

Policy Committee Update

John M., Chairperson

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

- Topics discussed by the Policy Committee that are generated by the fellowship and need clarification or interpretation in light of the Tradition and Concepts
- Policy motions presented to the 2017 World Service Conference (WSC)
- Policy motions approved by the WSC

The following topics were discussed at the October 2017 Policy Committee Meeting:

Policy Digest Review Thought Force presented the Policy Committee with a spreadsheet that made suggestions based on their review of the different sections of the Policy Digest. They marked each section as follows; *Policy with Spiritual Principles*, *Policy without Spiritual Principles*, *Not Written as Policy, but Should Be* and *Does Not Belong*. The Thought Force was thanked for their work and disbanded. Several task forces will be created in the upcoming weeks to work on various aspects of the Thought Force's findings.

Electronic Meetings Work Group reported on their progress. They have some good ideas about how to move forward and will begin working on one or two of them. They are also working on a breakout session for the 2018 World Service Conference.

“Open” and “Closed” Terminology discussion was continued. A task force will be created to change the language to be more welcoming to newcomers and professionals.

Getting in Touch with Al-Anon/Alateen (S23) pamphlet was discussed in light of changes in the way it is delivered to the fellowship. During the discussion, it became clear that what was in the Policy Digest about “*Getting in Touch with Al-Anon/Alateen*” is not policy. It does not interpret the Traditions or the Concepts. It is informational and most likely belongs elsewhere. The Policy Committee decided to leave it as it is until one of the Policy Digest Review Task Forces has a chance to make recommendations.

There was also a discussion about problems that come up when the Policy Digest is translated into Spanish and French. It was suggested that changes or additions to the Policy Digest be sent to the translators to review before the changes go to Conference for approval.

As always, members of Al-Anon are encouraged to submit questions or shared experiences to the Policy Committee for more interpretation according to our basic guides, i.e., the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts of Service. Consider how this issue might affect worldwide Al-Anon as a whole, remembering that Al-Anon policies are simply interpretations according to principles and not rigid rules.