

FOOTNOTES FOR KNOWLEDGE BASED DECISION MAKING

1. Today's presentation will provide you with information on Knowledge Based Decision Making with an introduction to Framing for the topic of Electronic Newsletter Distribution.
2. Sometimes we say that with each WSC, delegates enter into a conversation that has been going on for over 55 years. Does it seem that way here? That's the way it should be...Conversation is more important than the final decision because it brings us together in understanding.
3. Sometimes we say that with each WSC, delegates enter into a conversation that has been going on for over 55 years. Does it seem that way here? That's the way it should be...Conversation is more important than the final decision because it brings us together in understanding.
4. Collective wisdom is an anchor in the KBDM culture. We believe that experienced members using the Legacies have an intuitive sense of how to arrive at the greatest good. KBDM is about arriving at this Group Conscience using the collective wisdom of our members.
5. Here are the elements of the process. Do you agree that it seems to fit Al-Anon well. As we proceed, see whether these elements are already present in the Assembly or in your district.
6. Information is key to making good decisions. Some say that information is power. Because Al-Anon is not and has never been about power, the widespread sharing of information and ideas is essential to the way we are. Our collective wisdom can only be useful if everyone participates in forming a group conscience. Information has to flow in two directions—membership to leadership and leadership to membership. Members need whatever information will help them to make the decisions which are theirs to make. **Just so you are aware, there are some decisions that may be outside the realm of the assembly or district. In these cases, the people making the decisions are the ones who need the information. For example: The Trustees, along with members of the Executive Committee, direct the business of the World Service Office. For more detail, refer to the *Service Manual*, p129-131.
7. All of the statements allow all members to get information they need and the occasion to be fully informed on any topic under discussion or consideration in a timely manner. No one should arrive at a meeting and have to make an important decision without the chance to understand the topic, the reason why a discussion is going to take place and some background information that may help them. The use of technology has helped us to make this possible. It has also allowed us to avoid having to react to any unexpected motions coming from the leadership or from the floor. This takes advance preparation and time but everyone needs to be on the same page before a vote is taken...if there is to be one.
8. It does take time. Being informed and having clarity take time. We need to allow ourselves the time and information and conversation required. The vote isn't worthwhile if it is rushed or it is a surprise motion that no one has had time to consider. Amazingly, using KBDM has made most decisions unanimous or close to unanimous because the conversation has contributed to understanding and thus unity.
9. There is value in talking about a topic over several meetings until everyone has clarity, all points of view have been heard and members have had time to reflect. **This is very different from Parliamentary Procedure** which requires a motion to be made before any discussion can even occur.
10. Sometimes the motion itself becomes the issue and everyone tries to wordsmith or modify it or add punctuation to it and all the energy is diverted into crafting the motion rather than focusing on the topic. Have you ever experienced that?? In KBDM information is gathered, the discussion comes first and **at some point there MIGHT be a motion.** Ask yourself.."Does every agenda item require a motion and vote?" Sometimes a topic only needs to be talked out. Taking time to deliberate helps us avoid voting on topics prematurely and before everyone understands. This often happens when we allow time constraints to restrict our conversations. "Hurry up, I have to leave and we haven't voted on the budget yet!" Sometimes when someone brings forward a motion, no one knows why it is being brought or how it fits into the meeting and because it is in the form of a motion, a pro and con debate begins before anyone has a chance to have information. **Opinions abound in the absence of real information.** Suddenly a vote has been taken and people are still trying to figure out what it is all about. Often people vote because the vote is being taken and although they don't really understand, they feel compelled to vote! Ask any new GR! **Talk until you understand.**
- 11.

12. Trust comes hard to many of us. Living with alcoholism, we have learned not to trust. With recovery and service we have the opportunity to learn confidence and trust in our trusted servants. We may not agree with them, but if we have elected our leaders based on their ability and competence rather than because they are a friend or it is their turn or because they have been around the longest or because no one else will step up, we can feel assured that they are doing their best for Al-Anon. And...**we can trust that our Higher Power is overseeing our work and will take care of our decisions. Knowing that we are all at different stages of recovery, we need to be gentle but honest with one another as we have discussions.** I have always believed that my inventory has been taken in service because the higher good is at stake. I have learned not to take it personally, but learn from it and to trust in my colleagues.

13.

14. Using KBDM helps to keep us focused . We can reach consensus more easily. We have developed a more creative, responsive atmosphere which helps us look into the future. We have grown in our ability to be flexible because we have opened ourselves to more information and more ideas. Using this process, members take responsibility for actions taken because they have had sufficient information and have had ample occasion to have their voices heard. Decisions become “we” decided rather than “they” decided. Decision makers who have fully participated in the process are better able to provide information to their District, Group or AIS because they fully understand the topic.

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16. Background/History – Research takes time. We have many tools such as our *Service Manual*, CAL, WSO, Archives, meeting minutes, etc. Relevance – If we don’t have clarity from the start, often the discussion can be easily diverted. Let members know why this topic is relevant to them, the Assembly and WSO. Context – Members need to have a clear understanding of “Why now?”

17. Our purpose is to ensure that all participants begin the discussion on the same page. In a culture of trust, we all have equal access to important information. We strive for clarity. Now we will try to frame our discussion for electronic newsletter distribution. Let’s begin.

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20. A powerpoint can be found on the NYN website which covers all of the historical and background information. Has anyone reviewed this prior to today?

21. The next slide allows us to see publishing/ mailing costs; receipts from subscriptions and cost exceeding receipts over the past nine years

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23.

24. -Question 1. What do we know about our members’ or prospective members’ needs that are relevant to this discussion?

25. Question 1.

26. 2.What do we know about the resources and our vision for the organization that is relevant to this discussion?

To date, many subscriptions are not current. Can we consider why this continues to happen? What can we do to educate the membership?

27. Question 2.

28. Question 3. What do we know about the current realities and evolving dynamics of the world and our fellowship that is relevant to this discussion? What are the pros and cons?

Could monies being saved by changing to mainly electronic, be better applied to providing outreach programs to our fellowship?

29. Question 4. What are the ethical implications of our choices? In other words, will our decision be consistent with our spiritual principles?

30. Question 4.

Donations could eliminate keeping track of dates for “renewals”, since this is not and has not worked.

31. Question 5. What do we wish we knew, but don’t?

