

## 2016 ACA Annual Business Conference (ABC)

The following proposals were received from the fellowship through September 30, 2015. If any 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.

### **2016 ABC Proposal #1: Survey Questions 4 & 5**

*Submitted by Collierville, Tennessee (web053), Sunday and 1pm CDT USA*

**Issue:** We propose that... internet audio meetings have their own category on the meeting listings on the ACA website, that the map link show at least the time zone and country of the origin of the meeting and that there be a lot more space to enter descriptions and instructions for the meeting.

**History:** Audio combined with online meetings offer a greater amount of accountability and democracy and therefore are distinct from chat and email meetings. Online audio meetings can be complicated to find and sign up for.

**Argument in favor:** Since someone going to an online meeting is usually still comfortably at home the process of locating and figuring out how to log on to the meeting provides a substitute “investment” in the meeting and therefore can be encouraged with more information on the meeting list.

**WSO Analysis:** This matter was handled administratively by the Web Site and Database Committee. No further action is needed.

– <b>Yes</b>	<b>35.87%</b> 33
– <b>No</b>	<b>36.96%</b> 34
– <b>No opinion</b>	<b>27.17%</b> 25

### **Responses**

1. Sounds like the web people don't understand [the] issue.
2. Still lots of problems.
3. While a separate category was added (after this ballot was published) the voice and text meetings are still not properly differentiated. This is one of three proposals concerning the meeting listings/database. Once on the agenda these proposals could be combined for discussion. We need a larger conversation about the meeting list. It has not kept pace with the fellowship's growth.
4. Not an issue, already resolved.
5. Didn't vote as this matter has been dealt with.

6. Don't need separate category for Audio meetings. More space for text would be good to optionally allow for additional information when so requested
7. Meeting Listings should be limited to Regular Meetings Held Face/Face. Chat-Internet-Phone and Social Media cannot take the place for a Face to Face Meeting.
8. Country should be removed.
9. We agree with the WSO findings.
10. Thank you for the administrative implementation. Feeling like a cuddly little kitten!
11. We would like more info on how this was handled administratively.
12. The WSO analysis suggests that there would be no practical benefit from discussion of this matter.
13. Concur that no further action needed.
14. Moot.

## **2016 ABC Proposal #2: Survey Questions 6 & 7**

*Submitted by Ft. Myers, Florida (FL157 & FL180), Sunday & Tuesday*

**Issue:** We propose that... The price of the "Cross Talk Booklet" be dropped from \$3.50 each to \$1.00 each.

**History:** The ACA Let's Get Healthy meeting has the tradition of giving each newcomer a Welcome Chip, A Newcomer Booklet, and a Cross Talk Booklet. The Welcome Chip is \$0.50. The Newcomer Booklet is \$1.50. The Cross Talk Booklet is \$3.50. A member of our group has been photocopying the Cross Talk Booklet to save money. A new person volunteered to do the copying and reported the Welcome Booklet is 4 pieces of paper printed on both sides and the Cross Talk Booklet is 3 pages printed on both sides.

**Argument in favor:** The Cross Talk Booklet is priced way too high [\$3.50] for 3 sheets of paper when the Newcomer Booklet cost [\$1.50] for 4 sheets of paper. The current cost of purchasing the 3 items from WSO is \$5.50. The proposed decrease would make purchasing 3 items from WSO \$3.00.

**WSO Analysis:** The new Intergroup 30% discount program decreases the cost of this booklet to \$2.45 when purchased in bulk by Intergroups. Literature prices are calculated based on various factors: the printing cost of the item, the quantity ordered, overhead costs, and projected funding needs for world-wide service by the WSO. The quantity ordered and therefore cost of the item is based on the history of sales of the item and available space in the warehouse. The funds realized are utilized by the WSO to spread the ACA message globally through the Board Book Initiative, International Book Seeding, Lights On Project and overseeing numerous translation projects, layout of literature, WSO committee expenses, as well as providing the resources to hire special workers e.g. the Information technology, literature design editor, accounting, transcription service, etc.

— <b>Yes</b>	<b>45.65%</b> 42
— <b>No</b>	<b>36.96%</b> 34

<p>—</p> <p><b>No Opinion</b></p>	<p><b>17.39%</b></p> <p>16</p>
-----------------------------------	--------------------------------

## Responses

1. Yes to the proposal about the Cross Talk booklet.
2. WSO analysis is the wrong answer. We should reduce cost of newcomers and make it up in BRB and YWB sales!
3. 2016 Proposal 2 - Cost of Cross Talk booklet: We should discuss literature pricing.
4. WTF? This is from last year. As to 2016 ABC proposal about the Cross Talk booklet: \$3.00 is way too high for a booklet. The fellowship needs to have a larger discussion about Literature pricing. This is one of 10 proposals concerning literature. I hope the ballot 'misprint' means this will be included on the agenda regardless of results as a corrective measure.
5. Members of group are in favor of H&I work or working with professionals. This can be done already. Does not seem to be something to be presented at ABC.
6. Did not see this proposal on list of proposals.
7. Leave this task to the local meetings and intergroups.
8. We agree with the WSO analysis.
9. The Key is, Who will be responsible for getting this information out to Doctors offices? This requires a whole new plan to implement and roll out effectively.
10. More free material should be provided.
11. We agree with the WSO findings.
12. Pricing is best set by the folks there, in the WSO.
13. This is a previous year's proposal.
14. There would be some benefit to airing this issue, if only to clarify the factors affecting its possible implementation.
15. In line with the philosophy to "Think Globally, but Act Locally", our small group has recently instituted a grass-roots outreach campaign to the local professional community to alert it to the existence of Adult Children of Alcoholics organization and its mission of helping those suffering from a traumatic and dysfunctional upbringing. By making appointments with local professionals like medical doctors, therapists and church pastors, we try to have frank one-on-one discussions with each to explain what an "adult child" is, how they may have been injured and the effects that continue to sabotage them throughout their adulthood. We show them a copy of the Big Red Book, and generally leave a "newcomer packet" with each one that includes the Newcomer booklet and some pamphlets as well as a copy of the Welcome Statement from the adultchildren.org website. We encourage each counselor to visit the website where they will find a wealth of information that may be beneficial to many of the suffering souls they may encounter. We also mention that they may buy a copy of the text and/or other literature directly from the website. So far, we have been received very well, and are carrying our message locally. We hope this may be a more cost-efficient and effective way of spreading our good message, and relieves the organization of the enormous expense of sending out literature in a more general way. Our hope is that these interested and caring professionals will tell their colleagues about our visit and the great information they have received - we encourage them to do so.
16. This issue is presented as a comment, with no decisive action necessary for the ABC.
17. The cost of this pamphlet is high and not commensurate with other brochures.

18. Some therapists still aren't schooled on ACA; those that aren't could be included in addition to medical doctor's offices.
19. Proposal #2 listed in the emailed proposals was reducing the cost of the "Cross Talk Booklet". I did not recognize the above listed proposal as it was not submitted to our group.

### **2016 ABC Proposal #3: Survey Questions 8 & 9**

*Submitted by Nagoya Japan (JAP022), Sunday 17:30*

**Issue:** We propose that... all books have an E-book ver.

**History:** we have 3 books on ACA which are BRB, yellow book and Strengthening My Recovery. we only get them as papers so it is not easy to ship, carry and so on.

**Argument in favor:** Because of convenience.

**WSO Analysis:** This is already on the Literature Committee's To Do list and is prioritized according to the financial and volunteer resources available.

– <b>Yes</b>	<b>55.43%</b> 51
– <b>No</b>	<b>28.26%</b> 26
– <b>No Opinion</b>	<b>16.30%</b> 15

### **Responses**

1. This can save production costs & increase profits. Put on agenda and bump priority. THERE ARE ALREADY official Kindle & Nook versions of the BRB. WSO should have said this.
2. Where on the list? What specific resources are needed? Time-frame?
3. LitCom has not disclosed what it is working on, how it prioritizes projects, cost estimates, or publish what is needed to move any given project forward. The fellowship, even the submitting group, seems largely kept in the dark. This is one of 10 proposals concerning Literature.
4. Group conscience was to do nothing; not an issue for ABC.
5. Would like to include this proposal in order to encourage a timetable for completion.
6. Good for long term goal, but WSO would need more volunteers to include this within the next year.
7. We agree with the WSO findings.
8. Horrible time disseminating the red and yellow books to adult children outside of the U.S. Also, pricing can be fairer to folks paying exorbitant shipping / prices.
9. There would be some benefit to airing this issue, if only to clarify the factors affecting its possible implementation.

