

KBDM Introductory Skit

#1: I'm new to service at the Area level. My biggest challenge so far has been figuring out what all the Al-Anon acronyms mean. For example, I just found out that NERD doesn't mean 'tech-y,' but rather, 'Northeast Regional Delegate.' I've been trying to figure out what the heck KBDM could mean, and all I could come up with is, 'Know Better, Do More.' When I know better I should do more - to convince others that my way is right.

#2: Well, you've done the right thing to ask your Service Sponsor for help. I know how confused you must be because I was confused in the beginning too. To answer your question, KBDM means, "Knowledge-Based Decision Making."

#1: What's so different about that? It sounds just like my definition, "Know Better, Do More." That's how Robert's Rules works isn't it? One person has the answer with all the facts to back it up, makes a motion, and pushes to persuade the others to agree to it.

#2: Well, it's actually just the opposite. KBDM is more like an informed group conscience. KBDM first discusses an issue and ensures that all decision-makers are fully informed. Then, only after the group has clarity, would a motion be made. It's a spirit of win-win, rather than win-lose as in Robert's Rules. According to this approach, the quality of mutually respectful and informed discussion is more important than one opinion prevailing over another in a vote.

#1: Well, I'm curious, how did this become part of the World Service Conference procedures?

#2: That's an interesting question. Apparently, at the 2006 World Service Conference, they had several sensitive issues to consider, and the Delegates and the World Service Office Volunteers and Staff developed an adversarial relationship of 'us versus them' thinking, where suspicions and mistrust of whispered hallway conversations boiled over into an angry confrontation on the Conference floor. Haven't we all experienced this

once or twice in our Group, District or Area meetings, and also in our personal lives?)

After this, the Board (chose) to adopt the knowledge-based process in its decision-making because it realign(ed) the Conference with its original purpose and process. It was always around, but Al-Anon joined the rest of the world in getting hung up on Robert's Rules of Order and Parliamentary Procedure.

#1: Okay, so how does it work? It sounds like something I could use to make my meetings better, both in Al-Anon, and at work, as well as at home!

#2: Well, how about if we do a little workshop to find out?

Note: (KBDM information quoted or paraphrased from *Many Voices, One Journey*, pages 364-365 and the *2006 World Service Conference Summary*)