



Ballot Preparation Committee (BPC) April 2021 Report

Chair: Jim R., New York

Board Liaison: Jim B., California/Florida

Members: Jill H., Oregon; Karin S., Illinois; Liz C., Connecticut; Mary Jo L., Illinois; Rene A., Massachusetts;

May 8, 2021

Purpose

The BPC oversees the Proposal and Ballot process – educating the fellowship, calling for proposals, offering feedback, drafting analysis with the Board, encouraging translations, compiling a Ballot, eliciting the vote and comments, and tallying and announcing the results.

Recent Activity, of Note

The Committee had a planning meeting to begin a review of the ballot preparation process and to identify areas that could be bettered.

Here are some ideas that stood out from our conversation:

- We recognized the important role the Committee fills of educating members and groups as to how the process works.
- Suggestions were made for the BPC to be more assertive with submitting groups. For example, combining 'like proposals' which may be discussed as a single issue at the ABC.
- Promoting other avenues for change; referring submitters to various Committees for subsequent action. Suggesting that those Committees create working groups to explore the issues and ideas put forth in the proposals.
- Another idea was to have a peer review of proposals. Some type of subcommittee or panel that would be trained and perhaps having a scaled scoring system.
- The WSO analysis of the Proposals could have a fuller, more transparent process.

Most members of the ACA fellowship see the whole experience of Ballots and the ABC as a singular event, though the BPC and the ABC Committee have authority over separate parts of the process. If there are changes to the full Ballot process – such as the means by which a Proposal is placed on the agenda – the BPC would want to be informed, before issuing our 'Call for Proposals', which occurs on August 1st.

It was determined at the meeting that it would be helpful to offer suggestions/reminders to the ABC/AWC Committee.

Here are some of the recommendations we have considered:

- There was a suggestion of incorporating the BPC timeline into the production of the ABC – especially in conjunction with the Binder and the Agenda.
- Consider determining the maximum number of proposals that could be successfully addressed during the ABC and perhaps devising a method by which that number of proposals could be included on the agenda.
- Consider creating a threshold above which proposals are referred to the Board for action.
- Perhaps fashioning an agenda that goes directly to ‘Breakout Rooms/Discussion Groups’ for all proposals that are on the agenda.

We set (and missed) a deadline of June 10th for formally offering suggestions to the ABC/AWC Committee. This was to be well in advance of their June 19th meeting. We will continue to work out the suggestions on Slack in the days ahead.

The Month Ahead

- We intend to develop more specifically the BPC’s annual calendar which will take us up to the ABC in April.
- Update the front page of the ACAWSO.org site. Review listed documents.
- We have accepted an invitation to attend an upcoming Committee Summit of all the committees who play a role in creating the ABC. Date to be determined.

One More Thing...

We will be having a standing monthly meeting for the BPC. So far we have narrowed it down to the third week of the month.

For more information and records of prior practices, go to: <https://acawso.org/category/ballot-prep/>

If you are interested in being a member of this Committee, please email us at BPC@adultchildren.org.