2024-25 ABC Proposals
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Meeting Services

Proposal 2025-1 - Group Contacts for Meeting Registrations

Submitted by: Region 2 (Greater Western USA), WEB381 (Arroyo Grande, CA, USA), CA915 (Arroyo Grande, CA, USA), TEL0341

Issue: We propose that the meeting listing guidelines be changed to allow a single individual only to be the Public or one of the Primary Private Contacts for no more than four meeting registration numbers. We believe that implementing this system will help ensure that meetings are autonomous in accordance with the Traditions of ACA.

Background: We are proposing to set a policy limiting meeting registration by one person as a Public and/or one of the Primary Private contacts to a maximum of four groups (meetings, Intergroups or Regions). Such a limit can help ensure that meetings are autonomous and rely on group conscience principles.

The meeting registration and update forms now have a checkbox that asks the submitter to affirm they attend the meeting they are registering. Because the checkbox cannot guarantee this is true, we feel this proposal is a step toward better ensuring that meetings are represented by ACAs who attend those meetings.

Giving service for a meeting is fundamental to our recovery in ACA. Our choice was to propose limiting one individual to register a maximum of four meetings. While many ACAs attend more than four meetings each week, we believe that other ACAs in those groups would benefit from fulfilling this service role and should be encouraged to do so. Registering meetings thus becomes a great opportunity for encouraging service.

Resources/Implementation: We have spoken with the WSO IT team. A developer has already been hired to create a new meeting-registration software "plugin" -- a piece of code that adds new functionality to the existing software program. If this proposal becomes a motion that is passed by the Delegates, the WSO IT staff sees no indication that this will require many additional work hours to implement.

WSO Analysis:
Factors to Consider:
The submitters of this proposal met with the Information Technology (IT) Committee to determine whether their proposal could be implemented.
As noted in the Resources/Implementation section, IT said this feature could be added. Although there will be an unbudgeted cost for the additional hours of work required, that cost appears to be manageable as part of the new "plugin" that's referenced.

Reference Links:
[Meeting Register - Adult Children of Alcoholics & Dysfunctional Families](#)

Proposal 2025-2 - Liability Insurance Resource Trifold

Submitted by: Region 2 (Greater Western USA), CA1123 (Pacifica, CA, USA), CA1628 (South San Francisco, CA, USA), CA915 (Arroyo Grande, CA, USA), WEB0381 (Arroyo Grande, CA, USA)

Issue: We propose that delegate volunteers write a trifold on how to provide liability insurance for meetings where venues require it. Delegates will form a committee, research the topic, organize their findings, and create the trifold by the 2026 Annual Business Conference (ABC) for current, newly forming and displaced ACA meetings, Intergroups, and Regions.

Background: Our primary purpose in ACA is to carry the message of recovery to those who still suffer from growing up in alcoholic and dysfunctional homes. If prospective, displaced, and continuing meetings cannot get or keep meeting space, we cannot carry our message. Intergroups and Regions need to help by supplying information.

Since the 1980s, meetings have asked ACA service boards for help. Recent concerns come from meetings in California, Massachusetts, and Washington State. 12-Step program websites in the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Canada address liability concerns.

Two problems seem to come up. Start-up, in-person meetings and small meetings do not receive enough 7th Tradition to pay for monthly costs of liability policies to cover damage to buildings and property in them. The other problem is that Insurance Companies need to know the number of meetings they would be covering and how many people attend them each week to calculate a price. It is difficult to provide these numbers for displaced meetings that often lose participants due to a new location as well as prospective meetings that do not yet exist.

Preliminary outreach to other 12-Step programs reveals that some of their regional areas do provide umbrella liability for their meetings. These are the larger programs with more attendees and larger 7th Tradition contributions. The insurance agents we have contacted have put out our request for coverage to underwriters for non-profit organizations; so far, we have received no offers.

Resources/Implementation: The committee of volunteer delegates of the Conference would determine when to meet, how often to meet, who their leaders will

be, what their operational rules will be, develop a mission statement, list tasks to explore, collect data and analyze research.

By the 2026 ABC, the committee would develop and present a resource trifold on how meetings can individually get liability insurance, and how Intergroups, and Regions can provide umbrella liability insurance for meetings, wherever possible.

With volunteers from our worldwide delegates, we will have a far wider outreach for information, personal contacts in 12-Step programs already providing meetings with umbrella liability insurance policies, and established relationships with insurance agents.

No costs would be incurred by Intergroups, Regions, or WSO for development or electronic distribution of the trifold.

WSO would need to provide a regularly occurring Zoom slot for the committee of volunteers that step up to draft the trifold.

