

## Suggestions for Group Business Meetings

(Dale's notes from the N. California World Service Area Assembly, May 15, 2010)

### Business Meetings

- The difference between a Recovery Meeting and a Business Meeting:
  1. In the Recovery Meeting, there's no crosstalk.
  2. In the Business Meeting, everything you say can (and will) be challenged.
- We need to "practice these principles"—and the Business Meeting is the place to do that! Accomplishing the business is secondary.
- There is no standard format for Business Meetings. NOT Robert's Rules of Order. (Coming from alcoholic homes, we believe there must be a rule for everything.)

### Knowledge-Based Decision-Making

In 2006 Al-Anon Family Groups adopted Knowledge-Based Decision Making

- Most important and FIRST is the conversation.
- The conversation might or might NOT lead to a motion.
- Start with an agenda: Frame the discussion by selecting the basic questions.
- Some people need decisions. Some people need conflict. But the discussion must precede the motion. The group needs to find out what we want/need before proposing it.
- The motion is for the purpose of recording the decision.
- Suggest at least 3 meetings for each issue:
  1. Define the issue
  2. Discuss the issue
  3. Vote. Before taking the vote, ask for a show of hands. "Are we ready to make a decision?"

### How do we stay SAFE in the Business Meeting?

- "Let's stop and say the Serenity Prayer."
- "Let's have a moment of silence."
- "Let's read the Traditions."