

Policy Committee Update

October 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 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)
- Policy motions passed by the WSC.

The Policy Committee met virtually on Friday, October 15, 2021 for four hours and discussed the following topics.

The Chairperson welcomed two new members to the Policy Committee Meeting – Sarah S., Director of Programs, and Heather S., Associate Director—Community Relations.

The Social Media and Public Outreach Task Force (Social Media TF) members continued their discussion from July on the policy of creating and sharing blogs, profiles, and social media pages. The Social Media TF assisted the Policy Committee in discussing the different roles of the WSO, service arms, groups, and individuals when it comes to public outreach using social media. We look forward to this Task Force bringing back additional thoughts, questions, and insights to the January Policy Committee meeting.

At the 2021 WSC, the “Announcing Events” Policy Task Force presented suggested revisions to the “Announcing Events” portion of the Policy Digest. As a result, the discussion raised some questions that required additional thought and time. Thus, the Task Force Chair recommended, and the Policy Chairperson agreed, to withdraw the recommendations at the 2021 WSC to allow for additional discussion by the Policy Committee. In consideration of this background information, the new 2022 Announcing Events Policy Task Force brought forward a discussion regarding whether revisions are required to either the “Announcing Events” or the “Workshops” portions of the Policy Digest to best reflect the intention to support groups announcing group events, such as anniversaries, speaker meetings, etc. The conversation was interesting and informative. We look forward to additional discussion at the January Policy Committee meeting.

The Local Services Policy Task Force brought forward a discussion on the “Autonomy of Groups” portion of the Policy Digest. The Policy Committee agreed it would be beneficial to review the entire “Local Services” portion of the Policy Digest, rather than just the “Autonomy of Groups.” Since this Task Force’s charge focused solely on “Autonomy of Groups,” the Policy Committee agreed to consider a new charge which would include a broader review of “Local Services.”

It is a busy year for the Policy Committee! Thank you to all the members of these task and thought forces and Staff who worked so tirelessly to bring this work to the Policy Committee.

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.