10. While acknowledging that this is on the Literature Committee's to do list, we support this initiative.
11. Propose that this also include e-book version of translated "yellow book" in Danish.
12. Moot
13. We believe this is very important and hope the Literature Committee will expedite this for the benefit of many.

## **2016 ABC Proposal #4: Survey Questions 10 & 11**

*Submitted by Grover Beach, California (IG#076), 1st Saturday of month @ 3:45 p.m.*

**Issue:** We propose that... all future ABC agendas include a minutes document: passed motions of previous ABC; reports of progress on each passed motion including all financial costs.

**History:** The ABC minutes and secretary entries for the 2013–2015 ABCs on the website reveal very little about what was done, how much that cost, or even accomplishments. The full reports of committees do address what the committees and officers did, but no mention was made of previous ABC passed motions, and none report costs (if any) of efforts to enact the motions.

**Argument in favor:** ACA WSO bylaws stipulate in Article 10, #3: "The Board, at each ABC, shall submit a complete report of its acts and of the affairs of the organization." Minutes and Secretary's input do not reflect complete information of passed ABC motion projects, obstacles, successes, or financial costs. Reports of committees are not summarized in minutes or secretary's impressions, are not found on the agenda/minutes of the ABC webpages, and are not easily found using the search tool.

**WSO Analysis:** At least in the recent past, the ABC agendas have not included formal progress reports on previously passed ABC motions. However, all of this information is covered in individual committee reports if the motions are being worked on. We wish to point out that when ballot items are approved at the ABC, the tasks associated with them are added to the already extensive list of items the Board and the Committees of the Board are working on. Whether any project is moved forward and how quickly projects are accomplished is directly related to the project's viability, the amount of financial resources that can be allocated to it and the amount of volunteer help available.

– <b>Yes</b>	<b>53.26%</b> 49
– <b>No</b>	<b>30.43%</b> 28
– <b>No Opinion</b>	<b>16.30%</b> 15

### **Responses**

1. Why the change since 2013?
2. We did record the 2015 ABC. We did submit expanded summary minutes. They were not published by WSO.

3. The fellowship is certainly entitled to regular reports of progress of motions passed at any ABC. When there is no progress due to lack of resources, this should be reported regularly. It might inspire more 7th Tradition support, or at least communicate to the rank & file membership the limits of WSO capability. Prior to 2013, the ABCs were often recorded, and detailed minutes were always published in the ComLine and made available on the website (or forum). Beginning with the 2013 ABC in Denmark, WSO arbitrarily ceased the detailed disclosure, but the need for such disclosure continues.  
\*This is one of 5 proposals asking for more transparency of process, communication from, and accountability of WSO to the fellowship at large. Once on the agenda they could be combined to facilitate a larger conversation about this.
4. Wants effective record keeping; want digital [distribution].
5. Nice idea, but WSO will need more volunteers to include this for next year's meetings.
6. Although we note for the record that it is rather hard to find the information on the WSO site. Financials in particular are deeply hidden.
7. We nominate the Grover Beach group to publish and disseminate, at their expense, these for the fellowship.
8. There would be some benefit to airing this issue, if only to clarify the factors affecting its possible implementation.
9. We thank the Grover Beach CA group (IG#076) for its thoughtful proposal. Although we agree that setting up some accountability standards of reporting is reasonable, we do not support the additional tasks and expense this proposal would create. The existing individual committee reports may be sufficient.
10. Maybe this list of items the board and committees are working on could be more public, so people would know motions are being worked on or waiting for resources.
11. Need for transparency.

### **2016 ABC Proposal #5: Survey Questions 12 & 13**

*Submitted by Grover Beach, California (IG#076), 1st Saturday of month @ 3:45 p.m.*

**Issue:** We propose that... the monthly teleconference agendas include list of passed motions of the preceding ABC and a monthly report of designated committee as to the progress made and the cumulative financial impact.

**History:** The ACA Board has 3 basic functions: 1) Carrying the message; 2) Maintaining the corporation; 3) Carrying out the will of the fellowship as expressed in passed ABC motions. Much work is being done on these fronts, but monthly reports are not clearly reflecting progressive milestones toward goal completion, or the goal has yet to be addressed at all.

**Argument in favor:** Putting the passed ABC motions on the teleconference agendas will encourage they will automatically be addressed at each meeting. In the 12 months between ABCs, 12 steps can be taken toward completing each of the ABC goals expressed in passed ABC motions.

**WSO Analysis:** The ABC Minutes list all motions approved and the need to duplicate this effort every month is not clear or paramount. The Board is considering adding references to ABC related activities by the committees so that progress can be noted.

– <b>Yes</b>	<b>44.57%</b> 41
– <b>No</b>	<b>36.96%</b> 34
– <b>No Opinion</b>	<b>18.48%</b> 17

### Responses

1. This is easier than it sounds. After the ABC, post a “murder-board”-like status chart online giving major tasks for each approved item. Each committee submits accomplishment dates for their tasks when completed. If there are resource or other limiting issues, these are noted in the status. This does NOT have to be a thesis for each task, simply a 1-2 sentence status. Of course, this allows visibility...
2. Let’s [see] how the fellowship can track the fate of ABC resolutions.
3. This is one of 5 proposals asking for more transparency of process, communication from, and accountability of WSO to the fellowship at large. Once on the agenda they could be combined to facilitate a larger conversation about this.
4. Unanimous.
5. Nice idea, but WSO will need more volunteers to include this for next year’s meetings.
6. More accountability should be given.
7. Another nomination for the Grover Beach groups duties.
8. There would be some benefit to airing this issue, if only to clarify the factors affecting its possible implementation.
9. We thank the Grover Beach CA group (IG#076) for its thoughtful proposal. Although we agree that having standards of accountability is reasonable, we do not support the additional tasks and expense this proposal would create. The existing ABC minutes and committee reports may suffice.
10. Too time consuming.

### **2016 ABC Proposal #6: Survey Questions 14 & 15**

*Submitted by Grover Beach, California (IG#076), 1st Saturday of month @ 3:45 p.m.*

**Issue:** We propose that... the WSO re-implement the previously passed ABC motion – to offer all ACA literature for no more than 150% of production costs (book printed for \$5.00 shall cost up to \$7.50).

**History:** At the early 1990s ABC where the 12 Concepts were adopted, delegates also voted that WSO is limited to charge up to 150% for all literature offered. The intent was to offer as much recovery literature as possible as widely as cheaply as possible to those who still suffer. In the current OPPM is a reference to that decision: “These Delegate Packets shall be available at cost (times 1.5, plus postage) to any interested party. Rev. Motion 03089701.” The Steps workbooks reprints that cost \$2.83 to print are now offered for \$10; the reprint of the Laundry Lists Workbook was \$3.784 offered for \$12.

**Argument in favor:** ACA WSO is a non-profit organization dedicated to one mission: to carry the message of recovery to those who still suffer. One way we carry the message is by offering literature as cheaply as possible. The WSO Boards need to know and implement the policies adopted throughout our history. This previously passed ABC motion needs to be implemented immediately.

**WSO Analysis:** The pricing structure suggested in this proposal made sense when all or most distribution of WSO literature was handled by volunteers. As the WSO now has significantly more overhead costs than at that time, along with more programs to administer and translations to fund, the current pricing structure is more in line with what will cover those costs now and in the future. We can only hope that at some time in the distant future when we have greatly surpassed the current 1,500 meetings and are able to approach the resources of other larger fellowships, prices will be able to be decreased because of greater sales volumes.

