

Policy Committee Update

October 2025

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 October 14, 2025.

2025-2026 Concept Study Task Force:

This year's 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 to be held at the quarterly Policy Committee meetings. October's session was on Concept Two. These sessions are intended to foster the application of spiritual principles in our Policy Committee discussions. Initiating our Policy Committee Meeting conversations with a discussion focused on our guiding principles contained within our Concepts of Service is a great way to lead into our Policy discussions.

Dilution of the Al-Anon Program Thought Force:

This Policy Committee Thought Force had been charged to review previous Policy Committee Thought Force reports/minutes/recommendations regarding this topic as well as the entire section "Dilution of the Al-Anon Program" within our Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies.

Following this review, they were to identify and capture the full scope of ideas of what it means to dilute the Al-Anon program in accordance with our basic principles and then present their ideas to the Policy Committee for consideration.

The Thought Force presented a report which captured a comprehensive list of examples of what could dilute the Al-Anon program and noted which Tradition and ultimate spiritual principle were affected by these topics.

This initiated further discussion by the Policy Committee members and led to a motion to form a Policy Committee Task Force to revise the current text of the “Dilution of the Al-Anon Program” Policy to reflect the Policy Committee’s interpretation of the Al-Anon Traditions and Concepts of Service.

Impact of Policy Committee & Policy Worldwide:

Before joining the Policy meeting, the Committee members were requested to review what is documented about the definition, purpose, and role of the Policy Committee and its members. They were then asked to consider how the work done by the Policy Committee and the statements contained within the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policy” impact all levels of service. This process includes how our decisions might impact Al-Anon globally and not just the World Service Conference (WSC) Structure. Also considered was the Policy Committee’s visionary responsibility to consider questions through the lenses of our Traditions and Concepts.

This agenda item offered the opportunity for a generative discussion and increased understanding among all Policy Committee members of the scope of Committee responsibilities across our worldwide fellowship.

Choosing a Group’s Name Policy & Implementation Update:

The Policy Committee, in cooperation with World Service Office Staff, continues its commitment to support and advance the “Choosing a Group’s Name” Policy Implementation conversation at the 2026 WSC. The Committee members were provided with a background and a brief update on group name submissions to the WSO following the 2025 WSC decision.

At the October meeting, Committee members reinforced their desire to ensure Conference members are all as well informed as possible to continue the conversation. The Committee agreed that for the 2026 WSC conversation to be effective, the Delegates would need adequate time to share what they have learned from their Area members. Only in this way can the Conference be fully informed to achieve a group conscience of Al-Anon Family Groups on implementation of this Policy. Committee conversations will continue as we prepare for the 2026 WSC.

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.