

Policy Committee Update

July 2025

Debbie P., 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 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 July 28th & 29th, 2025.

2025-2026 Concept Study Task Force:

This year's Task Force is charged with creating and facilitating four one-hour study sessions on the first four Al-Anon Concepts of Service. Each session is to be held at the quarterly Policy Committee meetings. July's session was Concept One. These sessions are intended to foster the application of spiritual principles in our Policy Committee discussions. This study has been well received by our Policy Committee members due to the depth of the experience, strength, and hope shared with one another.

Thought Force:

Dilution of the Al-Anon Program Text Review—Professional Involvement:

This Thought Force was charged with continuing the conversation that began in 2019 on the "Dilution of the Al-Anon Program" section of the "Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies" in the *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*. Earlier Thought Forces had facilitated Policy Committee conversations on the "Labels" and "Drugs/Narcotics/Prescription Medications" sections. This Thought Force was charged with preparing and facilitating a discussion to clarify the Policy Committee members' understanding of the interpretation of our basic guides, the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service, about one

remaining section within “Dilution of the Al-Anon Program” in the Policy Digest: “Professional Involvement.”

The Thought Force shared a Knowledge-Based Decision-Making document for consideration and facilitated a principle-based conversation. The discussion clarified member understanding while also identifying other possible means of program dilution. After discussion, the Policy Committee agreed the next step was to charge a new Thought Force to more broadly evaluate the full scope of what dilutes the Al-Anon program.

Choosing a Group’s Name Update:

In keeping with Concept Five, the Policy Committee began this discussion by discussing the appeals received from groups and members after the March 31 deadline which had been distributed before the meeting. Committee members concluded these appeals referenced the same concerns as those received before the deadline.

WSO Staff provided an update on the web conference held with Area Group Records Coordinators (AGRC), Delegates, and their Alternates in June. On the call, several skits were presented, and later shared, to support Area Delegates in facilitating Area discussions over the coming year. Additionally, WSO Staff discussed how to expand Area Delegate and AGRC involvement in conversations with groups to ensure all are familiar with Al-Anon’s Tradition of welcoming all those who have a “problem of alcoholism in a relative or friend.”

The Policy Committee expressed its commitment to supporting the Areas and preparing for continuation of the “Choosing a Group’s Name” Policy implementation discussion at the 2026 WSC.

The Policy Committee is committed to continuing to support and prepare for the continuation of this discussion with the 2026 WSC.

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