– <b>Yes</b>	<b>41.30%</b> 38
– <b>No</b>	<b>43.48%</b> 40
– <b>No Opinion</b>	<b>15.22%</b> 14

## Responses

1. We want more information.
2. WSO MUST accurately calculate the cost of publications, from conception through shipment. The cost of a publication is not simply the production print cost. Modern CRM provides the capability to track such costs easily and for next-to no overhead.
3. Let's talk about literature pricing.
4. We would like to suggest the fellowship be made aware of the actual cost of a book (to include printing, administration, etc.) so they understand the cost and that WSO needs to maintain enough profit margin to have and retain earnings to conduct business.
5. This is one of 10 proposals concerning literature. Literature pricing needs to be more transparent. This proposal expands on Proposal #2. Literature revenue is not meant to cover anything but the costs of production and distribution of literature. Using literature profits to fund other WSO endeavors undermines the fellowship's use of the 7th Tradition as the "power of the ACA purse" to guide WSO according to our collective group conscience. We question LitCom arbitrarily setting aside a policy decided through an ABC. They should be able to make a detailed case for such changes openly to the entire fellowship. "On behalf of ACA as a whole, our Annual Business Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance." Concept VII
6. Unanimous yes; abide by policy or change it. If policy is 150% in OPPM then sale of all literature should follow that policy.



7. We have no issue with the cost of literature however the postage cost to NZ [New Zealand] is an issue to us.
8. Such pricing would be nice of donations to the WSO covered other expenses, but until that time, the literature pricing must be adequately set so all WSO expenses are covered.
9. We have no issue with the cost of literature, however the postage cost to New Zealand is more of an issue for us.
10. A completely unrealistic request.
11. We trust the coordinators of sales set the prices-inherent in the ideal of “trusted servants” extended to the paid ‘servants.’
12. There would be some benefit to airing this issue, if only to clarify the factors affecting its possible implementation
13. We support a reasonable markup over cost and a 50% markup is sufficient.
14. We concur with WSO Analysis

## **2016 ABC Proposal #7: Survey Questions 16 & 17**

*Submitted by Grover Beach, California (IG#076), 1st Saturday of month @ 3:45 p.m.*

**Issue:** We propose that... We update the Operating Policy and Procedures Manual monthly with all ABC passed motions since the first ABC and monthly Board adoptions, include citations on each rule or policy (ABC 2010) or (BT 2/15). Board motions need to comply with ABC rules and policies. All ABC adopted rules and policies must be rescinded by ABC ballot.

**History:** The OPPM originally documented dates of passed motions of the ABCs and the Board. Over time the entries and citations were not entered or dropped. Current updaters are finding conflicting rules and have no OPPM policy guidance. WSO has instituted an annual book of Board passed motions, but those rules and policies do not seem to have been added to the OPPM

**Argument in favor:** Passed ABC motions reflect the will of the worldwide fellowship and take precedence over WSO Board decisions as per Tradition 2. Updaters may be nullifying ABC fellowship decisions by not listing them at all or choosing Board motions as the “correct” rule or policy where there are differences. The OPPM needs to be updated monthly for any Board to know and be responsible to the direction of the fellowship that the WSO Board serves.

**WSO Analysis:** While monthly updates of the OPPM seem appropriate, the WSO does not currently have the infrastructure to be able to accomplish this task. When that situation improves substantially, the proposed task may be accomplished. Regarding the second point made, while there is no case in recent history where an ABC motion has been denied by the then sitting Board, the ABC does not actually establish rules and policies of the WSO Board. The Board has the legal and practical need to be able to set policies, while very seriously taking ABC input into account.

– <b>Yes</b>	<b>40.22%</b> 37
– <b>No</b>	<b>36.96%</b> 34

<p>—</p> <p><b>No Opinion</b></p>	<p><b>22.83%</b></p> <p>21</p>
-----------------------------------	--------------------------------

## Responses

1. Until the last 2 sentences of the WSO analysis, I would have voted “no”. The last 2 sentences clearly states that the ABC is a waste of time and money.
2. We should talk about the ABC/WSO relationship.
3. Our group would suggest a friendly amendment to make the update to the OPPM either once or twice a year.
4. \*This is one of 5 proposals asking for more transparency of process, communication from, and accountability of WSO to the fellowship at large. Once on the agenda they could be combined to facilitate a larger conversation about this. The OPPM has been “under revision” since at least 2010 by a revolving crew of often unnamed contributors, without regard for institutional memory or oversight. Returning to the original notation of changes could help correct this. Concept VII delegates to Trustees the authority to “manage and conduct” the affairs of WSO. But Concept VI makes clear that the ABC “has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance.” Actually, the Board frequently sets aside (or ignores) decisions made by the ABC without explanation.
5. Akin to the Ballot proposals on agendas and minutes of ABC and monthly teleconference meetings group wants rules and policies already passed to be observed and followed. Concepts should be followed.
6. The OPPM is only intended to serve as a guide on how the WSO does its business. The board needs the flexibility to update the OPPM when business needs so dictate.
7. We trust that the WSO will take the action that is in the best interest of the fellowship with the resources that they have.
8. A specific list of grievances are necessary. “for example...” then we can evaluate.
9. There would be some benefit to airing this issue, if only to clarify the factors affecting its possible implementation.
10. Our meeting is in the business of conducting meetings and helping people, not micromanaging the WSO.
11. We recognize the need for updating.

## **2016 ABC Proposal #8: Survey Questions 18 & 19**

*Submitted by Grover Beach, California (IG#076), 1st Saturday of month @ 3:45 p.m.*

**Issue:** We propose that... all WSO paid travel expenses be limited solely to the 4 elected WSO officers who attend the Annual Business Conference; travel expenses must only include regular class airfare (gas for vehicle), ground transportation to hotel, hotel room, and meals not including alcohol.

**History:** Historically trustees paid for their own transportation, hotels, and meals. The only in-person meeting was scheduled at the ABC. Teleconferences, phone calls, e-mails, and written reports were used to communicate. When WSO funds increased, some Board decided to vote in a policy of all-expenses-paid national and international travel for themselves (airfare, hotels, meals). This policy has expanded to include all trustees, paid employees, and others deemed worthy. Four Strategic Planning face-to-face meetings a year have been added. Duties have been

assigned to trustees “requiring” further international/national travel. The January–July 2015 Balance Sheet includes travel costs totaling \$17,513.70 for the first half of 2015.

**Argument in favor:** ACA is a non-profit, 12-Step fellowship. In 12-Step fellowships, groups send and fund their representatives to intergroup, regional, and World Service events. Other 12-Step volunteers, who are not representatives, practice 12-Step principles of being self-supporting in recovery and service. Communication can include: teleconferences, video conferences, written reports, and real-time document sharing.

**WSO Analysis:** With all due respect, some information in this proposal is incorrect and misleading.

The Board meets in person at the ABC. It does not meet four times per year for Strategic Planning. The first Strategic Planning Session in recent memory was held in January of 2014; a second was held in November 2014. In 2015, there will have been only one Strategic Planning Session. We believe the Fellowship expects long-term planning to take place.

Regarding payment of Board member travel expenses, the full Board has certain legal and practical responsibilities not confined just to the officers. WSO has historically paid expenses as it was able. To require non-Officers to pay their own way, especially to the ABC, would suggest only individuals on the Board who are financially capable, or who have groups and/or an Intergroup able to pay their way, would be able to do service at the world level. This seems out of line with our Traditions. Full participation of the Board becomes even more important as the global fellowship expands and we continue to have non-U.S. Board members.

– <b>Yes</b>	<b>38.04%</b> 35
– <b>No</b>	<b>47.83%</b> 44
– <b>No Opinion</b>	<b>14.13%</b> 13

### Responses

1. This is a tough call. The WSO response is good, but it avoids watchdog responsibility.
2. We support the WSO Board that voluntarily gives us service and agree with their analysis!!!
3. We feel it is appropriate for the Fellowship to fund the aforementioned travel HOWEVER we believe such funding entitles the fellowship to much more detailed disclosure of the proceedings. Funding travel could serve as an inducement to serve at WSO level. \*This is one of 5 proposals asking for more transparency of process, communication from, and accountability of WSO to the fellowship at large. Once on the agenda they could be combined to facilitate a larger conversation about this.
4. Conscience was to abstain. There was not substantial unanimity (which is in a tradition or concept). Some of the membership felt it was reasonable to be reimbursed for reasonable expenses approved ahead of time, others strongly disagreed.

5. This motion would result in many board members being unable to attend the ABC, which would be detrimental to the overall WSO operations.
6. Setting financial goals teaches us about attainability. Without changing the financial “sites” we won’t ever record for improving the accuracy.
7. There would be some benefit to airing this issue, if only to clarify the factors affecting its possible implementation.
8. Concur with WSO analysis.

