



# Northern Hi Lights

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*Al-Anon News from New York North Area*

**Time Sensitive**

This is a special article submitted by Brenda L., Molly C., and Carol C.

*Newsletter Editor - Pat H.*

## **“Registered Electronic Meetings now Al-Anon Family Groups”**

At the 2021 World Service Conference (WSC), it was decided that all electronic Al-Anon meetings **that are registered with the World Service Office (WSO)** are now recognized as Al-Anon Family Groups (AFGs), and the WSC approved the creation of a non-geographic Area for these groups. Also, the WSO is working to support the electronic AFGs to elect Group Representatives (GRs) as well as a temporary Chairperson and a Delegate for the non-geographic Area.

WSO geographic Areas (including NY North) need to discuss and decide whether to accept electronic AFGs into their service structure and to define Area policies and procedures if appropriate.

WSO drafted 5 multi-part questions for group, district, and area discussion. The NY North Area has created a Thought Force to help broadcast/distribute this information and to facilitate discussion. By early December, the Thought Force will contact each registered AFG individually through its current contact (Group Representative (GR) or Current Mailing Address (CMA)).

To make an informed decision at the Area level, the NY North Thought Force suggests discussing Questions 1, 2 and 3 at the group level:

### **Question 1**

What are the potential benefits of welcoming non-geographically based groups into our geographically based Area? What are the potential risks? Are there any options for overcoming the risks?

### **Question 2**

Groups which meet electronically often attract members who do not reside within the geographic boundaries of the Area. These members may be encouraged and willing to serve our groups, Districts, and Area as trusted servants. What impact might this have on our District and Area service structure? What impact might this have on how our Area service responsibilities are fulfilled?

### Question 3

Groups which meet on electronic platforms and seek to participate in the local structure may have trusted servants who reside in different locations across the geographic Area. How would the Area determine in which District(s) these groups would participate?

The Thought Force suggests discussing some or all parts of Questions 4 and 5 at the group level and all parts of these 2 questions at the District level:

### Question 4

How might Areas Assemblies and District meetings need to change to accommodate trusted servants living within and outside the Area? Would Areas need new service roles to support groups which meet electronically? Why or why not? Are our groups willing to financially support additional Area service roles and/or technology?

### Question 5

Because Electronic Meetings were not a part of any service structure, some of their members may not have participated in District and Area meetings. How might our Area welcome and support them? How might we help them understand the service structure in our Districts and Area? For example, are members willing to organize service workshops? Are members willing to act as Service Sponsors? What other kinds of support could our members provide? Are there any kinds of support which it would be wise for us not to provide?

The Thought Force requests that all groups discuss the questions and respond by January 3, 2022. A Google Form will be provided for each group to respond. The Google Form link will be communicated to each group via their current contact information. Each group is requested to provide one (and only one) response as a result of that group's discussion.

The Thought Force will develop a timeline for obtaining feedback from our twenty-eight Districts. The Thought Force will compile this information and bring it before the NY North Area World Service Committee (AWSC) in April 2022.

If you have any questions about this topic, please contact Molly C., NYN Immediate Past Delegate at [ipd@nynafg.com](mailto:ipd@nynafg.com) or Carol C., NYN Chairperson at [chairperson@nynafg.com](mailto:chairperson@nynafg.com).