WSO Analysis:
Factors to Consider:
- We know this has been an issue since 2015. The Member Services Committee, in its 2015 ABC report listed "*How do we get meeting insurance?*" in its top ten requests from the membership.
- Internet searches reveal a number of current insurance companies and brokers potentially providing various forms of insurance for not-for-profit groups. Due to the potential for insurers to enter and withdraw from this insurance sector, a trifold may yield dated [inaccurate] information.
- Keeping current information concerning insurance options may pose a challenge, unless there is either a consistent effort to assure correct information or merely recommending an internet search on the topic.

Reference Links:
2015 Member Services Committee Report

NOTE: If this proposal receives at least a 66.7% affirmative vote from the groups participating in this voting process, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda.

Proposal 2025-3 - Creation of Sponsor Database

Submitted by: ZAF0004 (Johannesburg, South Africa)

Issue: We propose that one or more consolidated databases of available sponsors be maintained at an organisational level above the group level (possibly Intergroup or Region level), to be a resource for groups lacking suitable sponsors within their own membership.

Background: A key aspect of the recovery journey for an ACA member is to establish effective relationships with one or more sponsors. Some groups may be too small or too new to offer a cadre of suitable sponsors within their membership. Members of these marginal groups can struggle to establish a connection with a qualified sponsor, which can impact negatively on their recovery. This proposal is intended to address this shortcoming by providing a formal database or databases of available sponsors who are part of the wider ACA organisation and who are willing to be sponsors to adult children reaching out from these marginal groups. This proposal foresees that ACA members worldwide can nominate themselves for inclusion in the database. They can also qualify their availability according to various criteria which would assist group members in selecting candidates. These criteria could include such attributes as age, period of ACA membership, level of availability, language, cultural background, religion, time zone, etc. (These attributes are offered as suggestions only, and would need to be developed more carefully.)

Resources/Implementation: Not included in Proposal

WSO Analysis:
Factors to Consider:
WSO does not currently maintain a sponsor database. IT indicates that the technology for maintaining a sponsor database is feasible.

Most other 12-Step programs do not maintain sponsor databases due to the challenges of upkeep. One 12-Step WSO shared that they previously maintained a database but discontinued it because demand for sponsors exceeded availability, and maintaining the database was time-consuming. Instead, they now offer sponsorship workshops and newcomer-focused meetings.

This proposal raises the question about whether it is appropriate for this to be managed by WSO, or if it is better handled by Groups, Intergroups or Regions.

If the fellowship would like WSO to move forward on this, there are several key items that may need to be considered:
1.   A cost analysis is required, as the database is not included in the 2025 budget.

2. The question of who will manage the database—whether volunteers or staff—must be resolved, including responsibilities for periodic updates, member support, and troubleshooting.
3. Protecting the anonymity of both sponsors and sponsees is essential and must be prioritized.
4. Liability concerns must be addressed, as ACA WSO does not vet or certify sponsors. This creates potential risks if a negative sponsorship experience occurs.
5. A clear process for handling complaints should be established, along with specific guidelines for removing sponsors from the database, if necessary.

Reference Links: None

NOTE: If this proposal receives at least a 66.7% affirmative vote from the groups participating in this voting process, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda.

Content Development

Proposal 2025-4 - Creation of a Social Media Committee

Submitted by: BEL0011 (Brussels, Belgium)

Issue: Motion for the creation of a committee to explore how to carry the ACA message forward through social media platforms.

Background: The proposed committee, constituted of trusted servants who ideally possess experience in digital communication and social media activation. The proposed committee would be responsible for developing strategies and content to carry the ACA message forward in a manner which is mindful of ACA Traditions and rooted in a participatory, collaborative and community-driven approach.

Resources/Implementation: During last ABC, presentation was made of the Traffic on these posts nevertheless traffic does not necessary mean impact. We have contacted WSO on this matter. Our feeling is that by creating this committee, this procedure and decisions would become more open to the fellowship and therefore more representative of our diversity and more participatory. Some of our ACA members might be professionals in this field, be community manager and have interesting input.

WSO Analysis:
Factors to Consider:
At the 2024 ABC, the conference approved the following motion: *To approve the use of social media as a public awareness and outreach tool by ACA WSO while adhering to the Traditions in its use.* (ABC_2024_09). This motion was approved based on a report that the General

Manager presented at the 2024 ABC, following a trial period of using social media to carry the ACA message.

The general manager is currently overseeing ACA social media efforts with the support of a paid social media consultant, who is also an ACA member with a strong understanding of the Traditions. They are consulting and collaborating with the Public Services Committee. Both the WSO trustees and staff recognize the importance of maintaining a consistent flow of content for an effective social media presence to carry the ACA message and have found that utilizing a paid professional has provided a reliable and consistent implementation.

For examples of social media content, please refer to the links below.

Reference Links:
Social Media Report at May 2024 ABC
https://www.instagram.com/acaworldservice
https://www.tiktok.com/@acawso
https://youtube.com/@acaworldservice

NOTE: If this proposal receives at least a 66.7% affirmative vote from the groups participating in this voting process, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda.

