

The Minutes of the 2017 ABC

The 2017 ACA WSO Annual Business Conference

April 20 -21, 2017

San Diego, California



Notes from the proceedings submitted by Marcia J.



Thursday April 20

DELEGATE ORIENTATION

Our first ever ABC delegate orientation session opened at 8:00 with a moment of silence and the ACA Serenity Prayer. Delegates were welcomed by Laura L, chair of the Delegate Training Committee. An introduction to the role of the delegates, reporting on the ABC to home groups and intergroups, and the archives was given. Roberts Rules of Order, which delegates had a chance to learn about in training sessions before the ABC were reviewed, as well as the ACA Concepts and Commitment to Service. A short overview of the OPPM was also presented.

The Ad Hoc Service Structure Committee gave a slide presentation of the current structure of the ACA/WSO. See **APPENDIX 1** of this document for a copy of the slides.

The major finding is the lack of a structure between the individual meetings and the WSO. There are a good number of Intergroups, and a recently approved Region. The presentation emphasized the desire of the fellowship to have a well-planned structure and policies for its use as our organization continues what appears to be rapidly increasing growth throughout the world. After the slide presentation, those present were divided into smaller groups and given some starter questions about group structure to choose from for a discussion. The results of those discussions were then shared with the entire group.

At the end of the morning members of the current Board of Trustees were introduced to those present; Majbrit M, Vice-Chair of the WSO, Member of the Executive Committee, and Chair of the European Committee; Mary Jo L, incoming Chair of the WSO, outgoing Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee, Member of the Executive Committee and the Distribution Center Oversight Committee (DCOC), Co-Chair of the OPPM Revision Committee; Bill D, incoming Treasurer, Chair of the Audit Committee and MPS, Member of the Finance Committee, the DCOC Committee, the Ad hoc Service Structure Committee, and Chair of the ABC Committee; Jeffrey F., Vice-Chair of the European Committee, Chair of the European Literature Committee and the European Finance Committee, Member of the Finance Committee; Charlie H. Chair of the Literature Committee, Member of the Ad Hoc Service Structure Committee and the Finance Committee.

Not present were Larry A., outgoing Chair of the WSO, Chair of the Literature Committee, the Technology Committee, and the Executive Committee, and member of the DCOC; Ines Z, outgoing Secretary of the WSO, Member of the DCOC, and Co-Chair of the OPPM Revision Committee.

Annual Business Conference Day 1

WELCOME

The meeting was called to order with a Welcome from Mary Jo L, incoming Chair of the WSO, followed by a moment of silence and the recitation of the ACA Serenity Prayer. The ACA 12 Traditions and Commitment to Service were read, followed by the Meditation of the Day for April 20.

ELECTION OF THE ABC CHAIRPERSON

David McB FL134 was chosen to be the chairperson for the 2017 ABC.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 2016 ABC IN DEL RAY, FLORIDA

Minutes for the 2016 ABC were unanimously approved. The 2016 minutes can be found in **APPENDIX 2** of this report.

APPOINTMENT OF A SECRETARY FOR THE 2017 ABC

In the absence of the Board Secretary, Marcia J from Iowa 029 volunteered to take notes for the ABC with several others offering to help out.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was read by Mary Jo L., outgoing Treasurer. ACA WSO is planning to change the method of reporting on the budget from a cash basis to the accrual method, which has been suggested by the auditors, based on the growing size of our organization. Question: can we expect lower costs from Ware Pak. Answer: This is still being sorted out. Delegates were asked to keep an eye on the reporting of 7th Tradition donations and report any errors to treasurer@acawso.org. Mary Jo thanked the fellowship for the four-year opportunity to work with the finances of the organization.

*This report was accepted without a motion: it will be approved with the other committee reports at the end of the presentations. A copy of the report can be found in **APPENDIX 3** of this document.*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee Report was read by Majbrit M., Vice-Chair of the committee. The report can be found in APPENDIX 4 of this document.

Questions were asked about the frequency with which the Executive Committee approves requests for book orders. Are there standing orders? Does the Board need to look ahead to remedy this constant need. Mary Jo L responded that there are supply chain issues, and that there are no standing orders for anything: printing approval is month-to-month because ACA has a small warehouse for storing literature. We will move to a larger location within the next two weeks. Pat from CA 1258 suggested a Canadian printer who will print in large quantities and hold the material on their end until needed.

Finance Committee: Mary Jo L, Chair of the Finance Committee read the report, which can be found in **APPENDIX 4** of this document. Mentions were made of the need for a cost accountant to help with pricing of literature and a budget professional for help with the 2017 Budget.

