

## **Start PowerPoint**

### **SLIDE 1**

#### **Thought Force on How to Include Dual Members in Al-Anon Service While Maintaining Our Policies.**

**PART ONE (The framing is presented in skit form, which offers an example of how Delegates might demonstrate the WSC discussion in their Areas.)**

*Area Chairperson – Connie D*

Hello everybody. Welcome to the Area World Service Committee Meeting. My name is Connie D. and I am your Area Chairperson.

Will you all join me in a moment of silence to reflect on why we are here, followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Our Area Delegate, Elaine , was recently at the World Service Conference and there was a discussion on the Conference floor about how to include dual members in service work while maintaining our policies. Today we are going to conduct a brainstorming session to think of different ways that dual members can serve, within our current policies.

Elaine and I will be sharing leadership for this discussion.

*Delegate - Elaine R*

The fellowships of Al-Anon and A.A. have a unique relationship. They were closely allied in their origins, and are naturally drawn together by their family ties. Yet the Twelve Traditions emphasize that each works more effectively if it remains separate.

Tradition Six specifically states that Al-Anon is a separate entity. Therefore, in keeping with this Tradition, there can be no combining, joining, or uniting which would result in loss of identity for either fellowship. Separateness

rules out affiliation or merging, but it does not exclude cooperation with A.A. or acting together for mutual benefit. Al-Anon acknowledges with gratitude the spiritual cooperation between Al-Anon and A.A. even though many Al-Anon members may have little to no contact with A.A. or A.A. members.

*Area Chairperson – Connie D*

Before we go any further, are there any questions?

**Hand-up –**

*Area Chairperson – Connie D*

Yes - PATH.

*Member 1 – PATH>*

**CLICK**

**SLIDE 2**

How would you describe a dual member?

*Area Chairperson – Connie D.*

A dual member is a member of both Al-Anon and Alcoholics Anonymous.

**(Hand goes up)...**

*Area Chairperson – Connie D..*

Yes, Ann S.

**CLICK**

**SLIDE 3**

*Member 2 – Ann S.*

What exactly is the policy?

*Delegate – Elaine R.*

The current policy taken from pages 78-79 of the *2010-2013 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*:

Because of the unique nature of both programs, Al-Anon/Alateen members who are also A.A. members do not hold office beyond the group level, as these positions could lead to membership in the World Service Conference (WSC). The need to focus on the Al-Anon program and the possibility of a conflict of interest at Assembly and World Service levels led the WSC to its decision not to seat Al-Anon/Alateen members who are also members of A.A. For these reasons A.A. members do not serve as Group Representatives (GRs), District Representatives (DRs), Area Coordinators, Newsletter Editors, Delegates and/or any of their alternates, nor do they sit on the WSO selected committees, whose Chairpersons can be Conference members.

**Another hand....**

*Area Chairperson- Connie D.*

**Yes, Christine**

**CLICK**

**SLIDE 4**

*Member 3 – Christine T..*

When and why did it start?

*Area Chairperson – Connie D..*

In 1966, the staff of both A.A. and Al-Anon worked together to create the policy that differentiates the two fellowships due to numerous requests to register A.A. Family Groups. The decision was that the word “family” does not belong in an A.A. group’s name, as it is part of the Al-Anon fellowship’s incorporated name.

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**SLIDE 5**

The guidelines for group separation between A.A. and Al-Anon were approved at the Al-Anon World Service Conference in 1967.

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**SLIDE 6**

In part, it states that the officers of each group should be members of either A.A. or Al-Anon, depending upon the group’s affiliation.

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**SLIDE 7**

It was emphasized that the primary purpose of A.A. is to help fellow alcoholics recover, and the primary purpose of Al-Anon is to help the Al-Anon live with herself or himself, as well as with the alcoholic.

**CLICK****SLIDE 8**

Because of those separate purposes, dual members of A.A. and Al-Anon do not serve in Al-Anon policymaking positions. This ensures there is no conflict of interest between A.A. and Al-Anon or appearance that we are not separate entities with separate purposes.

**Another hand...**

*Area Chairperson – Connie D.*

**Yes, Diane.**

*Member 4 – Diane S.*

In my district there has been a lot of misunderstanding and confusion regarding the policy. I find that there are dual members who have never heard of the policy. There are also members who believe that dual members cannot hold any service jobs in Al-Anon.

*Area Chairperson – Connie D.*

While there may be confusion about the policy in the fellowship, our objective today is to concentrate on ways that dual members can serve

Al-Anon within the existing policy as it is stated in the “Digest of Al-Anon/Alateen Policies” and to brainstorm ways that dual members can serve in our Areas, districts, and AISs.

