

Proposal 2014-1 Submitted by Victor, Colorado (CO008), 7pm Thursdays

Issue: I move the inclusion of a newcomer pamphlet be included in Red Book sales.

History: I have received 20 emails/phone calls since registering my group 7 years ago, but there are not enough live members to comprise a group. Therefore, I encourage the callers to get the Red Book from adultchildren.org and call me for phone or email meetings. So far, I have had only one co-sponsee. My desire is to do more effective outreach.

Argument in Favor: Maybe ordering the Red Book is too imposing for some newcomers. If I could tell them that the order would include a very special pamphlet, something that would help them absolutely, perhaps it would help them continue their reaching out.

WSO Analysis: In order to automatically include a Newcomers Booklet with each Red Book, WSO would have to raise the price of the Red Book accordingly from \$15.00 to \$16.50. Because not everyone ordering a Red Book wants a Newcomers Booklet, either because they can't or don't want to pay the extra amount, or they don't need an extra copy, this inclusion might actually keep people from buying additional books

If this proposal receives a two-thirds positive vote from the fellowship, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda, with the result of that discussion provided as part of the ABC minutes.

Submit Date: 2013-12-06 12:34:37

Proposal 2014-2 Submitted by West Allis, WI (WI077), Tuesdays, 7:00 pm

Issue: We propose that WSO Board of Trustee's form an Ad Hoc Committee to review the Big Red Book. The purpose would be to identify and reword any language that conflicts with, or does not clearly carry, the message of the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and Concepts of Service, of the ACA Program.

History: We have a First Edition and a Revised First Edition of the BRB. The book, Alcoholics Anonymous, commonly known as The Big Book is now 75 years old. There have been four editions, and multiple printings of each edition. Each has additions, deletions or changes to more clearly carry the message. For example: Chapter 5 of the Big Book, 'How it works', including the original 12 Steps, as printed in the First Edition, are not exactly the same as we read them today, in the Fourth Edition. Experience did prove some editing beneficial.

Argument in Favor: There are many years of experience with other recovery programs in the ACA Fellowship. There is language in some areas of the BRB, based on that experience, which concerns some in the ACA Fellowship. The A.A. Fellowship needed a clearer understanding of the principles of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. The attempt to explain is contained in what is now the book titled Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. Tradition Nine of that book states: 1) Unless each A.A. member follows to the best of his ability our suggested Twelve Steps to recovery, he almost certainly signs his own death warrant. 2) The same stern threat applies to the group itself. Unless there is approximate conformity to A.A.'s Twelve Traditions, the group, too, can deteriorate and die. This is relevant because the BRB refers to A.A. history and experience many times. The term 'voluntary contribution' is traditionally used by recovery programs. The word 'donation' is commonly used, when asking for money, by charitable organizations: i.e., American Heart Assn., American Cancer Society, The Salvation Army, Jerry Lewis MD Telethon. The word 'donation' also implies a tax deductible gift. In 2006, AA GSO Finance Committee, New York, determined the word 'donation' would no longer be used in their recording and returned to using 'voluntary contribution'. Tradition Seven, BRB pg 522, uses the term 'voluntary contribution' in the beginning italicized paragraphs. The word 'donation' then appears in the Tradition Nine Insight, pg 523. One example for Ad Hoc Committee review: These two Tradition Insight sentences appear on pg 525 - BRB: 1) Our groups and services depend on individual and group donations. 2) At the same time, ACA members with financial resources are asked to give their fair share. These statements imply that someone is monitoring how much is put in a Tradition Seven meeting basket, and by who, when passed. They also imply that, if the financial condition of an ACA member changes, and they can now purchase a new car, someone will question their personal spending habits, and then attempt to have them 'donate more'. Who, or what, is the determining power that asks them for, and what is, their 'fair share donation'? There is none. We have voluntary contributions based on self responsibility for our fellowship. The implications are contrary to more than just one ACA Tradition. The language should not imply we do this.

WSO Analysis: To create and support a complete review of the Red Text could be done with a volunteer committee of the fellowship, although such a project would take a dedicated commitment. Another option is to produce supplemental publication(s) to identify and clarify incongruous areas (i.e., "donation" vs. "voluntary contribution") rather than tackle a complete review and rewrite. An estimated cost of revisions for future printings based on the continual review of our fellowship text would be approximately \$6,500 with volunteers, if available, doing the bulk of the work.

If the proposal receives a two-thirds vote from the fellowship, it will be included as part of the 2014 ABC agenda, with the result of that discussion provided as part of the ABC minutes.

Submit Date: 2013-12-10 19:59:31

Proposal 2014-3 Submitted by Hendersonville, TN. (TN029), Monday 6:30 PM

Issue: We propose the reinstatement of the ComLine in the paper form to be provided to all registered ACA groups via POCs, at least quarterly.

History: The paper newsletter with the ACA logo on it every few months was a tool of inclusion. The paper ComLine allowed groups and individuals to feel "connected" to each other. The paper ComLine was a venue of communication for people who want to write letters or submit articles. Home groups liked being able to see on paper the anonymous ID #'s of groups contributing the 7th Tradition, as well as reading various reports from the Trustees.

