

Policy Committee Update

Pennie K., Chairperson

January 2024

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 Policy Committee meeting occurs quarterly prior to the Board of Trustees meeting. The Policy Committee met virtually on January 30, 2024.

The purpose of the update sent each quarter by the Policy Committee Chairperson is to report progress and provide information on the following:

- *Registering Multiple Meetings Thought Force*: The Thought Force brought forward recommendations, based on the information they gathered, that did not support having a numerical limit on the number of meetings a group may have. It did recommend the “Registration of Groups” section on page 85 of the *2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P24/27) v2* for anyone who would benefit from information and guidance when registering a group. The Policy Committee will take this recommendation forward.
- *Choosing a Group Name Task Force*: The Policy Committee had a discussion regarding the recommendation of the Task Force and approved the revised policy for “Choosing a Group’s Name,” found on pages 85 and 86 of the *Service Manual*. The revised section will be presented for discussion and approval at the 2024 World Service Conference (WSC).
- *Open Policy Committee meeting at WSC*: The Policy Committee holds an open Policy Committee meeting at the WSC every three years. This will be an informative and engaging discussion on a topic that will help WSC members gain a better understanding of how the Policy Committee operates.
- *Letters from Members*: We discussed a concern raised by an Al-Anon member regarding a former A.A. member who had served as a Delegate. We gathered information and background on this topic and will continue discussing it in a future Policy meeting.
- *Discussion: Minors not allowed in Al-Anon meetings*: The Policy Committee discussed this topic at its October 2023 meeting. Discussion at the January meeting was deferred pending further information.

The Policy Committee Thought and Task Force discussions continue to exemplify the thoughtfulness, open-mindedness, humility, and courage that each member expresses to make the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies” clear and concise. As always, I thank Staff, the Board of Trustees, and the Executive Committee for their time, talents, and gifts to the fellowship, but most of all for their diligence in using spiritual principles in all they bring to the table.

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.