

Policy Committee Update

October 2018

Norm W., Policy Committee Chairperson

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The purpose of the update that is sent each quarter by the Chairperson of 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;
- Issues or concerns that need clarification or interpretation in light of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service;
- Progress of work being carried out 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 completed its review of the “Alateen” portion of the “Digest of Al-Anon/Alateen Policies” (Policy Digest). The Policy Committee recommended revisions of this section to the Board of Trustees. The proposed changes reflect the spiritual principles we apply as we adhere to the 2003 Alateen Motion from the Board of Trustees. Having been accepted by the Board of Trustees, these changes will be presented to the 2019 WSC in April.

Additionally, the Policy Committee continued its review of the “Membership and Groups” portion of the Policy Digest, with the goal of describing the spiritual principles upon which the provisions are based, in addition to any updates that may be appropriate.

The Policy Committee continued its work of considering a procedure for presenting Policy Committee motions to the WSC between annual meetings (aka Interim Conference Actions). The Policy Committee used the Knowledge-Based Decision-Making questions in its review of the issue. The Policy Committee will continue its work on this question.

The Electronic Meetings Work Group (EMWG) is reviewing existing archival material and brainstorming ideas of 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 Work Group will continue its discussions in the coming weeks with a goal of delivering a presentation at the 2019 WSC. Given the enormity and breadth of this subject, the EMWG will continue to focus on the gathering of additional information about electronic meetings.

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 requires, 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.