



Adult Children of Alcoholic and  
Dysfunctional Families  
World Service Organization, Inc.

# The 2018 ACA WSO Annual Business Conference Minutes<sup>1</sup>

Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
April 26 – April 27, 2018



*Submitted by Marcia J., WSO Board Secretary*

<sup>1</sup> Recordings of these proceedings, as well as a copy of the Delegate Binder, are available on the [acawso.org](http://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.

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# Thursday April 26

## Delegate Orientation

### TAPES

- [April 26th ABC Part 1](#)
- [April 26th ABC Part 2](#)

Orientation is designed to familiarize delegates with the ABC process. Tapes of the presentation are available as listed above.

## Annual Business Conference Day 1

### TAPES

- [April 26 ABC Part 3](#)
- [April 26th ABC Part 4](#)
- [April 26<sup>th</sup> ABC Part 5](#)

### A. 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*)
3. **Carole C.: Arroyo Grande, CA** (*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*)

B. Mary Jo L. officially called the ABC to order with a moment of silence and the traditional Serenity Prayer.

C. The Twelve Traditions were read by Jody O’C.

D. Meditation of the Day from Strengthening My Recovery was read by Mary Jo L.

E. **Chair Letter (Page 2).** Mary Jo thanked Jeffrey F. from Prague who was leaving the board after two years; he plans to continue committee work. She also briefly mentioned some of the milestones listed in her letter.

F. **Ratification of the Conference Chair, Miles C.**

G. **Introduction of the Parliamentarian for the ABC, Mel C.**

H. **Approval of Minutes from the 2017 ABC in San Diego, CA**  
<https://acawso.org/2019/03/14/2018-abc-minutes-from-the-2017-abc/>

**Motion:** Marcia J., IL 0237

**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.

I. **Treasurer's Report, Bill D.**

<https://acawso.org/2019/03/14/2018-abc-treasurers-report/>

#### **Responses to Delegate Questions and Comments**

1. **Comment:** Contributions in 2017 remained steady from 2016 resulting in contributions around the \$70,000.00 range. get
2. **Comment:** Individual contributions are automatically designated as anonymous. We only list group names.
3. **Response to question about the source of WSO income:** WSO income is 86% book sales and 14% 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions. I would say it should be 65% / 35%, based on the current ratio in AA of 57% / 43%.
4. **Response to question about WSO expenses:** "Where Does the Money Go?" an informational brochure about WSO use of 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition funds, will be posted on the Repository after Board approval.
3. **Question:** Is there some way to alleviate the exorbitant costs of importing ACA Literature to Canada by working with the AA Distribution Center? **Response:** We'll take that under advisement immediately.
5. **Question:** We would like to encourage members to give more in their 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition donations. How can we do that? **Response:** 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition 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 are as follows:
  - a. Discuss the Traditions, especially the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition, to raise awareness in a non-judgmental way.
  - b. Some groups have experienced up to a 50% increase in rent. Recommended that interested delegates join in a best practices discussion for encouraging contributions.

- c. Many groups also must pay for liability insurance in the States. It would help to have a brochure or a flyer about this.
- d. The website could have an enrollment for an automatic donation.
- e. Sweden and Norway use an app called VIP for members to send donations directly to the meeting account. In Denmark members can use MobilePay, an app created by a local bank.
- f. Regarding planned giving: ACA WSO is a non-profit corporation that can accept gifts up to \$7,500 per year from a living individual, per the OPPM. A bequest after death is a one-time gift not to exceed \$7,500.
- g. 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.
- h. It is possible to make 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions on our website: <http://www.shop.adultchildren.org>.
- i. While it is important to donate to the WSO, many groups in Europe need money to grow at the local level. Sending representatives to the ABC and the European Convention costs money that could be donated to the organization. But we have decided it is important to use fund to participate.