Literature Committee: Charlie H., incoming Chair of the Literature Committee facilitated this report. The full report is available in Appendix 4 of this document. The Literature Committee is charged with the development and production of new literature; responsible for the translation of international literature, and publishes the Quarterly News of ACA known as ***The ComLine***.

Achievements this past year include:

Translation of the Big Red Book into Castilian Spanish

The Castilian e-Book is nearly ready to go public. Many thanks to Sanne.
The creation of a system for printing outside the United States.
Facilitation of delivery of books to Australia and New Zealand, making literature more affordable to their meetings.

Comments were positive, and Trustee Jeffrey F. congratulated the Literature Committee on their efforts in behalf of the international fellowship.

Amazon Project: David McB spoke about efforts to make literature available internationally through Amazon UK. The WSO is pursuing this because cost of shipping for individual orders is too high currently to Europe. David is running into lots of red-tape in this endeavor as well as problems with verification of differing organizational names. We want to use Amazon UK because of its great distribution record and because we have been quite pleased with our experience with Amazon US. A question was asked about getting a Canadian Amazon account. The plan is to see how it would improve cost and availability first.

Literature Review Subcommittee has been responsible for a lot of creative feedback. Charlie thanked Larry A. for the big role he has played in making literature available to the fellowship. Question: what is the status of Ready! Set! Go! Answer: it is in the revision stage and is not yet ready for publication.

Distribution Center Oversight Committee: Mary Jo L. and Bill D. The full report can be read in **Appendix 4** of this document. The DCOC is standardizing procedures at our facility in California. The oversight situation is not ideal, being done from a distance with periodic on-site visits. The Board made a decision to contract with WarePak in Illinois last year for third party distribution. We kept our current distribution center for several reasons: we are incorporated in California; the office at the distribution center provides other services that we need as well as warehousing; it is cheaper to ship books to Europe from California than from Illinois; our new involvement with Amazon makes it helpful to be in closer proximity to their headquarters in California. The Board was thanked for their many hours of volunteer work used in running this business.

ABC/Ballot Prep Committees: Bill D., Chair of the committee, gave the report. The complete report can be found in Appendix 4 of this document.

Toronto, Ontario was recognized as the site for the 2018 ABC/AWC. We received 203 completed ballots. That was double the participation from last year.

MOTION: 2017_abc_0420_01: Chair for ABC Committee—Motion passes
To name Jim R. as the new Chair for the ABC Committee. (Bill D.)

SECOND: Majbrit M.

VOTE: Motion passes

European Committee: Majbrit M. and Jeffrey F. gave this report. The full report can be read in Appendix 4 of this document.

In Europe, many meetings need help. The European trustees on this committee are the face of ACAWSO in Europe. The European Committee is trying to help national fellowships start their meetings from

scratch. Speaking in a second language to each other means that sometimes comprehension suffers. The committee has found that it is better to speak face-to-face to increase rapport.

A lively discussion about the international fellowship followed. It was noted that Australia and New Zealand are far away from Europe, and that the availability of literature is key in those locations. Russia has 25 meetings in five cities. We have a huge Hispanic population in the United States but there is little awareness of our fellowship. What are we doing about continents beyond Europe? There was quite an interest in Africa, with some members volunteering to use their own African contacts to carry the message to that continent. We have one African intergroup registered. A motion was made and withdrawn to form an International Committee. It was decided to pursue the African connection through the MPS Committee.

MPS Committee: Bill D., Chair of the committee, gave the report. The complete report can be read in **Appendix 4** at the end of this document. An effort has been made during the past year to get momentum going in the Membership and Public Service Committee. The Slack online platform has been useful to bring people together to work on this.

Intergroups: Bonnie K-M TX IG600 let those present know it is necessary to get groups and Intergroups registered with WSO. What WSO does in support of your group is up to you. There is a list of Intergroups on the website. Not all Intergroups are geographic. Those who are not near another intergroup can form their own.

Delegate Training: Laura L. CA IG620, Chair of the committee, was congratulated on a job well-done for the work of her committee in making delegates aware of their responsibilities and how to operate within the ABC.

H & I: Bill D.' MPS Chair, asked for a volunteer to chair the H & I Committee. This person could be a liaison with Region 2. Kurt from CA IG637 volunteered.

Website Committee: Jim B. FL176 gave the report. The full report can be read in **Appendix 4** at the end of this document. A short tour of the website was given and some of the improvements made to date were explained. The committee would like to enhance areas that would help committees and the community to do their work. One area brought up by delegates was to have websites of intergroups available from the main website in the future.

Ad Hoc Service Structure Committee: Marcia J., Chair of the committee, gave the report. The full report as well as the results of the committee's research under each topic can be found in Appendix 4 at the end of this document.

