

SERVICE STRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES

MAY 16, 2016

6 PM EST

1. **Serenity Prayer:** Meeting started at about 6:05 EST by Bill D. with the serenity prayer.
2. **Members present:** Bonnie (TX), Charlie (DC), Melani (TN), Marcia (IA), Bill (FL), Jim (NY), Nancy (FL), Tom (PA)
3. **Goals and objectives:** During the WSO Board of Trustees meeting on Saturday it was decided to change the Service Structure Committee from a subcommittee to an ad hoc committee. The WSO Board approved the following:

WSO Board ad hoc Service Structure Committee (SVC STR Comm) Statement of Beginning and Purpose

Purpose: *That an ad hoc committee be created to research the service structures of other global fellowships in order to recommend how ACA should best organize its service structure to serve its growing fellowship nationally and globally.*

Objective 1: *Assess and summarize other 12 step organizations' service structures.*

Objective 2: *Assess and summarize the ACA service structure.*

Objective 3: *Perform a comparison of ACA service structure to the other 12 step fellowships' service structure and prepare recommendations to improve ACA's service structure.*

Objective 4: *Prepare a report for the WSO Board outlining the findings and recommendations of the committee and deliver it to the board at the 2017 ABC.*

The committee discussed the purpose and objectives. The **purpose** was agreed to by all 8 members present. **Objective 1** was agreed to by all 8 members present. There was a question as to whether Objectives 1 and 2 should be transposed, but Bill mentioned, and the committee agreed that both objectives would be worked on simultaneously. So **Objective 2** passed with 8 votes.

A discussion of Objective 3 resulted in agreement that this is the meat of our task. Two points were discussed in relation to Objective 3: the existence of a long-term subcommittee revising the OPPM to better reflect current practice, and whether or not to look at non-12-step organizations in our analysis. It was decided that we assume the current OPPM subcommittee has nothing to do with the development of an alternate structure. It was also decided that any member of the committee can create an analysis of

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the fellowship or outside organization of their choice for presentation with the other groups being analyzed by the committee. **Objective 3** was approved by 8 votes.

Objective 4 required a bit of a discussion on three points: when would our results be presented, who would they be presented to, and would they be in a finished format or considered a first draft? There was general disagreement about presenting our report at the 2017 ABC. First of all, it would not give anyone time to digest the findings. Secondly, it has the potential to hijack the ABC completely. Upon discussion, it was decided that the presentation was not to the general membership, but to the board only. Several time frames were given for this presentation: end of the year, a month in advance, at the time of dissemination of ballots (this was a non-starter once it was realized the report was for the board only). Since a large amount of work will be involved in this process, it was decided not to tie the committee to a specific date. We changed the wording of Objective 4 to read: *Prepare a report for the WSO Board outlining the findings and recommendations of the committee and deliver it to the board **prior to** the 2017 ABC.* **Objective 4** was then approved by all 8 members present.

4. **The questions below** were submitted based on conversations in the channel prior to the meeting.

- *What sort of divisions do we want to create?*
 1. *International*
 2. *Region*
 3. *Area*
 4. *District*
 5. *Intergroup*
- *How will these divisions be supported?*
 1. *WSO*
 2. *Area fellowships*
- *How big a voting body do we want for the ABC?*
 1. *Fair representation*
 2. *Manageability*
- *What positions might we add to our Board?*
 1. *Archives*
 2. *Registrar*

There was a conversation about whether the questions are premature and whether they can be incorporated into the analysis model already in use by Nancy and Charlie. It was agreed the current model in use is not functioning as well as it needs to. As a new model is envisioned, it is necessary to keep in mind that ACA is not as large an organization as some we are looking at, but that the model should be expandable to serve a larger organization. What

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questions are appropriate at the moment? Marcia started a brainstorming list that will help to delineate criteria for our analyses. In the meantime, Nancy and Charlie plan to incorporate some of the following into the preliminary template.

5. So far in our investigations of other groups we have found structures that have different ways of allowing participation. AA has quite a bit of written commentary on the creation of its structure.

6. 12-step organizations we may wish to investigate

AA	DA	OA
Al-Anon	NA	SA
CODA	Nar-Anon	ACA

7. The agreed-upon meeting time coming to a close, Bill made a few suggestions:

- Our committee needs to continue to harvest information about other fellowships.
- Our committee needs to look at the structure of our own fellowship.
- Brainstorming on the channel for criteria will be helpful to our process.
- Each committee member could research one of the suggested fellowships and prepare some visuals for the committee. That member can then present in a committee meeting set up for this purpose. This will give the total committee a common knowledge base to work from.

8. Task assignment

AA —Charlie	DA —Bonnie/Charlie	OA —
Al-Anon —Nancy/Jim	NA —Jim	SA —Bill
CODA —Charlie	Nar-Anon —Bonnie	ACA —Marcia

9. **Next meeting:** In about three weeks. We will set it up online.