**Motion to accept the Treasurer's report:** Suzette R. IN0085

**Second:** Carole C. REG02

**Discussion:** None

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

## Committee Reports

All reports given by the Committee Chairs listed below, can be accessed by clicking on the links provided.

**A. Executive Committee: Majbrit M.**

<https://acawso.org/2019/03/14/2018-abc-executive-committee-report/>

**B. Archive Committee: Marcia J.**

<https://acawso.org/2019/03/14/2018-abc-archive-committee-report/>

### Responses to Delegate Questions and Comments

1. **Comment:** ACA could consider having someone outside the organization do the ACA Archives as a Ph.D. topic.

**C. Service Structure Committee: Marcia J.**

<https://acawso.org/2019/03/14/2018-abc-service-structure-committee-report/>

### Responses to Delegate Questions and Comments

1. **Response to a question about planning for the International Service Structure:** We have worked mostly with Europe so far. Other areas that have expressed interest, such as Australia, New Zealand and Africa. 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 we can 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. Please make sure to get your group registered and listed on our website.

2. **Comment about International Literature distribution:** In Africa, only South Africa is growing. The main problem seems to be the cost of shipping the literature and the reliability of delivery. In England, we were quite involved in helping get literature to them at a competitive rate. So as you consider other countries, those in Africa might also be interested.
3. **Concern about getting the fellowship to support a service network:** At the last ABC I saw the need for service in our fellowship and have been working with Region 2. I tried to get people in my group interested by educating them and having Laura call us, 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.
  - **Response:** Your group may need more time to come to service. My own group would be happy to be part of an Intergroup if I would do the work. I am already doing service, and more willing members are needed. So this has to wait.
  - **Response:** 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.
  - **Response:** 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. The others will not join in until they can see something in it for themselves.
4. **Comment about qualifications to serve as a Trustee:** 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, 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. **Response:** We have considered that in our new selection process which you will be hearing about shortly.

**D. Nomination Committee: Greg R., TX131**

<https://acawso.org/2019/03/14/2018-abc-nomination-committee-report/>

**Responses to Delegate Questions and Comments**

1. **Response to a question about the commitment of WSO to find diverse candidates for nomination to the Board of Trustees:** We will do our best within the application pool to insure diversity, taking geography, race, sex, and age into account.

**E. Literature Committee: Charlie H., David McB. and Tamara P.**

<https://acawso.org/2019/03/14/2018-abc-literature-committee-report/>

## Responses to Delegate Questions and Comments

1. **Response to a question about literature available in Spanish:** Books in Spanish are available from our distribution center in Signal Hill, CA. We are talking about bringing some of the translated books to sell on Amazon US and from our distribution center.
2. **Response to a question about offsetting the effect selling on Amazon will have on books sold by Intergroups:** Intergroups were worried about the loss of income when we started using Amazon. But WSO has 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.

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. That is important to me because of the amount of travel I do, and the ease of availability.

3. **Response to a question on the effect of Amazon on WSO earnings:** Before expenses WSO made about \$20,000 last year on our e-books and audio-books and \$539,000 on hard copy materials. On Amazon we get less than 50% of the amount sold. We could make more if we did distribution for Amazon ourselves, but we are not in a position to manage those sales.
4. **Response to a question about including Tony A's steps in ACA literature:** Tony A's steps were part of a copyrighted 1993 publication entitled, *The Laundry List*. ACAWSO has talked many times with the copyright holder, and has never yet received permission to print those steps in our literature. ACA has an open literature policy, as opposed to a "conference approved only" policy. ACA didn't have much literature for the first 20 years of its existence. Those first meetings used what was available, and Tony A.'s steps were sometimes studied. ACA would like fellowship meetings to stay within our core literature, such as reading *The Problem and The Solution*, but otherwise using of Tony A.'s steps is an option. The BRB references Tony's thoughts in Step 4. There are references to his book in there.
5. **Question about publishing in e-formats:** Younger people frequently preferring eBooks: What is the difference in price between electronic and hard copies? Are we heading towards an electronics only format? How long is a downloaded book available to the purchaser?
  - **Response:** The last monthly Literature Report on <http://acawso.com> has a breakdown of our electronic 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.
  - **Response:** Downloaded eBook publications on your device are yours.