Argument in Favor: Clicking my way around the "web" makes it seem like one more thing "I" have to "do"--- Electronic versions of the ComLine can't be passed around the room or copied to share on an article for a meeting topic. The paper ComLine felt like a true gift of service from the Trustees, showing by example that we too may grow up and learn and be responsible and even serve on the Board some day. The ComLine could be kept with its printed phone #'s and mailing address so a member could easily write a letter or submit an article or make a phone call. In that there are continued requests monthly for the ComLine per monthly reports from the Outreach Committee, we propose the reinstatement of a newsletter in paper form provided by the WSO Board and ACA Fellowship.

WSO Analysis: WSO definitely understands the value of the ComLine and plans to restart the publication in an electronic format when the new website is in place. One of the main reasons it has not been published for almost two years is a lack of volunteer help to make it happen. When publication is restarted, if the fellowship would like the ComLine to also be printed in paper form, it can be made available at a subscription price that reflects the printing, handling and mailing costs.

If this proposal receives a two-thirds positive vote from the fellowship, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda, with the result of that discussion provided as part of the ABC minutes.

Submit Date: 2013-12-20 05:42:15

Proposal 2014-4 Submitted by Telephone Meeting (TEL173), 815 am EST Thursday

Issue: That the literature available within the ACA fellowship on the Basic 5 Needs and the six essential recovery tasks be made open for discussion within ACA, in order to have it approved and integrated as part of the official fellowship (conference approved) literature.

History: The Basic 5 Needs and the Six Essential Recovery Tasks have been addressed in the past at ACA conventions. The material that was used on those occasions is available for all. However, as the writings have not been approved and integrated as part of the ACA literature, some adult children feel uncomfortable addressing these issues as they are considered "outside issues".

Argument in Favor: Those who are focusing on the importance of the daily Basic Five Daily Needs, as well as the structure offered by the Six Essential Tasks - combined with the ACA Twelve Steps - are benefiting from these in their recovery. By adding these pieces of literature to the approved ACA literature it can be hoped that more adult children will benefit from them too.

WSO Analysis: These items may be added to WSO literature with the permission of the author. If that permission is granted, then the Literature Committee could pursue the matter and determine in what way the material might be published.

If this proposal receives a two-thirds positive vote from the fellowship, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda, with the result of that discussion provided as part of the ABC minutes.

Submit Date: 2013-12-26 08:09:23

(Proposal 2014-5 *Withdrawn* Submitted by Chicago, IL (IL204), 6:30)

Proposal 2014-6 Submitted by Chicago, IL (IL204), 6:30pm Wednesdays (7 and 10 are Duplicates of this one)

Issue: IL 204 hereby makes a motion that any complaints made to ACA WSO about a meeting be forwarded as soon as possible directly and only to the particular meeting using the contact information on file with the ACA WSO; and any response to complainant by ACA WSO be included.

History: A complaint was sent to WSO about this group, which maintains current contact information including name, phone number & email, with the WSO. WSO responded to the complainant & forwarded a copy only to the Intergroup the same day. When the complaint was finally received from another meeting and not WSO or Intergroup, WSO only sent the incoming complaint, while the Intergroup included the WSO response to it & cover letter to the Intergroup which indicated the WSO could have cc'd the group on the same email. The WSO response appears to not support our meeting with statements such as we were "out of order" "not compassionate" & "probably not following the 12 Steps & 12 Traditions," despite having no knowledge or input from our meeting & indicates they'll "report" the complaint to the Intergroup.

Argument in Favor: The Fellowship Text indicates WSO & Intergroups do not exist to police meetings but rather as a resource. It would be helpful to receive complaints directly & offer suggestions if asked so meetings may act autonomously & with trust. Where a group takes a group conscience to not affiliate with an Intergroup as ours has, the decisions of this autonomous group should be respected by the WSO; the complaint should not be sent to Intergroup. Failure to forward complaints made WSO unavailable as a resource for this meeting for suggestions. Further arguments in favor are contained in Traditions 4 & 9 (as follows): So, what controls do the Intergroups hold over meetings, & what controls does the WSO hold over meetings, Intergroups or Regions? None. Each ACA group is autonomous, but the groups routinely seek guidance from Intergroups, Regions, & WSO for group affairs. There is no governance or enforcement of rules in ACA There are no directives. No one can tell ACA groups how to run their meetings. There is no authoritative governance in ACA. Another common question is how does a meeting resolve a conflict between its group members? Or how do we handle members who might be disruptive in meetings? Again the WSO or Intergroup does not intervene in these situations, but can offer suggestions on how past situations have been handled. The wisdom of the Fourth Tradition allows every ACA group the right to make its own decisions. Within the guidance of the Traditions, the groups run their own meetings & choose the method for carrying the ACA message within their community. The groups are given freedom to make mistakes. In other words, every group has the unabashed right to be wrong. With trust, we also avoid the tendency to manage or control our trusted servants who are trying to do the best they can on behalf of the fellowship. We trust out trusted servants to do the right thing, whether they serve at the group, Intergroup or WSO level

WSO Analysis: Adopting the procedure that this proposal suggests would cause an issue of the loss of anonymity on the part of the member who made the concern known. Sending a copy of a person's concern to the meeting group contact or anyone else would not be in the best interest of members who wish to receive guidance from the WSO as a safe place to voice concerns. Adopting a procedure to respond to the member only could be a workable solution instead of breaking the concerned person's anonymity. WSO anticipated cost: nothing. But just as meetings are autonomous, individuals have the right to remain anonymous. Sending a copy of their concern to the meeting group contact would not be in the best interest of members who wish to receive guidance from WSO and have a safe place to voice concerns. It is only when WSO receives multiple complaints about the same meeting that we consider, by Board consensus, how to proceed in contacting the meeting. We believe the fellowship does not want WSO to list meetings that are unsafe or that do not follow the Steps and Traditions.

