

GRs voted at the Spring 2023 Area Assembly to accept permanent electronic meetings into our NC/Bermuda Area. Currently a Task Force is working on recommendations for a registration process to bring to the Spring Assembly for approval by Area GRs.

Task Force Charge

Using the reference materials, the Task Force will create an Area Process for Registration of Electronic Groups in the North Carolina/Bermuda Area service structure. The process needs to:

- provide clear instructions for electronic groups on how to join/leave the NC/BDA Area service structure, determine the District placement, or change from an in-person meeting to an electronic meeting.

Additionally, the process should: avoid being repetitive in relation to the Service Manual and/or WSO Guidelines; make information equally available to all members of NC/BDA; be readily transmissible, editable, and printable; allow the ability to enlarge the font for visually impaired; and incorporate the prevailing practices for the North Carolina/Bermuda Area.

Progress Update

The Electronic Groups Task Force has continued meeting since the November 4 2023 Fall Assembly. At Assembly, a feedback form was shared with GRs with a request to submit responses by November 30th. The results of the feedback process are presented in the accompanying document: [Summary of Area Feedback on Electronic Groups](#).

Based on the feedback, review of practices in other Areas, and discussion based on the Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM) questions, the Task Force drafted the following high-level recommendations for registering Electronic Groups in our Area. These are the initial recommendations and the Task Force welcomes feedback!

- The Group Representative and the group's Current Mailing Address must reside in the Area.
- Districts cannot say no to new electronic groups, but Districts have autonomy and can determine how their districts will be run (District policies, business meetings, etc).
- District assignment for electronic only groups is determined by the residence of the GR or CMA. If the GR and CMA reside in different Districts, the group will choose between the two Districts. *(Note: if an overlay district is created, this process will need to be modified to include the option of joining an overlay district.)*

In addition to feedback on the initial recommendations, the Task Force would appreciate feedback on whether to include the option of an overlay district for electronic groups. Please read the definition of an Overlay District (*on page 64 of the [service manual](#)*). The Task Force identified the following pros and cons of including the option of an overlay district for electronic groups.

■ Pros

- Creates an option for electronic groups in Districts that don't have many other electronic groups and/or don't hold electronic district business meetings.

- Joins electronic groups together with other electronic groups for shared experience, strength and hope.
 - Creation of electronic overlay district increases voice and vote in Area service structure for electronic groups with a vote at the AWSC for new DR.
- Cons
- Concept of overlay district is confusing for GRs and members (see feedback document)
 - Many electronic groups have expressed desire to remain in current district, so uncertain whether electronic groups would choose an overlay district
 - Work required to create and fill service positions for an entire new district may be excessive

In addition to discussion at the district business meeting, there will be two virtual town halls on the topic in February – Sunday, February 4th at 2pm, and Thursday, February 8th at 7:30pm.