

## VA Area Spring Assembly, May 14-15, 2022

### Motion to Dismiss the Transforming Electronic Groups to AFGs Task Force

Once the Transforming Electronic Groups to AFGs is approved, the following motion should also be approved.

**MOTION:**

*Made by: Debbie Polston, VA Area Chairperson*

*Seconded by: Janice Grimm, Piedmont District 17*

*Motion passed: Standing vote – majority approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. Virtual vote - 39 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.*

**The Transforming Electronic Groups to AFGs Task Force has completed its charge to develop a Policy for the VA Area to accommodate the transformation of Electronic Groups to Al-Anon Family Groups, beginning sometime in 2022, in accordance with World Service Conference guidance.**

**The Virginia Area now dismisses the Task Force, with thanks.**

#### Background:

**1. At the 2021 Fall Assembly, the VA Area Assembly approved the formation of a Task Force, with the following Charge:**

**Charge:** Develop a Policy for the Virginia Area to accommodate the Transformation of Electronic Groups with no representation to Al-Anon Family Groups (AFGs) with representation. The new Policy will need to account for:

- Accepting permanent electronic groups that wish to affiliate with the VA Area.
- Assign these groups into Districts.
- Release any VA Area electronic groups that wish to sever affiliation with the VA Area to join the new Electronic Area.
- Transform VA Area groups temporarily meeting electronically that wish to meet electronically permanently and still retain affiliation with both their original District and with the VA Area.
- Revise VA Area, District, and Group voting requirements to accommodate permanent electronic groups and voting members residing outside of conventional geographic boundaries.
- Review VA Group Records, Web Page, and Area Communications Coordinators requirements to accommodate permanent electronic groups and/or hybrid groups.
- Address anonymity concerns of electronic meetings.
- Update the VA Area Alateen Safety and Behavioral Guidelines to reflect any changes the new Policy may create for Alateen meetings.

- Review the VA Area Bylaws to assess any impact the new Policy may have on the Bylaws.
- **Please note:** There is a distinction between “Electronic Meetings” and AFGs. The *2018-2021 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*, p.89, states that “...electronic meetings do not have a Group Representative and are not part of any structure.” AFGs are regular Al-Anon/Alateen meetings with a physical meeting address that are using some electronic means of holding meetings during the Covid-19 shut down. These meetings have GRs and belong to a District and to the VA Area.

**2. The 2021 Fall Assembly passed the following Motion, creating the Task Force:**

**Motion: The VAWSC recommends to the Virginia Area Assembly that they approve the following Motion.**

**Passed Oct. 17, 2021**

**The VAWSC recommends that the VA Area Assembly approve the creation of a Task Force to develop a Policy for the Virginia Area to accommodate the transformation of Electronic meetings to Al-Anon Family Groups, beginning sometime in 2022, in accordance with World Service Conference guidance.**

**The Task Force will keep the VA Area members informed and allow for questions, comments, and feedback from VA Area members while the Policy is being developed. The Task Force will plan on having the new Policy ready for VA Area Assembly vote at the 2022 Spring Assembly, depending on guidance from VA Area Officers and the VAWSC.**