

OUTLINE OF ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION BY ABC STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE

(A work in progress: Draft #1.1, 1/8/23)

1. How can this subcommittee attract more and diverse fellowship views to participate in the study?
2. What should be the scope of this subcommittee's study?
 - a. What is the relationship between the structure of ACA's annual conference and the ACA service structure? How does ACA's service structure impact its annual conference?
 - b. Should this subcommittee address restructuring of the annual conference within the current service structure, only, or should it include identifying needed changes in the service structure?
 - c. Should this subcommittee develop recommendations for a plan to change the ACA service structure?
3. ACA 's conference does not yet have a conference charter.
 - a. What is the relationship between a charter and the structure of the ABC?
 - b. Should this subcommittee develop a recommendation for a charter?
 - c. Should any development of an ACA conference charter use AA, Al-Anon, and other 12-Step fellowship charters as models?
4. Other 12-Step fellowships (such as AA and Al-Anon) have a robust, multi-layer service structure. Should ACA consider adapting their successful model to its own needs or continue going its own way?
 - a. All or most other fellowships have a conference charter that describes the purpose and role of the conference and its delegates as well as the relationship of the conference to the service board (WSO).
 - b. Example: AA groups send a delegate to a district, then districts send a delegate to an area, then areas send a delegate to the annual conference. NOTE: In AA, intergroups are not part of AA or their service structure.
 - i. Conference delegates tend to be well-informed members with extensive service experience.
 - ii. Conference delegates are assigned to committees that review conference agenda items and prepare recommendations for consideration before the conference convenes.
 - iii. Conference delegates study agenda items independent of the service board but service board volunteers and special workers are also delegates to the conference.
5. ACA's groups, intergroups, and regions may eventually be able to function in ways that lead to conference delegates who are better informed and have a better understanding of the role of the conference but may not be in a position to do so at this time.

- a. Among ACA groups, there seems to be a widespread lack of a regular study and understanding of ACA's Twelve Concepts for World Service and of the functions performed by ACA's WSO.
 - b. Relatively few ACA groups participate in service beyond group level, and many have not formed intergroups.
 - c. Only 2 or 3 regions have been formed and they have limited functional capability.
 - d. Many delegates currently serve only a single one-year term and lack experience.
 - e. How can ACA encourage further development of intergroups and regions?
 - f. How do online-only meetings impact the formation of intergroups without a geographical boundary?
6. What role should the "quarterly" meetings of delegates play with regard to the ABC?
 - a. Equal purpose and role to the ABC?
 - b. Supplemental role to the ABC? NOTE: The ABC motion creating these meetings indicated that they were to handle "carryover business" from the ABC but did not limit them to that role.
 - c. Completely different role than the ABC?
 - d. Replace the ABC?
 - e. Should delegates to the quarterly meetings and delegates to the ABC be the same individuals?
 7. How might changes to the ACA ballot proposal process help improve the ABC?
 - a. Limiting the number of proposals accepted each year to free up time for delegates to consider policy changes and other issues at the ABC?
 - b. Restricting proposals to only those addressing "large matters of general policy and finance" (Concept VI) which are within the purview of the conference?
 - c. Having the delegates at the quarterly meetings consider proposals?
 - d. Forming joint committees of delegates and WSO volunteers to review proposals by subject or topic and recommend or determine which should be on the agenda for the ABC (similar to what AA does)? NOTE: Could/should this kind of process replace sending all proposals on a ballot to all groups for a vote on which will go on the ABC agenda and would that be an improvement (better informed delegates)?

IF LIMITED TO STUDYING ONLY THE CURRENT ABC STRUCTURE

8. What parts of the existing ABC structure should be examined?
 - a. Dates and times (accommodate different time zones?)
 - b. Location (online, in-person, host city, etc.)
 - c. Delegates (who, how selected, term of office, etc.)
 - d. Delegate orientation and education
 - e. Conference Officers (Chair, Parliamentarian, etc.)
 - f. Agenda (decisions on what to include, estimating time requirements, etc.)
 - g. Procedures and rules

- h. Discussion of proposals
 - i. Voting on motions and minority opinions
 - j. Board and Committee reports and plans
 - k. Ratifying trustees and committee chairs
9. How can the conference identify delegates able and willing to serve as conference officers.
10. How can the conference's focus on decisions regarding "large matters of general policy and finance" and on providing guidance to the WSO be enhanced to improve effectiveness?
11. What can be changed to increase the number of groups that send a delegate to the ABC?
12. What can be changed to improve access to the ABC by groups outside North America?
NOTE: AA's general service conference is limited to North America.