

<b>189</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>Proposal 2021 – 12</b>	<b>12</b>
44	No	19%		
19	No Opinion			
			Submitted by IG729, TEL0411, WEB0616, WEB0609, TEL0411 WEB0615	

**Issue:** We propose that 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.

**Background:** There are benefits to attending an ABC in person. However, in the interest of fairness regarding the business of the fellowship and the voice of the delegates, we believe it is of the utmost importance to ensure that all delegates have a similar conference experience. Hybrid conferences create a two-tiered system of participation whereby those participating in person versus online have different experiences. For example, in-person attendance creates more opportunities for politicking and influence, not available to those participating online.

While a hybrid format allows participation from delegates who are unable to travel for various reasons, we believe splitting ABC from AWC and holding it online on weekends will allow greater participation from diverse members across the globe while reducing costs to the fellowship. Currently, the middle-of-the-week hybrid format is better suited to those able to take time off from work and caregiving duties, which may not represent the majority of our fellowship.

In 2020 and 2021, ABCs were conducted online on Zoom due to the pandemic. Previously, ABCs were conducted in-person with a virtual component and were held on consecutive days starting on Thursday. The plan for the future is to hold hybrid ABCs at a host location with support sufficient to facilitate participation by delegates on Zoom.

ABC-AWCs cost from \$21992.01 to \$54736.21 from 2017-19, compared with \$1250.95 and \$1556 in 2020-21. The AWC offsets some of the costs of the ABC, however, an online-only model alleviates the need for such cost offsetting.

**Resources/Implementation:**

- We ask that WSO suggest a board member to become an interim chair of the ad-hoc committee until a suitable candidate is found.
- The ad-hoc committee will provide a detailed report by March 2023 to the fellowship so delegates can make an informed decision at the 2024 ABC.
- The report should include:
  - A cost/benefit analysis of hybrid versus online ABC and of splitting the ABC from the AWC
  - The results of a survey, sent to groups, intergroups, and regions, regarding barriers to participation at the ABC
- Should a weekends-only online-only model be adopted, we submit the following for consideration:
  - We do not anticipate additional costs to be associated with hosting the ABC only online as the software/equipment for large Zoom meetings is already in regular use by the WSO.
  - Hosting ABC online would remove logistical issues associated with hybrid ABCs.

- Hosting the ABC online would allow more flexibility in the time zones for conducting business. Currently, the start and end of the ABC is dictated by the host's location, which limits participation from delegates in distant areas.
- We request that a host intergroup or region assist in hosting the virtual business conference each year, to provide support to the WSO committees that plan and implement the ABC.
  - By rotating host locations and time zones, we have the opportunity to provide a more equitable experiences to members outside of North America and Europe.
  - Intergroups and regions that are less able to host an in-person conference would have the opportunity to host a virtual conference, potentially resulting in more engagement by our global fellowship.
- We worked with members of the ABC/AWC committee, IT Committee, Representation, Equity, and Accessibility Committee, Global Members Committee, Delegates Subcommittee, and received information from the Finance Committee in developing this proposal.

**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.

**Comments:** (Those greater than 50 words, per Ballot instructions, were truncated. Comments only referring to the group's voting results were removed.)

- a) We hope proposals 10, 11, and 12 can be combined into one item.
- b) We struggled understanding this proposal due to the length of the proposal. Keeping proposals under 500 words, including the WSO response and written more concisely would be preferred.
- c) We don't need an in person ABC with all its rush and expense! Better to do all "business" online and work from smaller, more frequent gatherings with a flexible time frame. We are a fellowship, not a corporation.
- d) similar to 10 and 11
- e) to be discussed together with proposals 10 and 11
- f) Do Not Merge the Proposed Committee with other proposed committees in other ballots. This committee specifically focuses on virtual ABC. Ballot 11 focuses on the Convention every 5 years; Ballot 10 focuses on the \*\*\*structure\*\*\* of the ABC. Keep them separate so each can focus on the details...
- g) No more ad-hoc committees "to study" anything; there is no need for an AWC since Regions and Intergroups are the service boards in place to host recovery events in-person and virtually. Distribution of videos from Intergroups and Region conferences and retreats may be a different story...
- h) 10, 11 and 12 should somehow be combined into one big study because they each impact the other two in some way.
- i) East Asia Inter is a wonderful people.
- j) This meeting would like to have ballot items 10, 11 and 12 joined together.
- k) This meeting would like to have ballot items 10, 11 and 12 joined together.

- l) Our "Yes" indicates that we agree that 10, 11, 12 should be discussed, but we also feel that, as the WSO analysis indicates, they should be considered together.
- m) Proposals 10, 11 and 12 should be combined as they are closely related. Addressing them together will be efficient re time and effort to address concerns that have merit.
- n) NOTE: the sense of our group is that items 11 and 12 should be considered by the task force created under #10 and not be considered separately or by a separate committee
- o) WSO has planned to address this already. THANK YOU
- p) In favor of discussing the structure; we don't have an opinion on what the structure should look like
- q) We believe that this should be discussed. That does not indicate our support for the approval of the proposal
- r)
- s) Combine 10, 11 & 12 into one study.
- t) Discussed in proposal 10
- u) We agree with the WSO analysis that a broader, more sweeping study of the organization is called for, not picking off endless individual changes.
- v) A delegate from last year explained that changes are already being discussed regarding the issues in proposals 10 11 and 12
- w) The program is growing in Asia. We would like to be represented.