

Delegates are asked to discuss the motion text in their Areas and send any questions or comments to the Policy Committee by **March 28, 2014**.

Motion to amend the text of the “Dual Membership in Al-Anon/Alateen and A.A.” policy starting on page 82 and ending on page 83 in the “Membership and Group Meetings/Conventions” section of “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies” section of the *2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*, as follows:

Service Participation by Members of Al-Anon Family Groups Who Are also Members of Alcoholics Anonymous

Al-Anon Family Groups and Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) share a common spiritual legacy in A.A.’s Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. Before Al-Anon was founded, family members met with and beside A.A. groups. In 1951 various family groups banded together and agreed to organize Al-Anon Family Groups, a program dedicated to helping the friends and families of alcoholics. Over the years, Al-Anon developed its own service structure, based on the model provided by A.A.’s experience and guided by the Twelve Traditions. Tradition Five defines Al-Anon’s single purpose. Tradition Six encourages cooperation with Alcoholics Anonymous, maintaining that Al-Anon is a separate entity that ought never affiliate or create the appearance of affiliation with any outside enterprise. Putting these principles into practice, Al-Anon maintains a separation between its service structure and A.A.’s. This separation helps to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest and safeguards Al-Anon’s singleness of purpose. Accordingly, Al-Anon’s policy is that members who are also members of A.A. do not serve as Group Representative (GR), District Representative (DR), Area Delegate, World Service Conference member, alternate to any of these service positions, or on any committee of the World Service Office.

Filling service positions is a matter of district and Area autonomy, within this policy and the spiritual principles that form its basis. Tradition Four grants autonomy to local service arms, except in matters affecting Al-Anon or A.A. as a whole. Al-Anon members who are also members of A.A. participate fully in all group activities, including group conscience decisions. However, they do not hold Al-Anon service positions that vote in matters affecting another group or Al-Anon or A.A. as a whole.

Participating in Al-Anon service is integral to recovery for every member. Step Twelve, carrying our message to the families of alcoholics, is a very important part of Al-Anon service. Members of Al-Anon who are also members of A.A. are often in a position to carry our message to those who are not aware of the benefits of attending Al-Anon Family Groups. These members may serve as Alateen Group Sponsors (see “Alateen Policy”). These members may also be invited by the Board of Trustees or the World Service Office to participate in certain projects, in keeping with the spirit of this policy.

This policy on service participation by members of Al-Anon who are also A.A. members protects Al-Anon’s viability as a program dedicated to helping the families and friends of alcoholics. It ensures that Al-Anon’s service structure represents the unique perspective of families and friends of alcoholics, recognizing that the alcoholic’s perspective is represented in A.A.’s service structure. All members honor this policy out of respect for Al-Anon unity and the group conscience process, in accordance with Tradition One and Tradition Two.