She explained the method used to brainstorm needs of the ACA WSO and the decision to research the structures of other 12-Step groups to see how they may have structured their fellowships to meet similar needs. The committee identified nine areas for development in ACA: ABC delegates, role of the conference, communication, foundational documents, international fellowship, literature, organizational structure, representation, and service opportunities. A recommendation based on the committee's research was made to the ABC in each area. Also recommended was the continuation of this ad hoc committee to continue the work and oversee work groups in the areas identified.

MOTION TO END DAY ONE

MEETING ENDED WITH RECITATION OF THE SERENITY PRAYER

Friday April 21

Annual Business Conference Day 2

CALL TO ORDER

Welcome by Chair David McB FL134

Serenity Prayer led by Chair David McB FL134

Meditation for April 21 read by Mary Jo L., incoming Chair of the Board of Trustees.

CONTINUE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit Committee: Bill D., Chair, gave the report. The full report of the audit committee can be found in **APPENDIX 4** of this document.

This new committee was created to oversee the first full audit of the finances of ACAWSO. It is considered time to make sure we are ready for the expanding growth of the fellowship. A plan was created for putting the audit together. Five auditing firms were vetted and proposals were received from three of them. The firm chosen was Vasquez and Company. They suggested we move to accrual accounting to provide a better picture of our financial standing. They will soon provide a final report that will list our strengths and weaknesses in record keeping and income and expenditures.

OPPM Committee: Mary Jo L., Chair, gave the report. The full report of this committee can be found in **APPENDIX 4** of this document.

In 2014 a complete revision of the 2012 Edition of the OPPM was started to make the document consistent with current practices. The OPPM is a living document that changes at times with board actions introduced as motions over short periods of time. Those motions representing policy changes have not always been added into the OPPM. The committee starting this revision consisted of Joan B., Mary Jo L, Karen R, and Ines Z. A new committee will be formed, perhaps in connection to the Service Structure Committee.

Comments made by the delegates include the fact that the OPPM is a fundamental part of who we are. Delegates want to know about changes to the document, and were assured those changes would occur as motions over the period of time when the document is being updated. Delegates also want to know where the OPPM can be found, offered to join the OPPM Committee, and noted that the overall document is awkward, repetitive and needs to be changed to a more logical and user-friendly format. It was decided to turn the discussion over to the committee.

REQUEST FROM FLOOR FOR CONTACT INFORMATION

A request was made from the floor for information that can be used to contact committee chairpersons. Jeanne from FL offered to put together a handout with the committee contact information that can be handed out to home groups.

PRESENTATION OF PROPOSALS

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROFESSIONAL PARLIAMENTARIAN

David McB, Chair of the 2017 ABC, introduced Jacqueline Marzari PRP to the delegates. Jacqueline has been a Professional Registered Parliamentarian since 1999, and will help the chair with Roberts Rules of Order, and with questions concerning parliamentary rulings during the Ballot portion of the ABC.

GROUND RULES FOR BALLOT DISCUSSION

Some ground rules for discussion of and voting on the ballots were established:

Time length: An ideal time for reading the proposal and discussion would be 7 to 10 minutes if all ballots are to be dealt with according to the schedule set for today.

Reading of the Proposal: The group who brought the proposal to the ABC will be allowed to read the proposal but not go into further explanations of it, which would not give equal footing to ballots brought by groups not in physical attendance.

Ballots

MOTION abc_2017_0420_02: Combination of Ballots—Motion fails

To combine discussion of Ballots 5 and 16 because of their similarity. (Brody CA1175)

SECOND: Carole C. Region 2

DISCUSSION: The wording of the two motions is different, but the premise is the same: Tony A.'s 12 Steps. It was noted that if Ballot 5 is passed, 16 would be overcome by that ballot and eliminated.

VOTE: Motion fails

MOTION abc_2017_0420_03: Consecutive discussion for ballots 5 and 16—Motion passes

To discuss Ballots 5 and 16 consecutively because of their similarity. (Dani CA1090)

SECOND: Jody O'C TX119

VOTE: Motion passes

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Proposal 2017-1 MOTION abc_2017_0420_04: Use of "I" Statements (AL025)—Motion passes

Amended MOTION: abc_2017_0420_23 changes the wording to "...sharing in the first person promotes self-responsibility..." Cut the rest.

To post the following statement on the website under **Resources** entitled, *Why the Use of "I" Statements is So Important:*

"When sharing with an individual or as part of a group, using "I" statements can make a big difference. An "I" statement is sharing in the first person, as opposed to using words such as "we, they, us," or "you." At first it may seem like an insignificant detail, but using third person statements is distancing and impersonal... Sharing in the first person promotes self-responsibility by divulging information only about yourself. An "I" statement exercises my self-control; "I" statements build my self-respect while offering others a true opportunity to have a real relationship with me; Struggling with "I" statements will often reveal the hidden aspects of the issues at hand."

