

MONTHLY TELECONFERENCE Minutes
May 11, 2019



THIS IS A REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING WITH NOTICE GIVEN ON THE ACAWSO WEBSITE AND THE TRAVELER NEWSLETTER
Please notify the secretary with changes, additions, or motions for this meeting.

A. Call to Order: Charlie H.

B. Roll Call of Board Members

Present: Charlie H, David MB, Pat H, Miles C, Jim B, Majbrit M, Rich R, Carol C, Erin D, Bill D.

C. Establish Quorum: Bill, Carol, Charlie, David, Erin, Pat, Jim, Miles, Majbrit, Rich

D. Guest Introductions:

Barbara CA IG 648, Christopher IG Long Island NY, Jim R NY, Greg Tx Nom Com Long Star IG, Karin IL APB, Niki CA Mission Viejo, Mikel Denmark, Maria Orange Co IG, Mary Jo IL, Marcus Malmo Sweden, Josh W DC IG APB OPPM, Fredrik Sweden, Pam CA

E. Tradition Five: Each group has but one primary purpose to carry the message to the adult child who still suffers

F. Minutes: Motion to approve April, 2019 Teleconference Minutes (Miles C.)

Second: David McB

Decision: Unanimously approved

G. Chair Report: Charlie H. First time as WSO chair. Thanks to Mary Jo, prior chair, who rotated off board after six years, including authorship of Strengthening My Recovery. Thanks to Marcia, who left the board after two years as trustee and secretary and chair of Service Structure Committee. Welcomed new trustees, Erin D. of Pennsylvania, and Rich R. of New Mexico. Thanked Greg R., chair of Nominating Committee. Introduced new executive officers: David McB., vice chair, of Florida; Pat H., treasurer, of California; and Miles C., Secretary, of Ontario, Canada. Thanked outgoing executive committee: Mary Jo (Illinois), former chair; Majbrit M. (Denmark), former vice chair; Bill D. (Florida), former treasurer; and Marcia J. (Iowa), former secretary.

Brief report on annual meeting in Malmo, Sweden. Considered it a magnificent success. Had nearly 500 people, 25 countries represented. "I found it inspiring beyond the numbers." At closing ceremony, Serenity Prayer was said in two dozen languages. "More than ever we felt like a world fellowship."

H. Treasurer's Report: Pat H. Full written report is available at <https://acawso.org/2019/06/09/may->

[2019-treasurers-report/](#). First report as new treasurer. “This month was a perfect trifecta” — expenses from annual meeting, audit fees, and we had some adjustments to sales taxes hit. All told, there was a negative balance of \$14,739 for the month. A little deceiving because we haven’t received all revenue from Malmo. “Losses nothing to panic about.”

I. **Committee Reports:** *Written reports can be found on the business website: <http://acawso.org>*

1. **Executive Committee:** David McB. Recommended moving working session to first and third Thursdays. Discussed importance of rotation, worked on upcoming agenda. Previous executive committee paid for gifts to Fredrik (Swedish Host Committee); Mary Jo (thank you as outgoing chair); Marcia (thank you as outgoing secretary). It also approved an emergency flight home for Marcia, who was injured in Malmo. The new executive committee approved a thank you gift for Marj, who took ABC meeting notes in Marcia’s absence. Will have tally of expenses on the next call.

WSO needs help in committees, including vice chairs. We have a lot of volunteers and are working to make use of them.