## **2016 ABC Proposal #9: Survey Questions 20 & 21**

*Submitted by Grover Beach, California (IG#076), 1st Saturday of month @ 3:45 p.m.*

**Issue:** We propose that... the Board develop, by the 2016 ABC, a flow-chart of functional hierarchy and communication between WSO officers, committee chairs, sub-committee chairs, and special workers as well as job descriptions for all positions.

**History:** WSO has evolved, obscuring the channels of communication and position functions: names, duties, and responsibilities of committees have been changed, reassigned, or deleted; some sub-committees report to committee chairs while others report to the Board; job descriptions are outdated; and workloads are unbalanced.

**Argument in favor:** Rapid growth of fellowship services has blurred the functions and responsibilities of committees and the communication flow between the officers, committees, and sub-committees. While some officers and committees do very little, others are working very hard. When the duties of all WSO paid and trustee positions are listed and defined as they exist and the flow chart hierarchy is produced, the Executive Board can easily rebalance the workload and restructure lines of communication where needed. The current WSO Chairperson is overloaded, for example: he facilitates monthly Executive Board, Strategic Planning, Teleconference, and e-mail/call response meetings; oversees special workers, and Chairs the Literature, Literature sub-committees, and Website Committees.

**WSO Analysis:** A flowchart was already created in mid-July by one of the Trustees to be finalized for distribution. Regarding distribution of workload and facilitation of communication, until there are enough Board members, volunteers, and Special Workers, there will continue to be issues. Also, outside of conducting the general business of the Board, the amount of work any one Board member does is and should be voluntary.

– <b>Yes</b>	<b>42.39%</b> 39
– <b>No</b>	<b>36.96%</b> 34
– <b>No Opinion</b>	<b>20.65%</b> 19

### **Responses**

1. We want access to this information.

2. Given work on this, should be no problem publicizing the flow chart. Easy task to accomplish for the WSO.
3. We want to know “Who’s on first?” We should talk about expanding the Board.
4. This is one of 5 proposals seeking clarification of (and access to) the WSO structure and function. Once on the agenda they could be combined to initiate a larger conversation about this. As it is already underway, there WSO should not object to finalizing and publishing, perhaps online, the flowchart as this proposal requests. It could also be the basis for a presentation and workshop on the structure & function of the WSO at the Inaugural AWC. Maybe “WSO Nuts & Bolts” or something. Any takers? As to assigning workload, care should be taken to avoid too much consolidation of power, or the appearance thereof. \*The OPPM gives the Board the authority to recruit and install up to eleven additional Trustees, waiving any requirements if needed. If the Board remains small, it must be by choice.\*
5. Group conscience wanted transparency and guidelines, procedures, policies good.
6. We trust that the WSO will do the best they can with the resources that they have.
7. It would be a considerable burden to develop and maintain such a guide. Perhaps the idea could be revisited once the WSO has sufficient volunteers to include such a task.
8. We trust that the WSO will take the action that is in the best interest of the fellowship with the resources that they have.
9. We agree with the WSO findings.
10. Another nomination for the Grover group. This is a “self-help” program so let’s hear it for all the future service from the Grover group! hip hip!
11. There would be some benefit to airing this issue, if only to clarify the factors affecting its possible implementation.
12. We look forward to the distribution of a finalized flow-chart. Updated Job descriptions may be helpful but we agree that volunteers need to be trusted and appreciated for what they have chosen to give to the organization, and not scrutinized for what they can not give. The work may be unbalanced as a result, but it seems that is the nature of a volunteer organization.
13. This proposal does nothing to further the efficiency or effectiveness of individual meetings or interservice groups.

### **2016 ABC Proposal #10: Survey Questions 22 & 23**

*Submitted by Grover Beach, California (IG#076), 1st Saturday of month @ 3:45 p.m.*

**Issue:** We propose that... WSO adopt [a] policy that no WSO Officer (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary) can concurrently Chair any Committee (except Treasurer to Finance Committee), Sub-Committee, or serve as Paid Employee/Consultant while serving as an elected officer of the WSO Board.

**History:** Historically, each committee had one or two trustees as members of each committee to provide guidance. Historically, national and international communication had to be paid for by the participants on teleconferences, the cost of which prohibited widespread participation in WSO service. With the internet and free teleconferencing, the participation in WSO business has expanded so there are many people today who are willing and able to give service. WSO officers and trustees need to provide leadership and guidance to encourage and guide new volunteers and the groups they represent to become the committee chairs and other members.

**Argument in favor:** The current WSO Chairperson has far too much to do.

A rule excluding officers as chairs encourages officers to provide encouragement to others, leadership and guidance. Wider participation in the work of WSO dramatically helps ACA to grow.

**WSO Analysis:** Until there are more Board members, those in place will have to continue to perform multiple roles to ensure vital functions are being carried forward. While it would be ideal for Board members to not be as involved in the daily workings of committees and other areas, it is not the current reality.

It seems to be out of order and unnecessarily intrusive of the Board's authority to establish its own internal working policies to limit how Board work is carried out. Recommendations for the internal workings of the Board should defer to the Board's best business judgment the best use of the extremely limited resources and manpower at their disposal.

– <b>Yes</b>	<b>45.65%</b> 42
– <b>No</b>	<b>41.30%</b> 38
– <b>No Opinion</b>	<b>13.04%</b> 12

## Responses

1. There is a much different issue deserving of WSO and membership-wide consideration: to wit, how do we successfully encourage greater service participation by members. The percent of members in service to the fellowship is ridiculously low. How do we motivate others????
2. This is one of 5 proposals seeking clarification of (and access to) the WSO structure and function. Once on the agenda they could be combined to initiate a larger conversation about this. The WSO response seems disingenuous. It's worth repeating: care should be taken to avoid too much consolidation of power, or the appearance thereof. The OPPM gives the Board broad authority to recruit and install up to eleven additional Trustees, waiving or modifying any requirements (currently only one) if needed.
3. Group felt there was contention from the Grover Beach group and wso. The quickest way I can think to express it is where is the HP in this?
4. If the workload is too heavy which is the response to most motion requests then effort needs to be made to recruit more volunteers and delegate work.
5. Some tasks require services beyond the capability of WSO Board members and volunteers, at which time paid support is warranted. Seems unnecessary to exclude otherwise qualified board members from providing such support. However, one would expect such a board member to recuse themselves from any vote pertaining to their paid services.
6. If someone sits in a chair there isn't room for another person to sit there. "Principle of rotation" of AA. even at the risk of ruin, the fellowship must let go and allow others to

“realize” what the fellowship means to them and what they are willing to sacrifice. Are we using the wonderful tool of nomination in these instances or what?

7. There would be some benefit to airing this issue, if only to clarify the factors affecting its possible implementation.

## **2016 ABC Proposal #11: Survey Questions 24 & 25**

*Submitted by Grover Beach, California (IG#076), 1st Saturday of month @ 3:45 p.m.*

**Issue:** We propose that... the WSO adopts the policy that elected officers may not serve at the same time on the ACA WSO Board of Trustees with others who are related to, or cohabitating with, each other.

**History:** When WSO was CSB/WSO or iWSO, an unmarried couple who lived together served as officers of the WSO Board at the same time, one of whom was the Treasurer; while both were exemplary, honest people, an appearance of possible impropriety existed. More recently a married couple, both honest, dedicated, and exemplary, served as officers at the same time: Chair and Treasurer. The appearance and reality of propriety is vital to our organization.

**Argument in favor:** In the spirit of Tradition 6, WSO should never allow a situation where the Treasury could be compromised lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose. It is standard operating procedure in most organizations, for this reason, for a rule to be in place so there can be no possibility or even appearance of possible wrong-doing.

**WSO Analysis:** Since this has never been an issue, it seems to be out of order and unnecessarily intrusive of the Board’s authority to establish its own internal working policies. The OPPM is very clear that the Chair may not also hold the position of Treasurer. We have seen couples who worked on the Board exemplarily, and who were completely trustworthy and dedicated to the fellowship. We think that individuals who are related or are cohabiting should not serve in the positions of Chair and Treasurer, but can serve on the Board concurrently.

