

Policy Committee Update

July 2026

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 Wednesday, July 22, 2026.

2026-2027 Concept Study Task Force

This year's Concept Task Force has been charged with creating and facilitating four one-hour study sessions on Concepts Five through Eight. These sessions are designed to foster the application of spiritual principles within our Policy Committee discussions. Committee members have shared how these studies help set a spiritual tone for Policy and Board conversations. July's session was Concept Five.

Policy Committee Orientation

As part of the new WSO Volunteer orientation, a session was held during July Board week to provide an overview of the Policy Committee. The session covered the Committee's purpose and composition and the members' responsibilities.

Impact of Policy Committee & Policy Worldwide Discussion

In October 2025, the Policy Committee held a very similar discussion. The purpose was to offer an opportunity to reflect on and consider at a deeper level the impact of the World Service Office Policy Committee and its discussions on Al-Anon Policy worldwide. As there are a significant number of new WSO Volunteers on board this year, the Committee decided to revisit the conversation and perhaps include new perspectives.

At the forefront of our Policy discussions and potential recommendations of Policy statement text changes, we must always remember that the "Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies is the one section of our *Service Manual* that cannot be modified or adapted by other international structures.

Overview of In-Progress Thought & Task Forces

This session gave a high-level overview of work currently in progress. The intention was to provide a baseline of information so that when these work groups were ready to present their work to the Policy Committee, Committee members would have a foundational understanding of the charge and the work completed. The Policy Committee will report to the membership when any of these work groups are prepared to present.

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.