2. **Archive Committee:** Charlie H. Laura L., who is acting as committee chair, not on call. She notes that the Archive Committee and Young Adult subcommittee of Member Services, both lack a chair and a vice chair. No further report.
3. **Finance Committee:** Pat H. First report as Finance Committee chair. Abbreviated month because of ABC/AWC. Committee reviewed requests for proposal for new accounting firms, to assess if they can help us with month-end accounting. Vetted top three, will seek more information. Requested outstanding invoices from Sweden. Transferring treasurer position from Bill D. to Pat. Still some loose ends. I have begun search for a sales tax consultant relating to Amazon sales. Have added Carol G., from Santa Cruz, CA, to the Finance Committee.
4. **Literature Committee:** Charlie H. Written report: <https://acawso.org/2019/04/14/literature-committee-report-for-april-2019/>. Cited two literature presentations given at the ABC in Sweden. These included a report whose notes are in the New Literature and Special Reports and Literature section of the ABC delegates binder. Second was a discussion and motion regarding an Addressing Predatory Behavior safety card authored by the Addressing Predatory Behavior working group, chaired by Karin S. Also discussed efforts by the Sponsorship working group to review and update literature on sponsorship and Fellow Traveler support. Reported publication of several new Yellow Workbook translations: German, Swedish, Russian. Greek YWB is in late stages of proofreading. Danish meditation book is ready to deliver. Thanked Alexia, a volunteer and special assistant in Germany. April issue of ComLine is published. Next edition is July 1. Shares are invited.
5. **Member Services Committee:** Carole C. Because of travel, no minutes for MS Committee or subcommittees. MS has created a global members subcommittee and young adults & teens subcommittee. Global chair is Sue V. Tamara will soon replace Bonnie K-M as chair of intergroup subcommittee. Sharon is editor of Traveler. We do need help, volunteers.
6. **Public Services Committee:** David McB. We’re continuing to look for help. Got a lot of

signups of potential volunteers in Malmo. Continuing outreach to other fellowships. Seeking to place an article in AA Grapevine, for AA members who are adult children.

7. **H&I Committee:** Miles C. Got some requests this week for jails and prisons. Will be in Montreal, hope to make connection with a professor from police sciences. We need more members. I can't do everything.
8. **European Committee:** Majbrit M. Since new year, we have tried to rearrange European service, since I am rotating off. Held a workshop in Malmo, brought together many leaders in European fellowships. At first meeting after ABC/AWC, there were a lot of people last Saturday. We will be looking into different areas that need support. Hopefully these new members of the EC can come up with protocols for new committees. We plan to meet in Minsk at annual EC, in the last weekend in July. More details will be provided soon.

I am told the Italians are coming on strong with a BRB translation; Polish also nearing completion of a translation.

Charlie H.: Part of the same workshop in Sweden, and on recent EC call. Very pleased that there was a lot of excitement and commitment from European fellowship leaders to play a more central role in charting the future of European ACA service. Majbrit has done a ton of work. It feels like there is a readiness for people to participate on a broader level going forward.

9. **WSO Office:** David McB. Nick reported that he made several significant connections in Sweden. His takeaway from convention is that ACA can run on compassion, not just commerce. Office is at full staff. Working on a single-SKU project to simplify inventory tracking. Adjusting how we do financial & sales reports. Seeking info from a Canadian publisher for possible printing help.
10. **DCOC:** Bill D. Report posted in repository: <https://acawso.org/2019/06/09/may-2019-distribution-center-oversight-committee/>. Continued to work on new partnership agreement with the UK Intergroup to improve availability of affordable ACA literature. Met with Pat, UK treasurer, in Sweden. They are in process of finalizing a proposal for WSO. Addressed Amazon Germany Value Added Tax filing. Board has approved a motion recommended by DCOC. Should be able to resume Amazon Germany sales. Two new members, Rich R. and Magic from UK, have joined DCOC. Magic has experience in the supply chain industry. DCOC planning a site visit to distribution center in Signal Hill. YWB continues to be our leading sales item, slightly outpacing BRB. Newcomer booklets selling heavily. Still sending out a lot of literature from the DC every month.
11. **Service Network Committee:** Jim B. Thanks Marcia for her tremendous work, also Charlie for doing SNC presentation in ABC/AWC. Planning our first meeting. Looking for a time to accommodate the European community. Major initiative is a service handbook. Lot of work is being done on business meeting support. Regions are looking to form.

Charlie: If people want to volunteer, what is best way to reach you? Jim: Go to the Service Network Committee section in repository. Will have the latest email contact info.

