

Policy Committee Update

April 2021

Marianne B., 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 April 8, 2021. This has been a busy quarter for the Policy Committee! We were excited to offer five motions for consideration and discussion at the 2021 WSC.

In March, the written text of the motions was posted for comments and suggestions by the 2021 WSC members. After considering this valuable feedback, some modifications to the text were made and approved by both the Policy Committee and the Board of Trustees. After additional, thoughtful discussion, the amended motions were approved by the 2021 World Service Conference. A summary of the contents of the motions is provided below rather than the full text due to their length:

- To amend the text on pages 104-105 in the “Bequests” portion of the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies” (Policy Digest) section of the *2018-2021 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (P-24/27) version two (2) (*Service Manual*), by moving the second paragraph of the “Bequests” portion at the top of page 105 (beginning, “In maintaining...”) to page 103 directly after the heading “Contributions to WSO.”
- To approve the revised Alateen Preamble, which will be updated in all Conference Approved Literature (CAL) in accordance with reprint publication.

- To amend the text on pages 88-89 of the Policy Digest of the *Service Manual* to remove the portion titled “Electronic Meetings,” including its text entirely.
- To allow the WSO Staff to make housekeeping changes to the Policy Digest between Conferences after informing the Policy Committee.

The Electronic Meeting Work Group (EMWG) offered a Motion to amend the text in the “Announcing Events” portion of the Policy Digest. After discussion at the WSC, the EMWG Chair requested the Policy Chairperson accept a withdrawal of this Motion so that additional time could be given to consider all comments. The “Announcing Events” portion of the Policy Digest will continue to be reviewed and revised.

Both the CAL and Service Tools/Materials Task Force and the Membership and Group Meetings/Conventions Task Force presented text from the Policy Digest with recommended revisions and received suggestions from the Policy Committee. They will continue their work and bring more revisions to the July Policy Committee meeting.

Thank you to all Policy Committee members who work tirelessly on these many task/thought forces.

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.