

Policy Committee Update

Jeri W., Chairperson

July 2022

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 forces, 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 July 19, 2022 for a briefer-than-usual agenda, as many Task Forces had only kicked off their discussions.

The Policy Chairperson started the meeting by sharing an overview of our meetings' procedures. An emphasis was placed on spiritual principles and how we use them whenever we discuss policy matters. The Policy Committee Secretary (Executive Director) presented the Policy Digest Review Process.

The Local Services Task Force was presented with a new charge for July 2022. They were to "review the changes to the last 'Employees in Al-Anon Service' paragraph of the 'Local Services' section of the Policy Digest and recommend a revised placement of the paragraph within the Policy Digest." The Task Force members presented their reasoning for choosing the recommended location, which the Policy Committee discussed thoughtfully. Since the Committee members had previously approved revisions to and relocation of all other changes in the current "Local Services" section, the Policy Committee voted to recommend eliminating the "Local Services" section and approving the movement of remaining sections to other locations within the Policy Digest.

At the request of the Policy Committee Chairperson, the Staff Policy Implementation Round Table (SPIRiT) presented a generative discussion as to "whether Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. has the responsibility to reply to social media comments to correct misinformation." The Committee addressed the pros and cons related to the specific question: "Do we (the WSO) have a responsibility to respond when incorrect information is posted in a public forum...and the Al-Anon name is used, but we haven't been directly tagged?" Warranty Four, Tradition Ten, our core purpose, and the importance of public outreach to our fellowship were considered. The importance of

continuing to produce a consistent message on our social media sites was also identified. The Committee concluded the WSO does not respond in these circumstances.

The meeting concluded with the Policy Secretary's Report as well as approval of the Consent Agenda, which included the Policy Committee Guidelines and a report from the Registering Group Meetings Thought Force.

Thank you to the Policy Committee members, who consist of Conference Members of the WSO Staff, Trustees, and At-Large members of the Executive Committee. All show their commitment to Al-Anon/Alateen through their thoughtful comments and suggestions presented while in a Task Force, Thought Force, Work Group, or a Committee review. The spiritual principles of unity, thoughtfulness, patience, mutual trust, and willingness to serve are evident in everything you do.

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.