If this proposal receives a two-thirds positive vote from the fellowship, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda, with the result of that discussion provided as part of the ABC minutes.

Submit Date: 2013-12-26 14:41:30

Proposal 2014-7 Duplicate of 6 and 10. Submitted by Chicago, IL 60610 (IL206), 10:30am Saturdays

Issue: IL 206 hereby makes a motion that any complaints made to ACA WSO about a meeting be forwarded as soon as possible directly and only to the particular meeting using the contact information on file with the ACA WSO; and any response to complainant by ACA WSO be included.

History: A complaint was sent to WSO about this group, which maintains current contact information including name, phone number & email, with the WSO. WSO responded to the complainant & forwarded a copy only to the Intergroup the same day. Due to the foregoing, having never attended prior, the Intergroup Chairperson attended the meeting without forwarding the email complaint or bringing a copy or otherwise notifying the meeting. When the complaining member showed up very angry, the group was unaware of the issue & the situation became potentially dangerous. The group was not allowed to resolve the issue as an autonomous group & the Intergroup Chairperson had acted as a "policing" agent seemingly sent by the ACA WSO. When the complaint was finally forwarded to IL 206, WSO only sent the incoming complaint, while the Intergroup included the WSO response to it & cover letter to the Intergroup which indicated the WSO could have cc'd the groups on the same email & would have been received prior to the meeting via email or with the Intergroup Chairperson's inspection. Lacking knowledge of the complaint AND the WSO response, our meeting was confused. The WSO response appears to not support our meeting with statements such as we were "out of order" "not compassionate" & "probably not following the 12 Steps & 12 Traditions," despite having no knowledge or input from our meeting & indicates they'll "report" the complaint to the Intergroup.

Argument in Favor: The Fellowship Text indicates WSO & Intergroups do not exist to police meetings but rather as a resource. It would be helpful to receive complaints directly & offer suggestions if asked so meetings may act autonomously & with trust. Where a group takes a group conscience to not affiliate with an Intergroup as ours has, the decisions of this autonomous group should be respected by the WSO; the complaint should not be sent to Intergroup. Failure to forward complaints made WSO unavailable as a resource for this meeting for suggestions. Further arguments in favor are contained in Traditions 4 & 9 (as follows): So, what controls do the Intergroups hold over meetings, & what controls does the WSO hold over meetings, Intergroups or Regions? None. Each ACA group is autonomous, but the groups routinely seek guidance from Intergroups, Regions, & WSO for group affairs. There is no governance or enforcement of rules in ACA. There are no directives. No one can tell ACA groups how to run their meetings. There is no authoritative governance in ACA. Another common question is how does a meeting resolve a conflict between its group members? Or how do we handle members who might be disruptive in meetings? Again the WSO or Intergroup does not intervene in these situations, but can offer suggestions on how past situations have been handled. The wisdom of the Fourth Tradition allows every ACA group the right to make its own decisions. Within the guidance of the Traditions, the groups run their own meetings & choose the method for carrying the ACA message within their community. The groups are given freedom to make mistakes. In other words, every group has the unabashed right to be wrong. With trust, we also avoid the tendency to manage or control our trusted servants who are trying to do the best they can on behalf of the fellowship. We trust our trusted servants to do the right thing, whether they serve at the group, Intergroup or WSO level.

WSO Analysis: Adopting the procedure that this proposal suggests would cause an issue of the loss of anonymity on the part of the member who made the concern known. Sending a copy of a person's concern to the meeting group contact or anyone else would not be in the best interest of members who wish to receive guidance from the WSO as a safe place to voice concerns. Adopting a procedure to respond to the member only could be a workable solution instead of breaking the concerned person's anonymity. WSO anticipated cost: nothing.

But just as meetings are autonomous, individuals have the right to remain anonymous. Sending a copy of their concern to the meeting group contact would not be in the best interest of members who wish to receive guidance from WSO and have a safe place to voice concerns. It is only when WSO receives multiple complaints about the same meeting that we consider, by Board consensus, how to proceed in contacting the meeting. We believe the fellowship does not want WSO to list meetings that are unsafe or that do not follow the Steps and Traditions.

If this proposal receives a two-thirds positive vote from the fellowship, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda, with the result of that discussion provided as part of the ABC minutes. Submit Date: 2013-12-26 14:44:35

(Proposal 2014-8 *Withdrawn* Submitted by Chicago, IL (IL204), 6:30pm Wednesdays)

Proposal 2014-9 Submitted by Chicago, IL 60610 (IL204), 6:30pm Wednesdays

Issue: REVISED: IL 204 hereby makes a motion that in the future, when the ACA WSO decides to prepare a revised ACA Fellowship Text, they consider changing the caption “God Exists” along with the first sentence thereof stating, “One of the results of a spiritual awakening involves the understanding that God is real,” on page 283 of the ACA Fellowship Text and page 176 of the Yellow Steps workbook as some of our members are atheists and/or come from religious abuse.

