

**Spanish Speaking Overlay District
VA Area 2024 Spring Assembly
May 4-5, 2024**

This motion was approved: 05-05-2024

MOTION:

Made by: VAWSC

Seconded by: Patty M. Richmond North

The VAWSC recommends to the 2024 Spring Assembly for approval of the formation of a Spanish Speaking Overlay District using District 11.

Background Information:

In 2020 Panel 59 was approached in forming a Spanish Speaking Overlay District. There was correspondence started on how to proceed, and then the Pandemic shut everything down.

IN 2023, Panel 62 was approached after meetings started opening back up. The Area Chair reviewed the emails correspondence from Panel 59. The information was taken to the officers. The officers ask the Area chair to do some research by looking at other Areas, by reaching out to AFG Connects to see who had an Overlay District and how they formed their Overlay Districts.

With the information gathered and with the boundary policy in development, it was decided by the officers to follow what was laid out for groups and districts to proceed with in the VA Boundary Policy

In the 2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service a Manual page 64 -65 under districts. An overlay District is a collection of groups typically aligned by a commonality, such as language or non-geographic location. Groups may belong to either the District or Overlay District based on their group conscience.

In the 2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service a Manual page 74 under Districts. A District is comprised of groups segmented either by geography within a geographic area or other commonality within a non geographic area. An overlay District is a Collection of groups typically aligned by commonality, such as language or electronic format. Groups may belong to either the district or overlay District based in their group conscience. Overlay Districts are formed upon approval by the Area.

Informed Group Consciences Process:

- 1. What do we know about the Fellowship's needs, wants, or preferences that are relevant to this discussion?**
 - The Virginia Area was asked for the formation of a Spanish Speaking overlay District. There is a need for Spanish speaking groups to be a part of a community/District to have the same commonality /language
 - Currently the Virginia Area does not have a Spanish Speaking Overlay District
 - There were no procedures in place in the formation of a Spanish Speaking Overlay District at the time of request;

- Virginia Area Chair checked with group Recorders to see how many Spanish speaking groups are registered Virginia Area.
- There are 6 Districts that have one or more Spanish Speaking Groups; they are as follows Alexandria 1, Loudoun 2, Falls Church/McLean/ Vienna 1, Arlington 1, Bull Run 1 and Springfield Annandale 1.
- In the proposed Virginia Area Boundary Policy and Procedures there are procedures laid out for the formation of an overlay district and procedures for the groups to follow.
- There have been 4 groups from the following Districts Alexandria ,Arlington, Bull Run and Springfield Annandale that have had group consciences to join the Spanish Speaking Overlay District
- The Following Groups from Alexandria, Arlington, Bull Run and Springfield Annandale have approached their Districts to be released from their geographic district to join the Spanish speaking overlay.
- Alexandria ,Arlington, Bull Run and Springfield Annandale District Representatives has notified the Area Chair on the Decisions to accept the released of the group to the Spanish Speaking Overlay
- There are persons elected to stand for District representative , Treasurer and Secretary positions to represent the Spanish Speaking Overlay

2. What do we know about the ability of the Virginia Area to support this topic?

- An overlay district is contiguous to all districts in the Virginia Area.
- Any newly registered Spanish speaking group in the Virginia Area after the formation of the Spanish Speaking overly District, will have the choice to join a geographic district or the Spanish Speaking overlay District.
- Any Spanish speaking Group outside of the Virginia Area may choose to join the Spanish Speaking Overlay District by following their Area procedures and the follow Virginia Area procedures.

3. What do we know about the current and future items and trends that are relevant to this discussion?

- There is no historical background to refer to at this time in the Virginia Area on this topic
- The Virginia Area Chair reached out to AFG Connects to see what other Areas have Spanish Speaking Overlay Districts. 2 responses are from California and Texas. Further conversations lead to Colorado and New Mexico also having Spanish Speaking Overlay Districts.

4. What are the ethical implications of our choices (pros and cons)?

Pros:

- An overlay District is a Collection of groups typically aligned by commonality, such as language or electronic format.
- 4 out of 7 Virginia Spanish Speaking Groups have requested the Virginia Area to form and be in a Spanish Speaking Overlay Districts

Cons:

- No ethical implication to form the Spanish Speaking Overly District
- If needed the Area currently does not have translation capabilities

5. What do we wish we knew, but do not?

- There is nothing at this time we wish we knew on this subject