

Delegate's Report November 2018

Recent Email Communication from our World Service Office (WSO)

Area members asked these questions below. Sue Perez, WSO Associate Director—Group Services, was consulted regarding the questions/answers.

1. Q. Is it all right to use older editions of the *Service Manual* for group (and District) business, group readings, etc.?

A. Previous *Service Manuals* are outdated and do not reflect current policy or practice. In our current version on the first page, it states: **“This 2018-2021 edition of the *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27)* replaces any previous editions.”**

2. Q. My meeting uses old hand typed copies of the suggested *Welcome, Preamble to the Twelve Steps* and *Steps, Closing*, and other Conference Approved Literature (CAL) such as *Understanding Ourselves, Three Obstacles to Success*, etc..

A. Use of typed copies of Conference Approved Literature is a violation of copyright as outlined in the Policy Digest section of “Conference Approved Literature and Service Tools/ Materials” beginning on page 110. By using the actual CAL we maintain the integrity of the written, copyrighted words found therein. [“Groups at Work”(p-24) copies are a great alternative.]

- Additional Note:** Before we had *Service Manuals* with the design/layout that we use now, meetings often used notebooks with typed copies of Al-Anon materials. Reference to these “copies” can be found in *Many Voices, One Journey*, p. 165. “In 1972, the Executive Committee voted to insert a mimeographed sheet into all copies in stock of *Al-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work*. This sheet included the revised Preamble to the Twelve Steps, the Suggested Welcome, and the new Suggested Closing. This sheet was included in the packets for new groups, and also mailed in October to groups, along with a Beginner’s Meeting Format.”

3. Q. I attended a group that used the 1960’s edition of *Living With An Alcoholic* (B-5) as the source for all readings during the meeting. Is this recommended?

A. There is no set policy regarding use of CAL literature that is discontinued/no longer in print. What members share is that the experiences expressed in this earlier literature are not reflective of today’s issues with families of alcoholics. Page 110 of the “Policy Digest” refers to the purpose of creating CAL as new material and revisions of material.

July 2018 Chairperson of the Board (COB) Letter

“The purpose of this Chairperson of the Board letter is to share highlights from our 2018 International Convention and the July 2018 Board Week. You will also find updates from our Policy Chairperson, a finance update from our Treasurer and a Conference Leadership Team (CLT) update.”

(The complete COB letter can be found on the WSO website, al-anon.org, Members, Board of Trustees page.)

The following are some of the highlights from the COB letter:

- The 2018 International Convention attendance records were broken with 4,044 attendees. The next International Convention will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 2023.

- The Board of Trustees approved the following Motions:
 1. To approve a special project to provide professional interpretation, when required, to support Spanish-and French-speaking Delegates who attend the World Service Conference.

Marcia's Extra Note: *At the 2018 World Service Conference (WSC) there was a Delegate whose primary language was French. He could understand English, however he was not as fluent/comfortable communicating in English as he would have been in French.*

2. That the Board of Trustees directs the World Service Office to send a statement alerting all registered groups on the importance of discussing and creating safety guidelines.

M's Extra Note: *There has also been a request to the WSO Literature Committee to create a pamphlet regarding safety, addressing issues both outside and inside of our meetings.*

3. That the Board of Trustees direct the WSO Staff to utilize the Policy Committee criteria presented at the 2012 World Service Conference to ensure that an Area has established a fair and balanced “Do Not Refer” and “Re-Refer” policy. These criteria allow the WSO to support Area “Do Not Refer” group conscience decisions and remove group meetings from the WSO meeting list. Groups not being referred by the WSO remain active and registered.

M's Extra Note: *Each Area may create their own "Do Not Refer/Re-Refer" Policy based on the 2012 Policy Committee's criteria. The Southern California World Service (SCWS) Area created a "Do Not Refer/ Re-Refer" policy that was approved by the Assembly Nov. 2016. The Southern California Policy For Resolving Group and Member Concerns can be viewed on our SCWS website, scws-al-anon.org, by selecting "Assembly Presentations", and scrolling to the bottom of the page- "Task Force for Resolving Group and Member Concerns". Our Policy was sent to WSO for review Sept. 27, 2018. After our Policy is reviewed/approved by WSO, we will have WSO's support for future Area "Do Not Refer" decisions. If a group is placed in "Do Not Refer" status, they will still remain "active", with a voice and vote at the Area and Al-Anon Information Service (AIS) level. However the group is removed from AIS/Intergroup and WSO directories. There is a provision (and procedures to follow) in our Policy for a group to submit a request to be "relisted" (Re-Refer).*

October 2018 Chairperson of the Board (COB) Letter

- There's a new **Slogans** page on our al-anon.org website, see “Members”... “Literature”.
- The “**Just for Tonight**” bookmark is ready for print, pricing at \$0.10. Announcements of availability on AFG Connects and *In the Loop*.
- ***In the Loop***: Do you receive the *In the Loop* email? This is the WSO email newsletter. You can register to receive *In the Loop* at al-anon.org/emailme.

- **At-Large Committee Members:** WSO is accepting résumés for *Forum* Editorial Advisory Committee (FEAC), Literature, Public Outreach and Audit. Deadline: Jan.1, 2019. At Large members can live anywhere. Link to the résumé (and requirements) found in COB letter (Ten continuous years in Al-Anon and not a member of AA).
- **Membership Survey, 2018:** posted on al-anon.org/surveyresults; there is a PowerPoint.
- **Financial Update:** available in COB letter; contributions increased in September, however we are still behind for budgeted contribution goals.

Additional Information:

- The **WSO financial information** (Audit, Budget, etc) is available on the WSO website (al-anon.org/for-members/wso/financial-information)
- Latest October 2018 **Chairperson of the Board Letter:** will be posted soon on www.al-anon.org. “Members”... “Board of Trustees”.
- The electronic version of the **2018 World Service Conference Summary** is available on the website, www.al-anon.org. Hover over the *Members* tab, then click *World Service Conference (WSC)*. You can download the *Summary* or access the order form to purchase copies for \$5 each. The **WSC Summary** is available at most **Literature Distribution Centers (LDC)**.
- The **2019 World Service Conference (WSC)** will be held in Virginia Beach. The 2019 WSC Theme: “*Action is Attraction - There is No Growth in the Comfort Zone*”.
- Our **SCWS Area** has two special email communication links. For Alateen/AMIAS related questions/concerns: alateen-amiasconcerns@scws-al-anon.org. For group and member questions/concerns: groupandmemberconcerns@scws-al-anon.org.