Proposal 2025-5 - ACA Literature Will Be Conference Approved Before Publication

Submitted by: Region 2 (Greater Western USA), CA1267 (San Diego, CA, USA), WEB0381 (Arroyo Grande, CA, USA), CA915 (Arroyo Grande, CA, USA)

Issue: We propose that all ACA literature is to be "Conference Approved" by the ACA fellowship before it is published and offered for sale. This change is expected to save thousands of dollars associated with the current practice of distributing unapproved ACA literature that may require substantial revision.

Background: WSO's OPPM (pp. 37-47) outlines the process for ACA literature. Currently, the Literature committee evaluates submitted literature and may recommend it to the WSO Board. If WSO approves it, the book is typeset, printed, and sold without Conference Approval. Once published in English, the manuscript is distributed for fellowship review for one to three years for comments and suggested changes. The books are translated into multiple languages, published, and sold without Conference approval.

The Literature Committee assesses fellowship input such as: comments, ways to reorganize, reword, delete, or replace material, or concerns, for example, plagiarizing works of others or authoritarian statements without therapist credentials. The committee then asks the authors to revise and resubmit the book.

Matters of large concern for our fellowship are threefold. Published ACA literature is now decided upon by a very small number of people on the evaluation team and WSO service board. When manuscripts are revised and receive Conference approval, additional costs are incurred for typesetting revisions in approximately 28 languages. Finally, another cost, unsold books without Conference approval, would be deeply discounted or discarded.

Typically, the price to typeset and print or reprint the same book is about the same, perhaps changing only the date of publication. Artificial Intelligence (AI) translations are fine-tuned by volunteers. Small revisions cost, according to WSO staff, about $700 per workbook, about $1300 for books with more pages, including the BRB, multiplied by the cost of each translation.

Resources/Implementation: To implement this proposal, if passed, requires a simple change in sequence of producing literature.

- For Annual Business Conference delegates and/or Intergroups and Regions to review complete manuscripts for a period of six months to one year, the WSO IT staff would e-mail them the initial draft, or a link to it.
- The delegates and groups will submit suggested changes to the WSO Literature Committee.
- Suggestions will be sent to the authors to consider for their final draft.
- Authors would resubmit this final draft to the WSO Literature Committee.
- If the WSO Literature Committee and then the WSO Board approve any changes, the IT staff will then distribute to the fellowship the final draft or publish the links on the website for fellowship consideration for at least six months before balloting.
- The WSO Literature Committee would submit a proposal to approve the final draft through the ABC ballot process.
- If the proposal is passed, this will be discussed at the next ABC.
- Delegates at the ABC would vote as to whether to confer "Conference Approval" of the final document.

This process of getting Conference approval of literature before publishing incurs no costs and would save thousands of dollars. No originally published books would have to be sold at discounted prices or thrown away. Substantial time and money would be saved when translations would not have to be redone.

WSO Analysis:
Factors to Consider:
Simplified Clarification on the Fellowship Review Process and Costs
The Fellowship Review process is designed to be inclusive and cost-effective. Members can read and provide feedback on a book through a controlled online feedback form during this three-year process. This allows:

- Firsthand Use: Members gain direct experience with the content.
- Meaningful Feedback: Suggestions and insights from members are gathered for consideration.

Skipping the Fellowship Review and bringing a book directly to the Annual Business Conference (ABC) for approval could result in a decision without most members having read the material. This limits thorough evaluation and broad member participation.

Currently, only 5% of groups send delegates to the ABC, highlighting the importance of Fellowship Review for inclusivity.

Role of Translation Teams in the Fellowship Review
Translation teams play an important role during Fellowship Review. Translating materials at this stage gives them early access to recovery resources and aligns their work with ACA principles. For example, during the Loving Parent Guidebook (LPG) review, translation teams worked closely with the draft content. After Conference approval, a summary of changes is shared, enabling translators to update their versions for consistency and accuracy.

Handling Outdated Literature and Reducing Waste
The office carefully times book orders to minimize waste. When literature becomes outdated, the ACA WSO repurposes it by donating to institutions, shelters, or groups in need. This ensures the materials continue to support recovery efforts while reflecting ACA WSO's commitment to resourcefulness and inclusivity.

Reference Links:
[Literature Committee webpage](#)
[Publishing Committee webpage](#)
[Translation Subcommittee webpage](#)
[OPPM](#) - see Section XI. ACA WSO Literature/Subsection E. Literature Evaluation and Approval

NOTE: If this proposal receives at least a 66.7% affirmative vote from the groups participating in this voting process, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda.

Proposal 2025-6 - Literature Policy and Priorities

Submitted by: Region 2 (Greater Western USA), CA915 (Arroyo Grande, CA, USA), WEB381 (Arroyo Grande, CA, USA)

Issue: We propose that a Conference Literature Committee of delegates to the 2025 ABC be formed. This committee will initially be charged with determining fellowship literature needs, wants, priorities, and development process.