### F. Finance Committee: Bill D.

<https://acawso.org/2019/03/14/2018-abc-finance-committee-report/>

**G. Distribution Center Oversight Committee: Mary Jo L.**

<https://acawso.org/2019/03/14/2018-abc-distribution-center-oversight-committee-report/>

**H. ABC Committee: Jim R.**

<https://acawso.org/2019/03/14/2018-abc-annual-business-convention-committee-report/>

**Responses to Delegate Questions and Comments**

**The following concerns were voiced about the decision to hold the ABC in Sweden, but have the AWC in the United States:**

1. 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. **Response:** In 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.
2. Shouldn't the world convention travel across the world? It seems North American-centric, which seems problematic in the long-term.

**Response:** The European Convention will be similar to the AWC.

3. 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.

**Response:** Because the ABC has historically been so small, we were unable to even book hotel venues. The idea of adding the convention was to draw more people in by adding the recovery part. The word "world" should mean more. **Question:** Is this just a naming issue?

4. 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. **Question:** 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.

**Response:** The Board hears what you're saying: 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. Someone can, however, make a motion tomorrow to help ensure this doesn't happen again.

5. 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. 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.

**Response:** 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; that was only for the ABC. The AWC component has only been around since 2016. This is five years since 2013. This ABC should have been held in Europe, but because the request said "outside the United States," other countries put in bids. Toronto put the best bid together, and it was outside of the United States. We compromised on this with the European Committee: 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 in the United States to give people in the US something to do. We would also sponsor a convention in Sweden which would have all of the components, it just wouldn't be called the AWC. It will still be a bigger event than Europe has ever seen before with four days of ACA activity. By this compromise, we agreed to go out of the US two years in a row, while still having a large event in the United States. It was hoped this would honor a pledge made five years ago. I hope you let us just proceed with this.

6. **Question:** 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.
7. 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.
8. **Question:** 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?
9. 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.

**Response:** If somebody petitions the board, it has to open up the discussion again. It 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."

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

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

**MOTION TO END DAY ONE**

**MEETING ENDED WITH RECITATION OF THE SERENITY PRAYER**

# Friday April 27

## Annual Business Conference Day 2

### TAPES

- [April 27th ABC part 1](#)
- [April 27th ABC part 2](#)
- [April 27th ABC part 3](#)
- [April 27th ABC part 4](#)
- [April 27th ABC part 5](#)
- [April 27th ABC part 6](#)
- [April 27th ABC part 7](#)
- [April 27th ABC part 8](#)
- [April 27th ABC part 9](#)

- A. Call to order by Miles C., Conference Chair.**
- B. Moment of silence followed by the ACA Serenity prayer.**
- C. Traditions read by Esau G., California, and Tracy M., Rhode Island.**
- D. Meditation read by Dave S., WI112**

**E. Introduction: Miles C. ABC Chair**

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.

**F. Prayer of Blessing and Gratitude: Francis, Elder and Representative of the Six Nation Aboriginal**

My name is Francis and I'm an adult child. I'm also a native man and an Indian from First Nations. My spirit name is Swift Running Red Fox. I'm honored to be here 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

All reports given by the Committee Chair listed below.

