

Policy Committee Update

January 2019

Norm W., Policy Committee Chairperson

Gail G., Policy Co-Chair

Sue P., Policy Secretary Designee

The purpose of the update sent each quarter by 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, and issues or concerns that need clarification or interpretation in light of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service;
- progress of work being done by Policy Committee work groups, task, and thought forces;
- policy motions to be presented to the World Service Conference (WSC); and
- policy motions passed by the WSC.

The Policy Committee continued its review of the “Membership and Group Meetings/Conventions” portion of the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies,” with the goal of describing the spiritual principles upon which the provisions are based. The Policy Committee also reviewed this section to see if any policy statements needed further clarity.

The Policy Committee continued its work of considering the need for a procedure to present Policy Committee motions to the WSC between Annual Meetings (aka Interim Conference Actions). The Policy Committee Thought Force used the Knowledge-Based Decision-Making questions in its review of the issue. The Policy Committee will create a task force to draft possible procedures for the entire Policy Committee to consider.

The Electronic Meetings Work Group (EMWG) is developing new ideas about how to improve our understanding of the needs and wants of electronic meetings and the role the WSO can play in helping the members in these meetings achieve Al-Anon’s primary purpose. The EMWG will continue its efforts to obtain information directly from the electronic meetings. The Work Group will also prepare and deliver a presentation at the 2019 World Service Conference.

Prior to the World Service Conference, the Policy Committee will provide the WSC members with its recommended revised text of the “Alateen Policy” section of the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies,” which has been approved by the Board of Trustees. After receiving feedback from the WSC members, the Policy Committee will present any additional proposed changes to the Board of Trustees. The final proposed revisions will be presented to the 2019 World Service Conference for its consideration.

The Policy Committee is in the process of reviewing other sections of the Policy Digest that have not been revised recently, to state the spiritual principles upon which the policies are based and to provide greater clarity. New task forces have been created to

review the “Conference Approved Literature and Service Tools/Materials” and “Local Services” portions of the Policy Digest.

In response to member questions, a task force is being created to review the Suggested Alateen Preamble to the Twelve Steps. The task force is charged with ensuring that the Preamble’s language is welcoming to potential teenage newcomers who are affected by someone else’s alcoholism and that it can be translated into the other two official AFG, Inc. languages, in accordance with our Legacies.

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 AI-Anon or Alateen. Changes and additions to the Policy Digest are made only as new circumstances and our growth require, since anticipating and including every specific situation would be impossible. As always, the Policy Committee welcomes all questions and suggestions from any AI-Anon or Alateen member, group, or Area regarding issues that might need further clarification or interpretation in light of our Legacies.