

ABC/AWC COMMITTEE STUDY ISSUES MEETING
NOVEMBER 2, 2022 NOON EASTERN

Agenda And Notes take by John R.

Meeting ID: 830-3196-4768
Passcode: ABCSTUDY

Attendees: Liz, Mary Jo, Brigitte and Inga (Faroe Islands), Alaska, Vivienne, Delegate from Vermont (Web0120), Laura, Jim, Charlie H,

Serenity prayer Recited by John R.

Introductions, Prior ABC Meeting Experience, and why you wish to serve on this study group.

Liz, Connecticut, ABC/AWC Committee Chair, will be stepping down this year as Chair of AWC/ABC and agreed to complete this study

Mary Jo, Illinois, 11 ABC's 8 in person, former board member and wishes to help shape the discussion on the future of ABC's

John R, CA delegate, was on Delegate

Inga and Brigitte, Farrel Islands, want to perform committee work

Alaska, CA Planning person for 2022 AWC and has interest in improving the processes of both Vivienne C., Delegate

Laura, San Clemente, CA Delegate ABC in 2014, 2016, 2017 and 2019

Jim, Long Island, NY attended since 2016 went to Sweden ABC in 2018

Charlie H, current board member former Chair and been on several ABC/AWC's since 2015 and wants to keep our world conferences robust and easy for the world membership to participate in.

Liz reviewed what the OPPM says about when AWC needs to take place (4th week of April of each year) and typically the ABC would take place the week before or the week after.

We are tasked with a study to determine how to study, structure and make recommendations in a report to the Board and membership for how best to proceed with ABC/AWC in the future (referencing questions posed in this year's ballot proposals 10, 11, and 12).

Liz states that the membership generally, prefers the ABC on a weekend and how difficult it is to schedule a time equitably across the world.

Other questions we as a committee should address are:

Should the ABC and AWC be separated?

Can there be multiple hosts sites for the in-person or hybrid meetings?

Should AWC/ABC's be in person or Zoom or both?

Inga asked, has our attendance increased since going to Zoom? She also inquired how attendance has been historically when meetings are hosted outside of North America.

Liz said Virtual meetings has led to greater participation, and that the last in person AWC was in Sweden in 2018 and it was attended sparsely by North Americans (Liz, Charlie, and Mary Jo attended).

Mary Jo, we should accumulate attendance records from the archives and make a list. Mary Jo believes that we've never had 150 or more at any ABC/AWC and only after Zoom was deployed.

Laura mentioned that she attended AWC/ABC in Denmark in 2013 with approximately 35 persons

AWC was attached to the ABC beginning in 2016 in Florida

Liz and Mary Jo said that in 2018, the meeting was in Toronto was well attended since language was not a barrier, dial in was started in 2018

In 2019 conference was only in audio

In 2020 and 2021 the meeting was virtual only using Zoom

Alaska describes that the issues with the ABC are logistical, e.g. timing, frequency, separated from AWC. Liz commented that the delegates at the 2022 voted to merge all three proposals about how to structure the ABC. Proposal 10 asked whether the ACA Annual Business Conference (ABC) should be restructured and that a 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. Proposal 11 proposed scheduling the AWC International every five years in a hybrid fashion, and continue AWC's via Zoom every year in between. Proposal 12 proposed splitting the ABC from the AWC and conduct online only and hold them on weekends.

Liz stated that there is a ballot proposal on the floor this year designed to draft an ABC Charter (drafted from an AA sample).

Liz stated that coupling ABC's with AWC's allows greater attendance at the ABC.

Jim, The initial AWC was a day and a half, pushing the ABC to Thursday or Friday

John described last year's Delegate Engagement Committee discussion and opinions on whether the ABC should be separated from the AWC and whether the planning for the ABC needs independence from the Board of Trustees. Members expressed frustration that the Board of Trustees had too much control over the ABC's. They advocated for an 'inverted pyramid' approach based on AA type charter structures. John also commented that there are a lacking of participants on the ABC/AWC committees and therefore the organization may lack the resources to separate the two.

Charlie gave a high level view of the relationships, reasons for holding them together, and some of the debate that has occurred for defining functions and relationships.

Alaska commented that most of the discussion from delegates about structure was directed to the ABC functions. Since the meetings are likely to be virtual and online, she sees no reason why the twp cannot be separated. In practicality, it makes sense to have them held separately.

John is in favor of separating the ABC from the AWC, especially now that they are being held quarterly and virtually.

Mary Jo questions whether the AWC Committee should also be separated from the ABC in years where hybrid is being done (say in the case of 11, every 5 years). Otherwise, she believes that the committees can act separately.

Liz, said Quarterly meeting motion passed by 77% of the delegates

Alaska mentioned that an org chart put out by the Collaboration Committee has a Workshop Committee," that could take over the AWC Committee. Alaska sees the work of the AWC to be intense and programmatic, not policy related.

Laura indicated that org chart was done that way to maximize attendance at the ABC's.

Charlie, says the Workshop Committee has value in performing AWC planning, and that we should look at how the AWC planning can be separated from ABC planning.

Jim, the purpose for combining them is no longer relevant. It would behoove the organization to hold the ABC prior to the AWC, to promote attendance for the ABC.

Meeting adjourned by Liz at 1pm eastern

Birgit recited the closing serenity prayer in Faroese.