Unless there are more questions, let’s get started with our brainstorming:

*(Thought Force members raise hands and take turns stating the ways that dual members can participate. Each of these bullets will appear on the big screen via Power Point.)*

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**SLIDE 9**

*Member 5- Brenda*

- *Serve on event committees at Area, district, group and AISs, based on Area/local policies.*

*(give examples)*

**CLICK**

**SLIDE 10**

*Member 6- Linda*

- *Assist in Public Outreach and Institutions service at Area, district, group ad AISs.*

*(give example)*

**CLICK**

**SLIDE 11**

*Member 1- Pat H.*

- *Support fellowship communications via service arm Web sites and newsletters.*

*(give examples)*

**CLICK**

**SLIDE 12**

*Member 2- Ann S.*

- *Attend to technology needs at Area, district, group & AISs.*

*(give examples)*

**CLICK**

**SLIDE 13**

*Member 3- Christine T.*

- *Become certified as an Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS).*

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**SLIDE 14**

*Member 4- Diane S.*

- *Contribute to WSO publishing*

*( give examples) Forum submissions, Legacy blog postings*

**CLICK**

**SLIDE 15**

*Member 5- Brenda*

- *Support strategic planning at Area, district, group and AIs,S by serving on Thought Forces/Task Forces*

*( give examples)*

**CLICK**

**SLIDE 16**

*Member 6- Linda*



- *Liaison to local A.A. via convention or Intergroup service.*

*Area Chairperson – Connie D.*

Thank you for your participation in this discussion. I believe we set a good direction for a positive and constructive discussion of this topic. We have generated some good ideas and we will continue this discussion at our next meeting.

End of Part One.

## **PART TWO—Strategies to Convey the Ideas:**

**Introduction presented by Thought Force Co-Chair, \_\_\_\_\_:** Our Thought Force initially met at last year's WSC, and then conducted our work via conference call and e-mail throughout 2010. We used the KBDM process to guide our conversations as we fulfilled our charge of brainstorming ways that dual members can participate in Al-Anon service while maintaining the Al-Anon policies as written in the Policy Digest of the *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*. We were asked to develop strategies to convey these ideas to the Areas, so they can be communicated to the groups in a positive and constructive manner.

Here are three strategies that we believe will help the fellowship identify ways that dual members can serve, and do so in a positive and constructive manner.

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**SLIDE 17**

## *Strategy One*

*(Member 1- Pat H.)*

- 1) Develop a workshop for all service arms to use as a framework to begin a productive discussion about dual members in service, within the current policy. Workshop attendees would be encouraged to share with the fellowship what they learn via WSO venues like the Members' Web site blog, *Area Highlights* and/or *Forum* submissions; as well as similar Area communication tools. The workshop might be something like the AWSC demonstration we just showed you.

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**SLIDE 18**

## *Strategy Two*

*(Member 2- Ann S..)*

- 2) Create service tools (i.e., guidelines) to support the fellowship in identifying service roles for dual members to assist service arms to do the following:
  - Clarify the criteria to use when deciding which service positions are appropriate for dual members.

- Generate a list of available service opportunities that can be filled by dual members, based on established policy.

**Pros:**

- This strategy gives autonomy to the Areas to determine positions that suit the Areas.
- Encourages Areas/service arms to discuss "what dual members can do," rather than saying "they can't serve."
- Is not a change in policy, nor a "governing" action.
- Creates a common basis on which other strategies can be built.
- Is an opportunity to explain the underlying spiritual principles for current policy.

**Cons:**

- Each Area has unique needs and variations in positions.
- Some members may be stuck in the "they can't serve" mentality.

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**SLIDE 19**

*Strategy Three*  
*(Member 3- Christine T.)*

- 3) Encourage members to write *Forum* articles that support constructive discussions about dual members in service.

Pro:

- Sets an encouraging tone for Areas to follow when discussing the issue.

Con:

- May not change attitudes.

*THOUGHT FORCE CO-CHAIR –*

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## **SLIDE 20**

Now, we will open up the discussion to the Conference for your perspective on our strategies.

We ask that WSC members come to the microphone, and respond to the following questions:

- Which strategies presented do you believe can be effective?
- Which strategies presented do you believe may not be effective?
- Are there other possible strategies that we are missing?

**CLICK**

## **SLIDE 21 – Leave Up During the Discussion**

Here are our strategies. We would like to hear which strategies presented do you believe can be effective? Which strategies presented do you believe may not be effective? Are there other strategies that we are missing?

**<The floor is opened for discussion by the Conference Chair>**

In closing, the Thought Force would like to add that during the course of our conversations, we also discovered a need for spiritual clarity around the policy. We therefore suggested that the Executive Committee, the Policy Committee, and the Literature Committee consider providing the fellowship with that clarity. We submitted a memo to the Policy Committee requesting spiritual clarity and that memo is going to be discussed at the Open Policy Committee meeting which follows this presentation.