

Ask-it-Basket Questions and Answers from Spring 2013 Saskatchewan Area Assembly

- 1. Is a District obligated to send a Group Representative to an Area Assembly when the Group has no funds to support their Group Representative? If the request is made from a Group with no funds and the District provided funds would this be setting a precedent for the future?**

Answer: We took this as “key words” being “obligated” and “responsible”. The answer to this question is that NO, the District is not obligated or responsible for sending a Group Rep, with insufficient funds, to Assembly. However, a District is “Autonomous” and in keeping with Tradition 7 (Every Group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions), the District, if they can afford it, can decide to assist with expenses to send the Group Rep to Assembly.

- 2. Should the Motion to pay the Full Expenses for the Delegate to go to WSC have gone to the Groups as a “Notice of Motion”?**

Answer: This item was on the Friday Night Discussion of Pertinent Topics at the Fall 2102 Assembly. The groups have already been given the opportunity to discuss. The List of Pertinent Topics is always sent out prior to Assembly, so that the groups can have an opportunity to discuss and have their opinions heard.

- 3. Could a Bus Tour be arranged for World Service Conference?**

Answer: Simple answer is “Yes”, but we want to clarify that only the Delegate can attend the WSC along with the Trustees and WSO staff. We wondered if the person who wrote the question might have meant the “International Convention’ in Vancouver in July 2013. The simple answer is “Yes”, if we chose to do so. However, no bus tour has been arranged. If the writer of this question needs more clarification, please feel free to contact Linda B., Area Delegate.

- 4. Why is it that the Alternate Group Rep cannot sit with their Group Reps? Is there a reason why this is not possible? Thank You if you can answer. (Revised after Fall 2015 Committee – see Motions below answer)**

Answer: Alternate Group Reps are Interested Members. If the GR is absent then the Alternate GR has a vote. Otherwise, only the GR has vote and voice at the Business Meeting.

Committee Motion 19/15; that interested members attending the Assembly Business Meeting be allowed to sit with their District, to begin at Fall Assembly 2015.

Committee Motion 20/15; that beginning Fall Assembly 2015, all Group Representatives or designated alternates, will be given a numbered card to identify who has vote at the Business Meeting.

5. **Is it clearly expressed that a “Dual Member” cannot hold the positions of Group Rep or District Rep, however, if the District creates a position or committee eg; Public Outreach or a Co-ordinator for a specific job, can a “Dual Member” hold this position even though they are not eligible to become GR or DR?**

Answer: Found in the Service Manual pg. 78-79; “Because of the unique nature of both programs, Al-Anon/Alateen members who are also A.A. members do not hold office beyond the Group level, as these positions could lead to membership in the WSC. The need to focus on the Al-Anon program and the possibility of a conflict of interest at Assembly and World Service levels led the WSC to its decision not to seat Al-anon/Alateen members who are also members of A.A.. For these reasons A.A. members do not serve as GR’s, DR’s, Area Co-ordinators, Newsletter Editors, Delegates, and/or any of their alternates, nor do they sit on WSO selected committees, whose Chairpersons can be Conference members. Linda B., Delegate, also pointed out the WSO handout “**Criteria to Determine Dual Members’ Service**”; noting that positions available if non-voting on policy matters, indicating that there is a difference between Convention and Assembly.

6. **Is a District required to pass a “Notice of Motion” to take back to the groups in the District to spend funds, if there is a quorum of elected Group Representatives present at the District Meeting, or would this only apply if there was not a quorum of Group Representatives at a District Meeting? Are not Group Representatives as our Trusted Servants given this responsibility as part of their duties? Unable to find a clear explanation in the Handbook, so would appreciate your guidance in this manner.**

Answer: We felt this was again a case of District Autonomy. It is the District’s responsibility to review the District guidelines and determine what is acceptable as a quorum. They may follow the Conference example (Service Manual pgs 166 7 184) and use the 2/3’s rule or they may decide another percentage. Yes, as Trusted Servants, they can decide at a District Meeting depending again on what the District determines as quorum.

7. **What do I do if I don’t have any information on “Cross Talk”? Where do I get it? I need it in writing, please.**

Answer: Page 24 of The Service Manual talks about “Three Obstacles to Success in Al-Anon”; Discussion of Religion, Gossip, and Dominance and pg. 51 talks about Group Problems.

We came up with these suggestions; 1. Take a Group Inventory which is Guideline G-8 form WSO. Some of the questions on the Inventory are; -Are members pressured by Dominant members to accept their ideas?-Are the 3 obstacles to success in Al-Anon read and explained?-Do we refrain from giving advice? 2. Make a Group conscience decision on the topic. 3. Add the decision re "Cross Talk" as part of the "Suggested Opening" of the meeting. 4. Read the 3 Obstacles on pg. 24 of the Service Manual at your meeting.

Linda B., also stated there was an article in the Forum re "Crosstalk". It is available on the WSO website, go to www.al-anon.alateen.org/members (password is group name followed by AFG), Choose Publications, then Forum Link, then Crosstalk Article

Barb M. also reached out to a former Adult Children Co-ordinator who stated that a declaration re "Crosstalk" originated in the 80's. It was not Conference Approved. It is an expression of a Groups' conscience and, as such, is governed by the 4th Tradition. Most Groups do not allow "Crosstalk" at their meetings, but some groups have adopted it as part of their meeting. Again governed by 4th Tradition.