

ABC BALLOT TOWN HALL

Saturday, January 30, 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 List of Proposals to be covered
- 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 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
- To answer general Ballot and ABC questions

Workshop Boundaries

- Questions should be succinct – about 30 seconds.
- Answers will be succinct – no more than 30 seconds to one minute – at the discretion of the Proposing group.
- 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 8 – In favor of Only Meetings

Proposal 9 – Not in favor of Only meetings

Proposal 10 – Create a Task force to study the ABC

Proposal 11 – Virtual vs. In-Person AWC (ACA World Convention)

Proposal 12 – Create Ad Hoc Cmte to discuss Virtual-only ABC

Proposal 13 – Implement KBDM across WSO

Proposal 2022 – 8 Submitted by WEB0524, WEB0642, WEB0541, WEB0554 and GBR0017

Issue: That all “only” meetings catering for underrepresented or disadvantaged groups (i.e., LGBTQ+, PoC) as well as single sex spaces (women only, men only) be listed on the WSO meetings web site. In line with Tradition 4, we request that the autonomy of such “only” meetings in determining how they wish to be listed be respected. In keeping with Tradition 9, we also ask that the principle of non-organisation in ACA be observed.

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WSO Analysis: All meetings covered in this motion are listed in the ACA online meeting directory. In 2021, ACA World Service conducted a series of open “town hall” meetings after de-listing several meetings that might violate discrimination laws or create an impression that ACA supports intentional exclusion of underrepresented or disadvantaged groups. Given the legal complexities and wide range of fellowship opinion, a session is planned at the 2022 ABC to permit delegate discussion of all issues related to “only” meetings.

Proposal 2022 – 9 Submitted by GBR0019

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WSO Analysis: The ACA online meeting directory includes “affinity” meetings that support specific populations, and also some “only” meetings that limit who may attend. In 2021, ACA World Service delisted several meetings that might violate discrimination laws or create an impression that ACA supports intentional exclusion of underrepresented or disadvantaged groups. At this time, it has not supported a blanket elimination of “only” meetings, noting that many participants say that such meetings can provide a sense of safety to many childhood-trauma survivors. Given the legal complexities and wide range of fellowship opinion, a session is planned at the 2022 ABC to permit delegate discussion of all issues related to “only” meetings.

Proposal 2022 – 10 Submitted by The ABC/AWC Committee

Issue: We propose creating a task force to investigate whether the ACA Annual Business Conference (ABC) should be restructured. This task force would report to the ABC Committee and include ABC Delegates, Standing Committee liaisons, and other interested volunteers. The goal would be to gather information about whether the needs of the Fellowship are being met with the current structure, and if not, to develop recommendations to be submitted to the 2023 ABC for consideration.

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WSO Analysis: The ABC is an essential element of fellowship democracy, and new challenges have emerged as it has grown in recent years. The ABC AWC Committee and Board agree that a long-term study of both the ABC and AWC models is justified and timely. The board believes that one combined long-term study of all relevant ideas is more efficient, and will yield more comprehensive analysis, than conducting separate studies of ideas cited in Measures 10, 11 and 12. The ABC AWC Committee will contact sponsors of these ballot measures and assess whether there is an interest in preliminary discussions that could inform an expected in-depth delegate discussion at the 2022 ABC. If delegates at the ABC approve a combined study about the ABC and AWC's future, they will be invited to participate in that process. If the board is instructed at the 2022 ABC to take a different approach, it will do so.

Proposal 2022 – 11 Submitted by IG729, TEL0411, WEB0616, WEB0609, WEB0615

Issue: We propose that the Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families (ACA) World Service Organization (WSO) host an in-person/hybrid International Convention every five years. Furthermore, we propose WSO continue to host an Annual World Convention (AWC) virtually in the years between in-person/hybrid events. This proposed schedule is intended to encourage participation from all members, Intergroups, and Regions including those outside of North America and Europe.

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WSO Analysis: Both the Annual World Convention and Annual Business Conference have grown dramatically in the last six years, and each now has global participation. The ABC AWC Committee and Board agree that a long-term study of both the ABC and AWC models is justified and timely. The board believes that one combined long-term study of all relevant ideas is more efficient, and will yield more comprehensive analysis, than conducting separate studies of ideas cited in Measures 10, 11 and 12. The ABC AWC Committee will contact sponsors of these ballot measures, and assess whether there is an interest in preliminary discussions that could inform an expected in-depth delegate discussion at the 2022 ABC. If delegates approve a combined study about the ABC and AWC's future, delegates will be invited to participate in that process. If the board is instructed at the 2022 ABC to take a different approach, it will do so.

Proposal 2022 – 12 Submitted by IG729, TEL0411, WEB0616, WEB0609,
TEL0411, WEB0615

Issue: To decrease financial costs and increase equitable access to the decision-making process at the ABC, we propose the creation of an ad-hoc committee to investigate the following changes to the ABC: splitting it from the AWC, holding it on weekends only, and holding it online only. We believe holding the ABC in the manner described will aid in hearing the effective conscience of our fellowship by providing more equitable access for all delegates.

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Proposal 2022 – 13 Submitted by IG729, TEL0411, WEB0616, WEB0609,
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Issue: We propose that, within three years, The Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families (ACA) World Service Organization (WSO) will implement Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM) at the level of the Board of Trustees, WSO committees and the Conference. WSO will create educational materials to assist the rollout of KBDM for potential use by Meetings, Intergroups, and Regions.

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WSO Analysis: ACA World Service has participated in discussions about Knowledge Based Decision Making since the 2021 Annual Business Conference. WSO has begun to include a form of KBDM in its committee work, incorporating a common set of questions for evaluating issues into a new system known as Collaboration Committees. It is believed this will support an “informed group conscience” by WSO committees. The Board of Trustees also believes some form of long-range strategic review, such as KBDM, is highly appropriate as part of the ABC and ballot measure process. The Board will ask delegates at the 2022 ABC to consider a proposal to incorporate KBDM into the Annual Business Conference without waiting three years. It is believed that a deliberate and consistent process for evaluating strategic issues would be very helpful to the ABC process, but that decision is best made by delegates.



Voting opens February 15th

Voting ends March 31st



Questions about the Ballot Process

Explore the Benefits of Service

We need support from members worldwide.

Please consider joining us.

Contact us at bpc@adultchildren.org.

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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.