

Knowledge-Based Decision Making (KBDM) Overview

KBDM is defined as the process of looking at a topic through certain agreed upon criteria. Pertinent background information is gathered and shared with those responsible for making the decision. Then a decision can be made through a motion and vote.

KBDM is not intended to prohibit introduction and voting on a topic that come up suddenly and requires an immediate decision nor would it be required for non-policy or non-procedural items.

Key Elements

1. Open communication
2. Dialog before deliberation
3. All decision makers have common access to information
4. We exist in a culture of trust

KBDM Questions

1. What do we know about our members' needs, wants and preferences that relates to this discussion?
2. What do we know about our resources relative to this issue?
3. What do we know about our "culture" or "environment" (technology, our steps, traditions, concepts, spiritual principles) that relates to this issue?
4. What are the implications of our choices (pros and cons)?
5. What do we not know about this issue that we wish we knew?
6. How do Al-Anon's legacies apply to this issue?

Presentation may lead to a Motion

- Motion is written and read
- Voices are heard
- Discussion is closed
- Motion is re-read and vote is taken

The Outcome

- Everyone will have all available information needed to make an informed decision.
- Newcomers to a decision-making body have the advantage of the background information.
- Receiving the information before the dialogue gives members time to digest and process.
- Access to the background information gives members the opportunity to understand the decision and participate in the discussion.
- Related issues come up before a decision is made.
- Decisions are not based on reactions, opinions or emotions. This is proactive, not reactive.
- The focus is on the dialogue of the topic rather than on the structure or wording of the motion or proper parliamentary procedure.
- The suggestion itself is more important than who made the suggestion.
- Trusted servants are not asked to make uninformed decisions.
- Trusted servants will be able to communicate and articulate the decisions made.