

Query should all members of AWSC be required to be an AMIIAS?

In February of this year I received a query with a position paper from a member of this AWSC questioning the New York North policy of requiring Officers Coordinators and all District Reps. to be required to be registered as AMIIAS's. This concerned member felt that this requirement is not within the traditions of Al-Anon.-

Here is a portion of the query that defines the principles of our traditions behind the reasoning that was given:

The ultimate goal of service in Al-Anon has always been and remains the application of our shared program through our defined principles in order to best serve our membership. Those principles include the following:

1. The ultimate equality of all members; (Tradition 1, Tradition 2, Tradition 3, Tradition 8, Tradition 12, Warranty 4)
2. Clearly defined roles, responsibilities and reasoned expectations for service positions; (Tradition 9, Concept 9, Concept 10, Concept 11, Warranty 4)
3. A respect for member's right to self-determination without judgement or criticism. (The Steps, Tradition 3, Tradition 12, Concept 4)

Considering our principles then the best option for ensuring that we meet our goals of practicing the Al-Anon in all our affairs, especially service, it is time to remove the requirement for Area Officers and Coordinators to be AMIIAS and attend NYNAC except for the Alateen and NYNAC Coordinators.

In 2003 WSO requirements state:

Each Al-Anon Area in the World Service Conference Structure has Area Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements in place which meet or exceed the minimum requirements set by the 2003 Alateen Motion from the Board of Trustees (available from the WSO). The Area's Requirements include minimum requirements for Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service (AMIIAS), Alateen meetings, and Alateen participation in conferences, conventions, and other events. In order to use the Alateen name, the Area, all Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service, all alateen members, and all meetings and events with Alateen participation must *be in* compliance with the Area's Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements. Each Area's Alateen process details the steps that must be taken to meet its requirements.

An Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIIAS) is an Al-Anon member who is currently certified through their Area's Alateen process and is therefore eligible to be directly responsible for Alateen while being of service to Alateen. AMIIAS may be certified by more than one Area; however, they must first be certified by the Area in which they reside. AMIIAS may serve as Alateen Group Sponsors, chaperones, drivers, or other roles as outlined in their Area's Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements. Area Alateen Coordinators are required to be certified AMIIAS; the Area determines which other service roles require certification.

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Al-Anon members who are also members of A.A. may be certified as AMIAS and serve as a-Alateen Group Sponsors by virtue of their Al-Anon membership, in accordance with their Area's Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements. Emphasis should be placed on the Al-Anon interpretation of the program at all times.

New York North adopted these guidelines and added our own requirements this was this was presented and voted on in 2004, Our New York North Guidelines were updated in May of 2007.

Why this was this adapted as it was not in the original criteria from WSO?

Information received by the Current Alateen Coordinator:

20 registered Alateen Groups. As a total we have approximately 20 - 25 teens. Only about 5 of our groups are seeing teens on a weekly basis.

86 Registered AMIAS's that participate in groups or act as back up's.

6 Registered Officers

8 Registered Coordinators

4 Registered Past Delegates

12 Registered District Representatives

I hope this helps. I do have DR's that need to be registered and that will be handled as part of our yearly recertification process

Also because of this requirement there are an overload of adults who attend NYNAC each year and we very seldom have Alateen members at our Area, District or Al-Anon Functions. Teens have also express this this imbalance of Adults at teen functions and do not feel that they are being protected any more than if they just had their Sponsors with them.

Today I am asking the AWSC if we could approve a THOUGHT FORCE TO LOOK AT THIS QUERY, TO SEE IF OUR POLICY REQUIRES SO MANY OF US TO REGISTER AS AMIIAS'S. I WOULD ASK THAT THEY LOOK AT THIS TO SEE WHERE WE GO FROM HERE ABOUT THIS MATTER.

Diane C

NYN – Delegate

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