannot attend SWRDM, the Area Chair in consultation with the AWSC may designate a replacement.

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| **o YES**(Fully use funds budgeted for SWRDM; assures full Utah representation at SWRDM.) | **o NO**(Leave things as they are: unused money budgeted for SWRDM remains unused.) | **o NO**(But continue to include this issue as part of the SWRDM conversation.) |

1. Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting (SWRDM) Thought Force Report, 9/17/2022. Attachment 1 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Guidelines for the Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting, 3/9/21. Attachment 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Guidelines for the Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting, 3/9/21. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Agenda, 46th Annual SWRDM, 3/9/24. Attachment 3 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Guidelines for the Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting, 3/9/21. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting (SWRDM) Thought Force Report, 9/17/2022. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Utah Area Budget and Reimbursement Guidelines, 3/9/2018. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. 2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, Concept Nine, p. 198. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. GR Vote accepting the SWRDM Thought Force Report, 3/17/1922. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Judy K., Past Trustee and Chair, Policy Committee, *Personal Correspondence,* June 30, 2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. 2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, Concept Nine, p. 151. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. *Hope for Today*, p. 332 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Guidelines for the Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting, Updated 3/9/21. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Minutes of First Annual Al-Anon Southwest Region Delegates Meeting, March 12, 13, 14, 1976, at Holiday Inn West, Oklahoma City, Okla. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. The 47th Annual Southwest Regional Delegate’s Meeting Registration Flyer [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Utah Area Archives, Motions Book, p.5 [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Ibid, p.6 [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Ibid, p.8 [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Utah Area Archives, Minutes, Area 55 Fall Assembly, September 26, 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. *Utah Area Budget and Reimbursement Guidelines,* IIIe [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. Area Treasurer [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. June T., Thought Force member [↑](#footnote-ref-25)