

Thought Force Committee: Caroline, Julie, Sandy, and Tom. January 2025

## Assembly Locations

The current budget shows a deficit for 2024. The Area Committee has taken the first step in addressing this issue by having Committee meetings via Zoom instead of in-person. To further improve the fiscal picture, it has been suggested that all assemblies be held at St. Anthony's Retreat. The cost of having the Assembly St. Anthony's is about 64% of the Neighbor Islands. It has become increasingly difficult to find reasonably priced facilities on some of the Neighbor Islands. The Thought Force polled the Membership to find out their "wants and preferences" as asked in the first question of KBDM.

### **1. What do we know about our needs wants and preferences that are relevant to this discussion?**

The following options were suggested:

Continue with the current rotation schedule & monitoring of costs

Hold all assemblies on Oahu

Hold every other assembly on Zoom

If it's on Zoom, reduce it to one day

Continue with current schedule and make them Hybrid

There are other consequences to consider, cultural, social to consider if the assemblies are only on Oahu.

We don't want to be Oahu centric. We need to be sensitive to the neighbor islands and be sure they are adequately heard.

We need to think who will do the planning, labor, the logistics of all this being done on Oahu with 3 working districts. If all assemblies are on Oahu, who will do the work?

Members who have attended assemblies really appreciate the in-person interactions. There were no negative responses to the experience of attending in-person assemblies

### **2. What do we know about resources of our fellowship relevant to this discussion/decision?**

Expenses on Neighbor Islands are increasing and it's getting harder to find accommodations and meeting spaces. If Groups save enough money to send their GR to Assembly, they won't have much left to split. Smaller meetings already can't afford to send a GR to Assembly.

From history of Assemblies - gathered from written and oral reports from past delegates, Judy P, Ethel B and Carolyn A, we decided to go to other islands for assemblies. It is important to think why we did that.

Members shared that valuable experience is gained by putting assemblies together. How will others do service if it's not rotated?

Holding all assemblies on Oahu:

This idea comes from the fact that the costs of using St Anthony's is less than neighbor island. We have no guarantee that we are going to be able to go to St Anthony's for even one assembly per year. How likely could it be that they would then welcome us twice a year?

### **3. What do we know about the current realities and evolving dynamics of our fellowship that are relevant to this discussion/ decision?**

It's for the good of Al-Anon in Hawaii to rotate assemblies among all the islands.

We could have one assembly be virtual, which would help financially. Maybe fall assembly can be electronic instead of neighbor island. However, the Fall voting Assembly should be in-person

Having members who are not currently in Area service attend assemblies educates them and can provide motivation to serve. Attendance could be in-person or by hybrid assemblies.

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### **4. What are the ethical implications of our choices (pro/cons)?**

Hosting the in-person assembly is a time to practice our principles in working together—as Sophie might say, getting to have a “spiritual workout.” We can't put a price on that. And, at the same time we have to put a price on that.

What is the process by which the consciousness of members can be raised on this issue? Encouraging members to reflect on costs in their own lives that have increased in the last ten+ years—prepare some information on this and invite discussion.

**Pro's:** In Person Assemblies instead of on Zoom.

Fellowship

Valuable to connect in person.

Social interpersonal fellowship is very beneficial.

Gets more out of in person meetings than electronic.

All members on the hosting island can go when it's on their island

Hybrid option. It would require people to learn technology but be more inclusive. In person assemblies preferred but if someone can't come, they can be there via zoom. It is important to be able to attend so that all people can have the experience. Because of our island state, transporting equipment for these hybrid meetings might be difficult.

Global electronic assembly was condensed to four hours instead of two days.

**Cons:**

Challenge to drive / have to fly.

Burdens of the Hosting Groups if they are all on Oahu

Expense of hybrid equipment and availability of a tech person to run it.

Expenses are the biggest obstacle to continuing in-person assemblies

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

Would people be willing to step up to run a Hybrid Assembly?

If an Assembly were Hybrid, would the in-person attendance decrease? There is economy of scale when renting hotel space.

Can the Area afford the Hybrid equipment?

Do the groups want to continue to have the Assemblies rotate to the Neighbor Islands? If so, are they willing to provide the funding for your GR and DR to attend Neighbor Island Assemblies? Are they willing to increase donations to the Area to fund the Officers' expenses for Neighbor Island Assemblies?

Would people be willing to participate in home stays rather than in hotels?

Would Groups and Districts be willing to hold fundraisers?

Although the Area has held a couple of Zoom assemblies, we didn't specifically ask for members to share their experience.

Why did Arizona decide to do away with hybrid assemblies?

How much equipment is actually involved in hosting a hybrid assembly? Could it possibly be practice in Hawaii area?