The Report for November, 2018

Submitted by Jim R., the ABC Committee Chair, December 8, 2018

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| HIGHLIGHTS FOR NOVEMBER: * DELEGATE TRAINING – Review of the standard practices and outreach to delegates
* The 2020 APPLICATION – South Florida has also expressed interest in hosting, while Reno, Nevada has found challenges in finding available space for 2020, at this time.
* SWEDEN 2019 –

LOOKING AHEAD:* The ABC section of the OPPM, which outlines the personnel, process, and responsibilities of this branch of WSO, is being reviewed and developed. An ABC/AWC Handbook, offering guidance to future Board and Committee members, could be a valued product growing out of the OPPM revisions.
* A new system of identifying, engaging and selecting future ABC/AWC hosts is in development. Proposed method outlined below.

RECOMMENDATIONS: * NOTE: When the time comes to update the ACA By-laws, consider describing the timing of the ABC/AWC as being within a range of 3 weekends – allowing for better pricing. And perhaps note the AWC (?).
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**The DELEGATE TRAINING SUBCOMMITTEE**

**The 2020 ABC/AWC APPLICATION**

Groups in Reno, Nevada initially expressed have enthusiasm to host the events. The situation is challenging for the Nevada fellowship because the local venues are already heavily booked do to some popular annual sporting championship. Rooms are few, and prices are high. This has led to exploring 2 factors of the ABC planning:

**The Dates of the ABC/AWC**

If the Conference were held a week earlier or later, there would be greater choice of venue and better pricing. In the future, WSO may choose to reword their By-laws in order to make the timing of the ABC/AWC a little more flexible. As it stands now, Reno would like to know if the Board has the ability to change the date of the ABC.

 **An Extended and Proactive Planning Process**

 A more thoughtful and concrete process for identifying Host Intergroups to recommend to the Board is described below. This new process offers WSO more control and provides better guidance and mentoring for the Host Committees.

While Reno is reevaluating their ability to host in 2020, the Broward County Committee of the Southeast Florida Intergroup has sent a letter of intention to apply to host the 2020 ABC/AWC in the Greater Fort Lauderdale area. This Committee will have the broader support of the entire Southeast Florida Intergroup. They will be submitting an application shortly.

**SWEDEN 2019 - The ABC/AWC**

A weekly phone call with Fredrik has been proposed. The timing and means of calling will be determined.

The planning of the 2019 ABC/AWC continued in November.

1. The Website

Acaworldconvention.org has expanded. More information about the gathering in Sweden can be found there, as well as easy registration.

2. AWC Programming

A request for program facilitators is on the Convention website: program.abc2019@gmail.com. The opportunity to offer a meeting in your own language is open to all attendees.

For comments and questions, please write to Jim R., at abc@adultchildren.org.

*Our proposed letter to selected Intergroups, outlining the new process of Host recommendation:*

Your Intergroup Has Been Chosen

The ABC Committee, a component of the ACA World Service Organization, has a service opportunity for your membership. Our committee recommends to the Board of Trustees, potential hosts for the ACA Annual Business Conference, known as *the ABC*. We have chosen to extend, to your Intergroup, an invitation to consider becoming the Host Committee for an upcoming ABC.

The Annual Business Conference is like a typical business meeting you might attend with your group or Intergroup. Through the course of the 2-day meeting, we accept minutes and reports, address proposals and new business, and ratify Trustees and Committee chairs.

In conjunction with the ABC, we produce an ACA World Convention (*the AWC*), which is focused on personal recovery and fellowship. The convention offers a program featuring keynote speakers, workshops, performances and opportunities for artistic expression and wellness.

The ABC Committee mentors the Host Committees, and readies them for achieving their task of producing both the business conference, as well the accompanying convention. The ABC Committee and the Host Committee together will identify a venue and arrange for meals and lodging options for the attendees. Together they assist with maintaining the convention website. The Host Committee includes a large team of volunteers who are instrumental in producing a successful event.

