

Policy Committee Update

April 2023

Pennie K., Incoming Chairperson

Jeri W., Outgoing Chairperson

Policy statements are interpretations of our basic guides: the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service. They help clarify how a Tradition or Concept might apply to a new or confusing situation that arises in Al-Anon or Alateen. Changes and additions to the Policy Digest are made only as our circumstances and growth require, since anticipating and including every specific situation would be impossible.

The purpose of the update sent each quarter by the Policy Committee Chairperson is to report progress and provide information on the following:

- Topics that are generated by the fellowship and discussed by the Policy Committee regarding issues or concerns that need clarification or interpretation in consideration of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service
- Progress of work being completed by Policy Committee work groups, task, and thought forces.
- Policy motions to be presented to the World Service Conference (WSC)
- Policy motions passed by the WSC.

The Policy Committee meeting occurs quarterly prior to the Board of Trustees meeting. The Policy Committee met virtually on April 18, 2023.

The Task Force working on the “Announcing Events” and “Workshops” sections of the *2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27) v2* (pgs. 91-92 and 90, respectively) reviewed the WSC members’ comments on the proposed changes and agreed no further edits were required. After several years of consideration, the revisions to these sections of the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies” were brought to the 2023 WSC for discussion and were approved.

The Local Services Task Force facilitated the Policy Committee discussion on the “Information Services (Intergroups)” section of the “Local Services” (pgs. 110-111) section of the Policy Digest. Thinking globally about the section presented, no edits to the wording were made. The Policy Committee also discussed placement before approving changes to the “Local Services” section in its entirety. These revisions will be presented to the 2024 WSC for possible approval.

The Task Force presented a recommendation to clarify the “Choosing a Group Name” policy on pages 85-86 of the Policy Digest. The Policy Committee held a great discussion regarding what the changes might look like and their impact on other sections of the *Service Manual*. The Committee will continue the discussion at its July meeting.

The Registering Multiple Meetings Thought Force agreed that clarification to the “Registration of Groups” section (p. 85) of the Policy Digest is needed. The Policy

Committee discussed their suggestion and will continue the conversation at its July meeting.

The meeting concluded with the approval of the Policy Secretary's Report and the Consent Agenda.

Watching the Policy Committee in action shows us how the spiritual principles of Al-Anon are used to maintain the unity of our worldwide fellowship, keeping in mind that learning, knowledge, and wisdom bring a deeper understanding that can be passed on to others. Thinking globally and putting knowledge, learning, and wisdom into practice increases our understanding of how the Al-Anon Legacies are used to help the fellowship grow.

As always, the Policy Committee welcomes all questions and suggestions from any Al-Anon and Alateen member, meeting, group, or Area regarding issues that might need further clarification or interpretation in light of our Legacies.