

ABC/AWC COMMITTEE STUDY ISSUES MEETING
NOVEMBER 7, 2022 NOON EASTERN

Agenda And Notes taken by John R.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87582913615?pwd=dWpPNVJPcVNiVjJxbGzbfVwY05EZz09>
Meeting ID: 830-3196-4768 Passcode: ABCSTUDY

Attendees: Liz, John, Alaska, Karen T (S. Africa), Jim R, Charlie H, Brad L., Marion (outside of North America), Mary Jo entering at end of meeting.

Serenity prayer Recited by Liz.

Members briefly introduced themselves.

Liz opened the meeting with a summary of last week's meeting with the expectation that today's meeting would produce a brief update report to present at the QDM on Saturday 11/12. The report would summarize what we've done to explore the Study of the ABC's structure and relationship to the AWC per the motion made at the 2022 ABC.

Alaska said that she has been thinking about the matter of splitting the ABC from AWC. She is not clear about the best approach to solicit feedback. Should we conduct a survey? Should the survey query questions about both the ABC and the AWC? Alaska believes surveying participants of the ABC or AWC fails to capture the opinions of the thousands of members that do not participate. Alaska wants to visit as many meetings as possible to ask members what is keeping them from participating in ABC's.

Liz commented that IT is preparing to survey the participants of the 11/12 QBC following the QBC. Might that survey include some questions?

John believes the tone of the three proposals recommends a study be conducted. In doing so, we need to determine the questions and ask these questions that were raised. We should research the opinions of the members and delegates then report this back to the delegates.

Jim, I am unclear what our mission is. Are we to answer the questions and give direction (whether its person opinion vs. group).

Charlie thinks we should reread the motion to be focused on the goal. Charlie agrees that we need to have the input of the full membership, not just the work of a small 10 person subset.

Liz displayed the motion creating our committee.

The Motion:
I move 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.

Alaska commented that she has many questions to query members about the AWC as well. That surveys are only part of the way to collect information.

John highlighted in the motion the words “inclusive”, “all delegates” and “all members”

Charlie agrees that a larger study is in order given the language of the motion.

Brad L indicates that the delegates could have narrowed the scope, but they defined a much broader scope. There must be some narrowing, as we cannot perform a 150 question survey. We need other information gathering of information. Surveys are not the only way. We could do several town halls.

Jim thinks other questions, like why are we holding the ABC in April, if the ABC is virtual why have the ABC linked to the AWC. It takes a lot of energy to put together an ABC. Why can't we separate the two by more time to avoid burnout. ABC should follow the AWC so more people learn about the issues ahead of time.

Liz. IT needs, scope, pros and cons, is the ballot process the best way to get things done

Alaska, I want to avoid doing a survey for the AWC. Rather, I want to visit other meetings and ask people that did not participate, why they did not attend.

Liz, do we have an outreach committee?

Charlie, not currently, but we are moving Global and member services to look at outreach.

Liz, how do we get more than 3-10% of the members aware that a WSO exists and are conducting business meetings.

Charlie, we can provide an update at the QBC this Saturday that we are just now wrapping our arms around the scope of the study. We have recorded a number of initial questions. 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 the motion to conduct a study).

<https://www.acaworldconvention.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Voting-Results-after-day-2-ABC.pdf>

Jim asked who should sets the agenda and schedules for balloting. Is the current ballot structure working? Is it falling short?

Liz agrees and comments that the Ballot Prep committee has to work so hard to get things done.

Charlie initially thought the ballot process assessment is outside the scope of the ABC study, but after hearing Jim's comments, he sees the matters are related

Liz suggested that we use the last 27 minutes to generate questions that can be tallied by Liz to share at the QBC.

Marion M says that the majority of members are not privy to how to gain information from the website. Many people outside of North America are more handicapped in this regard. We need better ways to push the information to the groups.

John raised the issue that the ballot process need to be governed so as to result in reasonable number of issues to be voted upon.

Liz commented that the ballot committee is raising the percentage of votes needed to have a proposal submitted to the ABC. The Collaboration Committee also may vote to limit the number of proposals to a specific number, such as four.

Liz asked if John or Marion could give the summary of this study group's work.

John said he could make the presentation provided he has something in writing to read from.

The group talked about all the requirements of the ABC per the OPPM, Concepts of Service, and other

Charlie our 2016 ABC was attended by at least six countries, and now the number continues to grow.

What are we doing with our processes? Should things be going over several sessions. We need to stretch this effort to cover as wide as possible. How can we make this project accessible to the whole world-wide fellowship?

- **Action Items**
- **John will start a Slack Channel document to summarize the work of the Study group**
- **Liz will post the questions being asked at this time**
- **John will make a brief presentation on Saturday at the QBC**