### The Delegate Training Subcommittee—Erin D.

<https://acawso.org/2019/03/14/2018-abc-delegate-training-subcommittee-report/>

#### Responses to Delegate Questions and Comments:

1. **Response to question about where to find delegate information:** The delegate information is on adultchildren.org in Repository under Delegate Training Subcommittee.
2. **Response to when remote training workshops were held:** Teleconference workshops were held in March and April. The intention was to educate the delegates on how to be prepared for the ABC

### Ballot Subcommittee, Mary Jo L.

<https://acawso.org/2019/03/14/2018-abc-ballot-subcommittee-report/>

### G. European Committee: Majbrit M.

<https://acawso.org/2019/03/14/2018-abc-european-committee-report/>

#### Responses to Delegate Questions and Comments

1. **Response to a question about approval of translations:** 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. **Response to a question about who is welcome at European conferences:** People from around the world are welcome at conferences held in Europe. They are listed on the European Committee website <http://acawsoec.com>
3. **Response to a question about why there are so few European meetings listed on the website:** Some European groups do not register with 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. **Response to a question about the European Service Structure:** 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. **Response to a comment about the need to have more European Trustees:** I see Europeans putting themselves forward to be on the Board of Trustees as a long process. There are people

out there who don't know that it is possible. 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.

6. **Response to a question about encouraging International Trustees:** 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.
7. **Response to a question about fining meetings in specific countries:** There is no list of meetings by country on the website. Most of the numbers were drawn from local Fellowship Web pages. We are building a database to become available on the European Committee website.
8. **Response to a request for information: WSO website addresses:**
  - a. Main ACA website [www.adultchildren.org](http://www.adultchildren.org)
  - b. The Repository, used for business information is [www.acawso.org](http://www.acawso.org)
  - c. European Committee website is [www.acawsoec.com](http://www.acawsoec.com).

#### H. Member and Public Service Committee: Bill D.

<https://acawso.org/2019/03/14/2018-abc-member-and-public-services-committee-report/>

#### Responses to Delegate Questions and Comments

1. **Response to a question about how 211 services are organized:** 211 is organized by state.
2. **Comment on communication:** 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.

#### Intergroup Subcommittee: Bonnie K-M

<https://acawso.org/2019/03/14/2018-abc-intergroup-subcommittee-report/>

#### Responses to Delegate Questions and Comments

1. **Comment about the drop in email traffic:** The drop in the Intergroup subcommittee email traffic could be addressed by putting information in *The Traveler* about how to sign up for the Intergroup Channel in Slack.

**Response:** Slack is a service channel. If you want to participate in the intergroup forum, send an email to [www.intergroups@adultchildren.com](mailto:www.intergroups@adultchildren.com) and say, "I want to be on Slack," and I'll invite you on.

2. **Comment about encouraging service at the Intergroup level:** Intergroup officers held a discussion with the group reps helping all present to discern their areas of interest for service.

**Response:** Please write a little blurb for the Slack forum about this.

3. **Response to a question about the difference between the Comline and the Traveler:** The *Comline* is comparable to the *AA grapevine*; *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 the ComLine would really appreciate submissions from anybody who wants to write about an experience.

**Public Information Subcommittee—Bill D.**

<https://acawso.org/2019/03/14/2018-abc-member-and-public-services-committee-report/>

**Responses to Delegate Questions and Comments**

1. **Comment concerning a new group for young adults:** Thanks to the MPS for supporting a new group on Long Island for young people that has 20 members.
2. **Comment about sharing literature with therapists:** There is value of giving books to therapists. Meetings in the area this member resides in are growing because therapists let their clients know about ACA.
3. **Comment about the difference between attraction and promotion. The Eleventh Tradition** allows for promotion within the fellowship because it's to members of the fellowship. We can promote all we want within our fellowship.
4. **Suggestion:** It would be good for the fellowship to have an 800 number.

