

Minutes: ABC AWC Study Subcommittee - 22 12Dec16

Jim R and John R - CoChairs

Dec. 18, 2022

*Our mandate was established by a motion from the 2022 ABC, which states:
...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.*

We met on Friday, December 16th at 4:00 pm, Eastern.

Opened our meeting with the ACA Serenity Prayer

Members in attendance: John R *Co-Chair* (CA USA); Jim R *Co-Chair* (NY USA); Brad H (OK USA); Marcin C (UK); Marcus H, (USA); Mary Jo L (IL USA); Sue V (ONT CAN)

Observers: Sharon (PR USA)

Agenda items

1. Consider a group name change

Discussed the benefits and drawbacks of changing the name. Drifted into whether or not we are a subcommittee or study group. Request was made to find an answer at the ABC/AWC Committee.

MOTION: I move that the study of each, the ABC and the AWC, be separated into two independent studies, since they are two individual events, and to require those members interested in one study to have to participate in the other doesn't make any sense. Mary Jo L
Seconded by Marcin

Jim R requested that the Motion be tabled, which it was. NOTE: Sue V suggested that if the motion were substantially changing our 'mandate' from the 2022 ABC that we would have to return to the Delegates for direction.

The issue of a name change was withdrawn, with unanimous approval.

2. Explore our group meeting schedule and practices

Do we meet once a month or twice a month? Tuesday or Friday or both? Will our choices be reviewed with regularity?

DECISION: We will hold meetings twice per month, at 11:30 am eastern on the first Tuesdays of the month, and on the third Fridays at a time suggested by the Global Committee (and at 5:00 pm eastern for this January, as backup). We will be open to change this in 2 months (March). The vote was unanimous.

Note: For East Asia a good time for meetings could be between 9 and 11 pm eastern. Research will be needed.

If members are not able to attend a meeting, how do they get to participate? Could a practice be adopted where motions and decisions are approved at the subsequent meeting?

In the discussion, the possibility of keeping a kind of motion log was suggested, so that we could keep track of what was passed and then subsequently accepted.

Perhaps each meeting could begin with a kind of old business that would review last meetings decisions and any member who was not present, or who would like to change their vote, could offer their opinions and vote.

Perhaps a worldwide voting system could be utilized (like the ABC), to have a single vote. This would prevent a back-and-forth of approve and then discard, and then discard the discard that could occur. A recording or minutes could be used to inform the world of the discussion/motion.

If an amendment were added at the second meeting, it would have to return to the first meeting for subsequent acceptance. This would be more assuring of a global product, although it may take more time.

There could be an opportunity to utilize Slack as a tool. Information could be placed there, such as meeting recordings, the space would be open for discussion and then a single vote could take place.

DECISION: Motions adopted at meetings of this group will be enacted, contingent upon the approval of the subsequent meeting. Between those two meetings, any recordings, minutes and discussions about the motion would be encouraged on Slack. This will be reviewed in 3 months.

These motions/decisions would be at the top of the next meeting's agenda. The decision was approved of unanimously

3. Establish a webpage

No one objected to the idea of establishing a web page.

Our mandate requires that we invite participation and provide fellowship updates, both of which could be achieved with the use of a web page.

In keeping with the decision to utilize Slack as a place for discussion, we will explore the possibilities of establishing a public space on Slack, beyond our private channel.

The page will be established by consent.

4. Review our process - the 'Pathway' document

We quickly went through the possible approach for arriving at recommended changes. This included first understanding the existing ABC/AWC structures.

The document and links are referred to in the agenda

<gap in the recording>

It may be good to incorporate a look at the conference and convention structures of other 12 Step organizations. Happily, a study that includes this information was conducted by WSO in 2016/17 and the documentation is in our abc_awc_study folder of the ABC Committee Drive.

5. Look at the developing spreadsheet - 'abc_awc_study group'

It was a brief look.

Went through the spreadsheet that will list all the steps that need to be taken in order to produce these events. Members were asked to participate by adding to the list any steps that need to occur.

We moved adjournment to Tuesday, January 3rd at 11:30 am eastern.