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**The 2018 ACA WSO Annual Business Conference Draft Minutes[[1]](#footnote-1)**

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

April 26 – April 27, 2018



*Submitted by Marcia J., WSO Board Secretary*

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# **Thursday April 26**

## Delegate Orientation

**(Page 10)**

**TAPES**

* [April 26th ABC Part 1](https://acawso.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/26APR2018_d1_p1_000m_00s__033m_20s.mp3)
* [April 26th ABC Part 2](https://www.dropbox.com/s/qj8u3blurc6qgiy/2018_abc_d1_p2.mp3?dl=0)

Orientation is designed to familiarize delegates with the ABC process.

Jim R. welcomed delegates and invited them to become members of the Delegate Training Sub-committee (DTSC) in the future. He also asked for volunteers to submit articles for a special edition of the ComLine.

Erin D., DTSC Co-Chair, clarified terminology that will be used and said they would be given ideas about reporting back to their home groups and resources to strengthen home group business meetings.

1. The **Commitment to Service** was read. Delegates were reminded that it speaks to the promises of the program, and that recovery and service in ACA allow for progress, not perfection. Honesty, open-mindedness, and willingness are the qualities needed to do service at the ABC and elsewhere.
2. **Survey Response from the 2017 ABC Outcome** A page is in the binder with meditations, slogans and affirmations to help delegates stick to principles rather than reacting to personalities during the proceedings.
3. **General Procedures** 
   1. Role of the Conference Chair and the Parliamentarian.
   2. Protocol when speaking:
4. State your name.
5. State your group or intergroup identification.
6. **Guide for the Delegate** The WSO website Repository provided information for those attending their first ABC.
7. **Teleconference Training** Two delegate training conference calls were held before the ABC. Lessons learned will help make these calls more valuable for future ABCs.
8. **Buddy System** Those wishing to have a buddy to help with questions during the ABC were asked to talk to Erin at break time.
9. **The Role of the Delegate** Delegates do the following by group conscience:
   1. Accept committee and caucus reports.
   2. Ratify members of the Board of Trustees.
   3. Vote on ballot proposals.
   4. Report back to their meeting or intergroup. An example of a written report is in the delegate binder.

## **Annual Business Conference Day 1**

**TAPES**

* [April 26 ABC Part 3](https://acawso.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/26APR2018_d1_p1_066m_40s__100m_00s.mp3)
* [April 26th ABC Part 4](https://acawso.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/26APR2018_d1_p1_100m_00s__133m_20s.mp3)
* [April 26th ABC Part 5](https://acawso.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/26APR2018_d1_p1_133m_20s__166m_40s.mp3)

1. **Welcome and Introduction of Board Members: Mary Jo L., Board Chair**

Board member introductions in no particular order.

* 1. **Charlie H.: Falls Church, VA** *(Literature Committee Chair, Service Structure Committee Vice-chair, European Committee).*
  2. **Mary Jo L.: Des Plaines, IL** *(Board Chair, Exec Committee Chair, Board Co-Liaison to ABC Committee, DCOC Committee Co-Chair, OPPM Committee Chair, Ballet Prep Committee Co-Chair, Finance and Service Structure Committees)* **[TAPE 1- 01:11:14]**
  3. **Carole C.**: **Arroyo Grande, C*A*** *(Region 2 Representative to the Board, MPS Co-chair, Service Structure Committee, Literature Committee, Board Liaison to the Nominating Committee)*
  4. **Pat H.: Boulder Creek, CA** (*Audit Committee Chair, Finance Committee Vice-Chair, DCOC Committee*)
  5. **Marcia J.**: **Davenport, IA** *(Executive Committee, Service Structure Committee Chair, and Board Liaison for Archive Committee)*
  6. **Jim B.: Boca Raton, FL** *(Website and Database Committee Chair, DCOC Committee)*
  7. **Bill D.: North Miami Beach, FL** *(Board Treasurer, Executive Committee, Finance Committee Chair, MPS Committee Chair and DCOC Committee Co-Chair)*
  8. **Miles C.: Belleville, Ontario, Canada** *(H & I Chair, MPS Committee; Service Structure and OPPM Committees)*
  9. **David McB.: Miami, FL and New Orleans, LA** *(Board Co-Liaison to ABC Committee, Virtual Meeting Committee Chair, Literature Committee Vice-Chair, DCOC and Finance Committees)*
  10. **Majbrit M.: Svendborg, Denmark** *(European Committee Chair, Executive Committee, Literature Committee)*

1. **Mary Jo L. officially called the ABC to order with a moment of silence and the traditional Serenity Prayer.**
2. **The Twelve Traditions were read by Jody O’C.**
3. **The Commitment to Service** (was read during delegate training)
4. **Meditation of the Day from Strengthening My Recovery was read by Mary Jo L.**
5. **Chair Letter (Page 2).** Mary Jo thanked Jeffrey F. from Prague who left the board after two years; he plans to continue committee work. She also briefly mentioned some of the milestones listed in her letter.
6. **Ratification of the Conference Chair, Miles C. [TAPE 4- 01:41:25]**
7. **Introduction of the Parliamentarian for the ABC, Mel C.**
8. **Approval of Minutes from the 2017 ABC in San Diego, CA (Page 23) [TAPE 4- 01:43:00]**

**Motion:** Bill D., FL158

**Second:** David McB., FL134

**Discussion:** It was noted that protocol allows the current body to approve minutes of such events, even if they were not present the previous year.

**Decision:** Minutes were approved with two abstentions.

1. **Treasurer’s Report, Bill D. (Page 41) [TAPE 4- 01:52:00]**

The financial statements were reviewed and the following notable developments mentioned:

1. 11% growth in sales
2. Freight costs down 26% due to better planning and more favorable shipping rates. Larger warehouse space allows ordering greater quantities.
3. Distribution Center expenses up 38%, mostly due to larger space, and increase in number of staff and fulfillment fees.
4. Ended contract with third party fulfillment center in Illinois. Buying larger quantities of books has reduced per unit costs.