At the 2026 ABC, that Conference Committee will present its findings and recommendations. If approved, those policies and procedures will be guidelines for that Committee's development of future ACA literature. Translation and publication of literature will remain with WSO in its fiduciary capacity.

Background: Currently, ACA literature is drafted by individuals, groups, and WSO committees. The WSO sequence for literature development is documented in WSO's Operating Policy and Procedures Manual (OPPM pp.37-47). The OPPM is a document developed and changed by the WSO Board rather than by the ACA Conference.

ACA Literature is a matter of great concern to the entire fellowship. It defines our fellowship. It provides all of us with tools and avenues for recovery. No input, however, has been gathered from our worldwide fellowship as to our wants, needs, and priorities for ACA Literature.

The report from the last WSO Literature Committee meeting posted on the ACA WSO website was dated October 11, 2022. A project-development chart was last updated on September 19, 2022. No other reports from the main Literature committee or its sub-committees have been posted. If the WSO Literature Committee exists, it is unknown what is being done or who is doing it.

It's time for the Conference to define our own policies, procedures, and priorities in literature development. WSO no longer needs to be independently in charge of accepting or creating ACA Literature.

Resources/Implementation: Delegates at the 2025 ABC, who wish to volunteer to serve on this committee, will be invited to submit their e-mail addresses in the Zoom chat. Region 2, the group submitting this proposal, will contact those delegates to meet online at a mutually agreeable time and date to organize the committee. Delegate volunteers will choose their leaders and create a mission statement and committee rules, including when to meet and on what platform (for example, Zoom).

The Committee will devise a method to gather input as to what ACAs want and need in terms of future ACA literature. They then will collect it from group delegates and group

contacts throughout the ACA service structure. They will also devise a way to determine fellowship priorities, get that input, and analyze the data.

At the 2026 Annual Business Conference, the Conference Literature Committee will present a report of their research and recommendations. If approved by the Conference, the Committee's recommendations will be guidelines for the Conference's Literature Committee to develop future ACA literature. The OPPM will no longer need to address these matters.

This would cost nothing to implement. We need to have a conference approved approach to developing the literature that will help ACAs, currently and in the future, recover from the effects of growing up in alcoholic and dysfunctional homes.

Translation, publication, and distribution of literature will remain with WSO in its fiduciary capacity.

WSO Analysis:

Conference Committees: The WSO Literature Committee is open to all members, ensuring the fellowship has a voice in ACA-produced literature. New ACA literature can be proposed through four channels:
- A delegate motion at the ABC.
- Development by an ACA group.
- Direction from the Board of Trustees.
- Creation by the Literature Committee.

ACA literature is conference-approved, reflecting the fellowship's collective input. WSO does not independently control literature decisions but remains committed to honoring the fellowship's voice.

Policies for Conference Committees have yet to be developed and are not documented in the Operating Policy and Procedures Manual (OPPM) or By-Laws. Other 12-Step WSOs with Conference Committees operate under a charter and a Conference Service Manual, providing structured frameworks that can serve as inspiration for future development.

Literature Assessment Update: The Board, in collaboration with literature volunteers, is actively reviewing literature priorities and development processes to better align with Fellowship needs, as directed by motions passed at previous Annual Business Conferences (ABCs). Progress and findings are detailed in the Literature Assessment Executive Report, available for review.

Currently, there are three books in the Fellowship review process: Loving Parent Guidebook (LPG), A New Hope, and Connections. Five books are in development, initiated by ABC motions.

Current Literature Report: An annual report of the WSO Literature Committee was included in the 2024 ABC binder.

Invitation to Join the WSO Literature Committee: We encourage proposers and all ACA members to consider volunteering with the WSO Literature Committee. Currently, we are seeking project coordinators to support our ongoing work.

Reference Links:
https://acawso.org/literature/
https://acawso.org/2024/05/07/2024-abc-guidebook-literature-committee-report/

NOTE: If this proposal receives at least a 66.7% affirmative vote from the groups participating in this voting process, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda.

Foundational Matters

Proposal 2025-7 - Approval of Changes to Traditions and Concepts

Submitted by: IG630 (SoCal Intergroup, CA, USA)

Issue: 75% of registered ACA (ACoA) meetings are needed to approve changes to traditions and concepts.

Background: Although ACA is a 12-step based group it's the traditions and concepts that are the bedrock foundation on which we stand. Throughout the years our program has seen many changes and growth, we have recognized how big our tent is. From children of alcoholics to children of addiction to children of every dysfunction. We have grown to embrace varying spiritualities and none at all. We have grown to embrace the teaching and understanding of many scholars and educators the source of our issues and have recognized the solution, although similar can vary in practice. We can attend meetings where the ACA steps are read, or Tony A, or Atheist, Native American, Buddhist. We are able to be open to all aspects of recovery because we have a solid bedrock foundation.

