Scot Powers
Associate Director -- Brand Communications
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“Feel free to share this with members in your Area.”

“As promised, here are the latest updates changes the WSO is implementing to support all electronic groups-those seeking a global audience registered with the Global Electronic Area (GEA) and those seeking local audiences registered with their geographic Area-and the Area trusted servants who support them:

**1.** **New Electronic Meeting Search (Coming Soon!)**Currently there are registered electronic groups meeting in 18 different languages. Unfortunately, WSO Staff does not have the capacity to support AlAnonAl Anon-specific translation into all these languages, as we do for Spanish and French. But we have a plan and wanted to share! To support these groups, we are implementing a translation tool powered by Google Translate. This tool converts the text on the Electronic AlAnonAl Anon Meeting page to the user's browser language automatically. Very cool! Additionally, the meeting language in the Electronic Meeting Search will also default to the user's browser language!
Translated, that means members and newcomers interested in attending the electronic groups in the following meeting languages will be able to find hope and help more easily!

a. Bulgarian

b. Czech

c. Danish

d. Dutch

e. English

f. Farsi

g. French

h. German

i. Greek

j. Hindi

k. Icelandic

l. Italian

m. Japanese

n. Polish

o. Portuguese

p. Russian

q. Spanish

r. Turkish

(For those curious how this works, here's more context. Anytime you set up a new device, whether it's a computer, tablet, or smartphone, one of the first things you're asked to do is select your language. This step sets the device language and browser language on your device.)

**2.** **Electronic Groups in Geographical Areas**
a. The first Group Transfer Between Areas Request Form has been translated into Spanish and French and is in the final stages of development! We are close! We are looking at launching the form in three languages the week of January 16. The form will support groups within the GEA that wish to transfer to a geographic Area; therefore, it will initially only be available in the Electronic Meetings AFG Connects community. This approach minimizes confusion and accidental misuse. Staff will begin building the Group Transfer Form next for groups registered in geographical Areas that wish to transfer to the GEA. Once this form is complete and translated, both forms will be available through the AFG Records section of alanonal [anon.org](http://anon.org).
b. Meanwhile, Staff are tackling another challenge related to electronic groups in geographical Areas. The question: how to display meetings that intend to attract local newcomers rather than global newcomers? The Electronic Meeting page displays groups in the Global Electronic Area-these groups intend to attract newcomers from all over the world-so the key information is meeting time and platform.
Local electronic groups, in contrast, intend to attract members close in proximity, although they agree to adhere to our Traditions and welcome any Al-Anon member. For physical groups, the meeting search simply places a pin on the map that corresponds with the meeting location address. What to do about these local electronic groups? We recognized that we also need to place a pin, which means we need a physical location for them too. Once again, we have a plan! Moving forward, the WSO will require a zip/postal code for the neighborhood where each local electronic group is looking to attract new members. We will place a pin near the geographic center of that zip/postal code. To avoid meeting search user confusion, we will pick a location such as an intersection, park, or waterway. Our plan also includes new pin icons to differentiate between in-person, electronic, and hybrid meetings.

**3. Online Group Records (OGR) Application** – The survey has ended! Please thank your Area Group Records Coordinators and District Representatives for their contributions. We are learning so much! The task force is busy reviewing the results and developing requirements and recommendations for the next version of the OGR. Stay tuned!
(written in response to questions).

“We are working through the highest priority items and much of what we are doing require database changes and cleanup. This work is very tedious and requires attention to detail which is time consuming. So we appreciate everyone's patience. We will continue to provide updates on our progress so that you and member's in your Area are informed.

Regarding your scenarios, we are able to process both scenarios as listed below:
**A - Process for group moving from a physical location to an electronic one:**
Members submit the [Al-Anon Group Record Change Form for Groups with an Electronic Location](https://al-anon.org/for-members/group-resources/group-records/electronic-meeting-change/electronic-meeting-change-form/) on [al-anon.org](http://al-anon.org).
AFG Records staff:

• enters the electronic meeting location in the WSO database

• notify the AGRC of meeting location changes via the Weekly Change Report.

**B - Process for new electronic Al-Anon group registrations:**
Members submit the [New Al-Anon Group Registration Form for Groups with an Electronic Location](https://al-anon.org/for-members/group-resources/group-records/new-electronic-meeting-registration/new-emeeting-form/) on [al-anon.org](http://al-anon.org). Only GEA and geographic Areas who have completed the process for accepting Electronic Groups are listed on the form.
AFG Records staff:

• enter and verify the new electronic Al-Anon group registration information in the WSO database and notify the AGRC that the registration was submitted by a member directly to the WSO.

• AGRCs review the registration in read-only format on the Online Group Records application and submit any changes via email at AFGRecords@al-anon.org.

AFG Records staff:

• update the registration record and register the new group.

• notify the Area Delegate, AGRC and DR that the group is registered.

• send a group welcome email to the CMA.”