DISCUSSION: Melani McK AL025 asked to withdraw the motion before it was discussed and amend it to a proposal to be adopted as a **Best Practice** as suggested in the WSO Analysis.

Amendment: Adopt the ballot measure, replacing the word "I" with the word "we". (Wes LA)

SECOND: Carole C. Region 2

DISCUSSION: The word "we" signifies community. However, it is thought that voting for the proposal without use of the first person would be to defeat the purpose of the proposal.

VOTE: Amended motion fails

MOTION: Jody O'C TX 119 called a vote on Proposal 1.

SECOND: Brody F. CA1175

VOTE: Motion passes.

MINORITY OPINION: This does not really need to be anywhere but in the best practices section.

CHANGES TO VOTES: The vote stands.

Proposal 2017-2: Did not receive enough votes to be discussed at the ABC.

Proposal 2017-3 MOTION abc_2017_0420_05: Becoming Your Own Loving Parent Wkbk. (FL158)—Motion passes

That the WSO create a workbook on *Becoming Your Own Loving Parent*.

MOTION: Colleen B FL140 moved that we vote on this motion.

SECOND: Duncan CA IG584

DISCUSSION: This will be referred to the Literature Committee if passed.

DECISION: Motion passes

Proposal 2017-4 MOTION abc_2017_0420_07: "Sponsor" vs. "Fellow Traveler" (FL158)—Motion passes

That the WSO revise BRB Chapter 11 and the sponsorship pamphlet for clarity and consistency.

Recommend use of the term "Fellow Traveler."

DISCUSSION: A revision of the BRB will be happening in the near future. Changing material in the book will take much more time than to do so online.

MOTION: Dani T.CA1090 moved that we vote on this proposal.

SECOND: Not known

DECISION: Motion passes

MINORITY OPINION: This is a change in verbiage and will not affect the relationship involved. There should not be continual “tinkering” with the wording of the BRB: keep it simple.

CHANGE OF VOTE: The motion stands

Proposal 2017-5 MOTION abc_2017_0420_08: Tony A.’s 12 Steps (NY099)—Motion fails
That WSO and the fellowship “go to any lengths” to adopt the 12 Steps of Tony A. Print Tony A.’s steps be printed side-by-side with the already-adapted 12 Steps.

DISCUSSION: There has been a renewed attempt during the past year to contact Tony A.’s widow for permission to print his steps with proper citation. After speaking with her attorney, she declined. Further negotiation could involve a financial arrangement, which is questionable because of Tradition Six where we are counseled not to support outside enterprises. We will not publish without a copyright waiver. Since there is an open literature policy, Tony A.’s steps can be used in any meeting.

MOTION: Cheryl VT004 moved to call a vote on the motion.

SECOND: Jodi O’C TX199

DECISION: Motion passes

MINORITY OPINION: If we pass this, there will be two sets of steps. This could set a precedent for ballots seeking to change steps on a more regular basis and will only create confusion. There will be questions about what it means to “Go to any lengths,” that are impossible to solve.

CHANGE OF VOTE: The motion fails

Proposal 2017-16 MOTION abc_2017_0420_09: Make Tony A.’s Steps Conference Approved Literature (CA1175)—Motion fails

Introduce Tony A.’s ACOA Steps to our membership as Conference approved literature.

DISCUSSION: The only real issue here is the ability to call Tony A.’s steps “Conference Approved.” As in the last motion, we still do not have the legal right to use the steps. WSO is a legal corporation. Tony A.’s book was copyrighted in 1993. Use of the material, even from an audio tape could put us at risk of a lawsuit. We cannot be unclear about this if we hope to enforce the copyright on our own materials. Many members of the fellowship have found more healing with Tony A.’s steps. The fellowship would like the Board to speak with Tony A.’s lawyer and keep pursuing the copyright approval.

MOTION: Jody TX199 moved to call a vote on the motion.

SECOND: Heather CA IG625

DECISION: Motion fails

Proposal 2017-6: Did not receive enough votes to be discussed at the ABC.

Proposal 2017-7: Did not receive enough votes to be discussed at the ABC.

Proposal 2017-8 MOTION abc_2017_0420_10 Telephone Conference Meeting Committee (TEL210, IG616, TEL282)—Motion passes

To create a standing WSO Board committee as a liaison between Telephone Conference Meetings and Intergroup, and the WSO Board of Trustees. The committee will be responsible to get answers to the telephone community about their questions and concerns. Issues of importance include autonomy,

anonymity, safety, donations, sanctions, delisting and clarity of messages between the telephone community and WSO. Ultimately a trustee could represent this group on the Board.

