

Dear CMAs,

We are excited to share with you the decisions made by the 2021 World Service Conference (WSC), AI-Anon's largest representative group conscience, regarding electronic meetings being recognized as AI-Anon groups and the approval to create a new, non-geographic Area for registered AI-Anon Family Groups which meet electronically!

The Electronic Meeting Work Group (EMWG) provided 2021 WSC members historical information that helped inform their group conscience decision to change to the text in the "Digest of AI-Anon and Alateen Policies" (Policy Digest) and the "World Service Handbook" sections of the *AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (P-24/27) version two (2) in order to be able to support a non-geographic Area being added to the WSC structure. The full details of the discussion will be available when the *2021 World Service Conference Summary* (P-46) is published later this summer. An abbreviated version with key conference decisions, "Highlights of the 2021 World Service Conference" will be posted on al-anon.org in late May/early June.

As a result of the presentation and discussion, the 2021 WSC members voted by substantial unanimity to support the recommendations offered by the EMWG, and approved by the Policy Committee and Board of Trustees, which include the following:

- Removal of the "Electronic Meetings" portion of the Policy Digest to recognize permanently registered electronic AI-Anon meetings as AI-Anon Family Groups, eligible for representation through an elected Area Delegate with voice and vote at the World Service Conference.
- Revision of text found throughout the World Service Handbook to support the creation of non-geographically based Areas. This change immediately created a non-panel Area to which all the registered AI-Anon Family Groups which meet electronically now belong.

In other words, the World Service Conference and the WSO are now delighted to be able to say, "**Welcome CMAs of AI-Anon Family Groups!!!**"

We recognize these are historic, exciting, and potentially, a little overwhelming change for you as your group's CMA. The WSO Staff are excited to travel with you along with the next steps of this journey. Next up for your newly recognized group: to review and discuss the responsibilities and opportunities of being part of the World Service Conference Structure in anticipation of electing your first Group Representative, who will carry your group's voice in electing your Area's Delegate. Helpful sections in the *Service Manual* include:

- Pages 140-145 Links of Service-Duties of Assembly Members, Group Representatives, District Representatives and Temporary Chairman
- Pages 59-61 Group Service Positions, particularly Group Representative
- Pages 86-87 Service Participation by Members of AI-Anon Family Groups Who Are also Members of Alcoholics Anonymous
- Pages 137-140 Terms Used in AI-Anon Service

Reviewing this information in group business meetings will provide the foundation of understanding for your group members to hold an informed group conscience to elect a Group Representative.

For those looking to understand the bigger picture, the attached flowchart outlines the major milestones in the journey for AI-Anon Family Groups which meet electronically electing your representatives and being formally admitted to the World Service Conference.

The WSO Director of Programs and Group Services Staff will be available to answer your questions about the first step of electing a GR, and those that follow, at the next meeting. The next meeting will be the first joint meeting of the CMAs of all registered AI-Anon Family Groups which meeting electronically!!! Stay tuned for AFG Connects announcements-we will be scheduling two meetings to accommodate all time zones.

We appreciate your patience and your continued service

Sue
Sue Pérez
Associate Director - Group Services