

July 1, 2022

Greetings fellow Maine AI-Anon members:

We are writing on behalf of the Maine Area *Revising the Legacies Task Force*<sup>†</sup> about a proposal that would require your group's consideration within the next 90 days. Remembering that "Participation is the key to harmony" (Concept Four), we humbly ask for your cooperation.

There has been discussion in our Area, and others across the US, for years about changing the wording of the Steps and Traditions, together known as "The Legacies", to replace gender-specific references to God and the "Higher Power" and "he/him/his" with wording that reflects gender neutrality and spiritual inclusivity. At the 2021 Fall Assembly, Group Representatives voted to create this Task Force, with the charge to write this letter.

Some background:

As a result of persistent concern around wording, the 2019 Spring Assembly voted to create the *Legacy Wording Thought Force*<sup>†</sup>, with the charge: "to determine whether/to what degree the current wording of the Legacies is a problem for Maine members, specifically the male pronouns and the word God." Using an online survey, the Thought Force found that 53% of Maine AI-Anon member-respondents are bothered by the use of the male pronouns in the Legacies, and 36% were bothered by the use of the word "God." The online survey was open from June 2019 through January 2020, and 192 AI-Anon members completed it. The full report was presented at the 2020 Fall Assembly and is available on the Maine Area website. We encourage your group to read the report if you wish to better understand its full and complete findings:

<https://www.maineafg.org/archives>

Discussion has continued at the Area level, resulting in GRs voting at the 2021 Fall Assembly to approve a motion to create the **Task Force** to, in effect, find out how all groups in Maine feel about the issue.

The AI-Anon World Service Conference Charter states, "No changes are to be made in the AI-Anon or Alateen Traditions, Steps, Concepts... without written consent of three-quarters of the AI-Anon Family Groups." These Legacies are copyrighted by AI-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., and therefore the Maine Area will not rewrite them. At the group level, however, we can give our *conceptual approval* to the idea of the World Service Office (WSO) revising the wording of the Steps and Traditions.

In order to keep this initiative moving forward, we have now been charged to ask each group to express their group conscience on whether to give **conceptual approval for the World Service Office to commence with rewriting the Steps and Traditions to reflect gender neutrality and more spiritually-inclusive language than the word "God"**. The Thought Force recommended considering specific Traditions and Concepts while discussing this issue, and to that end we are enclosing the Legacy Wording Discussion Guide as an aid.

Once your group has completed its consideration, here's how you can respond:

**If your group votes to support the concept of WSO revising wording**, you may indicate that preference on the enclosed Maine AI-Anon Group Response form or enclose your own letter stating this, and showing your group name and number. A return envelope is enclosed for this purpose.

**If your group votes to not support the concept**, please indicate that choice and return the Maine AI-Anon Group Response Form in the enclosed envelope.

**If your group does not choose to express its group conscience**, you may indicate that preference on the enclosed Maine AI-Anon Group Response form and return it in the envelope enclosed for this purpose.

After the deadline, your responses will be collected and shipped to the Board of Trustees % the World Service Office (WSO.) Our goal is to let the Board of Trustees hear the voices of how AI-Anon members in Maine feel about this important topic. We will also share information with any other Areas that are interested. The Board of Trustees, entrusted with legal oversight of the copyright of the Steps & Traditions, may use the letters as they wish.

If you have any questions, please contact the Task Force at [maineafg@gmail.com](mailto:maineafg@gmail.com). We very much appreciate your time and consideration.

In Service,

Maine Area Task Force; *Revising the Legacies*

↑ For an explanation of AI-Anon's use of Thought Force and Task Force efforts, see pp 70-71 of the current AI-Anon Service Manual:

<https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/manuals-and-guidelines/>