Resources/Implementation: Not included in Proposal

WSO Analysis:
Factors to Consider:
Currently, there are no established percentage thresholds specifically for making changes to the ACA Traditions and Concepts. The general rule for significant unanimity in the "Big Red Book" is two thirds (⅔) (English BRB page 596).

As per the Operating Policy and Procedures Manual (OPPM), Section XIV Ballot Preparation Committee, sub-section G. "Validate and Publish the Results", proposals are added to the ABC agenda with a 66.7% which is 2/3rd affirmative vote (excluding 'no opinion' votes) from registered ACA groups that choose to participate.

The number of registered ACA meetings fluctuates, and as of late 2024, there were over 2,700 registered meetings. A 75% participation threshold would require over 2,000 groups to vote.

Other 12 Step programs, such as AA, use a 75% threshold for changing foundational documents.

Reference Links:
OPPM | ACA WSO
Meeting Search - Adult Children of Alcoholics & Dysfunctional Families

NOTE: If this proposal receives at least a 66.7% affirmative vote from the groups participating in this voting process, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda.

Proposal 2025-8 - Name Change to Adult Children Anonymous

Submitted by: CA1608 (Thousand Oaks, CA, USA)

Issue: We propose that the descriptive name for ACA be simplified to ADULT CHILDREN ANONYMOUS.

Background: By leaving our acronym the same (ACA), yet simplifying the descriptive title to "ADULT CHILDREN ANONYMOUS " we would accomplish several objectives: 1.) PRIMARILY - It would allow for a more INCLUSIVE program offering to the community of suffering individuals whom we serve - many of whom might otherwise tune-out with the exclusionary name of "Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families". (We've all experienced this when we begin to describe ACA to others - "Well, there are no alcoholics in my family." Or "I had a good childhood..." 2.) It's concise - easy to say and remember. 3.) Welcomes every potential newcomer, ALL Adult Children - coming from ANY 12-Step group; including those with zero Program participation. 4.) Invites curiosity and interest: A prospective newcomer hears the term Adult Children and asks "What is an adult child?" To which we respond: An adult child is someone whose actions and decisions as an adult are guided by childhood experiences grounded in self-doubt or fear." (BRB p.302, paragraph 3) 5.) More EFFICIENT and COST EFFECTIVE - Does not require the re-reprinting of myriad collateral materials (new logo, workbooks, brochures, coins and medallions, stationary, answering-machine trees, etc.) - Seamlessly integrates with our existing website.

Resources/Implementation: We've reached out to the name-study committee, https://acawso.org/name-study/ - and received the following reply from the Chair of that study: "We have gone through two fellowship surveys with more than 11,000 responses and two town halls. The most popular name from the surveys was Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families (ACAD). The 2024 Annual Business Conference (ABC) has approved sending this out to the groups for voting." Further communications with the Ballot Prep Committee encouraged us to submit our group's Ballot Proposal if our group strongly supported its inclusion - which was unanimous. Hence, this proposal. We feel that it better supports the Stated name-study purpose: "to develop a name for the fellowship that communicates inclusion for any adult child from a dysfunctional family regardless of the presence of alcohol in the home."

WSO Analysis:
Factors to Consider:
The Name Study Committee explored the name "Adult Children Anonymous" and reported their findings at the 2024 ABC.

Regarding domain ownership:
- The web domain adultchildrenanonymous.org is owned by a private individual.
- The web domain adultchildrenanonymous.com is owned by the ACA World Service Organization (WSO).

This proposal conflicts with what the 2024 ABC delegates have decided to date regarding a possible ACA name change. At the 2024 Annual Business Conference (ABC), delegates approved a motion (#2024-6) to submit to all ACA registered groups the proposal to change the fellowship's functional name to "Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families (ACAD)," which was the top choice from the Name Study Committee's surveys.

To implement this decision, the Board developed a Fellowship Group Voting process that was approved by the delegates following the Quarterly Delegate Meeting on December 7, 2024. The minority opinion on the "voting process" will be heard at the Quarterly Delegate Meeting on February 1st, 2025.

If the delegates approve the process, we will move forward with the "Fellowship Wide Group Vote" on the ABC 2024-6 Motion on "Name Change." An update will be added to the 2025 ABC agenda. More information is available on the links below.

Reference Links:
- Name Study webpage
- Name Study Presentation at the 2024 ABC
- Proposed Fellowship Group Voting Process

NOTE: If this proposal receives at least a 66.7% affirmative vote from the groups participating in this voting process, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda.

Ballot Process/ABC Planning

Proposal 2025-9 - Future Changes to the Ballot Process

Submitted by: The Ballot Preparation Committee of ACA World Services

Issue: We propose that any future changes to the Ballot process must be approved by the Delegates at the ABC. By adopting this proposal, the ABC will be directing the WSO to make sure the changes are reflected in any procedural documentation, such as the ACAWSO Operating Policy and Procedures Manual (OPPM).