- 12. Website/Database Committee:** Jim B. Supported remote voting and participants in the ABC. Up to 20 online participants, who were quite engaged. First attempt. Went well enough for us to look forward to 2020, with more direct participation by online participants. It was exciting and gave us confidence to expand this. Website Committee also got additional volunteers in Europe.

WSO has posted the AWC closing ceremony as a free download.

Email license expired shortly before ABC. Migrated email to gmail server. Transition went pretty well. This move will save WSO \$1,200 a year and WSO no longer has limits on number of email addresses.

Charlie: It was amazing seeing people issuing points of order from US and even Australia during the ABC. Thanks to Jim and Sharon.

- 13. ABC Committee:** Jim R. Final report as ABC Committee chair. In April, we were focused on completing the delegate binder, hammering out an agenda, which was pretty smooth. We were trying to facilitate people in North America voting. ABC went pretty smoothly. There were a few challenges, would focus having a few more volunteers for certain positions.

Official actions at the ABC are posted online on the motions. ABC was well attended. We had a lot of walk-ins. Question for the future is how we serve a larger than expected number of people. Since ABC, I conducted a survey. As an organization, always growing and changing. Central to how we function is the OPPM. It asks that the chair of the ABC committee survey key individuals after the event. It is WSO-centric, so I included attendees and volunteers. I polled 21 people, including WSO trustees, and compiled a list of observations. Others at 2019 ABC/AWC are invited to submit additional thoughts for how to keep improving the model.

We received a question from Alexia in Germany. Do we have a handbook to help others do similar events. There is a start of putting one together. Handbook is in its infancy. I am available to assist on this. Not sure who is in charge, but an ABC/AWC handbook would be a good thing.

Charlie: Thanks for your service. I think Erin, as new chair, is best suited to address the question of organizing a handbook.

- 14. Delegate Training Subcommittee:** Erin D. Four TC and remote trainings in April. More than 30 delegates participated. We had some delegates who did not receive training. Would like to explore how we reach more. What parliamentary procedure will we use next year? Did a delegate survey. Got more than 30 responses, our most ever. We got written feedback. We asked if they would like to see more workshops on service, and almost every response wanted more of this. Survey also told us that people like bits of personal recovery throughout the ABC. Having a personal recovery would make it business, but personal at the same time. Breaks up the monotony of the work.

Why Traditions Matter workshop, by Jody and Erin, went really very well. Swedes asked how they could translate and present. Oaks group in Pennsylvania was instrumental in creating

this program. That group will create a format so that groups and IGs can put on for a recovery day.

Committee would love to have more volunteers.

Charlie: Thanks to Fredrik (Swedish Host Committee) for immense effort and asks him to comment.

Fredrik H.: I think ABC/AWC went well, with some small problems. Every year will have lessons. Rather stressful sometimes, but rather well. There have been a lot of feelings afterward, mostly positive. Grateful and thankful for everything.

Carole: Think we should all give Fredrik a big hand of applause. Helped everyone when we had problems. (Applause)

David McB. Fredrik was like the Roadrunner, fast-moving solver of problems. Great working with you.

15. Ballot Prep Committee: Mary Jo L. No report. Won't start working in earnest for at least another a month.

16. OPKM Committee: Mary Jo L. OPKM has no report. Josh has joined the committee.

17. Nominating Committee: Greg R. <https://acawso.org/2019/05/11/nominating-committee-report-for-may-2019-meeting/>. Kudos to Jody for operating the volunteer table in Sweden. Spoke with more than 200 people, got 16 written forms expressing interest. Nominating Committee is still looking for two more volunteers.

Want to invite fellowship members to begin stating interest and applications for board trustee positions. Our goal is to start the vetting process by Nov. 1. If we get more than two applicants for the two board positions, we need more time. We're asking you to talk with the people you know, learn what is needed to get ready for board service, as you think of other service positions.

Want to thank Jim B., regarding email, web page, which we have updated to make it clearer. Initiate contact with the EC webmaster to post more info. Are requesting that the board identify a process for nominating committee chairs. We think we have a robust process for nominating trustees. Let's look at what it takes to get nominees for chairs, contribute to committee membership. Not sure it's fully part of our charter yet.