7th Tradition contributions were up from 2016; first quarter 2018 continues that growth. The main support for WSO still comes from literature sales.

**Treasurer responses to Comments and Questions from the Delegates:**

* 1. Contributions in 2017 remained steady from 2016 resulting in contributions around the $70,000.00 range.

1. Response to Tom R., PAO143: Individual contributions are automatically designated as anonymous. We only list group names.
2. Response to Hasse O., Denmark IG40: WSO income is 86% book sales and 14% 7th Tradition contributions. I would say it should be 65% / 35%, based on the current ratio in AA of 57% / 43%. A slide entitled “Where Does the Money Go?” was shown and discussed. A request was made by Pat H., CA1258 for delegates to receive a copy: Response: This is incomplete and will be posted on the Repository after Board approval. **END TAPE 4/BEGIN TAPE 5**
3. Response to Shishir, India, IND005 regarding a question about how to get help to spread the message in India: Please talk to any one of us at the end of this meeting. You may hear more information during other Committee presentations that will help as well.
4. Response to Linda V., CAN099 regarding a question about the exorbitant costs of importing ACA literature into Canada and that perhaps WSO could work with AA’s distribution center: We’ll take that under advisement immediately.

**5**. Response to David R., CAN**349** regarding a comment about the cost of running WSO: Donations of $1 or $2 are still considered the norm and it’s hard for a group to break that barrier. Suggestions from other Delegates:

* 1. **Mikkel, Denmark IG 40** - discuss the Traditions, especially the 7th Tradition, to raise awareness in a non-judgmental way.
  2. **Greg R., TX131** - some groups have experienced up to a 50% increase in rent. Recommended that interested delegates join in a best practices discussion for encouraging contributions.
  3. **Jeannie T., FL170** - many groups also have to pay for liability insurance in the States. It would be good to have a brochure or a flyer about this.
  4. **Cheryl F., Toronto, IG558** - suggest the website have an enrollment for an automatic donation.
  5. **Majbrit M., Board Truste**e - Sweden uses a phone app that allows members to send donations directly to the meeting account. In Denmark members can use MobilePay, an app created by a local bank. Norway and Sweden can use an app called VIP.
  6. **Response to** **Kristian B, New York**: ACA can accept gifts up to $7,500 per year from a living individual. A bequest after death is a one-time gift not to exceed $7,500.
  7. **Josh W., IG626** -PayPal and Venmo have products for non-profits that do not require the creation of a special app. A flyer explaining expenses to members would be welcome and may increase donations.
  8. **Jim B. Trustee, Database and Website Chair**: It is possible to make 7th Step contributions on our website: <http://www.shop.adultchildren.org>.
  9. **Mikkel, Denmark, IG40**: While it is important to donate to the WSO, we need money to grow at the local level in Europe. Sending representatives to the ABC and European Conventions costs money that could be donated to the organization. We have decided it is important to use it to participate. **[TAPE 5-02:36:50]**

**Motion to accept the Treasurer’s report**: #19

**Second:** #34

**Discussion:** None

**Decision: Motion passes with one abstention.**

## **Committee Reports**

1. **Executive Committee: Majbrit M. (Page 58) [TAPE 5-02:38:47]**

The Executive Committee consists of the four officers of the Board: Mary Jo L., Chair; Majbrit M., Vice-Chair; Bill D., Treasurer, and Marcia J., Secretary. Our work usually involves approving certain expenditures to be more efficient, as well as provide oversight.

1. **Archive Committee: Marcia J. (Page 103) [TAPE 5-02:42:00]**

The Archive Committee will work with the Board Secretary as a liaison. The committee will work on both the past and the future. Records and memorabilia of ACA need to be found, preserved, and catalogued. Standards for collection and maintenance of records need to be created for uniformity.

Laura L. and other volunteers have started to gather and sort materials and create lists of past trustees. They also recorded some of the first oral histories. The Board Secretary is creating books of minutes for 2012-2017. They are searchable.

The committee needs a chair and a plan for the future. Much work can be done at a distance, but some will have to be done on site. **END TAPE 5/BEGIN TAPE 6** We also suggest that the Europeans start working on archives.

**Comment: Mikkel, Denmark, IG40:** ACA could consider having someone outside the organization do the ACA Archives as a Ph.D. topic.

1. **Service Structure Committee**: **Marcia J. (Page 91) [TAPE 6-03:00:00]**

At the 2017 ABC we had 9 focus areas from our research into the service structures of other 12-Step fellowships. We became a permanent committee in 2017.

The Board asked us to work in two areas this past year: qualifications and recruitment of new Board Trustees, and recommendations for the roles and responsibilities of regions along with a new regional map.

We created a structure and guidelines for a Nomination Committee that the Board accepted. This Committee was created in January. (Report to be given later.)

The Service Structure Committee worked on the definition and requirements to be accepted as a Region with a Trustee on the WSO Board. We would like the Regions to become part of a communication structure as well as representational units. The current focus is on the United States and Canada. We plan to have something to present in Europe next year as well.

We welcome requests to present information about Regional Structure and to get information from your Intergroups and meetings. Please contact us if you are interested.