— <b>Yes</b>	<b>39.13%</b> 36
— <b>No</b>	<b>48.91%</b> 45
— <b>No Opinion</b>	<b>11.96%</b> 11

### **Responses**

1. We have bigger fish to fry (especially #10).
2. We support and agree wholeheartedly with the WSO analysis!
3. Nowadays there seems to be more professional accountability, such as audits, to prevent real problems. Simply codifying that last sentence at the next teleconference might support a motion from the floor at ABC to declare this moot. This is one of 5 proposals

seeking clarification of (and access to) the WSO structure and function. Once on the agenda they could be combined to initiate a larger conversation about this.

4. Similar to prior item and where is the HP in this?
5. With the current limited number of volunteers, there's no good reason for the WSO to exclude an otherwise good ACA volunteer just because of a relationship with another ACA member?
6. Way over the line of appropriate! This is not a “public company” nor do we adhere to the “laws” of some corporate shenanigans. No.
7. There would be some benefit to airing this issue, if only to clarify the factors affecting its possible implementation.
8. We pray this group is working the program since they are finding so many issues. LOL

## **2016 ABC Proposal #12: Survey Questions 26 & 27**

*Submitted by Portsmouth, Virginia (VA112) USA Saturday, 1000*

**Issue:** We propose that... Amend Laundry List Trait #12 to read as: “We are dependent personalities who are terrified of abandonment and will do anything to AVOID OR hold on to a relationship in order not to experience painful abandonment feelings, which we received from living with sick people who were never there emotionally for us. (Note: Amended text in CAPS)

**History:** Our experience has shown that the amendment to include people who avoid relationships IOT [in order to] not experience painful feelings.

**Argument in favor:** Reflects the views of a preponderance of ACA members

**WSO Analysis:** This is already reflected in The Other Laundry List in The Laundry Lists Workbook, and the Fellowship Text (BRB) will be updated to include all four Laundry Lists.

— <b>Yes</b>	<b>38.04%</b> 35
— <b>No</b>	<b>53.26%</b> 49
— <b>No Opinion</b>	<b>8.70%</b> 8

## **Responses**

1. Actually, there are many nuances of the LL [Laundry List] like this, not all captured in the BRB or the 4-LL Thesis. The texts cannot capture all of these nuances. [For instance, some ACs that I know AVOID responsibility like the plague - see #10 above!!!]
2. This may be a very valid clarification of the trait. It is concise and could easily be added wherever the Laundry list is reproduced. (Like the new [revised] 11th tradition.)
3. We believed it would be more concise if it read “avoid relationships or hold on to a relationship....”



4. This is one of 10 proposals concerning Literature. The Other Laundry List reads, “12. We “manage” the massive amount of deprivation we feel, coming from abandonment within the home, by quickly letting go of relationships that threaten our “independence” (not too close).” That is a much more complicated and nuanced statement, and not equivalent to the proposed AVOID OR. Adding these words, (perhaps in superscript) to the Laundry List will increase immediate identification with the trait not only among newcomers at meetings, but any still-suffering adult child who encounters the list in a pamphlet, on a poster, or anywhere else. The Laundry Lists Workbook itself states it is “designed for ACAs who have already gone through all the Steps in the ACA Twelve Steps Workbook.” The proposed addition seeks a much wider audience. In keeping with that statement I hope any additions to the BRB are placed in an appendix.
5. Abstain not an issue.
6. When will the BRB be updated?
7. Good idea to bring all literature into sync. However, such updates to the BRB should be limited to planned revisions to [the] book every few years.
8. Since it is already reflected in The Other Laundry Lists, it does not need to be updated or changed.
9. This item makes sense to us, but is cost prohibitive in terms of changing Tony's copyright and re-printing new BRBs.
10. Obvious reasons and it introduces the “other laundry” list phenomena, gently. [grins all around] can footnote it!
11. The WSO analysis suggests that there would be no practical benefit from discussion of this matter.
12. Copyright issues.
13. Tony’s list’s copyright is held by his coauthor and probably his daughter. It cannot be changed without permission from them.

### **2016 ABC Proposal #13: Survey Questions 28 & 29**

*Submitted by Telephone Group (210), Telephone, Sunday 4PM ET*

**Issue:** We propose that... WSO creates a Directory page on the website listing the names and contact information of the WSO Trustees and Board Members. The list would also include the names of all the existing committee, who are the chairs for the committees and who are on the committees and contact information. The list should also include the description of the special worker jobs, who holds the jobs and their contact information. The list should also include all of the other ways to contact WSO, that is, general phone numbers and general e mail addresses.

**History:** No directory exists and there is difficulty finding correct persons to contact on particular issues.

**Argument in favor:** Having a list would make it easier for persons to find who is doing what and how to contact them. Right now only some of this information is on the website and it is very difficult to sift through it all to find a contact person for a particular issue

**WSO Analysis:** The Board is currently working to eliminate the use of personal emails to make the interaction with the fellowship be more professional. Members of the fellowship have access to Board members and Committees through the “Contact” tab on the home page of the website, and they can also ask questions at the end of the monthly Board Teleconferences. Additionally, on those calls Board members and Committee members report on the areas for which they are

responsible, along with posting that information on the website's Repository, usually in greater detail. To publish further personal details would violate the anonymity of these individuals. While that is not an issue for some, it is understandably an issue for others. Special Workers are also accessible through the "Contact" tab.

– <b>Yes</b>	<b>20.65%</b> 19
– <b>No</b>	<b>65.22%</b> 60
– <b>No Opinion</b>	<b>14.13%</b> 13

### Responses

1. Our Intergroup gave all the groups and all the officers email accounts for easy contact.
2. While WSO's analysis has merit, it doesn't stand up in the light of day. (1) It took just a few minutes for our webmeister to set up email accounts for all chairs as well as all group intergroup reps; this isn't a lifelong project. (2) It is also just as easy to include a drop-down list in the contact page to direct communications to the appropriate board/staff member without breaking anonymity.
3. Again, "Who's on first?"
4. Our group believes it's important to maintain the anonymity of Board and Committee members (unless they are not ACA members). We support the use of ACA-based emails that are role-based, e.g., treasurer@adultchildren.org.
5. This is one of 5 proposals seeking clarification of (and access to) the WSO structure and function. Once on the agenda they could be combined to initiate a larger conversation about this. This is the practical extension of the problem noted in Proposal #9. A directory with links to Trustees, Officers, and Committees through their separate WSO-based email addresses would be much more efficient and responsive than the current special-worker gatekeeper process. No need for personal emails, just create separate in-house boxes. (Some Intergroups already do this for their member groups.) Trustees and Committee Chairs need not be identified any more than they currently are on the reports and minutes already in the Repository. Currently special workers are not readily identified. Such a directory would make the entire organization much more accessible to those they serve.
6. While the group wants more clarity and accountability, they didn't feel this was an issue.
7. The ACA program needs to preserve the anonymity of all its members, including those involved at the WSO level. This motion seriously conflicts with that basic requirement/tradition.
8. There should be a way to contact any of The Board Members for questions and to hold people accountable for their service work.
9. We think that an electronic emissive tree like the "phone-trees" of the olden days can permit this. To publicize would discourage future quality candidates for these stressful and demanding positions.

10. The WSO analysis suggests that there would be no practical benefit from discussion of this matter.
11. Anonymity issues.
12. That is personal information and should not be public like that. Attend the Board to ask questions, etc. Anonymity is at stake here.
13. Concur with WSO Analysis and actions in progress.
14. Overreaches; members of any non-profit should be able to contact officers using main number or e-mail of entity, not home phones/addresses/personal email.

### **2016 ABC Proposal #14: Survey Questions 30 & 31**

*Submitted by Telephone Group (210), Telephone, Sunday 4PM ET*

**Issue:** We propose that... all forms used by WSO to register meetings or change meeting status be amended to include an area solely devoted to telephone meetings or new forms be adopted solely for the use of telephone meetings to register meetings and change meeting status

**History:** The forms used to register meetings and change meeting status were written with face to face meetings in mind. They are not user friendly for telephone meeting information. And many errors are happening thus incorrect information is listed on the website under Find A Telephone Meeting.

**Argument in favor:** There is much confusion by persons using the existing forms and by the persons at the WSO level reading the existing forms because there is no specific place on the forms to designate telephone meetings. And errors are made because of this. With a better form for telephone meetings there will be less errors in WSO interpreting information. And less errors on the website under Find A Telephone Meeting. With correct information persons looking for a Telephone meeting will not be as frustrated as they are now when looking for a Telephone Meeting using the website.