History: Some of our members are atheists and come from religious abuse. The statement “God Exists” and “God is real” is unlike references in other parts of the literature. We tell our members ACA is a spiritual not a religious program as Chapter 5 of the ACA Red Text explains.

Argument in Favor: REVISED: If we take a spiritual and not religious approach, replacing the caption “God Exists” with “Spiritual Awakening” and deleting the first sentence of that section on pages 283 of the ACA Fellowship Text and 176 of the ACA Steps workbook casts a wider net for our members; It keeps the debate off religion or religious thought in ACA recovery. In reading the text after “God Exists” it is really focused on the different types of spiritual awakenings and this section is followed by “Avoiding a Spiritual Bypass.”

WSO Analysis: The 12-Step programs, since their inception within AA, were not meant to focus on a God of any one belief system, but rather encourage each person to find a God of their own understanding (Step Two). The next time that ACA WSO prepares a revised ACA Fellowship Text, they will consider the idea suggested in proposal 9 equally, along with the other ideas that precipitate the next revision.
If this proposal receives a two-thirds positive vote from the fellowship, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda, with the result of that discussion provided as part of the ABC minutes.

Submit Date: 2013-12-26 19:31:53

Proposal 2014-10 Duplicate of 6 and 7. Submitted by Chicago, IL (IL164), Mondays 6:30pm

Issue: IL 164 hereby makes a motion that any complaints made to ACA WSO about a meeting be forwarded as soon as possible directly and only to the particular meeting using the contact information on file with the ACA WSO; and any response to complainant by ACA WSO be included.

History: A complaint was sent to WSO about this group, which maintains current contact information including name, phone number & email, with the WSO. WSO responded to the complainant & forwarded a copy only to the Intergroup the same day. When the complaint was finally received from another meeting and not WSO or Intergroup, WSO only sent the incoming complaint, while the Intergroup included the WSO response to it & cover letter to the Intergroup which indicated the WSO could have cc'd the group on the same email. The WSO response appears to not support our meeting with statements such as we were "out of order" "not compassionate" & "probably not following the 12 Steps & 12 Traditions," despite having no knowledge or input from our meeting & indicates they'll "report" the complaint to the Intergroup.

Argument in Favor: The Fellowship Text indicates WSO & Intergroups do not exist to police meetings but rather as a resource. It would be helpful to receive complaints directly & offer suggestions if asked so meetings may act autonomously & with trust. Where a group takes a group conscience to not affiliate with an Intergroup as ours has, the decisions of this autonomous group should be respected by the WSO; the complaint should not be sent to Intergroup. Failure to forward complaints made WSO unavailable as a resource for this meeting for suggestions. Further arguments in favor are contained in Traditions 4 & 9 (as follows): So, what controls do the Intergroups hold over meetings, & what controls does the WSO hold over meetings, Intergroups or Regions? None. Each ACA group is autonomous, but the groups routinely seek guidance from Intergroups, Regions, & WSO for group affairs. There is no governance or enforcement of rules in ACA. There are no directives. No one can tell ACA groups how to run their meetings. There is no authoritative governance in ACA. Another common question is how does a meeting resolve a conflict between its group members? Or how do we handle members who might be disruptive in meetings? Again the WSO or Intergroup does not intervene in these situations, but can offer suggestions on how past situations have been handled. The wisdom of the Fourth Tradition allows every ACA group the right to make its own decisions. Within the guidance of the Traditions, the groups run their own meetings & choose the method for carrying the ACA message within their community. The groups are given freedom to make mistakes. In other words, every group has the unabashed right to be wrong. With trust, we also avoid the tendency to manage or control our trusted servants who are trying to do the best they can on behalf of the fellowship. We trust out trusted servants to do the right thing, whether they serve at the group, Intergroup or WSO level.

WSO Analysis: Adopting the procedure that this proposal suggests would cause an issue of the loss of anonymity on the part of the member who made the concern known. Sending a copy of a person's concern to the meeting group contact or anyone else would not be in the best interest of members who wish to receive guidance from the WSO as a safe place to voice concerns. Adopting a procedure to respond to the member only could be a workable solution instead of breaking the concerned person's anonymity. WSO anticipated cost: nothing. But just as meetings are autonomous, individuals have the right to remain anonymous. Sending a copy of their concern to the meeting group contact would not be in the best interest of members who wish to receive guidance from WSO and have a safe place to voice concerns. It is only when WSO receives multiple complaints about the same meeting that we consider, by Board consensus, how to proceed in contacting the meeting. We believe the fellowship does not want WSO to list meetings that are unsafe or that do not follow the Steps and Traditions. If this proposal receives a two-thirds positive vote from the fellowship, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda, with the result of that discussion provided as part of the ABC minutes.

Submit Date: 2013-12-26 19:34:46

Proposal 2014-11 Submitted by THE BRONX, NY (NY084), FRIDAYS AT 7 PM

Issue: MOTION: That the WSO develop a piece of literature further elaborating the materials briefly described in the first pages of the first chapter of the Fellowship Text concerning the other Laundry Lists and its implications for Adult Children recovery.

