

Delegate's Day Thought Force

Spring Assembly
March 21, 2026

Charge:

Using Al-Anon KBDM and the current *UTAH AREA GUIDELINES FOR HOSTING AL-ANON/ALATEEN AREA ASSEMBLIES AND CONVENTIONS*, discuss, report, and make recommendations on a suggested change to the way we currently hold Delegate's Day to include two dates in June in two different locations, and possibly creating each as a weekend-long event. *Please take into account the current Budget and Reimbursement guideline and the logistics of hosting and financing for more than one event. The goal of the Thought Force is to explore ways to increase participation of GRs while supporting the Area Delegate in providing necessary information from the World Service Conference and utilizing Area resources like our past delegates more effectively.*

Framing:

Since the Area Elections at the 2025 Fall Assembly, the incoming Panel 66 Delegate has been thinking about how more GRs, Area members and past Delegates could be involved in Delegate's Day. Realizing that Al-Anon's Board of Trustees annually takes a "Road Trip" to various Areas to encourage conversations on topics of interest, the incoming Delegate discussed with the incoming Area Chair the possibility of having two Delegate's Days in two different locations (northern Utah and Southern Utah.) The possibility of expanding Delegate's Day from a 4-5-hour event to a weekend event was also discussed. The now current Area Chair formed this Thought Force to provide information for the Area GRs to discuss at Spring Assembly 2026.

Background:

Prior to 2009, the Utah Area held four gatherings a year: two Assemblies (in April and September,) and two Rallies (in June and November.) During the April 2009 Spring Assembly, group representatives voted to change this structure, voting for a two-year trial of holding two assemblies and a Delegate's Day each year and doing away with Rallies. In the Fall 2011 Assembly the GRs voted to extend the trial period by another two years. At the Fall 2013 Assembly the revised meeting structure was made permanent. These changes are reflected in the *Utah Area Guidelines for Hosting Al-Anon/Alateen Area Assemblies and Conventions*.

The section of the *Guideline* that pertains to Delegate's Day states, "The purpose of Delegate's Day is to provide the World Service Delegate the opportunity to report on the most recent World Service Conference and to encourage fellowship and unity among the GRs of the Area. Activities beyond the Delegate's report may be planned if desired."

According to the *Guideline*, the Delegate and Alternate Delegate determine the time and location of Delegate's Day (but shortly after the WSC and typically on a Saturday in June, somewhere near the center of the State.)¹

The costs associated with attendance at Delegate's Day for interested Al-Anon members are covered by the individual. Group Representatives (GRs) or District Representatives (DRs) may look to their Group or District to reimburse the costs associated with attending Delegate's Day. The Area reimburses sitting Area World Service Committee (AWSC) members who are not GRs or DRs. When invited to report at a District meeting, the Area reimburses the Delegate for all expenses related to Delegate's Day and official visits to a District if the District is unable to cover those expenses.²

While the new delegate respects the Area Guidelines (AG) she invites a dialogue about how the Area Guidelines align with the Delegate Duties outlined in the *2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* which reads:

“In the Area

- To give his Conference report to the Area World Service Committee and GRs to carry back to their groups. As often as possible, he makes his report in person at group or District meetings; nothing is more impressive than an eyewitness account...” (p. 151).”

The Concepts show how Twelfth Step work can be done on a broad scale... and are to be accorded the same stature as the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.³ Concept 1 reminds us of the ultimate responsibility and authority for Al-Anon world services belongs to the Al-Anon groups. This clearly implies that the groups are to be the final authority, that our leaders are to be entrusted with delegated responsibilities only.⁴ Thus, it is imperative that the Delegate give her Conference report to the AWSC and GRs to carry back to their groups.

Discussion:

Having carefully reviewed the Charge and using a Knowledge Based Decision Making process to organize their discussion, the members of the Thought Force focused on five questions.

1. What would be the advantages and disadvantages of holding two Delegate's Days?
2. How would holding two Delegate's Days impact the Area financially, logistically, and attendance-wise?
3. Would expanding Delegate's Day to a weekend event benefit the Area or our Delegate?
4. When is the best time of the year to hold potentially expanded Delegate's Days?
5. How can Delegate's Day use the experience, strength and hope of our Past Delegates more effectively?

¹ *Utah Area Guidelines for Hosting Al-Anon/Alateen Area Assemblies and Conventions.*

² *Utah Area Budget and Reimbursement Guidelines, Proposed, April 2025*

³ *2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, pp. 179-180*

⁴ *ibid, p. 181*

The Thought Force engaged in a robust discussion focused on the idea of holding two, rather than one, Delegate's Days in the Area. Our current Delegate has suggested that having the opportunity to present her report of the WSC proceedings in separate geographical parts of the Area could provide additional opportunity for wider attendance, thus giving a greater number of GRs and members the opportunity to hear the WSC report and align more closely with the duties as stated in the *Service Manual*, page 151. Our state is physically divided, primarily along a north-south alignment. Introducing an additional geographically based Delegate's Day might stimulate more enthusiasm for the event and increase attendance.

The idea of having the Delegate report at the various District meetings was discussed. While this idea is certainly possible to implement and consistent with guidance in the *Service Manual*, the major drawback to having the Delegate report at a District meeting is the limited time available. Providing the Delegate ample time to report is the major reason Delegate's Day was created.

The cost of holding two, rather than one Delegate's Day is not clear at this time. Currently, our Area has budgeted \$600 for Delegate's Day. Last year expenditures were a little over \$500. The cost to hold Delegate's Day at the Quality Inn in Richfield (as has been done the last few years) with be \$250 in 2026.

