

Minutes: ABC AWC Study Subcommittee - 23 1Jan20

Jim R and John R - CoChairs

Jan. 6, 2023

*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, January 20th at 5:00 pm, Eastern.

Our meeting opened with the ACA Serenity Prayer

Note our participants: Jim R, John R, Sue V, Charlie H, Mary Jo L, Marcin

Minutes from the last meeting, Jan 3rd, are posted on our Slack channel. Motion to Accept.

Discussion - reviewing our meeting timing - when the time comes to poll committee members for the most agreeable times to hold committee meetings, invite Global members to participate in the polling.

Motion: That we establish a public channel on Slack where people can ask questions and hopefully get a response. Jim R. Seconded by John R

Discussion:

- I think it's a great idea
- Further discussion?
- Anyone opposed?
- All present are in favor of establishing a public channel (pending approval of the next meeting)

Decisions/Motions from the last meeting, needing approval:

1. **MOTION:** We move that the study of each, the ABC and the AWC, be separated into two independent studies, as two individual events, since requiring members interested in one study to have to participate in the other doesn't make any sense. *Upon passage of this motion, we ask that the ABC/AWC Standing Committee implement this motion to separate the studies.* Mary Jo L. Seconded by Marcin; Amended by Brad H

Motion to Ratify: John R, Seconded by Mary Jo L

Discussion:

- I question if we can even do this since our work was mandated by a motion of the ABC

- In favor of this.
- NOTE: The original motion was made at the Dec 16 Committee Meeting, amended at the Jan 3 Committee Meeting and is now being ratified

John R stepped away noting approval of the motion and that he and Jim R would be meeting on Sunday, Jan 22 with Alaska and Adelina to discuss the AWC side of the study

- It makes sense to create two groups working in tandem. ABC Committee can bring this to the Delegates at the Quarterly Meeting
- Comfortable. Still in line with the original motion. Confused as to whether the AWC meeting discussed refers to this year's Convention. Btw, in 2020 an online version was organized in a matter of a couple of months
- My understanding is that this group was asked to facilitate a long term study and not to assist with the production of the current AWC
- Yes. AWC study is separate from the AWC production/committee
- Again, we have a motion to separate this work into two working groups. Is there anyone opposed? Hearing no opposition, and having gone through 2 cycles, the motion is adopted

Old Business

1. Brad H. offered to draft an OUTLINE for the Jan 20th meeting identifying some of the issues we discussed on Jan 3rd. We may choose to discuss the outline, point by point, in the subsequent meetings. The link is here.

[w](#) OUTLINE OF ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION BY ABC STUDY SUBCOMMIT...

How do we look at these issues? Do we want to make a motion?

Motion: That we use this Outline for our study. Jim R. Seconded by Brad H

- I have only skimmed this. I would not be able to vote on this today. Is this complete?

Perhaps Brad could offer some insights. Did you even want this to go in this direction? As points of discussion?

Brad: Well, I offered to compile an outline based on all of our previous discussions. I do think it constitutes the framework for our discussion and for our study. I don't know if we have to go through this point by point, but the issues that we need to decide on are included. It's comprehensive. It covers everything we've discussed.

- I think all these points are valid for study. I would be okay with prioritizing the various points for discussion. (Rather than in the current order)
- So you're suggesting we look at these and prioritize which point we want to start with.
- Not at this moment, but as an action point for the next meeting. Indicate our priorities and try to find common ground.
- Thank you for the work. We are flexible enough that we can add items. We need to prioritize what we will look at first.

- I would love going through this. I'm confused that the document asks that we define the scope of the work... which is what we are already doing. I'm used to taking an inventory of the system to begin with - what's working, etc.
- The items were arranged in a temporal fashion, looking at what comes first. This organizes everything we have discussed thus far.
- Perhaps it's not an either / or...
- Earlier we realized that we will not have a complete report for the 2023 ABC.
- How do we want to honor this outline and the work it entailed?
- If we think inventoring the current ABC is a good approach, perhaps we should begin with that part of the outline.
- To clarify, I think the diversity would be a good place to start. Then an inventory of what we have in the ABC process; what worked; why the Delegates wanted a study?
- The outline could be a good guide for that type of inventory
- If we don't look at what we currently have then we're reinventing the wheel. An outline of what we have is the reference point .
- The Quarterly Meeting may be a place to find more participation in the study.
- This is a little humorous. Weeks ago we had a spreadsheet where we were listing all the components of the ABC, just to get a sense of where we are, and we didn't go very far down that road. Now I'm hearing that there may be value in looking at that again.
- Perhaps develop a project plan.
- Thoughts?
- There's room for improvement in the way the ABC is handled, and there may be need for a charter... still, we should not become reactionary.
- Just want to say that John has strong opinions as to where we should go next. I would not be comfortable saying "let's go in this direction". It would not be productive. Maybe we could look more closely at the document, Perhaps converse on Slack.
- John said he wanted to follow the Outline. Do we want to utilize it?
- Perhaps this type of study is not well suited for meetings where we want to get everyone together at one time, especially if we want diversity. Maybe we would have more progress if we worked more on Slack... instead of a meeting.
- Just saying that I would be overwhelmed by the point about a Conference Charter. My main concerns were separating the ABC/AWC and keeping it virtual. Perhaps we could have a system where we can write ideas about the topics on Slack and then discuss them in a meeting.
- For me, nowadays, work on Slack doesn't work, I prefer a meeting. Based on my readings, perhaps the conference charter is the place to start.
- There is confusion on the ABC is just the delegates.
- I suggest as an approach that we each look over the Outline and pick out 2 items that we feel should be a priority. We will compile that list on the Slack Channel; a list of prioritized discussion points. We will have the top 2 or 3 float to the top; then each write a paragraph or two for a discussion at our meeting.
- Perhaps the Board could insert comments into a topic document.
- Is anyone opposed to this process?

- Perhaps we could have a point ranking system so we know which numbered entries on the outline are most desired.
- I'm thinking actually of breaking down the outline, almost by sentence, so that participants can truly focus on the item that means most to them.
- To recap: **Create some means for members to pull out of the Outline 2 items which they feel are important to begin addressing. With that sampling from the group we prioritize and decide which item will be discussed - first... second... etc. And we will have a document on our Drive where participants can add their comments and ideas. We can talk about the issues, one item at a time, at subsequent meetings and arrive at some type of conclusion.**
- What do we do with the motion on the table?
- Withdrawn. It was only made as a means to start a discussion.
- Agenda items may be discussed without a motion.
- I guess I've been in situations where it was stated that motions were required.
- Well, for a strict interpretation of Robert's Rules, yes, a motion is needed.
- So... some meetings are stricter than others.
- So, we have a way into the outline. I feel rather complete. Anyone else have any feelings?
- This has been a very thoughtful conversation. Creating a solid foundation.
- So, I will fashion this Outline into a listing of options that people can vote for. It may be numbered a little differently. I will break down the Outline by sentence. And we may decide to choose 3 items instead of 2. We can be flexible. I'll get something up on Slack.
- We are just looking to discuss a few ideas to get more traction. It's an attempt.
- Are we at a time to close?
- Any parting words?

The meeting ended with the Serenity Prayer.