

Policy Committee Update

April 2024

Debbie P., Incoming Chairperson

Pennie K., Outgoing 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 AI-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 and 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 in person on April 17, 2024.

- The **Choosing a Group's Name Task Force** presented policy wording changes to update the "Choosing a Group's Name" section of the *2022-2025 AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27)* to be more welcoming, inviting, and inclusive to all members and potential members. After receiving feedback and opportunity for discussion, the new policy was approved at the 2024 WSC. The Task Force will now disband.
- **Local Services Task Force (TF)**: The Policy Committee reviewed the TF suggestions stemming from Conference and TF member feedback. Amendments were approved by the Policy Committee and the Board of Trustees (BOT) before being presented to the WSC by the Policy Committee. A motion was passed at the WSC to remove "Naming a Service" and "Answering Services," as they are considered procedure, and rename "Employees in AI-Anon Services" to "Service Participation by Employees in AI-Anon Services" and move that information to page 86.
- WSO Staff recognized that the term "service entity(ies)" was not defined in the *Service Manual* and references to it needed to be removed from the next version of the *Service Manual* and replaced with "service arm(s)." The action was taken in accordance with the approved Interim Action Housekeeping Changes procedures for the Policy Digest.

- The Policy Committee brought to the WSC an opportunity to consider the question, for discussion only: “Is the gendered language in the Steps and Traditions in alignment with Al-Anon’s Legacies?” The Al-Anon World Service Conference Charter, Section 3: Relation to Al-Anon, bullet four, was reinforced and clarified that this conversation was to focus only on the identified question.
- Once every three years, Conference members are invited to observe an open Policy Committee discussion. At this year’s WSC, Delegates were invited to observe the Policy Committee as they participated in a thoughtful and spiritual discussion initiated from the question:

In Al-Anon/Alateen meetings, we acknowledge our connection to someone else’s drinking, recognizing the impact it has on our lives. The only requirement for membership is that there be a problem of alcoholism in a relative or friend. How might we, as individual members, keep the focus on maintaining the sense of unity and belonging that is the essence of the Al-Anon/Alateen program and help each other avoid becoming overly attached to external identities (e.g. gender, race, ethnicity, age, etc.)?

This discussion was a great compliment to the “Choosing a Group’s Name” Policy discussion at the WSC.

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.