

Summary of 9/20/2022 Town Hall About Electronic and Hybrid Groups

Part 1: Introductions and Presentation

The Panel was introduced: Joanne, Delegate and Presenter; Meredith, Group Records Coordinator and Presenter; Stephen, Alternate Delegate and Moderator of the event. 74 members were in attendance.

The **Agenda** was explained: Polls would be followed by a Presentation by Meredith and Joanne about the definitions of Group Types. This would be followed by an open dialogue moderated by Stephen in which questions would be taken one at a time from the audience (using the raise hand option) and both the panel and the audience would be given an opportunity to respond.

Polls were taken:

Poll 1: Are you attending a Physical Meeting with an Electronic Component (Hybrid)?

Yes - 28 (51%) / No - 27 (49%)

Poll 2: Are you attending a Permanent Electronic Meeting in the GEA?

Yes - 19 (33%) / No - 38 (66%)

Poll 3: Are you attending an In-Person Meeting?

Yes - 32 (50%) / No - 32 (50%)

Poll 4: Are you attending an Oregon Area Temporary Zoom Meeting?

Yes - 46 (72%) / No - 18 (28%)

Meredith defined the following Group Types:

TEMPORARY ELECTRONIC and ELECTRONIC

Joanne defined the following Group Types:

PHYSICAL and HYBRID, NOW CALLED **PHYSICAL WITH AN ELECTRONIC COMPONENT**

Part 2: Questions and Answers

Q: Is there a possibility of the Oregon Area opening up to let Electronic Meetings (those choosing to be permanent electronic) remain part of/join the Area?

Answer: Meredith, Joanne and Stephen have been looking at this issue and what could be the next steps towards creating a system that would allow electronic meetings join the Area. It is likely that AWSC will start a Task Force on the subject of electronic meetings becoming part of the Area. Groups that have been temporarily meeting electronically in Oregon may want to continue to maintain their temporary electronic status until the Area has a decision to accept a written procedure for accepting and listing permanent electronic meetings in the Area.

Q: Is the WSO considering an option for groups to be “physical meetings with an electronic component” (formerly called Hybrid)? Do we as an Area then accept what WSO puts in place?

Answer: Yes, the WSO is using the term “physical with an electronic component” to describe a type of group. The WSO makes decisions about group guidelines and group records policy, and how groups are described. That is then passed to the Areas.

Q: My group is deciding to go entirely Zoom. Should we join the GEA or remain in the temporary electronic status until the Oregon Area completes its decision making about a procedure to accept permanent electronic meetings into the Area?

Answer: Yes, it is advisable to consider waiting to see what the Area does before deciding to join the Global Electronic Area. Keep in mind, this is a group conscience decision. If a group joins the Global Electronic Area now, they then have a GR with voice and vote only in the Global Electronic Area. Joining the GEA means joining an Area with 850 electronic meetings represented by one Delegate with GRs that attend GEA Assemblies.

Q: We have a hybrid meeting. We were concerned if the status of hybrid meetings is changing?

Answer: Hybrid groups, now called physical with electronic component, will continue to be an option for groups.

Q: If a group joins the GEA, can they come back to the Area as an electronic meeting once the Area decides to accept electronic meetings into the Area? And if that happens, does it mean that global members come into the Area?

Answer: Yes, electronic groups from the GEA would be given the option to join the Area based on the procedure we develop for electronic meetings being part of the Area. Yes, that means global members could be attending an Oregon Area electronic meeting.

Q: We have a group that meets in-person every other week and meet on-line every other week. Each meeting is at the same time and same day of the week.

Answer: Meredith will contact WSO to see if this can fall under the category of “physical with an electronic component”.

Q: Will the Traditions and Concepts be part of the decision making for how groups will be recognized in Oregon?

Answer: Yes

Q: Can we create a place on our website to list permanent electronic meetings in the GEA that were previously part of our Area?

Answer: At the present time, the answer is no.

Q: Is there an ideal set of equipment for Hybrid meetings?

Answer: Groups have various ways of setting up Hybrid based upon what is working for them. Some groups keep it simple and just use a laptop, some groups use a Facebook Portal device, and other groups may use equipment such as a stand alone microphone, a wide angle camera, a tv or a projector and speaker, and a laptop.

There will be a document created with various equipment options being used currently and sent to DRs/GRs.

Q: Does the GEA have a Zoom account for all the meetings in their Area?

Answer: No

Q: Has there been consideration for allowing each Area to have their own Electronic District?

Answer: The Oregon Area will be considering the possibility of having an Electronic District.

Q: There is a District with a group that meets concurrently but separately (a split meeting), one on-line meeting and one in-person meeting at the same time and same day.

Response: The 2022 World Service Conference Summary says: “The Staff Policy Implementation Round Table (SPIRiT) met recently to discuss this (type of) situation. We reflected on how this situation would be handled in the case of physical groups. Since the time of the pioneers, Al-Anon groups have never been registered with two physical locations. After a thoughtful conversation, SPIRiT agreed we needed to defer the matter to the Policy Committee for consideration.”

Q: Does Oregon Area have a time-line or end date for all these decisions to be made? It takes time to find unanimity.

Answer: There is no deadline.

Closing statements were made by Stephen, Meredith and Joanne.

Final Poll:

Was this Town Hall helpful?

70% said "Very Helpful"

20% said "Somewhat helpful"

Not Helpful and No Opinion : the %'s were not written down.