

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 virtually on January 27, 2026.

2025-2026 Concept Study Task Force:

This year's Concept Task Force has been charged with creating and facilitating four one-hour study sessions on the first four Al-Anon Concepts of Service. Each session is being held immediately prior to the quarterly Policy Committee meetings. January's session was Concept Three. These sessions are designed to foster the application of spiritual principles within our Committee discussions. Committee members have shared how valuable these studies have been in helping set a spiritual tone as we begin policy discussions and move into subsequent Board meeting topics and conversations.

Thought Force: Interim Policies and Policy Revisions Process:

Through previous conversations, the Policy Committee expressed consensus in support of clarifying the origin and intention of "interim policies" as well as the practice of restricting draft Policy Digest text as "WSC Confidential." This practice was seen as limiting the opportunity for Al-Anon Family Groups to exercise their ultimate authority and responsibility as described in Concept One.

This Thought Force was charged with reflecting on the background information provided and using Knowledge-Based Decision Making (KDBM) to identify the current needs and wants of the groups, WSC Structure trusted servants, and worldwide stakeholders (Al-Anon international structures); current dynamics; and ethical implications as relates to

the review of proposed Policy Digest changes (“interim policies”) prior to WSC presentation.

They were also asked to develop strategies informed by the KBDM to ensure the identified needs and wants of the groups and/or their trusted servants for reviewing these “interim policies” are met.

The Thought Force presented its background information and proposed strategies, and following discussion and consideration, a motion was made to form a Policy Committee Task Force to refine the strategies presented. More will be revealed after future Policy Committee conversations.

Discussion on the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Polices” Changes Necessary to Support Alateen Groups Meeting Electronically:

The feasibility of supporting Alateen groups meeting electronically has been a Strategic Plan Strategy of the Board of Trustees since 2020. The Global Electronic Alateen Safety Minimums (Global EASM) and the World Service Conference Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements (WSC EASBR) have been developed, along with requirements for Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service Serving Electronic Alateen Groups (AMIAS-E). The WSC EASBR was presented to the 2025 WSC in hopes it would serve as the foundation necessary for the 2026 WSC to formally recognize Alateen groups meeting electronically as Al-Anon Family Groups.

As part of preparing for this process, a Staff Work Group (WG) was formed and identified a list of recommended modifications to the current Alateen Policy text along with several additions. Through this process, it was also noted that much of the information contained within the Alateen Policy in the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies” (Policy Digest) was perhaps not policy but procedure. These recommended modifications were documented in an index to the full Policy Committee for review.

At the conclusion of a reflective and thoughtful discussion, the Committee made and carried two motions. These will separate Alateen procedures from Alateen Policy in our *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (P-24/27), which will provide greater clarity for our Alateen trusted servants globally. The Board of Trustees supported the motions, which included moving current content that is Alateen “procedure” into the World Service Handbook. The revisions will be brought to the World Service Conference for approval.

“Choosing a Group’s Name” Policy Implementation Discussion:

The Policy Committee, in cooperation with World Service Office Staff, continues its commitment to support and move forward the “Choosing a Group’s Name” Policy Implementation conversation at the 2026 WSC. Prior to the January meeting, Committee members were given an outline of the proposed approach for the 2026 WSC discussion,

which emphasized the criticality of conversations on policy topics involving participation from all WSC members.

Since the 2025 WSC, Delegates have been busy gathering information and perspectives from their Area members on this topic in ways best suited to their individual Areas. Prior to the 2026 WSC, the Policy Committee will be providing a survey for the Area Delegates to share this feedback. This information will be compiled and available for all Conference members ahead of the WSC to support an informed discussion. In addition, time will be allocated during the Conference to allow dialoguing and sharing additional viewpoints, helping to ensure that all Conference members are well informed as we continue to discuss this topic.

Al-Anon Branding Guideline for Trusted Servants Tagline Recommendation

In 2025, as part of the Branding Guideline for Trusted Servants Strategy, a third party reviewed the Al-Anon brand assets, including the trademarked name and logo and the tagline. The vendor suggested Al-Anon adopt a shorter tagline for memorability, clarity, versatility, impact, and differentiation. The Policy discussion was centered around our current tagline of “Help and hope for families and friends of alcoholics.” After a generative discussion, consensus was reached to direct Staff to consider alternatives for an updated tagline based on the Policy Committee’s feedback.

Housekeeping Changes Re: “Who can Start a Group” Policy

As per the 2021 WSC’s Motion 11, it is permitted “to allow the WSO Staff to make housekeeping changes to the ‘Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies.’” In accordance with that delegated authority, the Policy Committee was provided information and ultimately carried a motion that supported housekeeping changes removing the word “Alateen” from the “Who Can Start a Group?” Policy on page 83 of the Policy Digest. This change was necessary as Alateen groups can only be started by Al-Anon members certified by their Areas.

Revised Staff Policy Implementation Round Table (SPIRiT) Purpose

The Committee was informed of SPIRiT’s efforts to revise their Purpose to reflect their specific responsibilities and commitment to referring complex matters to the Policy Committee. Their recommendation was supported by motion.

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.