DISCUSSION: The virtual meetings do not currently have a specified voice within the ACA Service Structure, or a way to consistently make their 7th Step Donations to the fellowship. In addition, the MPS Committee has been receiving requests to help solve problems which should be solved by autonomous meeting decisions. Designation of a Board liaison will provide more awareness to these groups while guiding them to organize in ways that will facilitate problem solving.

MOTION: Jodi O'C TX199 moved to call a vote on this proposal.

SECOND: Dave WI12

DECISION: Motion passes

Proposal 2017-9 MOTION abc_2017_0420_11: Seating of Regional Representatives (IG076)—Motion fails

To seat Regional Representatives on the Board of Trustees within 30 days of the accepted registration of the Region. Full membership granted in accordance with maximum number of Trustees allowed by OPPM.

DISCUSSION: There is only one approved Region at this time, and it was approved in March. So even with a waiting period, it should be time for Carole C. to be seated. We should do what we can to have more voices on the board. Charlie H. explained the document below to the delegates:

Interim Regions Policy

In March 2017, the WSO Board of Trustees asked the Service Structure Ad Hoc Committee to recommend interim guidelines for recognizing newly formed ACA regional service bodies. The request was made in recognition that one new Region has formed, and others are being explored, at a time when WSO's policies governing regional service bodies need updating and clarification.

The committee previously had studied regional formation and representation as part of a broad review of many aspects of ACA's service structure. Eight committee members held two meetings in response to the WSO board's request.

Motion: Relying in significant part on recommendations from the Service Structure Ad Hoc Committee, WSO adopts the following interim guidance on new regional service bodies:

- 1) ACA World Service Organization reaffirms its historical commitment to the formation of regional service entities as important channels for improving service to the fellowship, and for increasing connections between groups, Intergroups, and the WSO.
- 2) The WSO board authorizes an expedited review by the Service Structure Committee of all policies governing regional formation and representation, with a goal of proposing clearly written mechanisms for regional structures that are stable yet flexible, and predictable yet equitable.
- 3) The WSO board recognizes that an existing map defining ACA Regions must be updated, since it was drawn more than 25 years ago, before the WSO had its own literature in English or foreign translated versions. It therefore authorizes the Service Structure Ad Hoc Committee to propose a new Region map that reflects ACA's changing global membership patterns.

4) In the interim, until a new map is adopted, Regions seeking registration and a seat on the WSO Board should follow the existing WSO regional map (attached to this motion). To ensure a proposed region has a meaningful linkage to the fellowship, a new region may be asked to demonstrate significant participation by intergroups and groups in its designated area. Also, in keeping with BRB pages 604-605, new regions should present written service plans designed to benefit members in their geographical area.

5) Regional Service Committees, which are not eligible for a seat on the Board, may register and form according to their own group conscience and needs, and do not need to conform to the Region map.

6) WSO commits to adopting clear, consistent written criteria for board eligibility, so that all service bodies and all members of the world fellowship can prepare themselves to seek WSO volunteer and board service opportunities. These criteria, which include WSO service needs and best practices, will be incorporated into the OPPM, to guide service bodies and WSO in nominating and selecting trustees.

7) Until a broad service structure revision devises new policies governing regional service entities, a Region that has registered with WSO, and been ratified by the board, may nominate a candidate for the board of trustees to vet and consider in a timely manner, using OPPM board eligibility criteria.

8) WSO's board accepts the application of the Greater Western US Region to register as WSO Region 2, and commits to a timely review and vote on a board nominee submitted by the region, using OPPM board eligibility criteria.

9) These steps are interim in nature. Potentially significant adjustments, including borders for Regions, may be required when WSO adopts long-term changes to ACA's service structure. Such changes could include provisions for professional management and staff to take over much of the day-to-day operations currently managed by the Board.

DISCUSSION: The information about the Interim Region Policy was only given out on the day of the ABC. Maybe this proposal needs to be postponed until people can come together. It is hoped that the Board will move more quickly to work on this than they have moved on Carole's nomination. There is a desire to do this with urgency.