**WSO Analysis:** We acknowledge the limitations of the meeting registration form at the time of this writing (November 2015). However, this online form will continue to be updated to be as user friendly as possible as funds are available to be allocated for that purpose.

— <b>Yes</b>	<b>57.61%</b> 53
— <b>No</b>	<b>30.43%</b> 28
— <b>No Opinion</b>	<b>11.96%</b> 11

### **Responses**

1. Good response from WSO. Make it formal so the fellowship gets status reports.
2. We should talk about the priority of the database updates/improvements.
3. This is another facet of the database problems addressed in Proposal #1. The database is most often how the still suffering try to find us. This is one of three proposals concerning

the meeting listings/database. Once on the agenda these proposals could be combined for discussion. We need a larger conversation about the meeting list. It has not kept pace with the fellowship's growth.

4. While the board needs to periodically review all web forms and lists to ensure they meet current needs, an immediate wholesale update of all forms seems too much for the current limited number of WSO volunteers.
5. Lets try the self help plan and have the telephone groups come up with a draft of a proposed form then we can discuss it.
6. The WSO analysis suggests that there would be no practical benefit from discussion of this matter.
7. Concur with the proposal to create a separate form for telephone meetings.

### **2016 ABC Proposal #15: Survey Questions 32 & 33**

*Submitted by Telephone Group (210), Telephone, Sunday 4PM ET*

**Issue:** We propose that... So that more groups could participate through the delegate voting system we propose that delegates may vote on proposals to be brought before the ABC using electronic methods, either in advance of the ABC or at the time of the ABC, all of which would need to be determined over time and/or by regular mail in advance of the ABC. There will be no change regarding delegates who want to travel to ABC meeting to vote.

**History:** Delegate persons are limited in attending ABC because of physical or financial restrictions

**Argument in favor:** Allowing delegates to vote in advance of the ABC using electronic methods or allowing delegates to vote electronically during the ABC meetings and or voting by regular mail makes it possible to get a broader participation by all groups. Thus making this voting step available to those who physically and financially cannot travel to ABC locations.

**WSO Analysis:** Voting at the ABC by electronic means raises issues of authentication and possible abuse of the ABC voting system. The Proposal seems to want a survey type of coverage which has not been the purpose of the ABC's deliberations.

— <b>Yes</b>	<b>43.48%</b> 40
— <b>No</b>	<b>42.39%</b> 39
— <b>No Opinion</b>	<b>14.13%</b> 13

### **Responses**

1. Again, the real issue is, what is the purpose of ABC voting if it is the Board's discretion as to what they do with the results?
2. We really need to talk about how to include (most) groups who cannot send a delegate.

3. This argument confuses proposals and motions. While it might prove too cumbersome for groups to directly participate in a discussion during an ABC, there should be a way to record remote votes on actual motions. This process would be more informed if there were a forum for groups to share thoughts & debate proposals amongst themselves in advance of the ABC. Authentication technology has already been developed for IG literature discounts.
4. Group wanted most participation and addressed concerns of delegates being able to go, so this would be important that it be possible to attend and vote in such manner
5. A critical part of the ABC is allowing full discussion of proposals approved for presentation to the ABC. Each meeting and InterGroup is encouraged to provide financial support to their designated ABC attendees as needed.
6. This would be fantastic. And there could be different echelons where it could be like a live auction with “bidders” on the phone and online! Bravo!
7. The WSO analysis suggests that there would be no practical benefit from discussion of this matter.
8. Absolutely. Have been asking for this for years to no avail.
9. Goal should be greater participation if we can validate the votes

### **2016 ABC Proposal #16: Survey Questions 34 & 35**

*Submitted by Telephone Group (210), Telephone, Sunday 4PM ET*

**Issue:** We propose that... WSO looks at the literature submitted by the Solutions Group # 210. On approx June 25, 2015, The Solution Group submitted a document to the literature committee for review. The document was titled Telephone Conference Meetings. We are resubmitting it again through the proposal process so to be sure that it has not fallen through the cracks. We feel that the telephone meetings are a vital part of the Fellowship and would like WSO to create some literature specific to the telephone meetings. The document submitted on June 25 to the literature committee provides a starting point for WSO to use in considering literature specific to telephone meeting. We would like WSO to use it.

**History:** Very little literature regarding telephone meetings exists.

**Argument in favor:** Telephone conference line meetings are a vital part of spreading the word to those who still suffer. Having literature specific to these meetings will help explain to old and new participants what the phone meetings are all about, how they work and clarify some confusion that now exists.

**WSO Analysis:** The OPPM provides that the Literature Committee receive and evaluate any literature offerings before taking them to the Board for approval to present them to the ABC. The item mentioned in this proposal was submitted to the Literature Committee and is in their queue for consideration as time and resources allow. Even if this proposal is passed, it will not impact how swiftly the project is worked on because the ABC cannot act on it out of order with the literature approval policy and procedure.

—	
<b>Yes</b>	<b>41.30%</b> 38

– <b>No</b>	<b>41.30%</b> 38
– <b>No Opinion</b>	<b>17.39%</b> 16

### Responses

1. Where is all this proposed literature?
2. The WSO analysis misses the mark. Why not just say where this is in the queue and what is ahead of it. This whole process (WSO analysis) seems intent on not allowing the fellowship visibility into business that is of interest to every member!
3. The WSO analysis is inadequate. It does not specify where in the queue or an estimate of the time & resources required. A copy of this (or link) should have been included with the ballot.
4. This is one of 10 proposals concerning Literature. Again, the referenced document is not available for review to inform this vote as required. This proposal again highlights the opacity of LitCom's processes and priorities.
5. All proposed literature needs to be vetted through the established process. If already submitted, suggest this group request a status of their earlier proposal.
6. Telephone Meetings are no substitute for regular face to face sharing meetings.
7. Phone group photo copies and distributes themselves until available through publishing WSO unit.
8. The WSO analysis suggests that there would be no practical benefit from discussion of this matter.
9. WSO needs to let the membership know why they are not addressing an issue that has come up again and again.
10. Concur with WSO Analysis.

### **2016 ABC Proposal #17: Survey Questions 36 & 37**

*Submitted by Telephone Group (210), Telephone, Sunday 4PM ET*

**Issue:** We propose that... that a Telephone Conference Meeting Committee be created, since telephone conference meetings have issues unique and separate from face to face meetings. The purpose of the committee is to be a liaison between the board and the telephone meetings intergroup, and meetings. The responsibility of the committee is to field questions and concerns from the telephone community, interpreting them, making recommendation to the board and then giving explanations to the telephone community. Areas to be involved with are: Literature Issues, Autonomy Issues, Anonymity Issues, Safety Issues, Donation Issues, Clarification on sanctions, delisting and mixed messages.

**History:** No Telephone Conference Meetings committee exists.

**Argument in favor:** Telephone meetings have unique issues from face to face meetings. They do not have a voice in the fellowship. The telephone meetings with some direction could grow into a vital part of ACA and help spread the word to places which do not have meetings. The persons who attend the telephone meetings could and are inspired to start face-to-face meetings

in areas where there are none. Having a committee may provide a place to have a dialogue and a voice. There are persons willing to become part of the committee.

**WSO Analysis:** The establishment of committees of the WSO is a serious institutional commitment of time and resources that should be made by the Board depending on the issues raised and resources available. The Board currently has an open door policy that allows groups to raise concerns at any time. WSO has no authority over how groups comport themselves other than requiring that they abide by the Steps and Traditions if they are to be listed on the WSO Meeting Directory. The Board thinks this committee would be a duplication of the open door policy already in place and a drain on already limited resources.

