

AL-ANON AND ALATEEN INFORMATION SERVICE OF GRAND RAPIDS AREA

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Charter

January 21, 2020

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The Al-Anon and Alateen Information Service of Grand Rapids Area (AISGR) Charter is a body of principles and relationships through which the AISGR can function. The provisions of the document are not legal, but traditional, since the AISGR Membership is not incorporated. This charter is an informal agreement between the Al-Anon and Alateen Membership and the Al-Anon and Alateen Information Service of Grand Rapids Area.

Charter

1. PURPOSE

- a. To be the guardian of both Al-Anon's information services of the Districts participating in this AISGR and its Twelve Traditions;
- b. To be a service body, not a government.

2. COMPOSITION

Al-Anon Information Service Representatives from the Membership of the participating Districts or participating groups of unrepresented districts in AISGR and are not already represented by another Al-Anon Information Service; the Board of Trustees of Al-Anon and Alateen Information Service of Grand Rapids Area and the standing committees of the Board.

3. RELATION TO AISGR

- a. The Membership acts for the AISGR in the perpetuation and guidance of its services.
- b. The Membership can express its views on policy and note deviations from Traditions.
- c. Information Service Representatives (ISRs) are free to vote as their conscience dictates and not necessarily as instructed by the Groups they represent.
- d. No changes are to be made in the Al-Anon or Alateen Traditions, the Steps, the Concepts of Service, or the General Warranties of the Conference Charter (Item 9).
- e. Wording in the Charter may be changed by the vote of three-fourths of the Membership; however, the protections afforded the Al-Anon and Alateen Traditions, the Steps, the Concepts of Service, and the General Warranties in item 3-d may not be taken away or lessened by Membership vote.

4. RELATION TO THE AISGR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- a. Two-thirds vote of ISRs in attendance is binding upon trustees and any related corporate service.
- b. The above does not affect legal obligations of the AISGR in conducting business.
- c. In accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws of Al-Anon and Alateen Information Service of Grand Rapids Area, three-fourths of all members signed in at the AISGR meeting may bring about a reorganization of the AISGR if or when it is deemed essential and may request the resignation

of the whole Board and nominate a new slate of Trustees. For this purpose only, the number of Board members voting shall be limited to one-quarter of the total AISGR Membership vote.

5. INFORMATION SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES

- a. Information Service Representatives are elected from qualified Membership of their Group by two-thirds written ballot.
- b. The elected Information Service Representatives, called a panel, are elected every three years for a three-year term. The election of each panel is held concurrently with Area and District elections.

6. AISGR MEETINGS

The AISGR meet regularly, no fewer than twice no more than six times per calendar year. In grave emergency, special meetings may be called. ISRs may also be asked by the AISGR to render advisory opinions at any time by email or telephone poll.

7. BOARD OF TRUSTEES: COMPOSITION, JURISDICTION, RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. The Board of Trustees of the Al-Anon and Alateen Information Service of Grand Rapids Area is composed of qualified members of Al-Anon groups served by the AISGR.
- b. The AISGR Membership elects Officers of the Board of Trustees; nominees are subject to the approval of the Membership or a committee thereof. Committee Chairs, Coordinators, and Members-at-large are appointed by the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees.
- c. District Information Service Representatives are elected from qualified membership within the District(s) in which they serve.
- d. The Board is the chief service arm of the AISGR Membership, which is guardian of Al-Anon's Twelve Traditions. Subject to e, below, the Board has responsibility to determine policy and manage the business affairs of the AISGR. It may appoint suitable committees.
- e. The Board has legal rights and responsibilities but the rights of the AISGR Membership are traditional.
- f. If any subsidiary services are later formed, the Board of Trustees will be primarily responsible for their policy and financial integrity.
- g. The Bylaws of Al-Anon and Alateen Information Service of Grand Rapids Area and any amendments thereto are subject to recall by the AISGR Membership by a three-fourths vote of all its members. All Bylaw amendments will be presented to the first AISGR meeting to be held after their adoption by the Board of Trustees.
- h. The Board shall reserve the right to decide which of its decisions may require referral to the AISGR Membership.
- i. The Board of Trustees ought never take action liable to negatively affect Al-Anon as a whole.

8. AISGR MEETING PROCEDURE

- a. The Membership hears financial and policy reports of the Board of Trustees and AISGR services and committees.
- b. AISGR members take under advisement all matters affecting Al-Anon as a whole, engage in debate, appoint necessary committees and pass suitable motions for the direction of the Board of Trustees and the AISGR.

- c. The AISGR Membership may recommend action respecting serious deviation from Al-Anon Traditions and Concepts of Service.
- d. The AISGR Membership may adopt procedures and elect any needed officers by a method of its choosing.
- e. After each AISGR meeting, the AISGR Membership will present a full report of its proceedings to their group.

9. GENERAL WARRANTIES OF THE AISGR

In all proceedings the Al-Anon and Alateen Information Service of Grand Rapids Area shall observe the spirit of the Traditions: that only sufficient operating funds, including an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that no AISGR member shall be placed in unqualified authority over other members; that all decisions be reached by discussion, vote and, whenever possible, by unanimity; that no AISGR action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the AISGR serves Al-Anon it shall never perform any act of government; and that like the fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups which it serves, it shall always remain democratic in thought and action.

Note: The term Al-Anon includes Alateen. Therefore, the above Charter applies to all registered groups, including Alateen.