Background: The ballot process allows ACA member groups (meetings, Intergroups, and Regions) to bring business items of global importance to the ABC for consideration by the entire fellowship. In its report to the 2024 ABC, the Ballot Prep Committee (BPC) stated as one of its goals that it will "explore recommendations for process changes to the current ballot process." Currently, decisions about the ballot process are made within the BPC, and resulting changes to the OPPM are implemented by the WSO Board of Trustees. NOTE: The OPPM contains the day to day operating guidelines by which the Board and Annual Business Conference functions.

Implementation of this proposal will ensure that decisions about the future of the ballot process will be made only with approval of the ABC, which represents the "actual voice, the effective conscience" for the whole ACA fellowship (Concept 2). This change may slow down the decision-making process. However, it ensures that decisions about how the fellowship brings agenda items to the ABC are made by the ABC itself, representing the informed group conscience of the ACA fellowship.

This proposal lays the foundation for future changes, which may be presented by the BPC via a ballot proposal or a committee motion, or by other member groups and service bodies of the ACA fellowship in accordance with ACAWSO procedural documentation.

Resources/Implementation: Under this proposal, decisions about the future of the ballot process will reflect the informed group conscience of the ACA fellowship. The ballot process remains unaffected for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 seasons.

The fellowship is encouraged to present ideas for changes to the ballot process as future Ballot Proposals. Suggestions for changes may also come from Town Hall meetings and surveys initiated by any registered group (such as meetings, Intergroups, Regions, or WSO service bodies). The BPC and other committees can also use these forums to gather feedback from the fellowship.

The BPC relies on dedicated volunteers to carry out the ballot process as currently designed and amended in the future. ACA members interested in serving are

encouraged to participate as trusted servants on behalf of the fellowship. Please refer to https://acawso.org/bpc/ for more information about the current ballot process and how to participate in the Ballot Prep Committee.

WSO Analysis:
Factors to Consider:

As written, the proposal suggests that any significant changes to the Ballot process "must be approved" annually at the ABC. The Ballot Prep. Committee wants to clarify that the proposal does not require the Delegates to approve routine adjustments to the timing of deadlines, "town hall-style" discussions, or other procedural details. The proposal is for the delegates to approve process changes to the ballot proposal process.

If the fellowship votes to add this proposal to the ABC agenda and it is approved, the BPC Committee will need to develop an implementation plan for process changes with delegate participation.

Reference Info./Links:

The WSO Ballot Preparation Committee (BPC), re-established in 2017, is open to all ACA members and is composed of volunteers, including Delegates and Trustees. Its purpose is to oversee the proposal process by:
- Educating the fellowship,
- Calling for and assisting in the development of proposals,
- Encouraging translations,
- Compiling the Ballot,
- Promoting participation in voting, and
- Tallying and announcing results
- Ballot Prep Committee webpage
- Location & Authority for Conference Policies/Procedures
- OPPM

NOTE: If this proposal receives at least a 66.7% affirmative vote from the groups participating in this voting process, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda.

Proposal 2025-10 - Creation of a Conference Committee for Review of Ballot Proposals

Submitted by: OK0058 (Oklahoma City, OK, USA)

Issue: The Conference adopt a policy for ACA World Services that all future proposals from any source for consideration at a meeting of Conference delegates must be reviewed by a Committee of the Conference for analysis and recommendations, and then by the entire Conference delegation for a final decision on proposals to be placed on an agenda. Members of the Conference Committee will be a reasonable number of randomly selected delegates willing and able to serve.

Background: Current ballot proposal and delegate meeting agenda development processes are driven by WSO Board Committees with little involvement by the Conference of Delegates. This is not in alignment with the Twelve Concepts and is inconsistent with the proper role of the Conference as the voice and conscience of the ACA Fellowship. Under this proposed policy, the Conference will decide which proposals to consider and act upon. WSO will have input, but not control, over the processes by which proposals are selected for the Conference agenda.

This Conference Committee will:

- organize itself, elect officers, adopt procedures and guidelines;
- collect additional information about each proposal;
- accurately summarize and describe the issue to be addressed; and,
- identify alternatives the Conference may consider as solutions or actions.

The Conference will:

- consider all information and the recommendations of the Committee,
- select the proposals to be considered on its agenda,
- discuss and decide on a solution or action on each issue, and
- send a recommendation to the WSO Board on each proposal.

Resources/Implementation: The WSO Board of Trustees will take appropriate measures to implement this policy.

WSO Analysis:
Factors to Consider:
As stated above in #9, the WSO Ballot Proposal Committee— composed of volunteers, including Delegates and Trustees—facilitates the process of managing proposals.

Today proposals are voted on directly by registered ACA groups worldwide to determine their inclusion on the Annual Business Conference (ABC) agenda. This proposal seems to

eliminate the requirement to circulate the Ballot to all registered ACA groups for voting on what is to be placed on the ABC Agenda.

