Proposed Technology Policy Guidelines

Presented at
Area World Service Committee Meeting
February 2017

The Technology Task Force proposes that the AWSC adopt the following Policy Guidelines as a Trial for the remainder of our Panel along with the recommendation that Panel 58 assess them and make a final decision on adoption.

1. Website Continuity

The Task Force believes the following statements express Al-Anon principles regarding Technology:

a) Keeping the website stable and consistent is a good POLICY.
b) Based on the long term discussions at WSO and WSC regarding "technology" it is wise to have a POLICY that uses our Steps, Traditions and Concepts to guide us in how we develop our PROCEDURES.
c) Keeping the Website consistent across panels, recognizing that change comes slowly in Al-Anon yet also making a commitment to stay up to date with technology would be POLICY and the how-we-do-it would be PROCEDURES.

2. Technology Cooperation

a) Technology Coordinator can target cooperation in the following areas for 2017:

i)   Alateen – Encourage AMIASes to chair chat room meetings & follow Alateen WSO on Social media. Technology Coordinator can help interested AMIASes with the technology side of this outreach.
ii) Spanish – Encourage use of Spanish version of WSO and Area websites and online Spanish meetings. Technology Coordinator can work with Spanish Coordinator to enhance the Area site.
iii) Assembly – Conducting member surveys, and moving forward toward online registration and electronic voting.
iv) The current Technology Coordinator could make specific recommendations based on his experience, and these policies could be taken up at the beginning of Panel 58.

b) Using 2017 as an example, the Technology Coordinator could utilize a Technology Committee to explore new technologies (and their usage in the Area) without leading to double-headed management.

Recommendation: Chairperson can create a Trial Basis Standing Committee that could meet throughout 2017 and request Panel 58 to assess the process at the February 2018 AWSC meeting and make a decision on how to proceed.

3. Job Requirements

The following are Policy recommendations of Technology involvement:

a) Turnover – Technology Coordinator should inform and assist the Area Officers, Coordinators and Event Chairs with their Area email accounts.
b) eCommerce – Technology Coordinator should guide us toward the use of online procedures to accept registrations, food orders and other electronic payments.
c) Elections – Technology Coordinator should continue working toward a stated Area goal of having electronic elections in the near future

4. NFA AFG, Inc.

To cooperate with the Corporation we recommend:

a) The website, like the bank account and the archives storage, should be a part of our "business expenses" and have some oversight from the Officers/Bd of Directors. **The Technology Coordinator will work with the Officers to achieve this.**
b) The Board could consider in the future that having new members (especially a few Coordinators) on the Board for the business and Traditional cooperation needed.
c) As eCommerce becomes more a part of the Area it makes sense to have the Technology Coordinator or an IT presence on the Board.