Jodi TX 119 moved to call a vote on this proposal

SECOND: Jessica IN

DECISION: Motion fails

Board Member Statements and Ratification

Charlie H. Thank you to everyone. I came to ACA in 1985 after reading "*It Will Never Happen to Me.*" I was completely shut down, full of shame, and caught up in my own alcoholism. The program gave me my Higher Power and my feelings. It gave me a joyful healthy relationship with my wife. It also gave me a view of how tragic life as an untreated ACA can be and how joyful life is in recovery. I have been actively working in service in the Washington Area for many years. I was totally honored when asked to be on the Board of Trustees. I believe in transparency, honesty, and the group conscience. I have been

on the Service Structure Committee and have a lot of hope for our group going forward. As Literature Chair, I want to make this program available to all levels of recovery. **Ratified**

Bill D. My life has changed since I found this fellowship. I didn't know this existed for a long time; I thought that it had gone away. I was so happy to find it. I tried to find emotional sobriety in another program for almost thirty years, but here, you people have helped me find it. I am so glad to have put that bag of rocks down, and I want to help other people put their bags down. I just signed my commitment to service, and it is more important today than it was last year, because I know what the work means. I promise you that if I am ratified I will make sure those promises happen. **Ratified**

Mary Jo L. I came from a small town in Wisconsin. I tear up a bit because I never would have imagined what this program would have done for me. I went to a retreat with Claudia Black 32 years ago and it changed my life. I am so grateful that I kept coming back. Service has helped me to grow so much as I peeled away pieces of my onion. I have been on the board for four years, and have had a lot of experiences that I think will help us in the future, but I am not tied to the past. We need to change with the growth of the organization. I am absolutely embracing the change. I look forward to it, and every opportunity for growth. **Ratified**

Majbrit M. I came into these rooms on Monday 8 years ago. I had lost my job, my business, and my family. If it hadn't been for a friend in AA who told me there was a fellowship like this I don't know what I would have done. He was a drug and alcohol counselor, and gave me a book about it in Swedish. I decided to translate that book. It was about alcoholism, dysfunctional families, and how the alcoholic tries to provide healthy environment for their kids. I called this guy up and told him I couldn't keep translating it was tearing me up. He sent me to a meeting 50 miles away. What kept me going was the courage and the honesty. My mother was an alcoholic and I was always covering up for her, always secretive until I was 18. Then I told my Dad. So when Larry pulled me aside, I told him I wanted to give back. I feel for those people who don't know about this program, who are trying to work alone. People are so appreciative. They call me, they want literature. They need it in their own language, and they read stuff they don't quite understand. So I try to find them sponsors. We have a responsibility: the twelfth step says we have to pass it on. So I try to do that. **Ratified**

Jeffrey F. You have heard a lot about what I have been doing about Literature outside the USA. That is what I signed up to do. I have been on the board for about a year. Last year was all about setting things up. There was no global structure to market the literature. This type of marketing is really about attraction. I have been teaching people to attract other people for 25 years. I got involved with ACA in Germany, but didn't do anything in the States. Then I moved to Prague; it took me awhile to go to meetings, because I was ashamed and afraid that someone I worked with might recognize me, and think something was wrong. I have been going on Fridays at 12:30 PM for 19 years now. People keep coming and going: those who live in Prague and tourists. I always feel better after a meeting. It's like a spiritual ice cream cone for myself. After some time in Prague I started getting information about trying to do something in Europe. I resisted until I heard about a gathering in Helsinki that I felt compelled to go to. A voice inside me let me know I had to go to Helsinki. I ended up going, and working at the same time, so there was no problem with my business. Ever since then I have been working on the European Committee. I want to do everything to get literature to more people. I push for a lot of things on the

board, I push am a force for change and internationalization as an American who has chosen to live in Europe for the past 30 years. **Ratified**

NOMINATION OF BOARD MEMBERS FROM THE FLOOR

MOTION abc_2017_0420_12: To seat Carole C. as the Region 2 Representative to be seated immediately as a trustee for Region 2. (Laura L. IG)

SECOND: Courbet CA1185

Carole C. accepted the nomination. I don't know if I should accept, but people would kill me if I didn't! I have been in ACA for 30 years. I got into service right away because I really needed this program. I would have been dead by now from the self-caused stresses in my life. Inside I shook all the time. My father was an alcoholic, my mother was abused as a child and seemed to have a dissociative identity disorder; she was hard to understand. I went to Denmark for genealogy purposes and was glad to find Majbrit. I was 48 when I found the program. I didn't find it myself, one of my daughters did. When I talk to people about ACA they don't understand that we aren't alcoholics. I had already hit my bottom. I cried the first three months I attended ACA. I'm not ashamed of crying. I'm glad I can cry for me now, not just for other people. My inner child deserved to be grieved. I didn't trust that I would stay, because I am a runner. So I just did service. I tried every type of service. If I couldn't find a meeting I started meetings. Then I started Intergroups. I was chair of WSO for two terms and chair of Literature. I am glad to be back.

Discussion: Will her previous service will be taken into consideration by the board. She will be representing Region 2.