– <b>Yes</b>	<b>27.17%</b> 25
– <b>No</b>	<b>53.26%</b> 49
– <b>No Opinion</b>	<b>19.57%</b> 18

### Responses

1. Recommend this be discussed. Despite WSO's response, given the world-wide nature of online calls, this merits at least consideration of a subcommittee.
2. The new Telephone Intergroup could address this.
3. The newly formed Telephone Intergroup might be able to address most of this. We would like to know more about the process of an Open Door Policy. There is no reference to it on the website, the OPPM, or in any literature. How can the fellowship be expected to use it if they don't know about it?
4. This sounds like the functions of an Intergroup rather than a WSO committee. Suggest this group consider forming such an Intergroup.
5. Develop yer [your] own committee. All "special needs" groups struggle. The development of specialized service structure for all phone, web and online/audio internet meetings will take time.
6. There would be some benefit to airing this issue, if only to clarify the factors affecting its possible implementation.
7. Meetings are autonomous.
8. Meetings are autonomous, not under the WSO. WSO is under them. WSO cannot have a committee to control the phone meetings.
9. Concur with WSO analysis.

### **2016 ABC Proposal #18 Survey Questions 38 & 39**

*Submitted by Jyväskylä, Finland (FIN 038), Sunday 6.00 P.M.*

**Issue:** We propose that... the "1 Group, 1 Meeting" -practise should be amended, so that one group - particularly that of a small membership - could have several meetings going on, even in separate locations.

**History:** Our group in Jvyaskyla, Finland has followed this practise for several years and found it a working pattern.

**Argument in favor:** With this kind of a practise, there are less service positions to fill than if one would have to appoint e.g. twice the amount of servants each to serve one of the meetings. This would, therefore, eliminate futile “bureaucracy” of having to appoint too many servants from the members of a small group such as ours.

**WSO Analysis:** Groups may register their meetings however their group conscience decides provided they abide by the Steps and Traditions.

— <b>Yes</b>	<b>19.57%</b> 18
— <b>No</b>	<b>50.00%</b> 46
— <b>No Opinion</b>	<b>30.43%</b> 28

### Responses

1. Let's talk about clarifying the meeting/group distinction and terminology, especially in the database.
2. There is no reason a trusted servant can't serve more than one group, or that several groups can't decide to combine their service structure in some way. But combining them under one WSO number would dilute the Finn's potential ABC voting strength. In the U.S we call that gerrymandering. The current meeting database only records/displays one day & time for each registered group. Again, issues with registration and database need to be addressed. This is one of three proposals concerning the meeting listings/database. Once on the agenda these proposals could be combined for discussion. We need a larger conversation about the meeting list. It has not kept pace with the fellowship's growth. Updating the database forms & process is not a matter of resources, but of priority. Currently it can take weeks to get correct new or updated meeting info posted, yet a literature order is acknowledged immediately, confirmed within hours, and shipped within a day or two. The meeting listings are most often the first way the still-suffering reach out to us. Most of the expensive website overhaul seems to prioritize marketing over recovery contact.
3. Not an issue to be presented.
4. Believe this option would already be within the scope of the Traditions, therefore no “approval” actions by the WSO are needed.
5. We agree with the WSO findings.
6. Acknowledging concerns (in writing and in publishing) - especially to folks far away - creates a sense of inclusion, unity and leadership / team building.
7. The WSO analysis suggests that there would be no practical benefit from discussion of this matter.
8. Each meeting needs its own identity even if the same people attend each one.



9. No reason to do this. It is entirely possible to have more than one meeting at which the same people go. However, other people may surprise you and show up at one or more of them.
10. Concur with proposal and WSO analysis.
11. Groups are autonomous except in matters affecting ACA as a whole.
12. But meetings are autonomous to do what they agree to do.

## **2016 ABC Proposal #19 Survey Questions 40 & 41**

*Submitted by Christchurch, New Zealand (NZE019), Wednesday 7.30pm*

**Issue:** We propose that... ACA/DF accept “The True Parent Call’s” as ACA literature, and make this available to other ACA members.

**History:** This was compiled by an adult child dealing with grief, and then shared at a meeting. Because of the power of this reading, this is now often read in most of the meetings in New Zealand, and has been requested and shared with members from other countries.

**Argument in favor:** The True Parent Calls is extracted from the Big Red Book, and echoes what many adult children feel and understand.

**WSO Analysis:** The OPPM provides that the Literature Committee receive and evaluate any literature offerings before taking them to the Board for approval to present them to the ABC. The item mentioned in this proposal was submitted to the Literature Committee and is in their queue for consideration as time and resources allow. Even if this proposal is passed, it will not impact how swiftly the project is worked on because the ABC cannot act on it out of order with the literature approval policy and procedure. Compilations of existing literature do not require conference approval.

– <b>Yes</b>	<b>25.00%</b> 23
– <b>No</b>	<b>54.35%</b> 50
– <b>No Opinion</b>	<b>20.65%</b> 19

## **Responses**

1. See comment for #16.
2. We should have access to this compilation with the ballot. The WSO analysis does not quantify “queue...time and resources”.
3. Yet again, no access to the document referenced. \*LitCom does not disclose what it is working on, how it prioritizes projects, cost estimates, or publish what is needed to move any given project forward. The fellowship, even the submitting group, seems largely kept in the dark. This is one of 10 proposals concerning Literature.

4. The group needs to submit this to the WSO to be reviewed and vetted thru the established procedures for new literature.
5. Do we need a Literature Pamphlet for Every single ACA Issue? NO.
6. If there is additional pressure and interest in literature then let it move ahead in “line.” Inclusion is an effective world fellowship inventory action and makes bonds strong.
7. The WSO analysis suggests that there would be no practical benefit from discussion of this matter.
8. Let the literature committee do its job or be a member of it so that literature can be written and edited more quickly.
9. WSO doesn't have “Conference Approved Literature.” The ABC membership approves any literature written for publication by WSO, but that is not the only literature we may read in our meetings.
10. Follow the process described in the WSO analysis.
11. Do not have the material referenced; has not gone through WSO literature committee vetting

## **2016 ABC Proposal #20: Survey Questions 42 & 43**

*Submitted by Arlington Heights, Illinois (IG 70), 3rd Saturday 1:00pm*

**Issue:** We propose that... The New Meeting Packet include different alternatives for a Meeting Format.

**History:** The present suggested format seems inadequate and even awkward. We realize it is an editable format, but it doesn't have some of the essential elements many meetings use, including the Traditions and the reading of the day from the Meditation Book. It also doesn't include some of the meeting format sample in the BRB that seem essential, such as the part about Fixing and that ACA is not therapy. Many meetings also do things in a different order, for instance, announcements come before sharing.

**Argument in favor:** We realize that this document can't be all things to all people. We just would like to give people more choices that come from the experience, strength and hope of established meetings, rather than have new meetings reinvent the wheel, especially those started by newcomers in new areas. It's about providing information they can choose from, not making decisions for groups. We hope to give each meeting the best start they can.

**WSO Analysis:** All groups decide their formats and all groups are invited to post their formats in the Best Practices page of the website for groups to experiment with.

— <b>Yes</b>	<b>28.26%</b> 26
— <b>No</b>	<b>54.35%</b> 50
— <b>No Opinion</b>	<b>17.39%</b> 16

## Responses

1. Good response from WSO.
2. The Intergroup could be laboratory to develop this.
3. We thought this would be incredibly helpful. We would certainly welcome alternative format ideas.
4. Our group is fine with the information only being provided on the Best Practices page of the website. However, we were unable to find this page, so we'd like it to be made more easily accessible.
5. A bottom-up process would be for an Intergroup to solicit, then publish and “test drive” different formats. Just like the “Ready, Set, Go!” step orientation. Using the Best Practices requires groups to unconditionally surrender ownership of any submissions. This is one of 10 proposals concerning literature.
6. The Newcomer Meeting Pack should refer people to the Best Practices page of the website if it does not already.
7. The WSO provides a sample meeting format to help in the formulation of new meetings, however meetings are already authorized to use other formats as long as they comply with the Traditions.
8. We feel the new meeting pack should refer people to the best practices page on the website if it does not already.
9. This is a good idea, but might be hard to implement. As stated in the WSO Analysis -all groups decide their own formats
10. We note that the sample provided on the WSO site is not in Big Red Book format and we believe that WSO should be very narrowly focused in recommending the BRB format to all groups. Also, we can't find the Best Practices page on the site – is it possible that you meant “Meeting Format” page?
11. Let's have some examples / bullet points / to omit or include! We nominate Arlington Heights to design publish disseminate proposed new meeting packet.
12. The WSO analysis suggests that there would be no practical benefit from discussion of this matter.
13. Suggested formats are just that and each meeting needs to meet in a business meeting to develop their own.
14. The suggested meeting format is only meant as an initial outline. Each meeting needs to find its own identity by developing a format within its business meetings. Formats may also be flexible this way and grow with the meetings.
15. Concur with WSO analysis.
16. Meetings autonomous to create own format; WSO could ask for contributions and upload them onto website for free print-outs; archives used to contain various formats: Teens; Spanish; different focuses - love/sex meetings, break-out meetings (like proposal 18 but in one building at same time); anger meetings, etc.

