

Policy Committee Update

Debbie P., Chairperson

July 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 AI-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 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 in person on July 22-23, 2024.

2024-2025 Concept Study Task Force presented the first installment of the Policy Committee Concept Study, which offers members the opportunity to study the Concepts collectively together throughout this year. The July session focused on Concepts One through Three. Members appreciated and valued the opportunity to explore the Concepts as a group, particularly in the context of their world service responsibilities.

The Policy Committee Guideline was reviewed in advance and together, affording an opportunity for the members to achieve mutual understanding and accuracy of their roles. Edits for clarity were approved.

Local Services Task Force: Autonomy of Groups presented their report on progress to date. The conversation started, but no recommendations were finalized during the meeting. The Task Force was asked to continue their work and return with further recommendations to the 2024 October Policy Committee meeting.

As a result of the 2024 WSC's approval of the "Choosing a Group's Name" Policy, the Staff Policy Implementation Round Table (SPiRiT) brought forward recommendations for the Policy Committee related to WSO implementation of new procedures to reflect the updated Policy. The recommendations were accompanied by background on the WSO procedures related to group names, including the historical preference of groups across the WSC Structure for using the "focus" (now called "Participants") field for community identification. When the "focus" field had been removed earlier, trusted servants reported their groups still wanted that feature to help members search for a meeting in which they felt comfortable.

A thoughtful and spiritual discussion occurred, which resulted in the Policy Committee confirming that the proposed WSO procedures align with the new Choosing a Group's Name Policy. Through this confirmation, the WSO was directed to:

- Register new groups and update existing group names only when their name does not contain community-identifying designations.
- Guide groups seeking to encourage community-specific participation to use the "Participants" designation.

The Committee directed Staff to communicate widely through the links of service so that existing groups with names containing such designations would be encouraged to practice "obedience to the unenforceable" by aligning their group name with the new Policy.

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.