

Policy Committee Update

April 2018

John M., Outgoing Chairperson

Norm W., Incoming Chairperson

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

- Topics that are generated by the fellowship and discussed by the Policy Committee, e.g., issues or concerns that need clarification or interpretation in light of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service
- Policy motions to be presented to the WSC
- Policy motions passed by the WSC

During the April 2018 Policy Committee meeting, members continued to discuss revisions to the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies” (Digest). Two Task Forces, focusing on the Alateen, Membership and Groups sections of the Digest, provided updates of their interim progress, which included proposed text changes. Progress was made but no final changes were agreed to, so the work of both Task Forces will continue.

The Electronic/Virtual Meeting (EVM) Work Group reviewed the presentation that was going to be shown at the WSC. They are working on a survey to get feedback from electronic/virtual meetings. The survey will ask what support the meetings would like from the WSO and will gather information that may be helpful in determining ways to include these meetings in the WSC Structure.

The Executive Director reported on a new procedure for and led a discussion about commenting on and reposting messages on social media. Since launching social media pages in 2012, follower comments have been reviewed by Staff, but have not been made visible to the public. Starting in 2018, comments will be reviewed by Staff and, if it is determined that they are in keeping with Al-Anon’s spiritual principles and Legacies, will be made visible in a post’s comment thread. This change will positively impact the WSO’s online presence and potentially attract more newcomers to WSO social media sites. The Executive Director also reminded everyone that WSO social media posts can be reposted and that this can be done in a way that ensures members’ anonymity.

At the Open Policy meeting, meditation meetings were discussed. As a result, a Policy Committee Thought Force will be formed to look into the matter for further discussion by the Policy Committee. Discussion will center around whether having a period of meditation as part of the meeting format is consistent with Al-Anon’s spiritual principles and Legacies.



Policy statements are interpretations of our basic guides, the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts. 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 circumstances and our growth requires, since anticipating and including every specific situation would be impossible. As always, the Policy Committee welcomes all questions and suggestions from any Al-Anon and Alateen member, group, or Area regarding issues that might need further clarification or interpretation in light of Al-Anon's Legacies.