At present, guidelines defining the role, responsibilities, and authority levels of Conference Committees have not yet been established by the delegates.

Reference Links:
- [BPC Page | ACA WSO](#)
- See also: Proposal 2025-9 (above) - Future Changes to the Ballot Process
- Concept X states: *"Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority and should always be well-defined."* - see: [Twelve Concepts of ACA](#)

NOTE: If this proposal receives at least a 66.7% affirmative vote from the groups participating in this voting process, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda.

Service Structure

Proposal 2025-11 - Creation of an Ad-hoc Committee to discuss Scope of Intergroup

Submitted by: IG70 (West Great Lakes Intergroup, USA)

Issue: To allow the creation of Intergroup(s) defined by a shared set of needs among its member meetings, including but not limited to geographic proximity; to allow meetings to register with any Intergroup, provided the Intergroup votes at a regular business meeting to accept their registration; and to convene an ad-hoc committee to study the role of Intergroups within the ACA service structure to highlight the opportunities offered by participation in Intergroups.

Background: The Big Red Book generally describes the scope of an intergroup's reach as bounded by a geographical area (e.g. BRB pp 603-604); the Big Red Book further directs groups that have no Intergroup in their area to elect a Group Representative to attend the Annual Business Conference (page 604). With the dramatic increase in virtual meetings that both identify with no explicit geographic area and include members who live in a wide, in some cases international, array of geographical areas, there are virtual groups who are desirous of the representation and information that registration with an intergroup can provide.

Resources/Implementation: As a functioning intergroup for 13 years, the West Great Lakes ACA Intergroup (WGLACA) will provide leadership and support to carry out this activity. WGLACA is offering to collaborate with the appropriate WSO committees as well as with other Intergroups and Regions that are interested in participating in this project.

WSO Analysis:
Factors to Consider:
Removing Geographic Boundaries:
Published in 2006, the ACA Fellowship Text "Big Red Book" is nearly 20 years old. Since its release, significant changes have occurred, including advancements in technology and the global growth of ACA. Groups have evolved from being primarily geographic-based to also including virtual groups without geographic boundaries.

Therefore, the geographic policy for forming Intergroups has already been informally amended to allow virtual Intergroups to register on the ACA website. The first part of this proposal seeks to formalize this informal policy.

Creation of an ad-hoc Committee:
● The ACA WSO Member Services Committee has an existing subcommittee for Intergroups and Regions - see reference to webpage below. This subcommittee is open to all.
● The ACA WSO Intergroup subcommittee currently supports an "Intergroup Roundtable" to discuss the role of Intergroups.
● This proposal suggests creating an ad hoc committee which may be duplicating efforts.
● We welcome the involvement of West Great Lakes ACA Intergroup (WGLACA) as well as all Intergroups in the established Intergroup subcommittee and roundtable discussions.

Reference Links:
● [Intergroups-Regions Info. webpage](#)
● [Member Services Committee webpage](#)
● [Intergroups Subcommittee webpage](#)
● [ACA WSO Bylaws.pdf](#)

NOTE: If this proposal receives at least a 66.7% affirmative vote from the groups participating in this voting process, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda.

Proposal 2025-12 - Region Representatives on the WSO Board

Submitted by: Region 2 (Greater Western USA), WEB381 (Arroyo Grande, CA, USA), CA 915 (Arroyo Grande, CA, USA)

Issue: We are proposing that ACA reestablish the practice of seating Representatives elected by a Region onto the WSO Board. As in prior ACA practice, each elected Region representative will be empowered to vote on all matters before the WSO Board, an ACA service body.

Background: In the past, the WSO Board was comprised of elected Region and Intergroup Representatives, as well as "at large" trustees. In the late 1980s, elected

representation on the service boards fragmented and disappeared. The very few remaining trusted servants provided leadership at meeting, intergroup, region, and world levels.

ACA meetings elect individuals to represent them on the Intergroup service boards. Intergroups elect representatives to represent them on the Region service boards. And, mirroring some other 12-Step programs, our Intergroups and Regions used to be able to elect their representatives to serve them on the World Service Board.

Today, the fellowship has sufficiently increased to reestablish the original service structure. Without having, at least, Region representatives on the Board, there are insufficient checks and balances, increased communication failures, as well as shortages of volunteers and 7th Tradition donations.

The policy for selecting "at large" trustees, as stated in the Operating Policy and Procedures Manual (pp.12-14), is exclusionary as it has been applied to elected Region Representatives. The policy as applied by the Nomination Committee violates the autonomy of the Regions (Tradition 4) and the Inverted Pyramid embodied in "service boards directly responsible to those they serve" (Tradition 9).

We need to restore our representative form of our service structure by automatically seating elected Region Representatives onto the WSO service board. To reiterate, this will facilitate improved trust and fellowship support. It will also improve communication and build in checks and balances.

