

KBDM

KNOWLEDGE BASED DECISION MAKING

History

Our pioneers always had conversations and expected that the WSC (World Service Conference), the Assemblies and the Districts would do the same before any decisions were made.

But oops, somewhere along the line, we got taken up by making the decisions without lots of talking about them.

The decision became more important than the conversation.

Decision-Making Tools

Knowledge Based Decision Making is a decision-making process just as Parliamentary Procedure is a decision-making process.

Reaching an Informed Group Conscience Using KBDM

The Group Conscience

Collective Wisdom

“...we seek spiritual guidance for our groups in the same collective wisdom. We call this a “group conscience,” the voice of the majority of members. We believe it represents the greatest good for the greatest number.”

KBDM has four basic elements

- Open Communication between leadership and membership
- All decision makers have common access to full information
- Dialogue before deliberation
- We exist in a culture of trust

Open communication between leadership and membership

“We need only contribute our personal experience, strength and hope honestly; listen to each other respectfully;...”

Paths To Recovery p.133

Common access to full information

- Adequate timely information
- No agenda surprises
- Background information and context
- Opportunity for responses and questions before meetings
- Use of technology
- No unexpected motions

Common access to full information

“These group conscience decisions involve discussion and sufficient time for members to become informed about the matter, express their opinions, offer ideas, and whenever possible, reach a unanimous decision.”

Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual
Groups at Work p.38

Dialogue before deliberation

“I must consider all of the facts and
examine the possible consequences.
I have to learn to take time and think
things through.”

Paths to Recovery p.149, 151

Dialogue before deliberation

- Not requiring a motion and a vote for every topic
- Starting a discussion without a motion
- Talking about a topic over several meetings until there is clarity
- Avoiding a rushed vote on items without everyone understanding

We exist in a culture of trust

“We start by trusting a Higher Power and continue by learning to trust each other.”

Paths to Recovery p.145

We exist in a culture of trust

- We have selected qualified leaders
- We maintain an atmosphere of trust in our District and Assembly
- We use our Legacies to resolve problems
- We are respectful of one another
- We talk to each other and reason things out

Why we use KBDM

- Allow thorough examination of issues without an end or action in mind
- Avoids a “for and against” atmosphere
- Allows for decisions to be more important than who makes the decisions
- Allows for a conversation
- Is a unifying process
- Fits the AI-Anon culture
- Uses information and principles not just opinions = Informed Group Conscience

Why we use KBDM

- Provides for on-going thinking and idea development (Concept 9-Vision and leadership)
- Helps keep us flexible in carrying out our work
- Helps us decide if a topic is one we want to pursue
- Allows time and effort in collection of information (not opinions) to help us make decisions
- Sometimes just having information lets a group know if it wants to move forward on an issue or not. Decisions are not always necessary – Information is.

Framing Our Topic

Look at framing as a bookend, the beginning frame of reference that provides meaningful information for the discussion. We strive for clarity for everyone involved.

The three facets of framing:

- **Background / History**
- **Relevance**
- **Context**

Framing Our Topic

- **Background / History:** Knowing background information helps provide focus. It lets us know how we got to this moment.
- **Relevance:** Here we can describe what is pertinent and closely connected to the topic. It gives us a reason to know why we are having the discussion.
- **Context:** Why are we having the discussion now? Why is this discussion important?

Framing Our Topic

Important points to remember:

- Provide sufficient information so there can be a good discussion.
- **Do not draw any conclusions** – Set the background so the conclusion can come from the discussion.
- Consider personal thoughts or experiences **if** they assist in clarifying or lending credibility or illustrating a point – but keep it short. Sometimes an anecdote can be a very effective opener, but use it carefully.

Framing for Electronic Newsletter Distribution

Background/History:

- Discussion began in 2009 – AdHoc looked @ cost, mode of delivery and possibility of going electronic.
- 2010 Spring – discussed pros and cons of electronic delivery.
- 2010 Fall – Electronic Newsletter Q & A KBDM topics provided, discussed at Assembly, asked to take back to groups.

Electronic Newsletter

Distribution

Background /History

- Spring 2011 Email addresses added to listserve.
- April 2011 – 1st electronic version of NHL sent from listserve.
- Spring Assembly 2011 Discussion continued during Newsletter and Web Coordinators' reports.
- March 2012 AWSC recommends electronic delivery for newsletter with “opt in” for hard copies. If you “opt in”, pay actual cost to print and mail (to be determined). Notice to “opt in” plan to be published for 3 consecutive newsletters. Start date would be 10/1/2012

