

*Southern California Policy for Resolving
Group and Member Concerns*

Where are we now?

Presented by: Marcia & Donna

History....

- 2012 Thought Force question:
“How can Southern California World Service (SCWS) support Districts and Intergroups in dealing with groups whose activities do not consider Al-Anon as a whole?”
- 2014 Thought Force conclusion:
Create a Task Force “to prepare an Area policy to help meetings remain consistent with Al-Anon Traditions and policies as presented in the Service Manual.”

History....

- In 2016 the “Groups that do not consider Al-Anon as a whole” Task Force gave a detailed presentation at the November Assembly.
- More than two-thirds of the Area’s Group Representatives voted to approve the new policy.

The Southern California Policy for Resolving Group and Member Concerns...

- Establishes a process to begin communication
- Puts conversation, fact-finding, and education first
- groupandmemberconcerns@scws-al-anon.org
- For complete *Policy* information, see scws-al-anon.org>Assembly Presentation

Examples of Group/Member Concerns:

- Use of outside literature (not CAL), such as the “Big Book”
- Groups that don't allow A.A. members to share during the AI-Anon meeting
- Female members are told they must wear a skirt/dress to be a Speaker
- Group funds misused or are contributed to an outside entity

What happens after SCWS receives a concern?

- The Area Representatives (Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Area Chair or Immediate Past Delegate) acknowledge receiving the concern.
- They make an initial assessment of the concern.
- They may directly contact the concerned member and/or a representative of the meeting in question, or request assistance from the District Representative.

What happens after the District Representative is contacted by an Area Representative?

- The DR will decide if he/she is able/comfortable with starting a conversation with the GR/CMA of the meeting with concerns.
- An Area Representative will be available to support the DR throughout the process, including assistance with researching CAL related to the concern.

Getting your ducks in a row...



- Research Our Conference Approved Literature
 - ✓ *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, 2018-2021*
 - ✓ *Many Voices, One Journey (B-31)*
 - ✓ Conflict Resolution materials (S-72)
 - ✓ Pamphlets, such as *Al-Anon Spoken Here (P-53)*, *Sponsorship Bookmark (M-78)*, *Why Conference Approved Literature? (P-35)*
- Be prepared with relevant Al-Anon Guidelines
 - ✓ *Taking a Group Inventory (G-8a, G-8b)*
 - ✓ *Group Representatives (G-11)*
 - ✓ *Suggested Programs for Meetings (G-13)*

(Download Guidelines free: al-anon.org >members > member resources)

How does the DR start the conversation with the group's GR/CMA?



- The Area Representatives developed a draft sample script as a possible starting point.
- Let's do some role-playing!

Scenario One: Use of the A.A. Big Book in meetings

Research

- *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, 2018-2021* (p.112)

“To keep Al-Anon’s message in focus and encourage unity, only Al-Anon/Alateen Conference Approved Literature (CAL) and Al-Anon/Alateen service tools are displayed, distributed and used at Al-Anon and Alateen meetings, including meetings at conferences and conventions. These items reflect the informed group conscience of the Al-Anon Family Groups as expressed by it’s World Service Conference since 1961.”

“A.A. literature is not used at Al-Anon meetings because it is written for and from the viewpoint of alcoholics and is not Al-Anon/Alateen Conference Approved Literature. Reliance on opinions expressed in A.A. and other outside materials can distort the Al-Anon approach.”

- Why Conference Approved Literature? (P-35)

Scenario Two: Female member “required” to wear skirt/dress to be a Speaker

Research

- *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*
 - (p.39) Tradition Three: “The only requirement for membership is that there be a problem of alcoholism in a relative or friend.”
 - (p.22) Three Obstacles to Success in Al-Anon: “No member of Al-Anon should direct, assume authority or give advice.” “Any attempt to manage or direct is likely to have disastrous consequences for group harmony.”
- Al-Anon Guidelines: Members Interested in Speaking (G-1)

Now it's your turn to have FUN!

- ✧ Pair off with someone at your table.
- ✧ One of you will pretend to be the GR of the meeting with concerns. The other will be the DR calling to start the conversation regarding the concern. (refer to draft "Script")
- ✧ You can practice with either Scenario we just presented, or one of your own.
- ✧ The timer will be set for _____ minutes.

We Want to Hear From You!

- What are your thoughts about this Role Play activity?
- Was the draft Script helpful?
- Do you have questions/concerns about this process?