Holding geographically centralized events would likely reduce travel expenses for both the Area (supporting AWS member's attendance) and Groups (supporting GR attendance.) Individual travel expense should also decrease as members would have shorter distances to travel. If the Delegate's Day is expanded to a multiple day event additional lodging cost can be expected.

Our Current Delegate and Alternate Delegate envision two separate Delegate's Day being hosted by local groups, in the north and south parts of the state. Utilizing a low cost or free venue such as a church, rather than a hotel or convention center could keep costs low. Inviting attendees to participate in a potluck luncheon or dinner could further reduce individual expenditures. Registration for the events would be minimal.

Our current *Guideline*⁵ suggests that the Delegate and Alternate Delegate may select the time and place for Delegate's Day, but soon after the World Service Conference (WSC), typically in June. If a new structure for Delegate Day is implemented, strong consideration should be given to holding all Delegate's Day events during the three months following the WSC.

Multiple Delegate's Day events could allow for greater Past Delegate participation. Our Past Delegates are a trove of knowledge with vast experience, strength, and hope. An expanded Delegate's Day could provide opportunities for Past Delegates to lead workshops, development groups and mentoring.

In order to gain more information, the Utah Area District Representatives (DRs) were asked to carry several questions back to their GRs for discussion. The GRs were asked to provide feedback to the Delegate one week prior to Spring Assembly. The questions are:

⁵ *Utah Area guidelines for Hosting Al-Anon/Alateen Area Assemblies and Conventions.*

1. *Should the Delegate attend a District meeting as soon as possible after WSC, to give her Conference report to the GRs to carry back to their groups as stated in the Service Manual p. 151?*
2. *Would you as a Group Representative be attracted to attend a one-day, multi-District event held in your respective region, as soon as possible after WSC, to allow the Delegate to give her report?*
3. *Would you as a GR be attracted to attend a multi-district, multi-day event held in your respective region that started with Dinner Friday night and continued all day Saturday as soon as possible after WSC, to allow the Delegate to give her Conference report? This would potentially include panel discussions, workshops, or breakouts to support you in your GR role.*
4. *Have you attended Delegate's Day in the past? Y N*
5. *If No, what would attract you to attend Delegate's Day in its current format?*

Recommendations:

Option 1. As a one-year trial, hold two week-end long Delegate's Day events in different parts of the Area (to be determined by the Delegate and Alternate Delegate.) An example of a weekend event would be to begin with Friday dinner together followed by an Al-Anon meeting and conclude before Saturday dinner with the option of going to dinner together. Saturday's agenda could include break-out sessions, and/or a workshop led by a past Delegate as well as the Delegate's WSC report.

Option 2. Gather and evaluate more information; establish a Task Force to further consider the idea of changing the way the Delegate reports to the Area.

Option 3. Maintain the current method of holding Delegate's Day as described in the *Utah Area guidelines for Hosting Al-Anon/Alateen Area Assemblies and Conventions*.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jan R., Delegate, Panel 66

Crystal H., Alternate Delegate, Panel 66

Dave B., Immediate Past Delegate, Panel 63

Jane M., Immediate Past Alternate Delegate, Panel 63

Patrick M., Past Delegate, Panel 54

Four KBDM Questions and Answers for Delegate's Day Thought Force

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?)

- While some members have little interest in hearing the Delegate's report on the annual World Service Conference (WSC), other members are very interested.
- Area and District leadership value Delegate's Day as a means of fulfilling the intent of Tradition 1.
- Some members want a change in the way Delegate's Day is done. Members don't want to travel so much.
- Some members are tired of always traveling to Richfield for Delegate's Day.
- There is a precedent for longer/weekend Area gatherings; not all Area members wanted to do away with Rallies.
- Having an additional Delegate's Day could provide opportunity for Past Delegate involvement.
- A Delegate may be more effective by going to the members rather than having the members coming to the Delegate.
- We don't know what the actual cost of more than one Delegate's Day might be.
- We don't know exactly why many GRs and members don't attend Delegate's Day—what keeps them away: money, time, something else?

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?)

- Our Area is financially abundant and can support changes in the way we do things.
- We want as many members as possible to benefit from our Delegate's attendance at the WSC.
- Can we have members attend a Delegate's Day without registration cost?
- We don't know what the actual cost of more than one Delegate's Day might be. How will the cost of two Delegate's Days balance against current costs?
- We can Keep it Simple by using common meeting venues rather than hotels or convention centers. We could do potluck rather than catering.
- Would it be better to ask the Delegate to visit and report in each District rather than have just one or two reporting locations?

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 the dis/advantages of this change might be?)

- Tradition 1 reminds us to focus on unity within our Fellowship.
- Our Area is divided into northern and southern Groups. Having Delegate's Day in two locations boost attendance.
- What do our Districts and Groups want from the Delegate?
- Our Utah Al-Anon is vibrant, abundant, progressive, energetic, involved, and responsive to ideas from the WSC.
- In our Area we have good participation resulting in full panels.
- Why are our Groups not often attending Delegate's Day? Is it location? Is lack of awareness?
- Perhaps our members are so connected with their Groups that they don't think beyond the Group. A change in the way we do Delegate's Day might draw in more people.

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?)

- Decisions on this issue will be ethically sound, directed to our primary purpose.
- Our Groups are strengthened by interaction with our Delegate. Hearing the Delegate's report builds unity in our Area and improves our ability to help the family and friends of alcoholics.
- Greater participation also builds unity and adds voices to our discussions.
- What is stopping GRs from attending Delegate's Day: timing, lack of understanding, failure to understand the importance?
- What would encourage them to attend?