Understanding
the Legal and the Traditional

Southern California World Service (SCWS) of AFG, Inc.
a Corporation

and

Southern California World Service (SCWS)
the Assembly
the Fellowship

The Corporation (Legal) Is Separate from the Fellowship (Traditional)

When Al-Anon Areas incorporate as legal entities, we have a special **duty** to separate the ***legal*** dimensions of the corporation from the ***traditional*** dimensions of the Al-Anon program.

What Didn’t We Know Before and What Do We Know Now?
(continued)

New information has provided us with an opportunity to clarify the traditional and the legal roles.

This presentation is intended to educate and inform our AWSC and then Assembly members why we are embarking on this process.

What Didn't We Know Before and What Do We Know Now?

History:

In an effort to bridge the legal and traditional relationship of Officers, Area Coordinators, recognized Convention Chairs, AIS/LDC Liaisons, District Representatives (DRs) – the AWSC, and the Assembly with our registered GRs, our SCWS Bylaws have unintentionally **blended and combined the legal and traditional** so that the entire AWSC and GRs are part of the legal corporation.

The legal and traditional need to be separate with clearly defined roles.

What Didn’t We Know Before and What Do We Know Now?
(continued)

We have also discovered that
we are not alone!

Many other Areas have the same issues.

What is a Board in a Legal Corporation?

The “Board” is
the “Board of Directors.”

In SCWS, the elected Officers are
the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors of SCWS have two roles.

The elected Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary serve in both roles

- They are the elected **Officers of the Assembly** with **traditional duties,** and
- **The Board of Directors/Officers of the Corporation** with **legal/Fiduciary Duties**.

Board of Directors/Officers Responsibilities

“Fiduciary Duties” – the legal obligation to act in the best interests of another party, rather than one’s own interest.

The Directors/Officers of nonprofit corporations have four fiduciary responsibilities:

- Duty of Care
- Duty of Loyalty
- Duty of Obedience
- Duty of Foresight

Who Represents the Traditional Roles the SCWS Assembly?

- The Officers of the Assembly, Area Coordinators, and remaining Area World Service Committee (AWSC) members represent the traditional element of the fellowship and perform activities on behalf of the Assembly.

- The Assembly is comprised of all of the above plus the Group Representatives (GRs).

What is the Role of the Coordinators?

Area Coordinator *An Al-Anon member, not necessarily a Group Representative (GR), appointed by the World Service Delegate or Assembly Chairman, or elected or appointed according to Area autonomy*. The Coordinator usually serves for a three-year term and votes at the Area World Service Committee (AWSC) meetings, but not at the Assembly unless he is a GR. An Area Coordinator unifies one of the Al-Anon special services for an Area (such as Alateen, Archives, The Forum…).*

(Pg. 140, 2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual)

*In our Area, the Coordinators are appointed by the the Assembly Chairperson, in cooperation and consensus with the Officers of the Assembly.

Our Area Is Working Towards. . .

- Separating the traditional roles of the fellowship and the legal roles of the corporation

- Walking through separating the two roles with Restated and Amended Bylaws and a Policy and Procedure Handbook

What's Next?

We will be forming a Task Force to begin the process of restating and amending the Bylaws. These will reflect only the legal aspects of the corporation. They will be reviewed by a corporate attorney with strong experience in nonprofits.

We will also be forming a committee to create a Policies & Procedures Handbook to clarify the Area's practices. Much of what is in our Bylaws now is Area Policy, already voted on by our GRs.

Questions?