## **2016 ABC Proposal #21: Survey Questions 44 & 45**

*Submitted by East Lyme, Connecticut (CT095) USA Sunday 10:00*

**Issue:** We propose that... As a fellowship, we ask WSO and our support from its committees to create downloadable & printable version of literature to be referred to as ACA group guidelines, ACA group inventory, or ACA group health survey.

**History:** Taking a periodic group inventory helps to keep your group healthy and growing in the primary service of the ACA.

**Argument in favor:** Any tool that reminds us as individuals of Tradition 1 is vital to ACA as a fellowship.

**WSO Analysis:** The Good Enough Group booklet was developed to help groups in determining how effective their groups are. Currently there are no plans to develop another piece of literature on the same subject

– <b>Yes</b>	<b>28.26%</b> 26
– <b>No</b>	<b>54.35%</b> 50
– <b>No Opinion</b>	<b>17.39%</b> 16

### Responses

1. Another item groups can put in the best practices section of the ACA website. This way, keep it available to groups at no cost.
2. Obviously the current booklet is not meeting the needs of some groups.
3. Low Cost Tri-Fold would be a wonderful tool for individuals to have in hand & available at all meetings, including business meetings.
4. The current literature contains no practical application, nor does it address meetings experience with nuts & bolts matters. How does adapting a family systems theory help with outreach, parking, access, or special needs, for example? This is one of 10 proposals concerning Literature.
5. The group supports having downloadable and printable pamphlets available on the website including the “Good Enough Group” booklet.
6. Downloaded material is already available on the web site for free download. Development of additional material would require the support of more ACA Volunteers. The WSO is now once again providing a ComLine for free download. The WSO encourages ACA members to submit such items for publication in the ComLine.
7. The group supports having downloading and printable pamphlets available on the website including the good enough booklet.
8. We nominate East Lynne Connecticut to expand design and delegate these proposals.
9. The WSO analysis suggests that there would be no practical benefit from discussion of this matter
10. It has done that. If you don’t agree with what it says, help them edit it.
11. Don’t reinvent the wheel.
12. Concur with WSO analysis.
13. CCACAIG does have a draft of something like this, but we have yet to edit it

## **2016 ABC Proposal #22: Survey Questions 46 & 47**

*Submitted by Glen Rock, New Jersey (NJ130), Wednesday, 7:30 pm*

**Issue:** We propose that... ACA WSO adopt “Honey, You’re doin’ just fine.” as an official ACA slogan to be included in ACA literature.

**History:** Members have shared that they’ve come to the meeting because they knew they would hear what they would not hear anywhere else from anyone, “Honey, you’re doin’ just fine.” The message is said to ourselves as much as it is said to others. The group slogan has been used as a personal affirmation by members, effectively bringing peace to otherwise challenging events.

**Argument in favor:** Both the child within and the adult benefit from hearing this affirmation. It is a reminder of the truth: that each of us is doing just fine and feelings of inadequacy or that I’m doing it wrong or my best isn’t good enough is an error in thinking. Providing acceptance, there is no application where it is not fitting. We would like to share our slogan with all ACAs.

**WSO Analysis:** The OPPM provides that the Literature Committee receive and evaluate any literature offerings before taking them to the Board for approval to present them to the ABC. The item mentioned in this proposal was submitted to the Literature Committee and is in their queue for consideration as time and resources allow. Even if this proposal is passed, it will not impact how swiftly the project is worked on because the ABC cannot act on it out of order with the literature approval policy and procedure.

– <b>Yes</b>	<b>8.70%</b> 8
– <b>No</b>	<b>77.17%</b> 71
– <b>No Opinion</b>	<b>14.13%</b> 13

### **Responses**

1. This sounds corny.
2. See comment for #16.
3. We rarely employ the ‘official’ slogans we have!
4. Now that this slogan has been broadcast to the fellowship, let’s see how groups receive it, if it catches on, before committing resources. (For what it’s worth, this writer is offended at being addressed as “Honey” by a stranger, even in a slogan.) This proposal is one of 10 concerning Literature.
5. Our meeting objected on 2 grounds; The phraseology was very ‘American’ and not suitable for the worldwide fellowship – ‘Honey’. Also, the word ‘fine’ is often recommended against as it can be used to prevent feelings.
6. We think the sentiment is lovely but the language doesn’t work internationally.
7. Many would consider this slogan to be sexist. It also would not serve any meaning to members in countries not speaking English. Anyway, why does the WSO need a slogan.

8. We think the sentiment is lovely however the language doesn't work international.
9. Those opposed felt this violates program principles by taking another's inventory (even if positive) and that the use of "honey" could be offensive and inappropriately familiar.
10. We don't need any more slogans "Honey"!
11. Remove honey.
12. Unanimously deemed inappropriate.
13. Strong objection. Most people don't want to be referred to as "Honey".
14. "fine" has some adverse 'history' in recovery. "just" is a qualifier that takes power away from what it is used with also calls attention to itself as a word-away from the actual comment-works like "but."
15. The WSO analysis suggests that there would be no practical benefit from discussion of this matter.
16. It is wonderful to affirm each other but this slogan is not always appropriate.
17. Our group didn't like that slogan at all.
18. Let the literature committee do its job. Personally, if someone said that to me it would tell me that I don't have any reason to cry or grieve or talk about my feelings at a meeting. It would be a negative for me. I'll see what the literature committee is writing though.
19. Recommend the meeting that submitted the proposal adopt it as their own slogan.
20. Honey, you're doin' just fine is a daily affirmation that supports Promise 1 and 2. "our self-esteem will increase as we give ourselves approval on a daily basis" is exactly what this slogan gives. Removes the "conditions" of giving myself approval "if" and/or "when". Approval is given right now: honey, you're doin' just fine!

**2016 ABC Proposal #23: - submitted 4 times - CA 682; CA 477; CA 1015; CA 1075 Survey Questions 48 & 49**

*Submitted by Palo Alto, California (CA 682), Monday 7:30 Pm*

**Issue:** We propose that... WSO contact Great American Insurance Group and ask about the coverage CODA obtains from them and see if a similar plan could be developed for ACA.

**History:** Insurance coverage is often a requirement for obtaining a room.

**Argument in favor:** Asking costs nothing.

**WSO Analysis:** The WSO has declined to act on this proposal in the past because it would be impossible to provide insurance for all the groups world-wide and the issuance of insurance policy would open WSO to group liability.

– <b>Yes</b>	<b>13.04%</b> 12
– <b>No</b>	<b>72.83%</b> 67
– <b>No Opinion</b>	<b>14.13%</b> 13

## Responses

1. ...as well as set a dangerous precedence.
2. Perhaps we should add a definitive statement about this to the new meeting material on the website and in packets.  
\*\*\*\*\* Of note: This year the WSO analysis was negative or dismissive in every case. Instead of providing specific information (cost estimates, labor requirements, estimated time frames, etc.) the WSO analysis section was used for rebuttal statements. It appears that most of the proposals have already been submitted to or asked of WSO. The sheer number of proposals indicates a real breakdown of communication between WSO and the fellowship at large.
3. Even if such a generic policy could be developed for all meetings, to provide insurance converge, the WSO would need to define controls to the meetings in accordance with the insurance company. This would mean a level of control by the WSO onto the meetings, which would be a violation of our ACA Traditions.
4. Strongly in favor.
5. We are not in the insurance business. We are in the Higher Power business.
6. Please provide more information.
7. It's a pipe dream CODA is insured. Urban legend.
8. The WSO analysis suggests that there would be no practical benefit from discussion of this matter.
9. No harm in asking is our opinion.
10. What is the harm in asking? That is all the proposal says. They ask WSO to ask the insurance company what CODA did to obtain coverage.
11. Concur with WSO analysis.
12. Even if each individual group acquired a liability policy, WSO could still be named in a legal matter or future claim.
13. Make suggestions to help groups establish a room.