

(NOTE: This doc was presented at the Nov. 2018 Assembly)

Recent Communication from World Service

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

1. Q. Is it alright 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A. Previous Service Manuals are outdated and do not reflect current policy or practice.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.

(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.