

Policy Committee Update

Pennie K., Chairperson

July 2023

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 in person on July 25, 2023.

We approved changes to the Policy Committee Guidelines that are reviewed every year. One section was added on how the Policy Committee supports the AFG, Inc. Strategic Plan and its Vision by reinforcing:

- The Recovery and Service Tools Goal through spiritually principled interpretation of our basic guides and by sharing the collective experience of the families and friends of alcoholics in the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen.”
- The Global Engagement Goal by passing on experience to incoming trusted servants using effective approaches for each new generation of the global fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups.

The Choosing a Group Name Task Force facilitated a Policy Committee discussion on the draft they presented for an update to the *Service Manual*. To ensure we arrive at answers that are consistent, loving, and helpful, the Policy Committee will continue this conversation at future meetings until consensus is achieved.

The Policy Committee discussed a question from the membership: “*Is the gendered language in the Steps and Traditions in alignment with Al-Anon’s Legacies?*” The fellowship has been discussing similar questions for many years. This one was worded in a way that supported starting a Policy Committee conversation. The discussion was spiritual, robust, and powerful. We looked at this question through the eyes of our Legacies and the spiritual principles that are woven within them. Engaging in this conversation does not alter the boundaries established in the Al-Anon World Service Conference Charter. The conversation will continue in the future.

Reflecting on the Policy Committee Thought and Task Force discussions, they 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.