

- I. Serenity Prayer: ACA**
- II. Members Present:** Charlie, Mary Jo, Carole, Miles, Matt, Sarah
- 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 July 17 meeting.** (Carole)

Second: Charlie with amendment

Discussion: 2nd p. #2 Laura's note. Each of 5 mtgs. in intergroup sends delegate so they get 6 votes instead of five. Intergroups vote only for Intergroup entity. Regions only vote for regions not meetings. This had to do with meetings having the ability to vote. We were surprised at the BRB depiction of voting at the ABC. The book seems totally incorrect, not following OPPM. "The group was surprised the BRB misrepresented the voting of meetings and intergroups especially at the ABC. It says that voting was based on Intergroups unless a meeting did not belong to one."

Abstention:

Decision: Approved

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. ACA Region 2 Presentation: Carole C.**

Process: Started about a year ago. Using the WSO meeting directory intergroups in Greater Western United States were identified and invited to join in the process of creating a region. The geographical area starts at the edge of TX and in a line north. Texas is not in region, but several intergroups expressed some interest. Working with all who responded, the group created a grid to define work that could be done by a region. Along the horizontal edge are tasks done by WSO. The vertical edge lists the components of our current service structure: WSO, Regions, Intergroups, and Meetings. The general idea is that individual meetings do not have the people or the finances to support initiatives in an area. If they band into intergroups, they can support each other. If the intergroups band into regions, there is a larger area of support. With this in mind, the group filled in the grid to show a graduated level of responsibility for the identified activities at the top.

The regional development group wanted to get more of a structure around each meeting. The usual situation was an Intergroup and then WSO. However, there are many areas in the western region that have only a few meetings and no intergroups. The region could provide service to those isolated meetings until more meetings develop. The region can also encourage meetings to develop Intergroups. They can give support to these new intergroups as they get going. The plan is to eventually shrink back down once a certain number of intergroups are formed, perhaps breaking into smaller regions.

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Right now the Region represents mostly California Intergroups, one Intergroup in Nevada, one in Arizona, and one in Washington State. They are talking with an Intergroup in Oregon about joining forces. There are 10 reps of intergroups in total.

The Region is still working to set up its financial system, and they do not have a website because of a lack of expertise in that area. They are working to start up a Hospitals and Institutions Committee. The focus now is to communicate, listen, and provide necessary help and service. How the Region will change in the future is still a question.

2. **Midwest Region.**

At the moment, there are one or two people from four groups in discussion about what a region might mean. Matt is making individual contacts. Some intergroups have just been contacted. People busy with their own Intergroups are not necessarily interested in extending themselves to help new Intergroups. Right now the purpose of starting a region would be to support meetings and intergroups.

3. **Could this be the definition of a region?**

We have been looking for tasks that define regions. This support of Intergroups looks like one of those. The Region is closer than WSO to specific Intergroups.

4. **CMA Region presentation: Marcia J.**

a. **Description CMA**

Since Marcia was absent, Mary Jo read through the rubric with information on *Crystal Meth Anonymous*.

- #### b. **Discussion:**
- Carole and Matt both described regions as having vigorous interactions with intergroups. CMA seems to have more of a representational function. Their first task seems to be finding and electing regional candidates for the Board of Trustees, or to vote at the annual meeting. Most of the direct service seems to be done at the intergroup and district level.

What do we think a region should be?

- Carole likes the idea of the work being dispersed so that meetings can just meet. Not a big problem of procuring materials or getting advice. Our Region 2 supports meetings and Intergroups.
- Not all regions will be doing the same thing. We need to communicate, listen, be flexible. This sounds a lot like our European Committee.
- Having a regional assembly sounds really good. Local areas need to meet in order to clarify their needs to inform the larger group.
- There is a burden at the WSO level; there is a burden at the Intergroup level. Who serves? How do we encourage people to serve?
- Two-way communication concept.
- A number of fellowships have a system of local districts that serve the meetings. Intergroups aren't part of the representational body. With a lot of them there isn't a year round area group working.
- Intergroups for intergroups. Carole gave an example of her Region pulling together information to create a pamphlet on both long-term and short-term meeting safety. This was done in response to a meeting unhappy with the presence of male predator. Region gave the info to the Intergroup not the individual meeting. This led the group members to work with their intergroup. Periodic assemblies would not do the same sort of interaction that Region 2 did.
- CMA is almost the same as AA. Groups have business meetings, districts have business meetings. District and Area meet three times a year. twice a year there is a meeting for

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representational purposes. The programs are running almost the same. I think we are doing a good enough job. In AA Intergroup is an entity of its own. The way intergroup runs in ACA is more like a district in AA. More of a representational organization.

- **What about the number of Trustees? Two trustees from each of their regions for 28 in total? Is that too much?** If it is too small, that isn't good either. Originally no board member could be a chair of a committee and a subcommittee. Just on the committee to support their work. We have to take on chairperson duties now, but we need to move away from that.

Round the table discussion of positives and negatives of CMA:

Carole: Don't think they are giving individual meetings service. Answering problems as official problem-solvers. We don't want that.

Miles: It looks good.

Sarah: I like the option that the intergroup is not necessarily part of the governing structure. Having two options would be nice. Making sure there is a voting entity outside of the Intergroup. Trustees....the plus is help with the work burden.

Matt: likes more representation of the meetings through a regional assembly. Lacking is more of what is going on in your meeting...more about the positions than meeting support.

Mary Jo: This is not a good model for us. The fact that intergroups are part of our structure is a plus. Are they outside entities since they are incorporated. Whether the district equates or not is not evident. The area structure could work for us if given an added responsibility beyond the assembly.

Charlie: Election part is the necessity. Likes regions the way we have them: a body that lends support to intergroups and groups. Middle thing with state/provincial areas. Can bring groups together that are closer together geographically. We might also do this. We could put this in there. We need to make a list of observations.

3. Fellowship study responsibilities: Make requests for DA and OA subjects on Slack.

AA--Miles	DA--	NA--Matt
ACA--Carole C.	CMA--Marcia	OA--
Al Anon--Mary Jo	CoDa--Sarah O	SAA--Charlie

NEXT MEETING: Monday August 14, 2017 at 8 PM EDT