History: When the Fellowship Text was being vetted, one of our members highlighted that while the book highlighter how we were affected all right, it did not describe how we in turn may be "acting out" the affects on those around us. This gave rise to the inclusion of the Other Laundry List in the first chapter of the Fellowship Text. However, there is very little description of what this means or how adult children might incorporate this level of work into their recovery program. Outlined in a presentation at the 2008 Convention, this piece of literature should provide a narrative for newcomers to grasp how they were affected (Laundry List) and how they effect others (Other Laundry List). The Flip Sides, or how the person may recognize their spiritual progress by using the tools of the program, should likewise be described. The central themes should be: Victim/Persecutor/Rescuer I & II; Internal Addiction (physical aspects) and the benefits of attending meetings, becoming your own loving parent (reparenting), and working the Steps to achieve integration and a spiritual awakening.

Argument in Favor: The further elaboration of this aspect of how adult children "act out" the effects in seemingly well adapted ways can provide adult children with the insight needed to unearth their True Selves from their childhood reactionary attitudes and behaviors that perplex and undermine their recovery effort. The convention schematic and accompanying essay are challenging to comprehend without a general narrative description to make the material more personal and accessible to members.

WSO Analysis: Respectfully, materials for this project have been gathered and are in process by the current Literature Committee. It has been drafted and is ready for layout. The Literature Committee always welcomes ideas and submissions. Estimated cost of new literature in tri-fold format: \$2,000.

If this proposal receives a two-thirds positive vote from the fellowship, it will be included as part of the 2014 ABC agenda with the result of that discussion provided as part of the ABC minutes.

Submit Date: 2013-12-28 12:03:56

Proposal 2014-12 Submitted by West Great Lakes Intergroup (IG070), Every third Saturday

Issue: We propose that an Intergroup Liaison position be created within WSO that reports on Intergroup initiatives; this could be a WSO Board position or a Committee of the Board that has a WSO Trustee on the Committee

History: As ACA grows, the need for more communication within the Fellowship is growing. Many Intergroups already perform responsibilities within their local areas, such as Outreach, which includes providing information to the therapeutic community and Hospitals and Institutions. It is often easier for an Intergroup to do these things as they are already familiar with their geographic area and individual group activities within that area. To avoid duplication of effort, it would be helpful for WSO to be well informed of these various fellowship activities. Intergroups will benefit by sharing best practices among them. This will promote consistency and continuity.

Argument in Favor: At this time the fellowship has not been separated into Regions, except for perhaps Europe, which has a Committee that reports to the Board. As we know, existing Intergroups are the instrumental level of service above the meeting level. Since the least amount of confusion or overlap of activities is the best means to reaching a goal, promoting communication among Intergroups and to the WSO would help accomplish goals and alleviate the time wasted trying to "re-invent the wheel." WSO Trustee involvement will facilitate real-time communication. No matter what form this Liaison position takes, whether a WSO Trustee position is dedicated to this effort, or a Committee is formed that reports about activities during the monthly Board teleconferences and has a Trustee involved, we feel this line of communication is vital to promote unity and to avoid duplication of effort.

WSO Analysis: This year, the Board of Trustees changed the name of the Outreach Committee to Member and Public Service (MPS) Committee and placed the Hospitals and Institutions under the MPS Committee's purview. All intergroup representatives are always welcome to attend the monthly teleconference meetings and may contact MPS at any time with any questions or comments. Our limited amount of time and energy do not allow for a Board member or staff person to be in regular contact with each intergroup, however, if any intergroup representative wishes to contact MPS regularly, the committee would certainly love to hear from them. The cost of tasking a staff member with making regular contact and reporting back their interactions with the intergroups is difficult to estimate.

If this proposal receives a two-thirds positive vote from the fellowship, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda, with the result of that discussion provided as part of the ABC minutes.

Submit Date: 2013-12-28 14:59:46

Proposal 2014-13 Submitted by Atlanta (GA020), 2 p.m. Sunday

Issue: I move that WSO study the feasibility of establishing a literature distribution point in the eastern United States, based on group demographics around the country.

History: We're trying to think of ways to save shipping costs and speed delivery of literature to East Coast ACA groups. Our meeting's literature volunteer has observed that book shipping costs have risen. Our meeting does not want to raise the price for new members to buy the book and workbook. While the expense of establishing another distribution facility may be prohibitive, it may be possible to pull off with a little additional thought and creativity. Perhaps a member or group would volunteer for that role.

Argument in Favor: If enough books are sold east of the Mississippi (or other line); especially if the books are printed in the nation's eastern half; we may all be able to save money with an eastern U.S. book distribution point.

WSO Analysis: The cost of setting up a distribution center includes the cost of locating a suitable warehouse facility, staffing, training, and buying all the equipment and getting support for them to make the distribution center work effectively. Regarding shipping costs, once the new website is in place, the fellowship will be able to realize better savings in that regard.

If this proposal receives a two-thirds positive vote from the fellowship, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda, with the result of that discussion provided as part of the ABC minutes.

Submit Date: 2013-12-29 18:51:38

Proposal 2014-14 Submitted by Deerfield, Illinois (IL172), 8:30am

Issue: We propose that the WSO Board hire a certified meeting planner and/or survey the Fellowship to recruit a member with certified meeting planner credentials, i.e., a volunteer. The major role for the meeting planner would be three-fold: 1] collect the specific requirements for the Annual Business Conference, 2] pass on those requirements to the local Chair in charge of the given years Annual Business Conference, [ABC] and 3] assist the local Chair, as needed, in locating suitable meeting venues and accommodations for the local area. This would all need to be done within the confines of the budget established by the Board.