**Comments and Questions from the Delegates:**

1. **Response to Shishir, India, IND005:** We have worked mostly with Europe so far. If you would like to start something, please talk to any of us. We are willing to help anyone get started. **Majbrit, Trustee:** We are trying to standardize what we do in the European Committee so it can be copied all over the world. We have a meeting starter kit to send out to new countries. One of the first things people do is translate the free literature. There are (non-native-English-speaking) populations in North America that benefit by what’s done, which can include those from India. **Jim B., Trustee:** Please make sure your groups are registered on our website.
2. **Denise AK21:** After the last ABC I started doing service and have been working with Region 2. I tried to get people in my group interested, but there seems to be mistrust, especially about giving money to WSO and the Region. It might be better if the trustees told the meetings to group themselves into Regions and Districts. When a meeting forms, they should be told, “This is your Region.” It will make ACA stronger. This is where we will get our leaders, rather than a committee. We need a pool of leaders to choose from. **Marcia J.:** Some groups need more time to come to service. They frequently look to those who are already doing service to do more. But we all have limits.
3. In Africa, only South Africa is growing. A problem is the cost of shipping the literature and the reliability of delivery. In England, we helped get literature to them at a competitive rate. So as you consider other countries, those in Africa might also be interested.
4. **Josh W.:** There is sometimes a backlash if people are assigned to districts or regions. They don’t want to be told what to do. We have a bottom up organization. **Marcia J.:** Bottom up is fine, but there needs to be guiding principles, even if it is only a mission statement. We are trying to bring structure to ACA from both directions. We also have to be realistic. Some people don’t have the time or the interest to do service. We need to work with the ones that do. Some won’t join in until they can see something in it for themselves.
5. **Tom A., CAN020:** In other fellowships a certain amount of sobriety is required to serve as a delegate or trustee. We don’t track sobriety in this program, which is a challenge. I do service because it helps my emotional sobriety. As I look around the meeting rooms, sometimes those not interested in service are also not very active in working the steps. This can become a vicious cycle. It might be good if we could incorporate something like that into our selection process. **Marcia J.:** That was considered in the new selection process which is included in our report about the new committee.

**END TAPE 6/BEGIN TAPE 7**

* + 1. **Nomination Committee: Greg R., Texas (Page 101)**

Carole C., Board liaison to the Nomination Committee explained that her job is to keep board involvement with the committee to a minimum.

Greg thanked the fellowship for the opportunity to chair this committee. Laura L., California, is the other member of the committee.

Much has been accomplished in a short time. The creation of this committee opens the nomination process to the whole fellowship. Criteria for Board Trustees is listed in the Nominating Committee section on <http://acawso.org>. The path to becoming a Trustee is clearly stated. Applications and questions should be sent to [chairnomcom@acawso.org](mailto:chairnomcom@acawso.org).

Since inception, the committee decided on the process for screening and interviewing candidates. We created interview questions, brainstormed lists of possible candidates, and also sent invitations to those people to apply. Some did along with those who applied on their own. Those not chosen in one interview process will be guided as to how they might better qualify in the future. The committee will take time in the coming year to review the quality of what has been done and make necessary changes. Three more members are needed on this committee, one from outside the United States and Canada. Committee qualifications are on the webpage previously mentioned.

**Response to Question:** We will do our best within the application pool to insure diversity, taking geography, race, sex, and age into account.

* + 1. **Literature Committee:** **Charlie H., David McB. and Tamara P. (Page 61) [TAPE 7-03:36:44]**

After a general call for more service volunteers, Charlie gave a brief explanation of the work of the committee, highlighted some past activities as well as future goals, and introduced two new publications that are ready for conference approval.

The vision of literature development is to support ACA growth by refining and revising existing literature and creating new literature. David McB. heads business operations and Jeffrey F. spearheads international publishing. We are constantly looking for better and cheaper methods to deliver our content to make our literature more affordable. The committee is also working on a process that will give better guidance and support to translators.

Tamara P. leads the Literature Development and Evaluation Subcommittee. Proposals for projects can be sent to [literature@acawso.org](mailto:literature@acawso.org). There is a new development policy now posted on the Literature Committee page of <http://acawso.org>. The *Loving Parent Workbook* is being worked on. Another project is the *Little Big Red Book*, which is envisioned as an introductory text containing information from the BRB that will be most useful during the first year of program. This gives us an opportunity to take another look at and add things that weren’t covered, do some reorganization of the book, or other things that might be done differently. Both project teams meet monthly. Participants have discussed the value of these books before beginning the process of writing them.

There are now several writing teams. In a few months, a feedback loop will be added to get input from the fellowship in new ways, including Town Hall Meetings, surveys, and focus groups.

Majbrit M., head of the new translation sub-committee, reminded delegates that to truly understand the healing process it is necessary to hear the words in the language of childhood. When countries have the literature in their own language, recovery skyrockets. Starting a translation project is exciting, but without support is difficult. Fluency in the home language and culture is more important than fluency in English. These give the text meaning and create the spiritual work of the book.

**END TAPE 7/BEGIN TAPE 8**

The Translation Committee will include the translation chairs from all countries. Those more experienced in the process can sponsor those new to the process, especially if they don’t have much structural support in their home countries. A process has been implemented to aid new translators when previous work has stopped for one reason or another so already completed work can be handed over to a new translation team when one is formed.

**[TAPE 8]**

**David McB.:** Amazon UK finally accepted our verification process and then we established an account with Amazon US. We now have access to Amazon in 29 countries. When translations are published they can be put in the correct fulfillment centers and sold. Amazon has boosted our sales. At present about 60% of our merchandise is sent from Signal Hill and about 40% from Amazon. We receive about 25% of the profit from books sold on Amazon.

**Comments and Questions from the Delegates (All responses are from Charlie H. unless otherwise noted):**

1. **Responding to Tom R., PA0143:** Per David McB, books in Spanish are available on our shopping cart. We are talking about bringing some of the translated books to sell on Amazon US and from our distribution center.
2. **Responding to Jodie O.:** Per David McB.**,** Intergroups were worried about the loss of income when we started using Amazon. But WSO changed the minimum Intergroup purchase to $100, hoping to further help Intergroups. The number of Intergroups has grown by 25% in the last year and sales at the Signal Hills warehouse have grown. It’s up to the Intergroups to determine their prices.
3. **Responding to Greg R.:** Tony A’s steps were part of a copyrighted 1993 book *The Laundry List*. ACAWSO has talked many times with the copyright holder and has not yet received permission to print those steps in our literature. We have an open literature policy, as opposed to a “conference approved only” policy. ACA didn’t have much literature for the first 20 years And the meetings used what was available; Tony A.’s steps were sometimes studied. ACA would like fellowship meetings to stay within our core literature, such as reading the ACA Problem and Solution; using Tony A.’s steps is an option. The BRB references Tony’s thoughts in Step 4 along with references to his book.
4. **Greg R.:** With the IG 30% discount, even if we don’t pass on all of the discount to our groups, it's still more expensive on Amazon even with Amazon prime. Reminder that we have our eBooks on Amazon. I use them because of the amount of travel I do, and the ease of availability.
5. **Responding to Lizz B., CA850,** about younger people frequently preferring eBooks: What is the difference in price between electronic and hard copies? Are we heading towards an electronic-only format? Response: The last monthly Literature Report on <http://acawso.com> has a breakdown of eBook sales. At present, they’re small compared to print sales. We are in the process of creating more electronic titles, especially for translated versions. We believe e-Publications will get material published more quickly.
6. **Responding to Teresa, CAN311:** per David McB., if you download eBook publications to your device, they are yours.
7. **04:14:04] Responding to Lisa F., NJ134:** Per Bill D., before expenses WSO made about $20,000 last year on e-books and audio books and $539,000 on hard copy materials. We are not in a position to manage Amazon sales ourselves.

