

## ABC/AWC Study Group - *Steering*

### Steering Committee Meeting - 1

Nov. 25, 2022

The ABC/AWC Study group was established by a motion from the fellowship delegation of Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families World Service Organization (ACA WSO) to the 2022 Annual Business Conference (ABC).

The Motion:

To direct the ABC AWC Committee to coordinate **an in-depth and inclusive study** regarding possible **changes to the ABC and AWC** structures. The study will consider all fellowship viewpoints, and all delegates and **members of the fellowship will be invited to participate**. Findings will be presented to the 2023 ABC, and regular updates will be provided to 2022 ABC delegates and the fellowship.

The motion directly encompasses the production of the ACA World Convention (AWC), and may affect the Proposal process of the Ballot Preparation Committee (BPC), indirectly, as well as the content and timing of the programming of both the Delegate Engagement Subcommittee (DTSC), and the Volunteer Resource Committee (VRC). Whew... that's a long sentence.

At a meeting on a Saturday, of the ABC AWC Study group (or it may have been the ABC Quarterly AWC Committee or perhaps the ABC Committee), it was determined that, given the sweeping vista which is the 'inclusive study regarding possible changes to the ABC and AWC', a steering committee, to add focus and process, would be advisable. Everyone from the Study group has been invited to participate.

The first meeting of the Steering Committee was held on Friday, Nov. 25. Here are some decisions that were reached by the Committee:

- It would be good to establish a purpose statement. For now the sentiment is that we will at least provide focus for the Study group. Along these lines, we will look at developing the process - meetings; checklists; and a calendar that works back from having a report product for the 23 ABC. As a group we are charged with reporting our progress, not having a final product.
- Jim R stepped forward to act as Chair of the Steering Committee, suggesting the group motto, 'Look Forward'.
- We decided that instead of creating another Slack channel, we would share our work and have our discussions on the #abc\_awc\_study channel. In this way, those members on the channel will easily be informed. It must be noted that anyone commenting on Steering content will, by default, be included as a member of the Steering Committee.
- A Google drive folder has been established, possibly on the ABC Committee drive. We will defer to Marcin and the IT folks to direct us to that resource.

The discussions during the Steering Committee meeting touched on other topics. One thought was that in order to suggest changes to the ABC, etc., it may be best to first understand or at least identify and list

**ABC/AWC Study Group - *Steering***

the various components and routines of the existing conference and convention. It's hard to get to where you want, if you don't know where you are.

Someone suggested looking into the practices of other 12 Step organizations to see how they approach their business meetings and fellowship participation. Happily, there was a deep dive into these questions a few years ago with the Service Structure Committee (aka Service Network). The research has been kept and it's available. We have contacted Marcia J of the Archive Committee and we will receive the material at some point.

Another question that arose, central to every discussion about the ABC AWC, is the linking of the 2 distinct events. Briefly, the AWC was initiated to attract participation in the ABC, when it was an in-person event. Of course, as the AWC expanded, the ABC moved to a Thursday/Friday venue, which did not encourage participation for those with traditional work schedules. And lately, the ABC has been entirely virtual, so the original purpose of increasing ABC participation is completely moot.

A poll of all meeting participants found that everyone was in favor of uncoupling the AWC from the ABC.

It was noted that we would appreciate the participation of either, or both, Alaska and Adelina who Chaired the AWC planning last year.

Some other questions that came up were:

- How would we get feedback from the fellowship?
- Who qualifies as a delegate?
- How do we create the study and engage members?

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, Dec. 1, at 2:00pm Eastern.

The next tasks will be to identify and list the various components and routines of the existing Conference and Convention. We will likely work on this on Slack.

Supportive material will be found in our drive folder. More on that as it develops.

Jim R.