

Southern California Policy for Resolving Group and Member Concerns

History and Background of the *Policy*
(Approved by the Assembly in 2016)

Background

Southern California World Service Area (SCWS) members have continuously brought concerns to the Area level regarding Groups that may not be following Al-Anon's Three Legacies and/or Principles.

Background (continued)

Members have reported...

- Being told by the Group who their Sponsor would be, what to wear, to stay/leave a relationship, where to sit, what they can share.
- Private conversations with Sponsors are shared with other Sponsors and with the Group.
- Being told that they are not allowed to fully participate in the Group.
- Feeling unsafe in the Group.

Background cont.

Groups that...

- Routinely read from non-Conference Approved Literature (CAL).
- Do not have rotation of leadership and have no Business meetings.
- Have a few dominant members who make decisions for the entire group.
- Are not transparent regarding their finances.
- Exclude members with whom they have personal disagreements.

History

2012: SCWS Area Board created a **Thought Force:**

“How Can Southern California World Service Support Districts and Intergroups in Dealing With Groups Whose Activities Do Not Consider Al-Anon as a Whole”.

2014: A **Task Force** was created:

“to prepare an Area Policy to help meetings remain consistent with Al-Anon Traditions and policies as presented in the Service Manual.”

(SCWS Thought Force Study, 2014)

History cont...

2016: The Task Force presented their completed report and the proposed policy at the November Assembly.

More than two-thirds of the Area's Group Representatives (GRs) voted to approve the new policy called the *Southern California Policy for Resolving Group and Member Concerns*.

(Listserv Message regarding Policy purpose, Nov. 22, 2016₅)

This concludes the History PowerPoint of our
Southern California Policy for Resolving Group and Member Concerns

Please read...

- The *Policy Revisions/Clarifications* PowerPoint that will be presented at the Assembly. (scws-al-anon.org)
- The complete Policy “*Working Draft*” which shows the revisions/clarifications in **red ink**
- The complete Policy “*Final Draft*” which is a “clean” copy.

PLEASE contact the SCWS Area Delegate or Area Chairperson if you have questions.

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