History: Currently local Chairs for the ABC are left to operate on their own, finding whatever space is available based on budget and perceived need. Some Chairs may be familiar with meeting venues and accommodations in their respective areas; others may not. As ACA grows, there will be a need for larger and larger meeting spaces with more complexity. It is more likely than not that this situation could overwhelm a novice Chair, leading to a potential ABC meeting misfit for the Board and the Fellowship. Based on information and belief, it appears that local Chairs collect the ABC requirements by interacting with various members of the Board, on an ad lib/ad hoc basis, at this time.

Argument in Favor: With Board members expending funds from the WSO budget for travel to the ABC and individual delegates expending funds from either their personal pockets or funding from their local InterGroups for ABC-related travel, it would be prudent for the Board to establish ABC meeting requirements in conjunction with a certified meeting planner. At this time, the Fellowship has not experienced a meeting 'misfit'; however, action should be taken now to avoid any future issues and disappointments. As adult children we have experienced enough disappointments in our childhoods; we need not fuel this potential in adulthood by leaving the ABC meeting planning to be completed on an ad lib/ad hoc basis.

WSO Analysis: This year for the first time, the WSO Board of Trustees has tasked a dedicated staff member to assist in the planning and execution of the ABC. Since this was the first year that the person was tasked, the thought is that with time, they will be able to staff the ABC adequately. Costs of a hiring a meeting planner vary widely and is based on the extent of services requested and the venue.

If this proposal receives a two-thirds positive vote from the fellowship, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda, with the result of that discussion provided as part of the ABC minutes.

Submit Date: 2013-12-29 21:19:07

Proposal 2014-15 Submitted by Deerfield, Illinois (IL172), 8:30am

Issue: We propose that the WSO Board establish registration fees for the Annual Business Conference, [ABC] meeting.

History: Currently no registration fees exist. The WSO budget is the mainstay for all expenses related to the ABC. Any cost overruns are likely to be mitigated by contributions/ donations from various Intergroups.

Argument in Favor: Additional sources of funding should be sought as the Fellowship grows in size. The following is provided as an EXAMPLE for the Board to consider: • \$10 [USD] for registration by April 2nd* of each year. • \$20 for registration AFTER April 2nd* of each year. *April 2nd was chosen for this example because it coincides with the deadline dates established by the hotels for the 2014 ABC.

WSO Analysis: The Annual Business Conference is the fellowship's meeting. As such,, they cannot be charged to attend their own meeting. The delegates may be asked to make voluntary contributions or to pay for their own meals. However, attendance by the fellowship cannot be limited to those who can pay a registration fee.

If this proposal receives a two-thirds positive vote from the fellowship, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda, with the result of that discussion provided as part of the ABC minutes.

Submit Date: 2013-12-29 21:29:30

Proposal 2014-16 Submitted by Madison, WI (WI076), 10:30

Issue: To include in the 25 QUESTIONS, AM I AN ADULT CHILD trifold, how someone who was raised in a home with mental illness can grow up to have some of the same issues an adult child of an alcoholic has.

History: The BRB mentions being raised in a home with mental health issues in a parent creating some of the same negative characteristics as coming from an addicted home. Nothing is mentioned in the "25 Questions, Am I An Adult Child" regarding this mental health issue, yet the fellowship text (BRB) has added to the title "Dysfunctional Families", which includes households where mental illness in a parent can be a problem.

Argument in Favor: It is commonly believed that a child being raised in a home with mentally ill parents can emerge from that home with some of the same characteristics of an adult child from an addicted home. Therefore, having a trifold with more in- depth information in it on this subject would help in getting this information out to those in need both in the treatment field and individuals questioning themselves. Some of the trifolds, such as "25 Questions, Am I an Adult Child" are good to be given to treatment centers, psychiatrists, counselors, and psychologists to inform them about adult children as well as for individuals, and including some information in it about those raised in a home where mental illness is a factor would greatly increase the understanding of all types of homes and dysfunctions that affect adult children. This also is a good way to help those in that situation identify themselves by asking the important questions.

WSO Analysis: There is a paragraph in this tri-fold that reads "These 25 questions offer an insight into some ways children are affected by growing up with a problem drinker even years after leaving the home. The questions also apply to adults growing up in homes where food, sex, workaholism or ultra-religious abuse occurred. Many foster children, now adults, also relate to these questions." At minimal cost, this tri-fold could be changed to include families with mental illness.

If this proposal receives a two-thirds positive vote from the fellowship, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda, with the result of that discussion provided as part of the ABC minutes.

Submit Date: 2013-12-31 09:49:33

Proposal 2014-17 Submitted by Grover Beach, CA (IG#076), 1st Saturday at 3:45 p.m.

Issue: Motion 1: Move to define WSO Outreach for WSO Outreach Chair and Committee to initiate telephone contact with each Intergroup and isolated meetings having no affiliation with an Intergroup registered with WSO at least once annually on a schedule submitted in advance to the ACA WSO Board of Trustees.

History: ACA WSO did not have the money, personnel, or advances in technology in the past to initiate contact and went into a “fallback” position of defining “Outreach” as answering letters, incoming telephone calls, and e-mail that arrived. Since WSO is not initiating outreach calls, it is currently in a reactive position rather than a pro-active one.