**Literature Committee (Continued)** Charlie H., we have been made aware of the excessive costs associated with getting books into Canada and are working on solutions. There is also a lack of understanding of the value of service, so we will be looking at preparing a flyer to educate people that includes an explanation of being self-supporting. Please see our goals in our report for more information. We’ll also be looking at safety and predatory behavior, an issue brought up recently. We have to do better on this type of topic.

Introduced the Emotional Sobriety tri-fold that is aimed at those in AA and the term was first used by Bill W. and the tri-fold builds on that. 18 people contributed to the essay in the document. We really are encouraging people to look at how their past may in fact still be affecting and, actually, endangering their sobriety today. This was vetted by some non-ACAs who are in AA. It’s not 100% done. Conference approval is required for the work to be finished.

Introduced Ready, Set, Go! The motion for approval will be tomorrow. This project is in many ways very unique. I'm hoping some of the authors are on the phone hearing us talk about it. It was created in the Chicago area around 2012. Refer to page 117 in your binders. **[END TAPE 8/TAPE 9 IS BLANK]**

1. **Finance Committee**: **Bill D., (Page 56) [No recording]**

Report closely mirrored the information in the Delegate Binder.

* + 1. **Distribution Center Oversight Committee**: **Mary Jo L., (Page 70) [TAPE 10]**

Report mostly mirrored the information in the Delegate Binder and there were no questions.

* + 1. **ABC Committee**: Jim R., (Page 71)

The binder shows a timeline of what we did over the year and tasks ahead for 2018. We will start looking for the host for the 2020 ABC and AWC. Will be guiding the host committee for the 2019 ABC in Sweden. The annual AWC will take place someplace in the US the summer of 2019. We will send an announcement looking for a host. The committee evaluates the bids and makes recommendations to the board. This process can take a couple of months. I will ask some of you to help on this committee. It can be a little time consuming, but not difficult. If anyone is interested in being ABC Vice Chair, let me know. I will mentor that person through the 2019 ABC so they can take over this position.

Please look for the survey on the acawso.org website within the list of documents that refer to this event to offer your input and insights on this ABC.

A lengthy discussion ensued requesting the reasoning for separating the ABC and AWC for only 2019. Questions comments made were as follows:

1. **Jim R:** The 2019 European Convention will be held with the ABC and the AWC (ACA World Convention) will be held in the US.
2. **Tom R.:** This decision seems to be splitting people’s free time and resources. Some will have to choose between two events and could negatively impact attendance at both.
3. **Mary Jo L.:** In attempting to explain the Board’s decision, said that at the time of decision, a majority of then Board members felt having the AWC out of the US two years in a row would slow momentum and enthusiasm for the event for ACAs in the US. Some of that Board majority are no longer on the Board.
4. **Josh:** Shouldn’t the world convention travel across the world?
5. The AWC is only three years old and there was fear of losing the momentum that had begun to build, which could happen after not having anything at all in the States two years in a row.
6. The European Convention will be similar to the AWC.
7. **Josh:** It seems North American-centric, which seems problematic in the long-term.
8. **Charlie:** There have been discussions about why the two events are connected at all. Someday it maybe an entirely different experience. At this point it's great to get a feel for what the fellowship believes, keeping in mind that we are growing and changing.
9. **Bonnie K-M, TX081:** Because the ABC has historically been so small, we were unable to even book hotel venues. I understood the idea of adding the convention was to draw more people in by adding the recovery part. The word "world" should mean more.
10. **Lisa, NJ134:** If you're going to call something "world" then it should be inclusive and not North American-centric, if separate continents and countries have their own conventions, then they are called that: European or North American. Can this be a motion to have the AWC with the ABC for us to vote on tomorrow? To break it up and call it something else seems to be sabotaging the very thing you said you didn't want to lose – the momentum.
11. **Holly, Toronto:** Is this just a naming issue?
12. **Mary Jo:** We hear what you're saying. I think I speak for the board that it doesn't seem logical in many ways that it's been split. The decision was made over a year ago. Whether it was the best decision from a global perspective, it was made and we planned accordingly. But I think the consensus is that it will not be split again because it’s a world convention. It doesn't feel good, but it's our reality right now. But someone can make a motion tomorrow to help ensure this doesn’t happen again. [00:26:47]
13. **Mikkel, IG 40:** I share a lot of the sentiment being shared. I'm not blaming the Board. I'm pretty sure they did the best that they could at the time. It seems problematic that the focus is more on America - I'm not saying this is the dominant thinking. Either make it a World convention or rename it. The momentum that I think we need is the momentum of the rest of the world - the fellowships of Europe who are growing, who have translated their books, are selling them by the thousands. It might be good for some Americans to travel outside their country to get what we do.
14. **Bill D.:** Some background may help understand it’s not such a bad thing. There was a pledge made in Denmark in 2013 to come back to Europe in five years. But that was only for the ABC. The AWC component has only been around since 2016. This is five years since 2013, so it should have been in Europe, but because the request said "outside the United States," other countries put in bids. Toronto put a bid together that swiveled our heads and it was outside of the United States. We didn't all know or remember the 2013 pledge to go back to Europe until late in the process, so we compromised. Instead of having the AWC out of the US two consecutive years, we decided to take the ABC to Europe in 2019, as pledged, and keep the AWC to give people in the US something to do. We'll also sponsor a convention in Sweden which will have all of the components, it just won't have the name, AWC. But it will be a bigger event than Europe has ever seen before with four days of ACA activity. We thought we were doing the right thing to honor a pledge made five years ago. We thought it was a compromise because we never planned to go out of the US two years in a row. I hope you let us just proceed with this.
15. **Jan, Madison, WI, IG70:** Is there a problem about just calling that the world conference in Sweden? I would love to attend it. Something in the U.S., could be called the North American ACA conference. I think that would be an easy fix. I don't know what the requirements are for a new proposal.
16. **Greg TX131**: In Austin several years ago when we started the first meetings in over 20 years we quickly outgrew our meeting space. When we made a decision to move some didn't like it and half quit. But we now, between Austin and San Antonio, we have grown to about 25 meetings a week. If we had stayed and maintained the current momentum, we might not have what we have today. Sometimes we have to take a bit of a loss for a big gain.
17. **Tom:** I acknowledge the hard work and good intentions of the trustees. We're all working towards the same end - to bring the message to suffering ACA's. So, while we might disagree about things, it's worth remembering that we have the same goal. Having two annual conferences in the same year is confusing. Could we un-confuse things? It's just a name. But I think in this case it could have some bad unintended consequences. Are people opposed to calling the event next year with the ABC the world convention?
18. **Mikkel, Denmark, IG40:** I think what's connected to the ABC should be called AWC. 50 years from now, when we go to Singapore, when we go to Australia, they will love us for it, because they will know that they were already thought of at that time, and the families were just waiting for them.
19. **Mary Jo:** Let me just add that if somebody petitions the board, it has to open up the discussion again.
20. **Charlie:** This is really encouraging to have this sense of the fellowship come through clearly. We try the best we can to serve the fellowship, but we are not always in contact with a room full of recovering adult children, and I want to thank everybody. And yes, we call ourselves the world service organization, but it has been North American-centric. Today this room has said, "No, we are a world organization. I want to thank everybody for that."

