

ABC BALLOT TOWN HALL

Saturday, January 22, 2022



Universal Serenity Prayer:

Higher Power, grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change
The courage to change the things I can
And the wisdom to know the difference.

Tradition One:

Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on ACA unity.

Agenda

Reminder – this Town Hall is being recorded

- Introduce Ballot Preparation Committee
- Introduce Proposal Presenters
- Review Zoom safety guidelines
- Workshop Goals
- Presentation of Proposals with Q & A
- General Q & A

Zoom Guidelines

- Raise your “Zoom” hand to speak during Q&A times
- Chat is only available with Zoom Hosts
- Mute your audio when not speaking
- Turn off your video if you will be moving around
- Proposal Submitters who have slides to present will be made co-hosts during their segment

Committee Members

- Jim B. (Florida)
- Mary Jo L. (Illinois)
- Jim R. (New York)

Note: Brad L. (Maryland) was part of this committee until Dec. 2021

This Committee needs support from members worldwide. Please consider joining us. Contact us at bpc@adultchildren.org. We will not be able to grow our services, like this Town Hall, without support from our members.

Workshop Goals

- To explain what the Ballot represents
- To answer general Ballot and ABC questions
- To provide an opportunity for Proposing Groups to give more information and for the Fellowship to ask questions. Each group will get
 - 3 minutes to present additional information
 - 8 minutes for questions and answers
 - 1 minute to summarize

Workshop Boundaries

- Questions should be succinct – about 30 seconds.
- Answers will be succinct – no more than one minute.
- The opportunities for questions are to provide clarification, not for arguments for or against.
- Questions will be taken in the order that virtual hands are raised.
- If you've already asked a question, please allow others the chance to do so.

Proposal Presenters

Proposal 1 – CA1312 – Publishing policy change

Proposal 2 – MA063 – Publish Tony A's Steps

Proposal 3 – MA063 – Publication about Tony A

Proposal 4 – WEB0393 – Concepts Change

Proposal 5 – WEB0580 – Name Change

Proposal 6 – IG76 – Regional Trustees only

Proposal 7 – Regions Sub-Committee – 7th Tradition Contribution
Distribution

Proposal 2022 – 1 Submitted on by CA1312

Issue: We propose that, upon signing WSO's 2020 revised copyright release, any (non-religious, non treatment facility) pre-2006 anonymous ACA/ACoA Twelve-Step program materials may be put up for direct fellowship review on the ACA Literature page of adultchildren.org for a period of three years, subject only to Literature Committee vetting for compliance with the ACA Twelve Traditions.

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WSO Analysis: Under the Literature Development policy, authors already can seek Annual Business Conference (ABC) approval for any literature, either by submitting it to the Literature Committee or by drafting a ballot measure asking the ABC to authorize fellowship review. The current policy ensures an important role for the fellowship and a decisive role for the Conference in approving new literature as reflecting the fellowship's current thinking and experience. This Proposal, as drafted, appears to eliminate any role for the Conference, and also limit the avenues for editing based on fellowship input—for one broad class of literature that was drafted before 2006. It is not clear to ACA World Service why exempting any class of literature from full Conference and fellowship review is needed or beneficial.

Proposal 2022 – 2 Submitted on by MA063

Issue: We propose that Tony A's Twelve Steps be added to all published ACA Literature as "Founder Tony A's Steps". We suggest this be done by:

- Including them in future ACA publications and revisions.
- Making them prominent on ACA websites and provide a PDF that can be printed by meetings or used online at virtual meetings.
- Producing a pamphlet or a laminated bookmark with these steps, integrated with the traits, solution, or promises.

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- Producing a pamphlet or a laminated bookmark with these steps, integrated with the traits, solution, or promises.

WSO Analysis: The Board and the Literature Committee are arranging for a legal review of whether ACA WSO has the right to publish Tony A.'s 12 Steps in their entirety. More information on that research will be shared before the 2022 Annual Business Conference.

Proposal 2022 – 3 Submitted on by MA063

Issue: We propose that ACA draft "Founder Tony A's Guide to Lifelong Recovery" based on the written and spoken words of ACA founder Tony A. The book will familiarize readers with his practices for working the twelve ACA steps. It will invite members to learn about and reflect upon their own experiences in light of Tony A's insights. The book's topics, readings, and questions will be structured for use at meetings and to promote fruitful sharing.

