

Addendum to Minutes

Past Delegate, Susan B: Permanent Electronic Meetings (PEM) are Al-Anon meetings that have always been held electronically - via phone, web chat, etc. - and have never had a “face-to-face” component. They were connected to the World Service Office via a contact person. They were not registered as “groups” as they were not part of the World Service Conference structure.

A 2021 WSC vote gave PEM “group” status, and they now can be represented by GRs. They are all under the umbrella of the new “Electronic Area,” although not yet part of the World Service Conference structure. **They are now officially called Al-Anon Family Groups Which Meet Electronically (AFGWME)**

At the 2022 WSC, a discussion (and possible vote) will occur to decide whether to welcome the newly formed Electronic Area into the World Service Conference structure. As an Area, will we accept AFGWME as part of our Area? And what will that require? An AFGWME, as is also true for geographical groups, would have to ask to be released from its’ current Electronic Area and to be admitted to a new (geographical) Area once/if the Electronic Area becomes part of the WSC structure.

A topic that is separate, but often confused with the AFGWME discussion: If your group is still meeting via Zoom because of Covid, there is no deadline to return to meeting in person by a certain date. However, if a group decides to “split” - part of the group meeting always face to face and another part meeting only on zoom and the two groups of members never meeting as “one group” via a hybrid meeting - then the part of the group that decides to remain ONLY meeting via zoom or phone, etc. PERMANENTLY will have to register as a separate Al-Anon Family Group Which Meets Electronically (AFGWME). This is also true if a group decides to remain only meeting on zoom going forward. This new group will receive a new WSO ID number and BOTH groups (if a group splits) will need to elect separate GRs. Also, the new AFGWME would become part of the Electronic Area and need to apply for acceptance into a geographical Area if it so chose.