Electronic Newsletter

Distribution Background/History

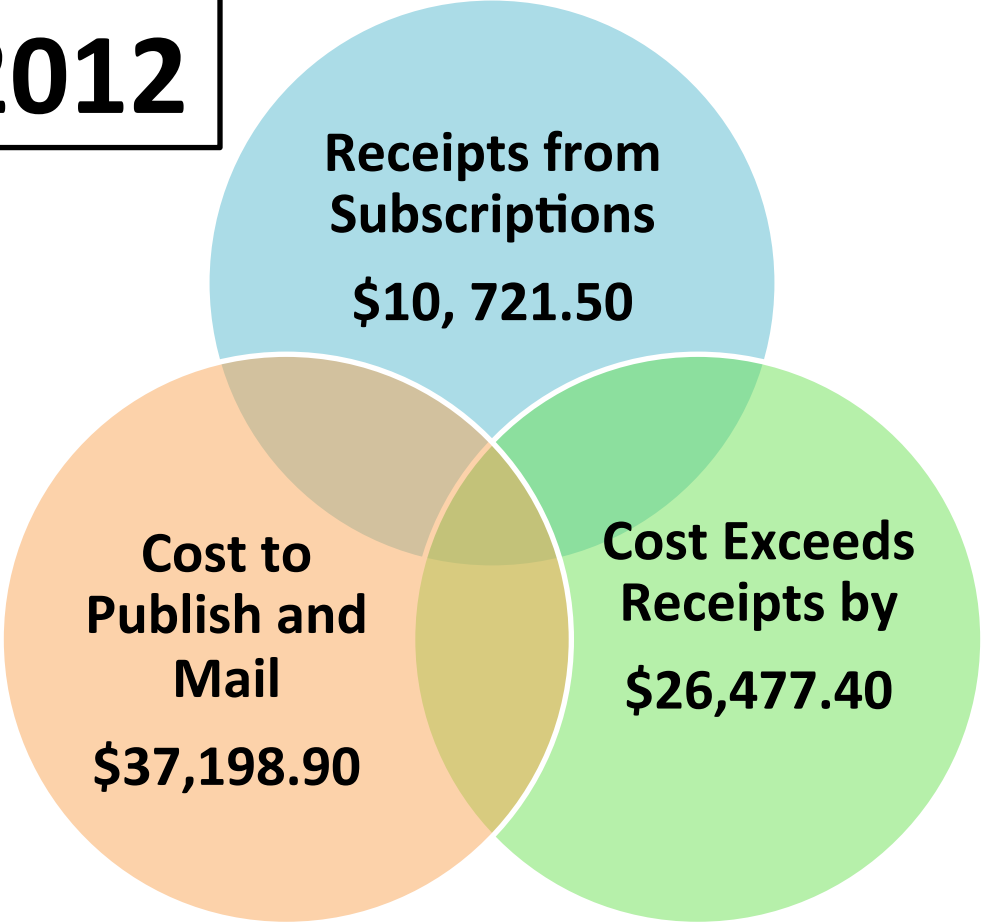
- Spring Assembly 2012 – lengthy discussion, voting issues arose. It was determined that more information was needed and no decision was made.
- Information and education has been provided at Assemblies and via newsletter articles on:
 - Subscription and Financial Statistics
 - How to create an email address to use for Al-Anon purposes
 - Using an E-Buddy

Electronic Newsletter Distribution Relevance

- This is our primary communication tool for NYN
- Printing hard copies of Northern HiLights is our largest budget item -- **\$4500 for 2013**
- Our need is to stay sustainable and make the best use of our resources
- Need to stay current with changing technology and demographics

Electronic Newsletter Distribution Relevance

2003-2012



Electronic Newsletter Distribution Context

Why are we having this conversation now?

- We are close to losing bulk rate eligibility: postage could go from **\$.17/ copy** to **\$.46 / copy**
- Need to determine actual number of hard copies to be mailed—With updated contact information, it is estimated that a true figure for hard copies could be closer to 50,
- Cost of printing is not being covered by subscriptions

Electronic Newsletter

Distribution **KBDM Needs/Preferences**

- Available to the largest number of members in the most efficient manner
- This is our link between Assemblies to the NYN Area (individuals, groups, and districts) to keep us informed (including info from WSO)
- It is a service tool for efficient and economical two-way communication. (Groups and Districts can post news and events)

Electronic Newsletter

Distribution KBDM Needs/Preferences

- There was a concern that those wanting a hard copy would be penalized by paying full printing and mailing costs for their issues
- Some members have dial-up internet service and downloads are difficult
- Some members would like to see our newsletter production become more environmentally conscious.

Electronic Newsletter Distribution

KDBM Resources

Cost/Can we afford it?:

- Our 7th Tradition says we are fully self-supporting through our own contributions.
- NYN has always provided the newsletter to every group whether the subscription has been paid or not.
- Updated information shows out of 296 active groups, 170 are not currently paying for the NHL.
- Should we consider the newsletter subscription as a suggested donation whether receiving hard copy or electronic version?

Electronic Newsletter Distribution

KBDM Resources

- Printing hard copies of the newsletter is currently the largest part of our budget.
- Could some of these funds be better used for membership and public outreach projects, including technological communication?

Electronic Newsletter

Distribution **Current Realities/Evolving Dynamics**

- Our Area is large; we need to keep our members informed on a regular basis between Assemblies.
- We are losing members, especially younger members.
- Is technology more efficient?
- How can we stay green?

Electronic Newsletter Distribution **Implication of choices**

- **“Opt in”**: (1) Allows members a choice
(2) Gives a more realistic number of hard copies needed
(3) Would help us to decide how to proceed in researching printing and mailing options
- For those “opting in” for hard copy, the individual or group takes responsibility for correct mailing information being sent to Group Records Coordinator
- For those receiving electronic version, the individual or group takes responsibility for updating email info

Electronic Newsletter

Distribution **Implications of choices**

- **Cost : Being a spiritual program**, should we look at a donation versus subscription for everyone (for hard copies or electronic version).
- Allows for 7th Tradition of being self-supporting

Electronic Newsletter Distribution

Wish we knew

- **Accurate numbers**
- **Accurate contact information**

This would allow us to determine our most economical method of printing and mailing hard copies.

We hope that we have provided you with an informative look at how KBDM and Framing works and enough information to discuss the topic of Electronic Newsletter Distribution.

Thank you.