**ABC Committee Report Concluded.**

**Closing Statement: Miles C. ABC Chair**

There’s been a lot of crosstalk today and we have to be more efficient tomorrow - only half of the committee reports are done and we have motions to take care of.

If anyone wants to put forth a new motion on the floor tomorrow, please have it written out so the secretary has it exactly.

**Motion to end Day One**

**Meeting ended with recitation of the Serenity Prayer**

# **Friday April 27**

## **Annual Business Conference Day 2**

1. **Call to order by Miles C., Conference Chair.**
2. **Moment of silence followed by the ACA Serenity prayer.**

1. **Traditions read by Esau G., California, and Tracy M., Rhode Island.**
2. **Meditation read by Dave S., WI112**
3. **Introduction: Miles C. ABC Chair**

My name is Miles from CAN328. I'm your Conference Chair and also your Co-Host. The Toronto Host Committee welcomes you to the 2018 ABC and AWC. We are very grateful to be the host city this year. During the past 40 years ACA has evolved into an established program that offers pertinent resources and recovery for adult children from all walks of life across the world. ACA is an international fellowship of over 2000 meetings around the world.

We believe that ACA has the potential to help the suffering (adult children) of the world through the magnitude that Alcoholics Anonymous brought relief to the hopeless alcoholics in the 20th century. ACA holds out hope and acceptance to the hurting adult child. We can hit rock bottom and reach out for help allowing the true self to emerge into the nurturing atmosphere of ACA as a spiritual experience that awaits any adult child stepping into the broad highway of ACA recovery.

We would like to welcome our elder, Francis, who will provide an acknowledgement of gratitude for the space we're sharing with the surrounding indigenous communities of this region, and to express his blessings of gratitude and wishes for amazing things to come from all those in attendance here this weekend. This is the land of the Mississauga Six Nation people's aboriginals.

1. **Prayer of Blessing and Gratitude: Francis, Elder and Representative of the Six Nation Aboriginals**

My name is Francis and I'm an adult child. I'm a native man from First Nations. My spirit name is Swift Running Red Fox. I'm honored to acknowledge what we're doing in our healing process. I've been asked to express the warmth that has been given by my people to you. When we pray, we pray for all our great nations and that means everybody in the world. I'm proud to be of an aboriginal descent. I didn't know that growing up, I just found that out not too many years ago. I'm here to bless and honor everybody here and what you're doing with your life.

I honor you for what you've been through. We are truly brothers and sisters in spirit. That's what my people believe. We have many, many ceremonies throughout the week, and we always honor our land, and we always honor Mother Nature because without Mother Nature we wouldn't be here. That's where our air comes from, that's where trees come from, and that’s where our water comes from: the Earth. I would like to offer my acknowledgement and gratitude for the space we're on today. I wish you blessings and healing throughout this weekend.

## **Continuation of Committee Reports**

Miles: Remember to use your paddle when you're speaking at the mic. Each speaker will have two minutes.

* + - 1. **Delegate Training Subcommittee, Erin D., (Page 74**

Erin presented highlights of the report as provided in the Delegate Binder.

**Comments and Questions from the Delegates (All responses are from Erin D. unless otherwise noted):**

1. Responding to Beryl V., Newcastle, IG40: Yes, the delegate information is on adultchildren.org in Repository under Delegate Training Subcommittee.
2. Responding to Renee, Santa Cruz, CA1170: There were teleconference workshops in March and April. The intention was to educate the delegates on how to be prepared for the ABC
   * + 1. **Ballot Subcommittee, Mary Jo L. (Page 75)**

Committee members are Bonnie K-M and me as co-chairs and Jim R. The Ballot Prep Committee was responsible for assembling the proposals and putting them into a ballot for groups to vote on. Presumably because you're here, your groups had enough interest to participate.

Bonnie: Once we received proposals, we vetted them to see that the language was clear, that we understood what the proposer was intending. We consulted appropriate resources to help the Board create the WSO analysis of each proposal.