Resources/Implementation: To implement this proposal WSO would remove the sections of their Operating Policy and Procedures Manual (OPPM) that stipulate elected Representatives of Regions need to apply for WSO Trustee positions. WSO may want to keep their internal application process for "at large" trustees.

WSO would welcome and seat elected representatives of the Regions as voting members of the WSO Board when presented with written documentation of that election from the Region.

There is no fiscal impact to seat elected Representatives of the Regions onto the WSO Board.

WSO Analysis:
Factors to Consider:
Regions are strongly encouraged and warmly invited to put forward trustee candidates to the Nominating Committee for review and approval as outlined in the Operating Policies and Procedures Manual (OPPM).

The Nominating Committee's vetting process for board applicants, along with the qualifications for board membership, is clearly outlined in the OPPM under Section II, K.

Nominating Committee; L. Qualification for Board Membership, and M. Regional Trustees (pages 13–15). All trustee candidates are thoroughly vetted for conflicts of interest and overall suitability by the Nominating Committee and are ratified by the delegates at the Annual Business Conference as per the bylaws.

This proposal bypasses the established application and vetting process by the Nominating Committee and introduces a dual track for trustee confirmation.

Since the inception of the Nominating Committee, WSO board candidates put forward by a Region have been accepted.

Nominating Committee members are vetted using the same qualifications and standards as board members.

Reference Links:
- OPPM (see pages 13 - 15 and Appendix IV)
- NOTE: A similar ballot proposal was submitted in 2022 see: Proposal 2023-06 in 2023-Proposals-Results-final.pdf

NOTE: If this proposal receives at least a 66.7% affirmative vote from the groups participating in this voting process, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda.

WSO Procedures

Proposal 2025-13 - Post All Committee Minutes or Reports on the ACAWSO.org in a Timely Fashion

Submitted by: Region 2 (Greater Western USA), CA 915 (Arroyo Grande, CA, USA), WEB 381 (Arroyo Grande, CA, USA)

Issue: We propose that all WSO committees (Collaboration Committees, Committees, and sub-committees) submit meeting minutes or reports for posting on the ACAWSO.org website within one month of each meeting.

Background: WSO replaced 12 monthly teleconferences with 4. Very few of the 43 WSO committees listed (Collaboration Committees, Committees, and sub-committees) on the website diagram (ACAWSO.org) are given agenda time to make reports at any teleconference. This is also the case in the 4 Quarterly Delegate Meetings.

At recent Annual Business Conferences, only selected committees have made reports. Delegates are, instead, referred to the annually posted Delegate Binder to research committee information.

As of September 30, 2024, no reports or minutes were located from any of the four Collaboration Committees that has WSO's decision-making power. Some committees making quarterly reports are 6 months behind. Literature committee reports were last posted September 2022. The last reports of some committees meeting weekly were posted 3 to 9 months ago.

Committees of the WSO Board, such as the Finance Committee, Executive Committee, and Distribution Center, are posting their reports regularly.

Entries on SLACK channels and WSO Zoom committee meetings indicate meeting work is occurring. Reports are not, however, being posted in a timely way on the ACAWSO.org website that is accessible to the ACA worldwide fellowship.

While the OPPM (p. 36) already states that reports are to be submitted and posted, committees are not complying with this policy. This is a matter of large concern to the fellowship. We cannot make informed decisions about policy or projects without up-to-date information. We cannot discern the best fit for our skills as volunteers on committees or lend support to committee efforts without information.

Resources/Implementation: IT staff and volunteers post available WSO committee reports. With compliance by all committees to the existing OPPM policy, posting any additional committee reports may increase the IT workload by two to four hours each month. Since it is an expectation that IT posts all available committee reports to adhere to ACA transparency, this is a budgetary item that should be inherent in normal operation.

WSO Analysis:
Factors to Consider:
Transparency and periodic reporting are vital to the fellowship's ability to stay informed and engaged. According to the Operating Policies and Procedures Manual (OPPM), committees are currently required to submit monthly and annual reports for posting on the WSO service website, rather than reports for each meeting.

Some committees face challenges in meeting this monthly reporting requirement due to limited resources. Committees with the support of paid special workers, such as the Finance Committee and the WSO Office/Distribution Center, are better able to fulfill this obligation.

The proposal to require that all committees "submit meeting minutes or reports for posting on the ACAWSO.org website within one month of each meeting" may significantly increase the workload for committee volunteers. Addressing this issue could include exploring ways to recruit additional volunteers or other methods to support committees in meeting reporting expectations. Implementing such changes would also require a revision to the OPPM.

Note: the Literature Committee submitted its annual report to the 2024 ABC, demonstrating efforts to fulfill this requirement.

Reference Links:
- Committee reports are posted on the Committee webpage on the ACA WSO website
- Chair/Board Forum Formation Summary

NOTE: If this proposal receives at least a 66.7% affirmative vote from the groups participating in this voting process, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda.