Southern California Policy for Resolving Group and Member Concerns:

Revisions/Clarifications of the *Policy* that was approved by the Assembly in 2016

Note: For complete *Policy* Background and History, please see "Policy History/Background" PowerPoint at scws-al-anon.org

Policy Revisions/Clarifications History

- Delegates have brought their concerns regarding groups that do not follow our Traditions/Principles to the World Service Conference (WSC) since 2005.

  (Please see Policy History/Background Powerpoint for list of concerns)

- The concerns also included Areas, Al-Anon Information Service(AIS) Offices or Districts that arbitrarily remove groups from listing in their directories.

- Areas have continuously asked The World Service Office (WSO) Board of Trustees to provide guidance and support.

1

<u>*Policy* Revisions/Clarifications History,</u> cont.

WSO Chair of the Board Letter, July 2018

Motion:
   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.

2

Policy Revisions/Clarifications History, cont.

September 2018:

Following the July Board of Trustee motion, the WSO Staff developed the:

Area Meeting List Publishing Policy Development Resources (Materials to support Areas develop a fair and balanced policy) (Copy can be at found at scws-al-anon.org)

3

Policy Revisions/Clarifications History, cont.

WSO's charge for the *Policy Development Resources* was to…

"Develop a list of principles that Areas can use when determining that a group is not adhering to the Twelve Traditions, principles the groups can use to remediate their lack of adherence, and principles the Area can utilize to support groups to successfully adhere to the Twelve Traditions."

Policy Revisions/Clarifications History cont…

Sept., 2018: *The Southern California Policy for Resolving Group and Member Concerns* was submitted to World Service for review.

July, 2019: The Area received a response from WSO regarding our *Policy*. The WSO offered several suggestions for revising and clarifying our *Policy*.

Policy **Revisions/Clarifications History,** cont.

The Area revised/clarified the 2016 *Policy* based on the recommendations by WSO and the WSO document, *Area Meeting List Publishing Policy Development Resources (Materials to support Areas develop a fair and balanced policy).*

What are the Revisions/Clarifications?

1. **Clarified District Representative's (DR) role.** The DR is actively involved with the Group from the beginning of the process, rather than starting with the 3 Area Officers.

2. **Multiple opportunities added to the process** for ongoing dialogue and education with the Group's members.

3. **If resolution is not achieved**, ensures that a larger decision-making body (Area Board) would determine if a Group is to be removed from the directory (rather than only the 3 Area Officers).

March, 2020: WSO's response to the revisions was positive.

"Thank you again for your diligent and thoughtful work creating a fair and balanced *Policy* for addressing ongoing group violations of Al-Anon Policies, the Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts of Service in the California South Area. We are happy to report we found the SCWS *Policy* aligns with the principles expressed by the 2012 Policy Committee Thought Force, as outlined in the *Area Meeting List Publishing Policy Development Resources* document. This vital step allows the WSO to begin supporting the Area's decision to discontinue publishing meeting information for groups which violate our Traditions."

8

WSO's final approval would be contingent upon two actions:

1. Approval of the revisions/clarifications by the SCWS Board, and
2. Approval of the revisions/clarifications by the Assembly.

The SCWS Board met on March 8, 2020 and voted
to approve the revisions/clarifications.

The Assembly now has the opportunity to decide if we move forward to accept the revisions/clarifications to the 2016 *Policy*.

Reminder…

In 2016, the Area's GRs voted to approve the *Policy*, and the *Policy* is currently in place. Today's questions/ comments are <u>only</u> regarding the revisions/clarifications to the existing 2016 *Policy*.