

## Policy Committee Update

Terry F., Chairperson

January 2020

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 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 light 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); and
- Policy motions passed by the WSC.

The Policy Committee meeting occurs quarterly, prior to the Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting. The Committee met January 22, 2020 from 8:00 am-12:00 pm with another very full agenda due to the number of active task forces, and policy topics discussed.

The Electronic Meeting Work Group, now a Work Group of the Board, asked to begin a discussion with the Policy Committee regarding the creation of a possible new service position for electronic meeting representation within the service structure. Due to the magnitude of the topic, including possible editing of the Policy Digest and other sections of the *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (P-24/27), the Policy Committee voted to continue discussion at future meetings.

The Policy Digest Interim Housekeeping Actions Task Force, formerly called the Interim Conference Actions Task Force, presented a proposed procedure for applying housekeeping changes to the Policy Digest, which was recommended by Staff at the Committee's request. The procedure was approved and will now be presented to the 2020 WSC as a Conference motion.

The Membership & Group Meetings/Conventions Policy Digest Review Task Force presented final text including revisions since the October 2019 Policy Committee meeting. The text was approved, and therefore a motion will be presented to the 2020 WSC to amend the text in the "Membership and Group Meetings/Conventions" section of the *Service Manual*.

The Conference Approved Literature & Service Tools/Materials Policy Digest Review Task Force presented recommendations for revised text and received suggestions. The Task Force will continue their work and present more revisions at the April 2020 Policy Committee meeting.

Discussion was held regarding clarification of the language on the Group Registration Form. Look for the edited language soon!

A discussion also occurred regarding the need to clarify the Social Media responsibilities in the Policy Digest. It was determined that both a thought force and a task force were needed to identify the exact clarification needed and to address any text revisions in the Policy Digest. Thought and task forces will be created when Policy Committee and Staff resources are available.

With the approaching WSC and current work continuing, creation of the thought force addressing the expansion of the Policy to consider past Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) members in Al-Anon service has been postponed.

After addressing administrative items, including approving the October 2019 Policy Committee minutes, and highlighting items from the Policy Secretary's report, the meeting adjourned.

During this quarter, the Policy Committee has continued to be busy. It is exciting to have two additional items ready to bring to Conference! I look forward to sharing with you progress regarding the ongoing work of the Policy Committee in the coming months. In the meantime, thank you to the members who have sent in letters asking for clarification on Policy matters. Your questions and thoughts are important.

As always, the Policy Committee welcomes all questions and suggestions from any Al-Anon/Alateen member, meeting, group, or Area regarding issues that might need further clarification or interpretation in light of our Legacies.