Ratified

MOTION abc_2017_0420_13: To seat Laura L. as a Trustee on the WSO Board. (Kurt CA637)

SECOND: Carole C. Region 2

Laura L. declined the nomination

MOTION abc_2017_0420_14: To seat Marcia J. as a Trustee on the WSO Board. (Laura L IG620)

SECOND: Colleen B. FL140

Marcia J. accepted the nomination. As far as qualifying at all, I knew when I saw the laundry list that I had finally out what made me tick. My husband and I started in Emotions Anonymous, ACoA, and Al-anon in the 1980's. We found ACA again at a Contemplative Outreach retreat for 12-steppers in St. Louis. We immediately started a group in Davenport, Iowa, and now have two groups. What is so liberating about ACA is knowing that I turned out perfectly for the way I was raised. Now, I know when I am working the laundry list instead of my recovery. That helps. I am an organizer, I'm a teacher, and I'm a teacher of teachers. I can help this organization process a lot of necessary change. I tend to be focused so I think I can get some work done. I am honored and frightened. **Ratified**

MOTION abc_2017_0420_15: To seat David McB as a Trustee on the WSO Board. (Colleen B. FL140)

SECOND: Denise R. AK021

David McB accepted the nomination. I'm a Yankee from Louisiana. My parents were divorced, and remarried each other three times. I joined AA about 20 years ago, but could have joined 40 years ago. I

found a home and found a new church (service) right away. I have done high service and low service in AA. It was 17 years ago I joined ACA: I decided I could not change others but could change me. I found the characteristics and it hit the spot. There were 5 other AA members and we went through the book together. But after the BRB was published I really got in. We started two meetings in Miami, a meeting in Key West, and Palm Beach. I am on four service committees. **Ratified.**

MOTION abc_2017_0420_16: To seat Jim R as a Trustee on the WSO Board. (Duncan B. CA 1G584)

SECOND: Jody O'C TX119

Jim R. declined the nomination. I am touched by the nomination and I am very happy doing service for ACA, and don't want to jeopardize that happiness by joining the board.

MOTION abc_2017_0420_17: To seat Jim B as a Trustee on the WSO Board. (Dani T. CA1090)

SECOND: Lucia FL120

Jim B. accepted the nomination. I've been involved with the Board and the Committees for the last year, and a member of ACA for 5 years. I love the program. It's changed my life. I've been sober for 28 years; I was in service in that program and it's amazing how it changed my life many different times. I was laid off, and I had all these skills from volunteering lots of experience, just not at a job. I've done service in New York, Connecticut, and Florida as I've moved around and I've gotten to see how service is done in different places. There is no right way or wrong way, there is just to being part of something. Service is tough sometimes, with Laundry List traits coming up, which we When I got to ACA, I thought I was happy; I went to an AA Convention and saw an ACA Laundry List and was blown away. After reading asking someone to be my sponsor for ACA. Started going to meetings, got involved as opportunities presented themselves. I am touched and so grateful to my Higher Power for giving me this opportunity for this great cause. I was an emotional iceberg, and I continue to warm and thaw out. I am open to the possibility of service. **Ratified.**

MOTION abc_2017_0420_18: To close the floor nominations. (Colleen B. FL140)

SECOND: Courbet CA1185

DECISION: Motion passes

These nominees do not need Board approval if they meet the requirements of the OPPM.

RETURN TO BALLOT DISCUSSION

Proposal 2017-10 MOTION abc_2017_0420_18: Prescription Medication References (NZE019)—Motion Passes

To change the phrase “refrain from all prescription medication use” (p. 13 of BRB) to “refrain from all prescription medication misuse” in future editions of the BRB.

DISCUSSION: Discussion centered on prescriptions of current pain medicines and whether or not a member of the fellowship should be allowed to be personally responsible for making this decision. It was suggested that the motion, if passed, be referred to the Literature Committee which can consult the proper professionals. Also that if this is passed, it be put in pamphlet form and incorporated when a new edition of the BRB is done.

MOTION: Colleen FL140 made a motion to vote on the proposal.

SECOND: Ben CA837

DECISION: Motion passes

MINORITY OPINION: This is way outside the expertise of our organization. We need to consult with professionals. Voting to approve this means that we would not discuss the following two proposals. Discussing prescription medication in the BRB is outside the boundaries of ACA. How do we talk about mind-altering substances and behaviors? Changing a word won't help us.

CHANGE OF VOTE: Motion stands

Proposal 2017-11 MOTION abc_2017_0420_19: Refraining from of Other Substances (NZE019) — Motion fails

Propose an additional sentence on p. 13 to follow the above change of wording: "*We also recommend that the adult child guards against the misuse of any other substances or processes to self soothe the pain of a dysfunctional childhood (e.g. Work, food, gambling, sex, relationships, shopping, internet use, exercise).*"

Background: We recommend that the term "prescription medication" be removed from p. 13 of the BRB and anywhere else it is used in conference approved ACA literature.

