

Policy Committee Update

January 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 January 25, 2021 from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.

The Electronic Meeting Work Group (EMWG) offered revisions to the “Announcing Events” and “Electronic Meetings” portion of the Policy Digest, which the Policy Committee approved. A motion will be presented to the 2021 WSC to amend the text in the “Announcing Events” and the “Electronic Meetings” section of the *Service Manual*.

The Bequest Task Force made a recommendation, which the Policy Committee approved, in relocating a paragraph from “Bequests” to “Contributions to WSO.” It too, will now be presented to the 2021 WSC as a Conference motion for Conference approval.

Both the Membership and Group Meetings/Conventions Task Force and the Local Services Task Force presented recommendations for revisions to text from the Policy Digest, which led to more detailed, thoughtful discussions. After consideration by the Policy Committee, the Membership and Group Meetings/Conventions Task Force will continue its review. The Local Services Task Force completed their Charge, but the Policy Committee agreed to continue to review the “Autonomy of Groups” portion of the Policy Digest. A new Task Force may be established.

The Conference Approved Literature and Service Tools/Materials Task Force presented text from the Policy Digest with recommended revisions and received some suggestions from the Policy Committee. The Task Force will continue their work and then bring more revisions to the April Policy Committee meeting.

Pursuing a conversation begun by the Board of Trustees in October 2020, the Policy Committee discussed the need to formalize agreements with existing LDCs and bookstores based on the current *Literature Distribution Centers* guideline (G-18). The Policy Committee agreed that

development of such agreements was consistent with AI-Anon's Policy and Three Legacies, subject to final review by the Executive Committee, and that the Policy Committee would benefit from further discussion on literature distribution.

After addressing administrative items including the approval of the October 2020 Policy Committee minutes and the Policy Secretary's report, the meeting adjourned. During this quarter, the Policy Committee has continued to be extremely busy. It is exciting to have two additional items ready to bring to Conference! Thank you to all Policy Committee members who worked tirelessly on these many task/thought forces.

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