**Regional Service Subcommittee—Carole C.**

<https://acawso.org/2019/03/14/2018-abc-member-and-public-services-committee-report/>

**G. Operations Policy and Procedures Manual (OPPM) Subcommittee: Mary Jo L.**

<https://acawso.org/2019/03/14/2018-abc-operating-policy-and-procedures-manual-subcommittee/>

**L. Audit Committee: Pat H.**

<https://acawso.org/2019/03/14/2018-abc-audit-report/>

**M. Website and Technology Committee**

<https://acawso.org/2019/03/14/2018-abc-website-and-database-committee-report/>

At the end of the report, a demonstration was given about adding and updating meetings on the website. Issues mentioned were:

1. Adding and updating your own meetings rather than sending forms in to WSO.
2. Anonymity for meeting contacts.
3. Intergroups, Regions, and countries are asked to send in a bulk file of meetings they have registered so WSO can make sure the information we have matches.
4. The Website and Technology committee is willing to import meeting information from country websites to the website at adultchildren.org. An address to send these requests will be coming out soon.
5. We want to make intergroup registration easier on our new website, especially for the person designated to purchase literature at a 30% discount.

## Responses to Delegate Questions and Comments

### 1. Are we still supposed to update yearly?

**Response:** We would like to know yearly whether your group is still in existence. At this time we will be sending out emails to contacts with a link. When the contact clicks the link they will be taken to a page to update their information. We will not automatically remove expired meetings in the future. We will send an email reminder to update to the contact listed.

It is very important for us to have the right contact in our database in order to know we will be sending update emails to people who can update the information. We prefer that registrants list a primary and secondary contact in case one person drops out and is unable to be contacted.

### 2. **Comment:** Our meeting had trouble when our primary contact stopped coming to the meeting. People interested in serving as the primary and secondary contacts were confused about how to send the paperwork, and there wasn't very good information about that. If the normal process is not working could there be a button or some information to help the person trying to fix the registration?

**Response:** We are sorry about the trouble you have had with our old system. We really want to address all the confusion in the new system. You can send an email or maybe make a phone call to get some help from us.

### 3. **Comment regarding people leaving and the meeting not having access to the internet:** our Intergroup created an email for each participating meeting and advise them to use that email when setting up their meeting information. There is a challenge in getting people to use them.

### 4. **Request about turnaround time:** Our group had trouble with the turn-around time for information. We changed the time our group met by half an hour. We received an email saying the request is waiting for approval, and people were not informed in a timely manner about the change. I would like to get information changed within a reasonable number of days, not double digits.

### 5. **Comment about meetings removed from the list without being informed.**

**Response:** We have a logo above the meetings letting them know that it is time to update, but if no one looks, no one knows. Meeting renewal dates have currently been updated for a year out, and the automatic function that removed them after one year was turned off. So no meetings should be expiring anytime soon, and we will be notifying contacts when it is time to update.

### 6. **Request for information about meetings and Intergroups.** Would it be possible for Regions to get information from WSO about meetings changes, the Intergroup they belong to, and information about any changes to Intergroups? Does Region 2 show meeting information as well?

- **Response:** We should be able to share information internally, but would have to talk about an automatic way to do that. It would be helpful if the Region could share the same type of information with WSO when they receive it.
  - **Response:** No, we only use contact information to reach Intergroup reps that we can refer questions from meetings. Meetings register with WSO, but they don't tell the Region, because they think we already know. Then they wonder why they don't get information from us.
  - **Response:** We can add to the registration materials letting people know their information will be shared internally with Regions and Intergroups. Right now they are told their information will not be shared.
7. **Request about Daily Meditation Online:** Would it be possible to have some sort of sign-up for members of the fellowship who would like the Daily Meditation sent directly to their email address?  
**Response:** We have thought of that and will be looking into it soon.
8. **Question about remote voting:** Is there any information available about remote voting?  
**Response:** We know it is possible. Right now we are looking into various online tools to accomplish this. It will require money to get a really good quality sharing of video, audio, and remote voting. This will also require policy decisions about registration and deadlines and a communication effort to educate the fellowship.
9. **Question about poll security:** Can a poll be locked down so only registered people can access it?  
**Response:** There is still a lot of configuration needed, but we can definitely lock this down to only one vote per account. We would have a list of emails which have been approved by us. It would require a registration and verification process and participants would have passwords.