DISCUSSION: The addition of wording that lists other compulsive behaviors would increase awareness that medication and alcohol aren't the only compulsive behaviors an Adult Child deals with. This proposal does take away everything the person does to self-soothe right at the beginning of the book. It might make newcomers afraid to try the program.

MOTION: Courbet CA1185 moved to take a vote on the motion.

SECOND: Mikkel DEN IG40

DECISION: Motion passes

MINORITY OPINION: The issue in this motion is already addressed in the BRB and is overkill. The list presented does not list all compulsive activities. Some activities are necessary at the beginning of our recovery: they provide for self-soothing. We are being dogmatic and over-editorializing based on subjective experience.

CHANGE OF VOTE: Motion fails

Proposal 2017-12 MOTION abc_2017_0420_20: Anti-prescription Medication Comments (NZE019) — Motion passes

That "anti" prescription medication use comments, rather than a misuse of prescription medication comments, be removed anywhere they are used in ACA Conference-approved literature, or amended to make it clear that misuse is the issue.

DISCUSSION: Two previous discussions have been held on this same topic. Please advance this to the literature committee to carry out the previous mandates.

MOTION: Carole C. Region 2 moved to discuss

SECOND: Jessica S. IN0082

DECISION: Motion passes

MINORITY OPINION: It is important that ACA is not using medication as the first line of defense, it should be a last resort. This motion has already been passed.

Motion stands.

Proposal 2017-13 MOTION abc_2017_0420_21: Use of the term “Closed.” (NZE019)—Motion passes
That WSO explains more specifically what “closed” means anywhere the term is used.

Background: Some Adult Children are put off coming to meetings for the first time because they think “closed” means membership of the group is at capacity/full and therefore no new people can join.

DISCUSSION: Since the terminology is not clear, it needs further clarification. The clarification needs to appear in places that those looking for meetings can find it.

Bill D. FL moved to vote on the motion.

SECOND: Colleen C. WA184

DECISION: Motion passes.

Proposal 2017-14: Did not receive enough votes to be discussed at the ABC.

Proposal 2017-15 MOTION abc_2017_0420_22: Laundry List Rewording (CT095)—Motion passes

That that the first statement in the Laundry List read as: *“These are characteristics we seem to have in common due to being brought up in an alcoholic or otherwise dysfunctional household.”*

Background: Many of our newcomers drop in to a meeting and question if they belong with us due to a short view of qualifying when alcoholic households are the only ones mentioned.

DISCUSSION: The focus on alcoholism in this program is overdone and it sends an incomplete message. It is only one type of dysfunction. Consistency in language is important. There are other versions of this statement in use throughout the fellowship. The literature committee will most likely take care of this during the review preceding the next edition of the BRB.

Jody O’C TX119 called the vote.

SECOND: Nirlepa C HI0026

DECISION: Motion passes

Proposal 2017-23 MOTION: abc_2017_0420_23: to revisit and reconsider proposal 2017-1 MOTION abc_2017_0420_04: Use of “I” Statements—Amended motion passes

That the following statement be posted on the website: reads statement. (James H. LA027)

SECOND: Dani T. CA 1090

Friendly Amendment: Amend the statement to *“...sharing in the first person promotes self-responsibility...”* only, cut the rest.

DISCUSSION: This was more of a website issue. We were asked to clarify the use of “I” statements. We are going to put it in the best practices portion of the website. If it does go to the BRB, it would probably not show up in the final form just as stated.

DECISION: Amended motion carries and is noted in proposal 2017-1

MINORITY OPINION: Group that submitted is their best practice/ we are overstepping by amending their best practice.

CHANGE OF VOTE: Motion stands

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION abc_2017_0420_24: Publishing Board Working Meeting Minutes—Motion passes

To publish the results of motions that are made and passed at Board working sessions outside of the monthly TC for transparency purposes. (Laura L. CA IG620)

SECOND: Carole C. Region 2

DISCUSSION: Board has had closed sessions called working sessions. Minutes of any decisions that affect the membership should be taken and posted so the membership can know about the discussion. This provides transparency. Executive sessions are not reported for reasons of legal confidentiality.

DECISION: Motion passes

Group Picture: A picture of the group attending the ABC was taken as a “back” shot to maintain anonymity.

MOTION abc_2017_0420_25: To adjourn the ABC.—Motion passes (Cheryl S. VT004)

SECOND: Nirlepa C HI0026

The 2017 ABC is adjourned at 4:30 PM PDT