Argument in Favor: “Outreach” in non-profits generally refers to the central body initiating contact with the people they serve to open up channels of communication. Where a relationship is established between two individuals, information flows more freely, enthusiasm for the mission increases, and members volunteer in service. With nationwide free-calling and minimal cost to add international calls (\$5 a month on ATT), it is now possible to do actual “outreach.” Being pro-active in our program speaks to the goal of Step 12 – to practice recovery principles in all our affairs: 1) to be pro-active rather than reactive; and 2) to provide initiative and leadership.

WSO Analysis: While we understand that the word “outreach” means a reaching out, even with advances in technology the WSO currently does not have enough volunteers to manage responses to communication that might be received from the many isolated meetings. The new website should promote better communication to all meetings from the WSO level. As we are able to hire more special workers, which is how outreach is done in other fellowships, Outreach efforts can be managed differently.

If this proposal receives a two-thirds positive vote from the fellowship, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda, with the result of that discussion provided as part of the ABC minutes.

Submit Date: 2013-12-31 22:52:28

Proposal 2014-18 Submitted by Grover Beach, CA (IG#076), 1st Saturday at 3:45 p.m.

Issue: Move to have Outreach Chair or committee designee making the telephone calls to ask these questions: 1) What does your group need from WSO? 2) What is your group doing there to carry the message of recovery (public information)? 3) What is your group presenting for members or your community to provide recovery information and education? 4) What is your group presenting for members to have Inner Child fun experiences? 5) What is your group doing to raise money to fund these events?

History: Due to lack of money and personnel in the past, WSO had adopted the reactive, passive position of waiting until letters, e-mails, and phone calls arrive. As a result, WSO has not been able to create the close communication with the membership that fosters trust, dedication, enthusiasm, and connectedness that we'd like to see. The lack of money and personnel is no longer an impediment to initiating contact with Intergroups and unaffiliated meetings.

Argument in Favor: To open dialogue on cold calls to people to initiate communication it is very helpful to have a script. The first question says to the receiver of the call that WSO is here to serve your group, but it is also unlikely to produce a useful response until that representative talks to his/her group. The subsequent questions are posed to open dialogue, gather information that can be shared across the program, and inspire gentle leadership in question form that the group might consider doing these activities locally. Communication begins and idea sharing commences with a script of initial questions that begin with, "What do you need from WSO?" People become excited about carrying the ACA message.

WSO Analysis: WSO board members are all volunteers and most of them hold full-time jobs besides being a volunteer on the board. It does not seem feasible at this time for the Outreach chair or committee to take on such a large job of reaching out to every group and Intergroup via telephone or email. The website has email addresses for fellowship members to use to contact any committee of the WSO Board. This contact information allows the individuals to inform the WSO Board what their group is doing to carry the message, tell WSO what they could use, etc. Intergroups are better situated to help their local meetings with many of the things mentioned. As the fellowship grows, more Regions can be formed. This will help groups feel more connected and will foster enthusiasm and develop connectedness in their communities and ultimately with the WSO.

If this proposal receives a two-thirds positive vote from the fellowship, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda, with the result of that discussion provided as part of the ABC minutes.

Submit Date: 2013-12-31 22:55:07

Proposal 2014-19 Submitted by Grover Beach, CA (IG#076), 1st Saturday at 3:45 p.m.

Issue: Move to have Hospitals & Institutions Chair and/or committee develop and publish guidelines as a brochure for Intergroup use when contacting jails, hospitals, community mental health professionals, halfway houses, shelters, and prisons. This includes, but is not limited to, information about ACA, ACA literature, educational presentations, programs, and/or materials, volunteer speakers, and initial meeting leaders to be used to begin meetings where none exists.

History: WSO H & I Chair is currently compiling a comprehensive list of hospitals, prisons, etc. throughout the USA, a massive undertaking

Argument in Favor: Locally, we know or can locate which jails, state hospitals, prisons, halfway houses, and shelters are in our communities. We need WSO guidelines for what to discuss with them when we contact them. We need the dos, the don'ts, a list of reasonable things to offer and not offer. What do we do when we've made the contact, delivered the meeting materials, and no meetings continue to exist in these institutions? How do we get ACA materials into the hands of the patients and inmates who are still suffering? We need leadership and coordination from ACA WSO to assist our Intergroups in sharing ideas.

WSO Analysis: WSO has a trifold with direction in it regarding contacting hospitals and institutions and what to be aware of when doing so. Letters have been developed, but are not on the website yet, that can be used for introduction purposes in hospitals and various institutions and can be accessed by contacting the WSO committee. Also, there are several trifolds that are suitable for distribution to these institutions and the residents of them, which can be purchased and/or downloaded from the website. WSO appreciates the need for more in depth information for Hospitals and Institutions and some work has been done towards that need. It is hoped that within the year there will be significantly more information on the website that can be printed off for use in the H&I areas.

If this proposal receives a two-thirds positive vote from the fellowship, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda, with the result of that discussion provided as part of the ABC minutes.

Submit Date: 2013-12-31 22:57:17

Proposal 2014-20 Submitted by Grover Beach, CA (IG#076), 1st Saturday at 3:45 p.m.