* + 1. **European Committee:** Majbrit M. (Page 76)

As chair of the European Committee, I talk regularly to people about service structure, safety at meetings, public service, how to get our message out, leaving a book at a hospital. Denmark’s service structure is working very well. Not all countries have the same opportunities or the same awareness of how to build a service structure. Always remind myself I'm not an authority. I listen to what is wanted and needed. In the big red book there is no real model for how to set up a server structure; it can be different depending on the culture. Many variations that have to be taken into account.

We created a program for the European Convention in Madrid in September last year with workshops in English and Spanish. Like many other fellowships in Europe, the Spanish ACA meetings died out many years ago because they didn't have the literature in their own language.

But instead of the planned program, the 8 meetings they now have that were represented decided to use the time to form an intergroup. They knew the importance of unity and the principles of the fellowship. It was a wonderful experience. Yes, we are working on our own recovery, but we also have to look out for our brothers and sisters so they have a place to be.

People are concerned with how to build their local fellowship. They think the organization on the other side of the pond is indifferent to them. Yes, we know that WSO is the mother of the fellowship, but we don't need a Mom right now. We can do it ourselves. Those who speak English can read the WSO website and register their meetings. The countries that don't speak English need a reason to register. There are more than 250 meetings that are not registered with WSO. I'm trying to tell them "Be a part of the organization because you will be visible. So we will be able to allocate means to help you facilitate some of the things that you want to have done." Being a part of the worldwide fellowship can be intimidating, especially if you don’t speak English. So we speak about that when I visit.

Not groups call themselves ACA. They use a variant. In Finland it’s AAL. You can’t just Google them and find them. So I had to research, find local websites and count the meetings. Page 79 has a chart of growth from 2014 to 2018. But there are areas that we don't have contact with yet. We don't know how many meetings there are, so it takes building relationships to make people step forward and be a part of the European process. The third column shows the meetings registered with WSO.

Page 82 - 5600 pieces of foreign literature were printed in five different languages. Many countries have survived on the same kind of literature that was used in the '80s. So they sort of have their own way of doing things, but when the literature comes out they're selling it like wildfire. There is a bottleneck in translations - we need to lay it out as hard copies, books or electronic versions and we only have one special worker doing that. We're looking at other possibilities to have that done so that we don't stop the process of people getting the literature into their hands.

We have new translations to be done. If people are bilingual, please offer your assistance. We're only three regular members of the European Committee now, and we can really use your support. You have been given a yellow pamphlet to fill in your information. We meet every first Saturday of the month at 8 EST.

**Comments and Questions from the Delegates (All responses are from Majbrit M., unless otherwise noted):**

1. **Responding to a question about whether translations are posted for comment before printing:** In the US new literature is posted for 90 days for evaluation of the fellowship, but what is done in the fellowships in Europe is that they vet it themselves. They proofread it, and then it's sent back and forth until it's correct. And that's a very tenuous and tedious process. We continue to look for better ways to do things.
2. **Responding to a question about attending conferences in Europe.** People from around the world are welcome. They are listed on the European Committee website http://acawsoec.com
3. **Responding to Wally, Ontario, Canada about why some groups do not belong to the WSO:** According to our fourth tradition, groups are autonomous. They can choose to be registered with WSO or not. They're still an ACA group.
4. **Responding to Denise, AK021:** Some countries in Europe have a well-developed ACA structure and others need to build their structure and who are beginning translations. They may not have a lot of depth in their recovery because they don't have literature. The translation process is difficult because there are so many words that don't exist in the local languages. They have to explain concepts or phrases in ways that makes sense to them. Sometimes we see the groups fall apart over translations. We’re trying to standardize a process.
5. **Responding to Kristian NY0176 about encouraging Europeans to become Board Trustees:** Europeans are mostly interested in how to fill their local service positions and getting their literature translated so they can have recovery first. Otherwise, it is not possible to meet the requirements to become a trustee. I see this as a long process, but I also know that there are people out there who don't know that it is possible, because the way I became a trustee was that I put myself forward and had a vision. Also,people from other parts of the world can find a path to the Board as they learn more about WSO. I would gladly teach them what I've gotten to know within four years.
6. **Responding to Tom CAN020:** We don't have an actual list of all meetings by country. Most of the numbers in the report were drawn from local Fellowship Web pages. But we are building a database to become available on the European Committee website.
7. **WSO website addresses:**
8. Main ACA website [www.adultchildren.org](http://www.adultchildren.org)
9. The Repository, used for business information is [www.acawso.org](http://www.acawso.org)
10. European Committee website is [www.acawsoec.com](http://www.acawsoec.com).

We appreciate our secretary, Tanya, who started in November. She is half Australian and half Czech. She stepped up after the event in Spain because she was deeply moved by that and wanted to do service. And I want to acknowledge Jeffrey. He's been my confidant, and he has gone where nobody has ever gone before to look for the best solutions for European literature. He left the Board of Trustees last year, but he's still on the European Committee and he will continue to work effortlessly to give the word to the local Fellowships.

* + 1. **Member and Public Service Committee**: **Bill D.**

(Note: The first part of this report was not taped because of problems with the system. Please see the full report in Delegate Binder.)

* Eleni M., the MPS Special Worker was introduced. Eleni answers email information at acawso.com as well as doing other tasks as assigned.
* We standardized the reporting of the MPS statistics, and the repository page so that it was more uniform and standard from month to month.
* We put out a survey that was answered by 58 of our members. (See results in the report)
* We have a 211 initiative. 211 is an informational organization that informs those who log into their website or dial their number about local community services. Denise R from Alaska, is going to be helping with the 211 update.
* We are looking at ways to use social media. We want to find ways to let people know we exist that respects the eleventh tradition. We're starting a subcommittee to examine the social media aspects of twelve step organizations

**Comments and Questions from the Delegates (All responses are from Bill D., unless otherwise noted):**

1. **Responding to a question from Jan R. IG070;** 211 is organized by state.
2. **Comment by Tamara P MN02:** My intergroup just got a Twitter handle. So we tweet. The only people that are following us are us, but we think it's going to expand. We feel that since it's self-selecting, and people are searching for our information, it's not promoting and that it's a useful way to convey information quickly.

