DISCUSSION – ACTION COMMITTEES

Background Information:

Some Areas began Action Committees about 12 years ago to hopefully improve communication and get members involved and to help Coordinators carry out projects. New York North had an Ad Hoc Committee look at how other Areas divided members, Officers and Coordinators into work groups. We developed what seemed to be a workable division and our Action Committees were set up on a trial basis in 2003. In 2006, we were still undecided as to keep or drop the committees. The trial period continued. In 2009, we tried to help committees with sample agendas, worksheets and having a chairperson and recorder, eliminating coordinator reports to allow time for projects. It is still questionable as to the productivity of the committees.

Following the Area Assembly Inventory, there were some members who truly loved their committee. It seemed to be the minority. Other members wanted workshops, more sharing from members, "hot topics", more communication, power points and skits.

At the Election Assembly, we will be voting on either making the Action Committees a permanent part of the New York North structure or dropping them.

Some thoughts for time spent instead of Action Committees:

Many Areas have found Action Committees to be ineffective and have changed to Discussion groups. They have ultimately increased participation at Assemblies using varied formats.

- Hot Topics – A panel (2-3 members) are asked to prepare info on topic (KBDM) and do a brief presentation to the group. Then it is open to the group for discussion.
- Chosen Agenda Items – Items can be listed and voted on, prior to Assembly, with the top three being selected and presented to the groups for discussion as Thought Forces.
- Workshops -- Coordinators could present workshops related to their position or on an issue related to that area of service.

This would take some time to implement and would take input from members through the Group Reps and District Reps working with an Ad Hoc committee. It could be a random division of members into 2-4 groups. Information from discussions could then be presented and work groups or task forces developed to implement any ideas. In some situations, members might rotate from group to group for presentations.

We have heard your voices through the inventory and are trying to present new options for learning and sharing our program. Many changes have occurred in the past few years. Some have been beneficial and some have not. The business of Al-Anon still needs to be done, but we are trying to make it more interesting and encouraging all voices be heard.

This is the beginning of the discussion. Please continue this discussion when you leave this Assembly. Take it to your groups and talk to each other. Send your input to the Area Chairperson. If you have thoughts on what you would like to hear in these groups, let us know. The more input we have, the better we can serve the fellowship.

Please have someone take notes from the discussion today.

We will give a short report in the afternoon.

Thank you for your participation...it is the key to harmony!