Issue: Move to create a WSO “Up-Dates in Therapeutic Research” Committee to provide on-going reports about the latest developments in and treatments benefitting people who have grown up in alcoholic and dysfunctional families.

History: Founded on our own 14 identifying characteristics, ACA has benefitted from the knowledge available in the therapeutic community. Permeating our literature are techniques members have adopted in personal recovery having experienced growth from those techniques (life stages, Inner Child...).

Argument in Favor: Significant recovery is being made right now by therapy clients using two techniques (that we know of) as validated by significant research: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing in dealing with trauma (at any age), PTSD, and childhood abuse and neglect. ACA does not need to endorse or lend the ACA name to any of these therapies. As to more efficient and effective techniques available, however, information of research results can be made available to our members.

WSO Analysis: The Board of Trustees voted to send at least two Trustees per year to a therapeutic community conference, such as the International Trauma Conference held in Boston each year. This will help keep the Board apprised of advances that will help inform our literature development. The cost of attending such conferences will depend on where the Trustees live and where the conference are held.

If this proposal receives a two-thirds positive vote from the fellowship, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda, with the result of that discussion provided as part of the ABC minutes.

Submit Date: 2013-12-31 22:59:39

Proposal 2014-21 Submitted by Grover Beach, CA (IG#076), 1st Saturday at 3:45 p.m.

Issue: Move to have WSO begin a Public Media (TV, internet, radio, periodicals) campaign to let the general public know ACA exists, who we serve, and that we work on personal recovery from growing up in alcoholic and dysfunctional homes.

History: Until now, due to lack of money and personnel, WSO has not been able to place national media spots about ACA. They now have sufficient funds.

Argument in Favor: Too many people have never heard of ACA. Anyone attending meetings of any other addiction recovery program (AA, NA, CA, GA, OA, AL Anon, Coda, SA, SAA...) likely grew up in an alcoholic or dysfunctional home, and logically ACA membership should be equal to them all combined! The number of available ACA meetings in any community worldwide pales in comparison to any one of the other 12-Step programs. We need to let those people know that we exist who are currently continuing to suffer from growing up in alcoholic and dysfunctional homes.

WSO Analysis: ACA WSO follows the 12 Traditions, and Tradition 11 states that: *“ Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, T.V., Internet, and films.”* Discussion of this Tradition and how ACA sees it is located in the BRB on pages 542 to 547. According to those pages, Intergroups and group members can take steps to inform the people in their area about ACA by placing ads in local newspapers listing meetings locations and times. In addition, for those who take meetings into institutions, they are spreading the message of ACA which is using attraction through information. Many meetings and Intergroups have developed Outreach and H&I committees to carry the message and work Step 12 at the same time without violating Tradition 11. We also have a Public Information tri-fold available on the website.

If this proposal receives a two-thirds positive vote from the fellowship, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda, with the result of that discussion provided as part of the ABC minutes.

Submit Date: 2013-12-31 23:02:16

Proposal 2014-22 Submitted by Grover Beach, CA (IG#076), 1st Saturday at 3:45 p.m.

Issue: Move to have WSO develop guidelines in brochure form for Intergroups and isolated meetings for ways to “carry the message,” create fun Inner Child experiences, and raise funds to carry out the program mission.

History: Trifold reference material for Intergroups and isolated meetings to consider would provide gentle leadership from WSO.

Argument in Favor: Our primary purpose is to “carry the message,” but groups have to figure out what that means first and then discuss ways to do that locally. Much wasted time, effort, and argument can be avoided if each group had a point of reference and list of suggestions. Likewise, gathered information from groups as to their successful Play Days or Inner Child experiences and Fund Raisers would be helpful.

WSO Analysis: There is a trifold titled Public Information which can be of help in seeing how to carry the message of ACA. In the past, groups have created trifolds they found useful to them and submitted those to WSO and the fellowship for possible development. After approval some were published by WSO’s Literature Committee and made available on the website. If meetings and Intergroups would like to help develop such literature, WSO is always appreciative of additional volunteer help. There is a Public Information tri-fold available on the website.

If this proposal receives a two-thirds positive vote from the fellowship, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda, with the result of that discussion provided as part of the ABC minutes.

Submit Date: 2013-12-31 23:05:14

Proposal 2014-23 Submitted by Grover Beach, CA (IG#076), 1st Saturday at 3:45 p.m.

Issue: Move to institute an annual international day in January to celebrate the ACA Birthday.

History: Tony’s recollection of the advent of ACA was in January. In the effort to remember our ACA history, Los Angeles/San Fernando Valley Intergroup used to put on an annual ACA Birthday Party.

Argument in Favor: We WSO to designate a date for a party to celebrate our program and our recovery.

WSO Analysis: An ACA anniversary date would provide an opportunity for meetings and Intergroups and other ACA bodies to arrange their own annual recovery celebrations together; perhaps in retreats, workshops, and carrying the message in public forums. It may have the result of reminding groups that the ACA fellowship has a history, a present and a future; encouraging members to see *their* place in service, to continue the future growth of ACA to their town and the world beyond. Cost: anticipated cost to WSO is low to none.

If this proposal receives a two-thirds positive vote from the fellowship, it will be included as part of the ABC agenda, with the result of that discussion provided as part of the ABC minutes.

Submit Date: 2013-12-31 23:07:09