

Knowledge-Based Decision Making (KBDM)
to reach an informed group conscience

Topic title: Inclusion on the Area 22 website a section devoted to Archives/Archives Committee

To add to this KBDM document, please email (author's first name, last initial, and service position), at (author's non-personal (la-al-anon.org) email address)

Date started: March 25, 2021

Updated:

Disposition:

Topic: Inclusion on the Area 22 website a section devoted to Archives/Archives Committee

Framing: (Why we are discussing this topic) The Area 22 Archives Collection includes many items of interest and importance. It is located in the Baton Rouge AIS Office which is not easily accessible to members of the fellowship who live outside the Baton Rouge area.

Background Information: Access has been restricted for the last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and ramifications thereof. Posting photos of some of the contents of the Archives Collection on the Area 22 website would afford all members to access the photos and enjoy them and share them in their group meetings and on other special occasions focused on Louisiana Al-Anon history. With the return of face to face meetings, sharing of the website and instructions for how to access the Archives section in meetings would afford members the opportunity to see them without having to travel to Baton Rouge on a weekday during the hours that the AIS office is open for visitors.

The Elements of KBDM

- Open communication between leadership and membership
- Dialogue before deliberation
- All those involved in the decision will have full access to all information.
- We have confidence in the competency of our partners—presume goodwill.
- We exist in a culture of trust.

The KBDM Questions

1. What do we know about our membership's needs, wants, and preferences that is relevant to this discussion?

It is hard to measure needs, wants, and preferences at this time. Since the office has been closed for many months, we know that there has been no opportunity for members to view the collection in person. Since the Heritage Day celebration did not take place in 2020 due to COVID-19, there has not been an opportunity even for Baton Rouge residents to view the collection or parts of it which may have been on display at that event.

Concept 4 states that participation is the key to harmony. Being able easily to access the key photos and other Archives allows more participation which leads to more harmony in our fellowship.

Tradition 1 states that our common welfare should come first and having the Archives available for appreciation and use by our members without having to pay a personal visit to the physical Archives Collection would enhance the welfare of members outside and inside the Baton Rouge area.

Tradition 5 states that our fellowship has but one purpose: to help families of alcoholics and to be able to show them on our website the pioneers of our fellowship and the evolution of our conference approved literature affords them a historical perspective on the fellowship and its longevity, lending credibility.

Tradition 11 states that our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion and being able to access our Archives of the beginnings of our fellowship on our state website would enable us to show a few items to those we are trying to attract and educate on our fellowship especially as relates to Public Outreach efforts and for Beginner/Newcomer meetings.

2. What do we know about our resources that is relevant to this discussion?

Tradition 7 says that we ought to be fully self-supporting.

A member of the fellowship has already donated his time to take photos of the Archives Collection – the actual room and its displays which include photos, posters, handmade items, and the showcase and some of its contents which include first editions of some CAL and memorabilia, etc. as a service to the fellowship at no cost to the fellowship.

The website already exists, and the Webmaster has the photos and can facilitate the posting of the photos and the creation of a virtual Archives Collection segment on the existing website at no additional charge if directed by AWSC/Area Assembly.

3. What do we know about our environment that is relevant to this discussion?

Concept 11 says that the World Service Office is composed of selected committees, executives and staff members.

The WSO Archivist is currently focusing on updating the Archives Guidelines and has asked for input as to how to update and enhance the Archives Guidelines so the timing may be good to suggest the addition of a possible enhancement of creating an Archives Collection section of Areas' websites to preserve and showcase certain portions of their Archives contents in digital format on their website for their members to access and appreciate.

Tradition 9 states that we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

The Archivist/Archives Committee is directly responsible to those we serve, the Area 22 Al-Anon and Alateen members.

The focus of the younger members is to access information virtually or digitally and having some of our Archives easily accessible would be an added service to them.

The focus of the older members is to travel less and to learn to do more digitally and virtually for a more economical and safer way to access information.

Access to and appreciation of our collection would be enhanced for these two groups by having it available on our website.

4. What are the ethical implications of our choices (the pros and cons)?

Tradition 12 states that Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, every reminding us to place principles above personalities.

Anonymity is protected in that the Archives Collection section of the website would be password protected and restricted to members of the fellowship.

5. What do we wish we knew but don't?

We wish we knew if members would learn about and use and appreciate access to the Archives Collection if it were posted on the Area website.

We wish we knew if members have attempted to visit the Archives Collection but were not able to access it during the months that the AIS Office has been closed.

We wish we knew if Beginners/Newcomers would have a greater appreciation of our fellowship if they were able to access some of our Area Archives virtually rather than having to make the trip to Baton Rouge.