**Your Intergroup**

Foundational to the production of these events is the selection of a host. The ABC Committee identifies qualified Intergroups which are then recommended to the Board. We are sending you this notice because your Intergroup displays the qualities we value: a large number of meetings within your association; literature sales figures; your geographic location; local fellowship events.

We would like your Intergroup to consider hosting an ABC/AWC in the next few years.

**A New System of Recommendation**

The ABC Committee is inaugurating a new system of identifying and confirming Intergroup participants.

We have determined that there are benefits to identifying and confirming Intergroups earlier than we have in the past. The earlier identification allows the leaders of the Host Committee to be part of the planning of prior ABC/AWCs – to learn about the process well before their own event. This will give ample opportunity for a Host Committee to become comfortable with the tasks ahead. Your Intergroup may even choose to have a “test run” by staging a daylong local event within the year before.

Our goal is to have the Host selections in place, 2 years in advance. In this way, at an ABC, a presentation could be made informing the attendees of the next year’s location. And the theme and logo would be in place.

With the hosts of the upcoming 2 ABCs in place, we intend, at the same time, to be onboarding another Intergroup (and possibly an alternate) to learn about the ABC/AWC and to explore a commitment to hosting in the years beyond. As an ABC is completed, the newest Intergroup commits to being a host in 2 years. If there is also an alternate, and they are interested in hosting, they will remain in the cue and will begin planning, with their representatives learning about the tasks and challenges of producing these events, as they volunteer in the planning of current Conferences.

*It is the view of the ABC Committee that:*

* **An Intergroup is necessary.** The size and complexity of the ABC/AWC requires the efforts of more members than are found in a meeting. Multiple Intergroups may work together to produce the event.
* **All Intergroups are capable.** There is nothing Herculean about the members who have done this in the past. Requirements are dedication, enthusiasm and time.
* **Hosting is a healthy way to learn to work with others.** All aspects of life provide us with opportunities to learn and grow. What’s powerful about this experience is that you will be working with fellow ACAs, with a common language and overall perspective. This is a safer place to learn healthier habits, which could be transposed to our workplaces.
* **The hosting experience improves local meetings.** With the planning and production of the ABC, many members become more knowledgeable and comfortable with the business meetings of their own groups.
* **Hosting creates community.** Best of all, choosing to be part of the larger world of ACA provides each member with a sense of belonging and an opportunity to feel at home.

**A Visual Interpretation of the New System**

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|  | LASTYEAR |  | THISYEAR |  | NEXT YEAR |  | IN 2YEARS |  | IN 3YEARS |  |
|  | Host |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Host |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |  |  | Host |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Planning Stage 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Host |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Planning Stage 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | Planning Stage 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | Onboard |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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As an Intergroup joins the Hosting Process one or two of their members are identified as both conduits for information and as active participants of the ABC Committee. They will learn about the challenges and timelines of producing the events through participating. Eventually they may become the co-chairs of their ABC/AWC Host Committee. The breakdown of tasks and timelines within the multiyear Planning Stages is in development.

**Your Response**

Are you interested in doing this service? Are you excited by the prospect of having the world of ACA arriving at your own home town?

Begin exploring this possibility by raising the idea with the members of your intergroup. Talk to the group Representatives. It is important, essential, to have ‘buy-in’ from the meeting groups in your area. The volunteer base for producing the ABC and World Convention will need to be large. Everyone offering some time and talent. No one taking on too much responsibility.

And just to be clear, we are asking:

**Would your Intergroup consider hosting an ABC and AWC in 3 years?**

If there are specific questions raised by the Intergroup, you may write to us at abc@adultchildren.org for clarification.

Thank you for considering this proposal. When your Intergroup reaches a consensus, whether it is “yes” or “no,” please let the ABC Committee know of your decision. We look forward to hearing from you and your Intergroup.

Again, thank you.

Jim R. **|** *Chair*, the ABC Committee

World Service Organization

Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families