

Policy Committee Update

Terry F., Chairperson

July 2019

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 circumstances and our 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 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 meeting occurs quarterly, prior to the Board of Trustees meeting. The Policy Committee met July, 23rd, 2019 with a very full agenda.

As with all Board committees and work groups, the Policy Committee reviewed and approved its guideline prior to it being sent to the Executive Committee in August 2019 for final approval, as delegated by the Board of Trustees.

Discussion occurred regarding past members of A.A. wanting to participate in service to Al-Anon, due to a Chosen Agenda Item (CAI) sent in by a Delegate for the 2019 World Service Conference that had been referred to the Policy Committee. The Committee voted to form a Thought Force to further consider if the policy on Al-Anon members who are also members of A.A. participating in Al-Anon service applies to prior members of A.A., and how or if former members of A.A. might be defined and by whom.

The Electronic Meeting Work Group reviewed suggested text with the Policy Committee. The Work Group will bring further revisions to the October meeting. The Work Group also made a recommendation to be a Work Group of the Board after the text revision was complete, due to the ongoing work related to electronic meetings moving forward. Due to the topics being addressed by the Work Group, it was voted in favor of moving the Work Group to become a Board Work Group, with WSO staff members and Executive Committee members continuing to serve on it.

The Membership and Group Meeting Text Revision Task Force presented text for review. Part of their charge is to edit or remove text that is written as procedure rather

than Policy. The Task Force will be bringing the text back to the committee in October, in hopes that they will complete their Charge in time for the text to be brought to the 2020 World Service Conference (WSC).

The Interim Conference Actions Task Force brought a suggested housekeeping changes guideline and possible housekeeping examples document for discussion. Upon Policy Committee review, it was noted that while the original Charge focused on possible items appropriate for interim Conference voting, the materials presented focused on “housekeeping” not requiring Conference interim actions. The Policy Committee agreed that the Charge needed to be modified for better clarity. The Policy Committee also suggested that perhaps a second Thought Force could explore possible paths of resolution for those items not requiring Conference interim action.

The Local Services Text Revision Task Force presented suggested text for review. They too will bring back text to the October meeting, which eliminates or edits text written as procedure so that it is written as Policy.

The Conference Approved Literature & Service Tools/Materials Digest Review Task Force is working on pages 100-117 of the *2018-2021 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*. Though not ready to present text, the Task Force presented an outline of headings that provide better clarity. They asked for input regarding what else they should or should not include. After discussion, the Policy Committee agreed that the Task Force is progressing in the right direction. This Task Force will also present text at the next Policy meeting.

The Alateen Preamble Task Force has met once and plans to present text at the October Policy Committee meeting as well.

As you can see, the Policy Committee has much work in progress! I look forward to sharing the progress with you in the coming months.

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 our Legacies.