

# SERVICE STRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES--July 3, 2017--8 PM EDT

712-770-4010 access: 281687#

## I. Serenity Prayer:

God, grant me the serenity  
To accept the people I cannot change,  
The courage to change the one I can,  
And the wisdom to know that one is me.

II. **Members Present:** Charlie H, Carole C, Marcia J, David McB, Bonnie K-M, Mary Jo ., Matt K, Bill D.

III. **Purpose:** *As an ad hoc committee of the ACA WSO, our purpose is 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.*

## IV. Goals:

A. **Research and define regions for a recommendation to the ABC and ACA/WSO Board**

B. **Research and Recommend a Process to Elect Trustees**

## OLD BUSINESS

### 1. Motion to approve the minutes from the June 19 meeting. (Marcia)

**2nd:** Carole                      **Discussion:** Change wording from “convention” to “conference.”

**Vote:** Accepted unanimously with correction.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Charlie H. noticed that our agenda was really the same as the minutes from our last meeting. He suggested that we come to some common ground by talking about our own notion of “region.” What types of problems will regions solve? What services will they provide?

### Regions can:

- Be a middle ground between meetings/intergroups and the ACA WSO
- Facilitate two-way communication between meetings/intergroups and the ACA WSO
- Encourage long-term service
- Provide services to meetings that are without intergroups
- Be community organizers in areas of operation.
- Be created where they don't exist by ACA WSO to do the organizational work necessary to become self-sufficient.

### Concerns

- Regions cover large geographical areas and may not be much more present to a meeting than the ACA WSO.
- Intergroups are not necessarily geographical. How would “interest group” intergroups fit into a geographical region system?
- Resources should meet needs. How does that happen with a rigidly defined Region?
- Do we need to address intermediary divisions between Regions and meetings now, or

# SERVICE STRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES--July 3, 2017--8 PM EDT

712-770-4010 access: 281687#

wait for more growth based on the work of the Regional group?

- We currently have a “one meeting/one-vote” set up for representation. Representational Regions will alter that, and conversations will have to ease the way.
- If we only define Regions, we may not be able to have flexibility in other structural bodies that will come later.
- How do we include our international community in this process?
- How many delegates can we handle at our ABC?
- How many Trustees are optimal for our Board?
- What can we actually do today? Are we over-reaching?
- How do we define an Intergroup in our organization?

## **Kinds of Regions:**

- Administrative and representational
- Needs differ depending on local conditions. For example: Minnesota has an intergroup that covers the entire state. Florida has two intergroups.
- Grass roots services

## **What structure comes between Meetings and Regions?**

- We could have shadow structures for areas/districts/other-named intermediary structures ready for use when a part of a Region grows enough to need it.
- Create the regions, and let the smaller bodies within each region be defined by the area in which it springs up.
- AA created their structure without having the members to populate it. It gradually filled in on its own.

**2. Summary:** Regions feed communication, promote service and promote structural growth

### **3. The plan:**

- Charlie and Marcia will go over the notes from this meeting.
- Based on the notes, we will research the 12-Step groups we looked at last year to see how they do their Regions and other structural entities. We can share these to get ideas.
- Carole will present the Region 2 information as ACA’s regional model(currently)
- Charlie and Marcia will set up a meeting with Majbrit and Jeffrey to see how they would like to handle participation by Europe.

**4.** We need to look at our electoral process in about a month in order to have at least an interim process ready long before we get involved in the ABC.

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday July 17, 2017 at 8 PM EDT