

Debbie P., 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 and 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 January 28th, 2025.

The **“2024-2025 Concept Study Task Force”** presented the third installment of the Policy Committee Concept Study which has offered Policy Committee members the opportunity to study the Concepts together throughout this year. The January session focused on Concepts seven, eight, nine and ten. It has been an impactful way for the Policy Committee members to launch our Policy discussions in a spiritual, legacy-based direction. We look forward to completing this journey through the Concepts together at the April Policy meeting.

“Thought Force: Dilution of the Al-Anon Program Policy Digest Text Review:”

This Thought Force has been charged with bringing a discussion to the Policy Committee reviewing the “Dilution of the Al-Anon Program” section of the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies” on page 135, specifically 1) “Labels” 2) “Professional Involvement”, and 3) “Drugs/Narcotics/Prescription Medications.” The Policy Committee was provided with an extensive KDBM as a basis of their discussion. Members were encouraged to identify the spiritual principles as well as the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service as they relate to each of the three sections. After discussions, the Policy Committee reached consensus that task forces be formed in future to incorporate the interpretations of our basic guides as discussed into the text for “Labels” and “Drug/Narcotics/Prescription Medications.” The Thought Force will bring discussion on the “Professional Involvement” section to a future Policy Committee.

Choosing a Group’s Name Policy Appeals Discussion

Following the 2024 WSC decision to approve the amended text to the “Choosing a Group Name” Policy, the World Service Office (WSO) Staff began discussing how to implement the Policy as adopted. Consistent with their carefully defined service authority and responsibility, Staff presented their suggestions for implementation to the

Policy Committee for review at its July 2024 meeting. Committee members considered suggestions related to new group registrations, existing group updates containing new names, and existing groups more broadly. After thoughtful discussion, the Policy Committee confirmed the suggested implementation for new group registrations and existing group updates containing new names was in alignment with the “Choosing a Group’s Name” Policy and supported Staff implementing the approach. The Policy Committee also confirmed that the Policy approved by the 2024 WSC applied to both new and existing groups; however, it agreed that further conversation with the WSC was required before any action was taken toward applying the new Policy to existing groups.

Quickly after the COB Letter and Policy Committee Update was posted, the WSO and Policy Committee began to receive multiple member appeals to this new Policy. The appeals were considered by the Policy Committee in October 2024. In the continuing spirit of Concept Five, “The rights of appeal and petition protect minorities and ensure that they be heard.”, the Policy Committee concluded at that meeting that the appeals needed to be brought to the 2025 WSC as it was the decision-making authority which approved the Policy in 2024.

At the 2025 January Policy Committee, the topic was again discussed and much consideration taken to ensure that there is time on the WSC agenda for the members to review the appeals and discuss this matter further, together with the question of implementing the Policy for existing groups.

“Task Force: Implementing Choosing a Group Name”

This Policy Committee Task Force has been charged with creating a clear and detailed framework for a discussion at the 2025 WSC on the WSO Staff strategies for educating the fellowship on the need for existing groups to consider updating their name to reflect the new Choosing a Group’s Name Policy approved by the 2024 WSC. The goal of the Task Force is to gather feedback on concerns and potential improvements to the strategies before implementation.

This Task Force shared a conceptual overview of their plan with the Policy Committee at its January 2025 meeting, seeking affirmation if they were heading in the right direction for the discussion at our upcoming Conference. The Policy Committee shared its confidence that the Task Force is focusing on education and spiritual principles as charged.

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