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WSO Analysis: Tony A. co-published a detailed commentary on his life and recovery insights that performs many of the functions proposed in this measure. That book, which is called "The Laundry List," can be purchased online, and under ACA's open literature policy, any group may use this book as a basis for meetings and personal recovery. However, Tony A.'s book is not ACA Conference approved literature, and it is protected by copyright. ACA World Service does not have permission to quote extensively from it. ACA does not currently have sufficient source material outside of "The Laundry List" to produce or publish a book as proposed in this measure.

Proposal 2022 – 4 Submitted by WEB0393, DC008, IG729, WEB0609 and WEB0616

Issue: Change Concepts II & VI to clearly identify the Annual Business Conference (ABC) as seat of the actual voice and effective conscience of our fellowship. Suggested changes will clarify that authority for the maintenance of world services is delegated to the ABC by the fellowship, while Trustee members of the ACA World Service Organization (WSO) are empowered by the ABC to act as legal agents for the fellowship regarding the maintenance of world services.

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WSO Analysis: The Board has no position on the specific Concept changes. Questions have been raised about whether a more rigorous discussion and approval process is needed for measures that affect ACA's core documents, identity, or ACA World Service's relationship with the larger fellowship. As an example, AA requires more than a simple annual meeting vote to change AA's Steps, Traditions and portions of its Conference Charter. Absent such a policy in ACA, revisions to the Concepts by default are currently governed by the Literature Development and Evaluation process. If this measure is approved by the ABC, the new Concept language would undergo an extended review by the fellowship before final enactment by a future ABC. As time permits, delegates at the 2022 ABC will be asked for guidance on whether a new process is needed for measures that affect ACA's core documents, identity, or ACA World Service's relationship with the larger fellowship.

Proposal 2022 – 5 Submitted by WEB0580

Issue: Create an ad-hoc committee to explore changing the fellowships name, logo, acronym, and any other identifying marks to include dysfunctional families. This group would meet for a year and then report results during the 2023 ABC committee reports. If the work results in a recommendation, it will appear on the 2023 ABC agenda. (If not ready by the 2023 ABC, then the report and potential recommendation will appear on the 2024 ABC agenda)

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WSO Analysis: A similar motion was referred to the board by the 2021 ABC. The Board believes that a formal study, including solicitation of fellowship viewpoints, is appropriate before any proposal to change the organization's name is submitted to a future ABC. Also, as discussed in the Measure 4 analysis, this motion could affect ACA's identity and ACA World Service's relationship to the fellowship. If the 2022 ABC supports the creation of a new process for evaluating measures that affect ACA's core documents, identity, or ACA World Service's relationship with the larger fellowship, any proposed name change should comply with that process.

Proposal 2022 – 6 Submitted by IG76

Issue: To establish and legitimize the bottom-up service structure of ACA, we propose to phase in the policy that Region Representatives are the only Trustees on the WSO service board. Tradition 9 states “...we may create service boards directly responsible to those they serve.” As meeting representatives make up their Intergroups and intergroup representatives make up the Region boards, the Region representatives are logically the Trustees of the World service board.

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WSO Analysis: ACA World Service already recognizes and encourages the participation of regions on the board, and Page 56 of the policy manual (OPPM) notes that “WSO-certified Regions are entitled to a seat on the Board of Trustees.” However, at the present time, the proposed model is not close to sustainable. To date, only two certified regions exist, and only one has nominated a trustee. Although the number of regional trustees will grow, it may be premature to assess this proposal when there is such a small number of regional trustees. Few if any other Twelve Step fellowships have “regions only” trustees, or interpret Tradition 9 as requiring that board membership be limited to regional trustees.

Proposal 2022 – 7 Submitted by Member Services Cmte's Regions Sub-Cmte

Issue: We propose that the ACA Meetings' suggested 7th Tradition donation percentages of excess funds be, Intergroups 45%, Regions 30%, and ACA WSO 25%.

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WSO Analysis: This ballot measure is one of two similar ideas that the ACA World Service board is aware of. The Finance Committee recommends a formula by which groups send 50% of excess funds to Intergroups, 25% to Regions, and 25% to ACA WSO. The committee's rationale is that the 50-25-25 formula is easier for group treasurers to calculate and suggests slightly more money for intergroups. The board is taking no action on this issue until the ballot measure process is completed.



Voting opens February 15th

Voting ends March 31st

Explore the Benefits of Service

We need support from members worldwide.

Please consider joining us.

Contact us at bpc@adultchildren.org.

We will not be able to grow our services, like this Town Hall, without support from our members.

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE

Serenity Prayer: ACA Adaptation

Higher Power, grant me the serenity
To accept the people I cannot change
The courage to change the one I can
And the wisdom to know that one is me.