## Presentation of Proposals

### A. Ground Rules for Ballot Discussion – Miles C., Conf. Chair

1. Only those who are registered delegates with paddles can vote. Non-delegates can be heard during the discussion as time allows.
2. 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.
3. I caution everyone not to call the question too early before the different viewpoints are heard.
4. 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.

5. 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

## **B. Ballot Proposals/Motions**

[April 27 ABC Part 6](#)

[https://acawso.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/27APR2018\\_166m\\_40s\\_200m\\_00s.mp3](https://acawso.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/27APR2018_166m_40s_200m_00s.mp3)

1. **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](http://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.

**Decision:** 48 in favor, 1 opposed.

The minority opinion chose not to speak.

**Decision: Motion carried.**

2. **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.

3. **Friendly Amendment** by Mary Jo L., IL172 – that WSO study the feasibility and practicality of utilizing 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 Jody O'C., Texas

**The friendly amendment was accepted.**

[April 27th ABC part 7](#)

[https://acawso.org/wp-](https://acawso.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/27APR2018_200m_00s_233m_20s.mp3)

[content/uploads/2018/05/27APR2018\\_200m\\_00s\\_233m\\_20s.mp3](https://acawso.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/27APR2018_200m_00s_233m_20s.mp3)

**Vote:** 37 in favor, 10 against, 2 abstentions

**The motion passes.**

**Minority opinion:** The friendly amendment would delay the implementation and it could get lost. It is not financially feasible to send people to the ABC so people are not being represented. We need to keep up with the momentum of the growth of our fellowship. Other organizations can follow us.

**Revote decision: Motion fails.**

The first motion is now considered.

**Original motion called to vote:** Unidentified delegate.

**Second:** Unidentified delegate.

**Vote:** 48 in favor, 1 against, no abstentions

**Decision: Motion passed.**

### C. Literature Committee Motions

1. **Motion:** That the conference approve the publication of the *Emotional Sobriety* tri-fold as conference approved literature after 90 days of feedback by the fellowship and potential edits. (Charlie H.)

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

**Second:** Carole C.

**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

[April 27th ABC part 8](#)

[https://acawso.org/wp-](https://acawso.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/27APR2018_233m_20s_266m_40s.mp3)

[content/uploads/2018/05/27APR2018\\_233m\\_20s\\_266m\\_40s.mp3](https://acawso.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/27APR2018_233m_20s_266m_40s.mp3)

**Results:** 48 in favor, 2 abstaining

**Decision: Motion passed.**

2. **Motion:** That the conference approve the publication of *Ready, Set, Go!* as conference approved literature after 90 days of feedback by the fellowship and potential edits. (Charlie H.)

**Further explanation:** Intended as an orientation of the basics of Steps in an accelerated manner in a workshop format. This has been tested in many situations.

**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, 2 opposed, 2 abstentions.

**The minority opinion spoke:** one person changed their mind;

The vote was retaken with 41 in favor, opposed, abstained

**Decision: 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, CAN, and Pat H., Boulder Creek, CA.

## Meeting Moved at 5:15 PM EDT to an Adjacent Room

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

- A. Motion:** That there be representation on the Board of members from all over the world.

**Second:** Unidentified delegate.

**Discussion:** The Service Structure Committee is working on a regional structure. Regional representation is already written into the OPPM.

**Decision: Motion failed.**

- B.** That the Board of Trustees hold both the ABC and the AWC in Sweden in 2019, if the Swedish host group is willing.

**Second:** Unidentified delegate.

**Decision: Motion passed.**

- C. Motion:** that the term "dysfunctional families" be incorporated more into Website, literature, books, etc.

**Second:** Unidentified delegate.

**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.

**Decision: This motion was postponed because it needed more time.**

**D. Motion:** To have a more diverse pool of Board applicants, globally.  
**Second:** Unidentified delegate.  
**Decision: Motion passed.**

**Minority opinion given and swayed the delegates.**

**Decision: Motion failed.**

**Discussion:** this is a broader issue that requires much deliberation and input.

**The 2018 ABC was adjourned**