**Virtual Meeting Subcommittee**

**Intergroup Subcommittee: Bonnie K-M**

Hello. I'm still Bonnie. The intergroup subcommittee was formed "to coordinate communications between established intergroups in order to provide support for one another, enable intergroups to provide support more directly with the understanding of and participation in the support of the World Service Organization structure, and to explore how leadership and support from WSO board might better serve the fellowship via intergroup activity."

We have an intergroup forum on Slack. It is a location where Intergroups try to share their information and their ideas.

There is a growth in intergroups partly because of the new literature discount. In the calendar year 2017, there were 14 new intergroups registered. So far this year, there have already been three new intergroups registered.

We have been monitoring the [www.intergroups@adultchildren.org](http://www.intergroups@adultchildren.org) email account. Those emails have really dropped off. Year before last, they were in the thousands. Now, I can say this past calendar year, it's down to like 250 messages that we got that were unique for intergroup. Many people seem to be sharing information on Slack.

Our challenge for the coming year will be to update listings and getting meetings to register with their Intergroup. Intergroups aren’t automatic. Meetings choose to affiliate. They answer to whatever meetings support them.

**Comments and Questions from the Delegates (All responses are from Bonnie K-M, unless otherwise noted):**

1. **Josh W.** suggested that the Intergroup subcommittee could address the drop in email traffic by putting information in The Traveler about how to sign up for the Intergroup Channel in Slack.
2. **Responding to Shishir from India:** Slack is a service channel. If you want to participate in the intergroup forum, send an email to [www.intergroups@adultchildren.com](http://www.intergroups@adultchildren.com) and say, "I want to be on Slack," and I'll invite you on.
3. **Responding to Kristian, NY:** Please consider writing something for the Slack channel about prioritizing activities within their intergroup. Also, The Comline is comparable to the AA grapevineand The Traveler is service literature: things like business announcements. Finding ways to communicate and interact with each other is part of how we grow, so anybody who wants to write about an experience, the ComLine would really appreciate your submission.

**Public Information**

We send out information to therapists, other organizations, and others asking for information. We also send books to hospitals and institutions committees, jails, and lock-down facilities. The 2016 over 2017 comparison of literature that the MPS committee sends out is as follows:

1. In 2016 we sent 205 BRBs, 63 Workbooks, 13 Med Books, two Laundry List wkbks and 10 booklets. In 2017 we sent out 404 BRBs, 360 Workbooks, 185 Med Books, and 30 Laundry List wkbks.
2. The PSAs that have been created need a background slide for broadcasting over visual media.
3. ***The Traveler*** is on the Repository at [www.acawso.org](http://www.acawso.org). Click on the link for the MPS committee. Includes all past issues. Sign-up for the Traveler on the [www.adultchildren.org](http://www.adultchildren.org) home page.

**Comments and Questions from the Delegates (All responses are from Bill D., unless otherwise noted):**

1. **Comment from Kristian** thanking the MPS for supporting a new group on Long Island for young people that has 20 members.
2. **Comment from Jeanie from IG170** about the value of giving books to therapists. Meetings in her area are growing because therapists let their clients know about ACA.
3. **Esau from California wanted to clarify on our Eleventh** Tradition about attraction version promotion. Promotion within the fellowship is encouraged because it's to members of the fellowship. We can promote all we want within our fellowship.
4. **Diane from North Beach 346** would like the fellowship to get a 1-800 number.

**Regional Service Committee (no content)**

* + 1. **OPPM Committee:** Mary Jo L. (Page 100) [01:49:12]

We made a commitment after the ABC, last year especially, to update the OPPM. We spent a great deal of time and almost the complete document is updated. The updates are listed on the cover. The most up to date version is always on the website under Quick Links, which you just saw on the Repository at [www.acawso.com](file:///C:\Users\Marcia\Dropbox%20(ACA%20WSO)\2018%20ABC\ABC%20Minutes\www.acawso.com) .

The Operating Policy and Procedures manual is largely a document to guide the way the board operates, but it also describes the working of the total organization. The OPPM is a living document, and we've continued to make changes to it as a result to some of the things that have happened at ABCs in the past and will happen here. We will be working on making the section on the ABC a separate document.

* + 1. **Audit Committee**: **Pat H. (Page 105)**

The 2017 Audit is the second one we've done. In the 2016, the auditors recommended that we switch from the cash account method to the accrual method, which is a totally different way of recognizing revenues and expenses, and it takes a lot of work to switch between the two.

The audit gave us the opportunity to review our accounting procedures and policies to ensure that we're in compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

We are creating an Accounting Manual to be used as a reference guide and give us a better understanding of how one committee or process affects another; they are all interlinked through the financial statements.

Actions taken, some based on the advice of the company doing the audit, include:

* The Board members, other key volunteers, and the WSO staff sign conflict of interest statements.
* We are ensuring consecutive numbering systems on our internal forms.
* We have improved the segregation of duties and eliminated common user names in the shopping cart.
* We are implementing security controls and responsibility in our system.
* We've made progress in updating the chart of accounts which was a major effort.
* There has been a lot of training for QuickBooks Enterprise and the new shopping cart system.

1. **Website and Technology Committee, Jim B., (Page 89)**

A summary of the goals and accomplishments for the last year and some of the things that are facing us in the year ahead.

We have three main websites:

* Our main recovery website: [www.adultchildren.org](http://www.adultchildren.org) The new interface costs about $300 per month vs. the previous cost of up to $2,000 per month.
* Our service focused website where all of our business information is located: [www.acawso.org](http://www.acawso.org)
* Our shopping cart, which is now Shopify October 2017: <https://shop.adultchildren.org/>
* **Goal:** Remote participation at the next ABC.
* **Goal:** A new meeting list that will include a new method for updating meeting information. We will be asking for a meeting contact and a private contact in case the meeting contact is no longer available.