Charlie: The board nominating process is open. If you meet the stated criteria, you are invited to apply.

Jim B.: It's a pleasure working with Greg and the Nominating Committee.

18. Addressing Predatory Behavior working group: Karin S. Thanks to Charlie and the Literature Committee for putting forward the safety card motion in Sweden. Also want to thank Josh and Erin, who were instrumental in moving forward the discussion. Very sorry I couldn't

travel to Sweden. Very excited that even though safety card didn't receive full approval, it did cause a very vibrant discussion. We are tasked with convening at least two open discussions, and we hope to do that with Zoom, with a goal of submitting a final draft to the board. Goal is to have a revised version of a safety card available to the fellowship by September. Will announce at TCs, Traveler, and ComLine. Also will need a feedback look. APB has its work for the next year.

Also received very positive feedback on a workshop in Sweden on predatory behavior. Seeing increased interest in the APB working group.

I have had several conversations with members who brought concerns about predatory behavior who spoke to their groups and had very challenging responses. I'm also hearing about local groups separate from WSO and local intergroup who are interested in discussing meeting safety. That is a development that I welcome. It increases awareness and discussion.

J. Concurrences passed outside of regular Board work meetings

Motion: To approve the Avalara proposal to perform VAT (Value Added Tax) registration for ACA/WSO in Germany and obtain a certificate of such registration for a onetime fee of approximately \$670 and to perform the required quarterly/annual tax filings at a fee of approximately \$165 per filing for a 12 month period. (Bill D.)

Background: The German Amazon sales channel is currently not active pending an upload of a required VAT tax certificate. Due to Germany's VAT registration process WSO needs an agent in Germany to comply with their tax laws. Avalara is a worldwide consultant in taxation for online sales platforms who can provide this service.

Motion: Passed unanimously

K. Motions passed at the board working meeting on May 9, 2019

1. **Motion:** Submit the closing 2019 talk to *XASpeakers.org* (Jim B)

Background: Made by Jim B to submit the 2019 talks to XASpeakers.org. This site has many other 12 Step and 12 Tradition group recordings. We have received a number of requests from the fellowship to share MP3 recordings. This site does not use social media or sharing which avoids potential issues. Allows exposure of the fellowship as a first step exploring the use of recordings and getting feedback on how to proceed.

Second: Carol C

Decision: Approved unanimously

2. **Motion:** That the board approve the Diversity Statement that was passed at the 2019 ABC. (Charlie H)

Second: David McB

Discussion: Approval enables WSO to begin posting the statement on our website.

Decision: Motion passed with 7 votes and 2 abstentions.

L. Guest Comments:

Barbara CA IG 648. Would like to reinforce the appreciation hearing the Serenity Prayer said in the various languages of those present at the ABC and would like to see that repeated.

Christopher Long Island NY. Appreciated the ability of Remote Attendees of the ABC to view speakers. Settings used during the training were different than those used at the conference. He found it isolating to have someone speak for them. Questioned the possibility of viewing the ABC minutes in real time with Google Docs. Charlie may have a follow up conversation on this.

Josh W DC IG. Request to post a reminder of the monthly board Teleconferences one week prior on the general channel of Slack. Member Services IG Subcommittee would like to know the status of board approval to the *Say Hi* letter as it has been on hold for a few months now. Charlie asked that they resend the letter stating that it will receive top attention. Jim B. volunteered that there is a board email WSOBoard@adultchildren.org which can be used by the fellowship to address concerns.

Mary Jo L. Thank you for the kind words as she departs from the Board and wants to extend a Thank you to Fredrik for his service to the ABC/AWC.

Bill D. Asks if we can we reach out to the IG's so that they may post the ABC Closing Ceremony on their websites. Jim B, noted that as it has already been released to the fellowship and IG's may add the link without delay. It was further suggested that the IG Subcommittee may want to put this out in an announcement.

M. Motion to close the meeting: Miles C.

Second: David McB.

Decision: Approved unanimously

Closing with the Serenity Prayer: Danish, Swedish, English

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Next Meeting:** June 8, 2019