

Policy Committee Update

April 2022

Marianne B., Outgoing Chairperson

Jeri W., Incoming 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, task forces, 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 April 25, 2022.

In January, the Policy Committee and the Board of Trustees approved a motion to amend page 127 of the “Public Outreach” section of the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies” section of the *2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27) v1*. In February, the chairperson of the Public Outreach in Relation to Social Media Task Force (TF) posted the proposed Policy Digest changes for 2022 WSC members’ review. After considering WSC members’ valuable feedback, the TF made some further modifications which were approved by both the Policy Committee and the Board of Trustees. The amended text was presented at the 2022 WSC and approved:

- To amend page 127 of the “Public Outreach” section of the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies” section of the *2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27) v1*, as amended to reflect the World Service Conference members’ feedback.

The Announcing Events Task Force brought forward suggested recommendations to pages 90-92 of the “Conventions and Other Events” section of the Policy Digest. After thoughtful discussion, the Policy Committee and the Board of Trustees both approved their recommendations. Since there was not enough time to solicit WSC members’ feedback prior to the Conference, this Task Force will bring their recommendations to the 2023 WSC.

The discussion the Local Services Task Force brought forward helped clarify paragraphs to better reflect policy, as well as continuity to paragraphs that might be better suited to a different location within the Policy Digest. We look forward to further discussion.

Once every three years, the Policy Committee invites the members of the WSC to sit in and observe an open policy discussion. At this year's WSC, Delegates were invited to observe the Policy Committee members as they participated in a thoughtful and spiritual discussion about the Traditions and Al-Anon principles which apply to the selection of a group's name. The conversation yielded guidance for the WSO Staff who are delegated responsibility for implementing this policy during the new group registration process.

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.