**Comments and Questions from the Delegates (All responses are from Jim B., unless otherwise noted): NOTE: To be added in the final copy of the minutes for the 2019 Delegate Binder**

## **Presentation of Proposals**

1. **Ground Rules for Ballot Discussion – Miles C., Conf. Chair**

* Only those who are registered delegates with paddles can vote. Non-delegates can be heard during the discussion as time allows.
* If you wish to comment during the discussion you will have up to two minutes. As time allows, you may speak again after everyone else has spoken but then only up to one minute. You will get a 30 second warning.
* I caution everyone not to call the question too early before the different viewpoints are heard.
* It was noted that the Board clarified in 2015 that there should be discussion first about the Ballot Proposals and then a motion may or may not come out of that discussion. After discussion, the decision was made that a motion should be made before discussion.
* If anyone leaves the room during voting they forfeit their right to vote on the matter being discussed.

**Quorum** of Registered Delegates Were Present in the Room, so the Motions could Proceed

1. **Ballot Proposals/Motions**
2. **Motion** by Cheryl F., IG558: I propose that WSO look into adding intergroup and meeting group web links into the WSO website directory listings on www.adultchildren.org. (Ballot Proposal #5 submitted by IG558)

**Second** by Majbrit M., DEN086

**Discussion** centered on whether a disclaimer could be added when someone clicks on such a web link so it’s clear WSO is not necessarily endorsing what may be on those websites.

**Voting outcome:** ?? in favor, one opposed. The minority opinion chose not to speak. **Motion carried**.

1. **Motion** by Bill D., FL158: I propose that the WSO utilize online conferencing and voting technologies to provide remote access to the Annual Business Conference, for those not chairing in the WSO. This is so that phone and cyber meeting groups, geographically distant members, those with limited time availability or childcare obligations, or other restrictions, may attend as delegates or otherwise vote on matters of concern to ACA as a whole.

**Second** by Beryl V., UK1064

**Discussion** centered around a) inclusivity of allowing groups that not able to send a delegate in person to participate vs. being able to manage the process with so many potential participants not in the room – it’s been difficult to manage with even the people in this room; b) the security of the process – whether we can guarantee anonymity and validity of remote participants; c) need to ensure thorough testing is done; d) we’re growing and we have to figure out a way to be more inclusive and if this motions passes we’ll trust that the integrity of the process will be investigated thoroughly; e) if this is passed it’s a goal, not a mandate to do it right away; f) consider changing the order of things and presenting the motions at the start of Day One, give remote people an opportunity to submit written comments/questions, and do the voting later in the day.

**Friendly Amendment** by Mary Jo L., IL172 – that WSO WSO study the feasibility and practicality of using online conferencing and voting technologies . . .

**Second** by Jody O’C., Texas

**The friendly amendment was accepted.**

**Vote:** 37?? in favor, ?? against, 2 abstensions

**Minority opinion:** the friendly amendment would delay the implementation and it could get lost.

**Revote:** motion to adopt the friendly amendment failed on the revote.

**?? called the question on the original motion.**

**Vote on original motion:** Passed, 1 No, ?? abstension. The minority did not speak.

1. **Literature Committee Motions**
2. **Motion:** That the conference approve the publication of the Emotional Sobriety tri-fold after 90 days of feedback by the fellowship and potential edits.

**Further explanation:** This is intended for distribution to members of AA to help them understand what ACA can do for them.

**Second** by #34

**Discussion**: questions about the integrity of the process and trusting the process that has been used up to now with conference approval of much of our literature; many comments about how much this tri-fold is needed and already been successfully used in its draft version.

**Question called** by Greg R., TX131

**Results:** 48 in favor, zero opposed, two abstaining; **Motion passed.**

1. **Motion:** That the conference approve the publication of Ready, Set, Go! after 90 days of feedback by the fellowship and potential edits.

**Further explanation:** Intended as an orientation of the basics of Steps in an accelerated manner in a workshop format.

**Second** by Mary Jo L., IL172

**Discussion** centered on a) approving something that may have substantial rewrites; b) it does not incorporate any of AA’s Back to Basics – it just models the format; c) most of the content comes from our BRB and is already copyrighted by us so those parts won’t change; d) those who have been involved with the current Literature Committee trust the process because they’ve seen the thoughtful nature of all work done; d) concern that delegates aren’t seeing enough of the documents involved in this publication; f) positive comments from those who’ve already used the draft versions; g) without conference approval at this stage, we’ll continue to have copyrighted BRB materials circulated while RSG continues to be discussed for future adoption;

**Question called** by Jeannie T., FL170

**Results:** 45 in favor, two opposed, two abstentions. The minority opinion spoke, one person changed their mind; the vote was retaken with 41 in favor. **Motion passed.**

**Board Member Statements and Ratification**

Board Members, including Board Officers, were individually introduced and unanimously ratified by the Delegates. This included the two new Board members, Miles C., Belleville, Ontario, CN., and Pat H., Boulder Creek, CA.

## **Meeting Adjourned to an Adjacent Room**

At 5:15 pm

The ABC delegates had to move to a different room to discuss and vote on the four motions that were made from the floor.

**Floor Motions**

1. That there be representation on the Board of members from all over the world. **Motion failed.** Discussion: The Service Structure Committee is working on a regional structure. Regional representation is already written into the OPPM.
2. That the Board of Trustees hold both the ABC and the AWC in Sweden in 2019, if the Swedish host group is willing. **Motion passed.**
3. Motion that the term dysfunctional families be incorporated more into Website, literature, books, etc. **This motion was postponed** because it needed more time. Discussion: This is better done through the literature committee. There is a lot of support for the spirit of the motion, but anything requiring a change throughout the literature is difficult.
4. Motion to have a more diverse pool of Board applicants, globally. Motion passed**.** However, the minority opinion swayed the delegates and with the subsequent re-vote, the **motion failed**. Discussion: this is a broader issue that requires much deliberation and input.

# **The 2018 ABC Adjourned**

(after the Floor Motions were discussed. The time was not recorded.)

1. Recordings of these proceedings, as well as a copy of the Delegate Binder, are available on the acawso.org website. Throughout this document notations are made to direct the reader to both the binder page for reference and specific locations in the recordings where more detail can be heard. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)