

Policy Committee Update

Terry F., Chairperson

October 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 October 16, 2019 from 8:00-12:30 with another very full agenda due to the number of active Thought and Task Forces.

We began by asking for comments or questions related to the Policy Committee Guideline after it had been reviewed and additional updates made by the Executive Committee. As there were no further comments, the Policy Committee Guideline annual review was finished, and the Guideline was considered finalized.

The Alateen Preamble Task Force presented their recommendations for revision. After discussion and some revisions suggested by Policy Committee members, the material was approved and will be presented to the 2020 World Service Conference for final approval.

The Electronic Meeting Work Group, which was moved from the Policy Committee to the Board of Trustees, finished their Electronic Meetings portion of the "Policy Digest" section of the *2018-2021 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* version two (2) text review and provided recommendations. After discussion and minor revisions, the Policy Committee approved the Policy Digest text. The Electronic Meetings revised text will also be going to the 2020 WSC for review and approval.

The Local Services Policy Digest Review Task Force presented their latest recommendations for text revision. The Policy Committee approved, with minor edits, the Local Services portion of the Policy Digest revised text. This material will be going to the 2020 WSC for discussion and approval as well.

Following discussion in July, the Task Force that had been called the Interim Conference Actions Task Force was renamed the Policy Digest Interim Housekeeping Actions Task Force, and its charge was revised to more clearly reflect the purpose of the Task Force's

work. The Task Force presented their most recent results, including a revised list of examples of possible Policy Digest housekeeping items and a suggested process for addressing housekeeping issues in the Policy Digest. Through Policy Committee discussion, a decision was made to enlist the assistance of Staff in defining a process or procedure for dealing with housekeeping items, since the Staff has extensive experience in correcting housekeeping items in other parts of the *Service Manual*, and other materials. The process suggested by Staff will be discussed at the next quarterly Policy Committee meeting with the goal of presenting a motion to the 2020 WSC.

The Membership & Group Meetings/Conventions Policy Digest Review Task Force presented recommendations for text they revised since the July Policy Committee meeting. The Task Force continues to make progress. They plan to continue discussion electronically with the Policy Committee between now and the January 2020 Policy Committee meeting. This is in hopes of Policy Committee's final approval in January and its presentation and vote by the 2020 WSC.

The Thought Force Past A.A. Members Involved in Al-Anon Service presented their KBDM and recommendations to the Policy Committee. After a lengthy discussion, the Policy Committee determined that a Task Force was needed to expand the current policy regarding Al-Anon members who are or have been members of A.A. and who are involved in Al-Anon service. This new Task Force will be formed and its charge written before the next Policy Committee meeting in January 2020.

The Conference Approved Literature & Service Tools/Materials Policy Digest Review Task Force presented recommended revised text and received some suggestions from the Policy Committee. Due to shortness of time remaining in the meeting, the Task Force will continue their work and present more revisions in January 2020 to the Policy Committee.

After addressing administrative items, including approving the July 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 so many items ready to bring to Conference! I look forward to sharing with you the progress regarding the ongoing work in the coming months.

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