

Minutes: ABC AWC Study Subcommittee - 23 1Jan3

Jim R and John R - CoChairs

Jan. 6, 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 Tuesday, January 3rd at 11:30 am, Eastern.

We opened our meeting with the ACA Serenity Prayer

Participants: Jim R, John R, Mary Jo L, Brad H

Minutes from Dec. 16 had been posted on our Slack channel. **They were approved.**

Agenda items...

1. Decisions/Motions: **All previous decisions were ratified in full.**
 - a. **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.
 - b. **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.
 - c. **DECISION:** The decision was made to establish a Study web page at acawso.org.
2. Old Business
 - a. **MOTION:** I 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. Mary Jo L. Seconded by Marcin

Discussion:

- Seems to be happening in effect as the Chairs of the AWC (Alaska and Adelina) have not participated in this group work.
- Additionally, there is nothing practical linking these two events.
- The only concern is whether the dividing of the task changes the original intent laid out in the ABC motion that initiated this study. It does not, so long as one report is generated.

- This decision may need to be made by the ABC Committee.
- Send a motion
- **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
- How does this impact the current Study group? Are we dissolved? Are we in limbo?
- Continue with our tasks.
- Do we split our roles (John/Jim)? [Both of us interested in the ABC side]
- It's up to the ABC/AWC Committee to decide how the AWC side is organized.

Vote was taken. **Motion accepted unanimously. Will be offered for ratification on Friday.**

3. New Business

- a. Adding the word "Restructuring" to the Subcommittee's title (e.g. ABC/AWC Restructuring Study Subcommittee)

MOTION: that we change our name to read ABC/AWC Restructuring Study Subcommittee, until the time when the Study may be separated by the ABC/AWC Committee. John R. Seconded by Brad H.

- I don't see the point of doing this until we're separated. I do not support this.
- **Motion withdrawn**

- b. Consider composing a summary about the service structures of other fellowships; consider recommendations for Conference Charter enactment (which might include as a deliverable an overview of how service structures, Conferences and Charters of other 12-Step groups differ from ACA).
15-minute discussion.

- Deep-dive not required. We can take a general look.
- AA's method of populating their Business Meeting delegation was mentioned
- Valuable addition to the discussion - can narrow our focus on a few 12-Steps
- Yes, we have a dysfunctional system. The challenge is that ACA does not have the layers of 'organization' that others have (i.e. regions, areas, etc.)
- It could be in our purview to map out our objective as an organization.
- Yes, it's not a good system where uninformed people are making decisions that impact the entire organization. While we could come up with a plan that may not be our focus.
- There seems to be 2 opportunities before us - how to improve the structure of the system we have before us, and, where do we want to get to eventually, in the future?

- Let's envision a larger change. A more sweeping effort. We will need to return to the delegation to request an extension of the timeframe - perhaps 2024.
- There's a need to educate the fellowship about the Service Structure. Most members see WSO as only providing meeting lists and literature. We need informed delegates at the ABC and we need more representation.
- We would benefit from input from the Delegate Engagement Committee and from the Concepts Study. And a focused look at the Archives material about other 12-Step structures - we should approve developing a summary of 3 other organizations.
- It looks like we haven't done a brainstorming of what we would like this committee to do. Also, we could revamp the Ballot process - the ABC delegates have put the focus on the Proposals, which is actually just a part of the Conference, which is more of a 'State of the Union' expression. Perhaps we could look again at the 3 motions that were merged to create the motion that led to this Study.
- Let's bite off what we can chew. Let's maintain a focus. We could, at this time, simply focus our attention on what happens between the opening and closing of the ABC. Leave the question of Delegates and representation for another time, if we get a wider mandate. Yes, we could create elaborate structures of areas and regions - but they don't exist and it's far in the distance. I don't see the value of putting our energies there.
- If we are looking at structuring how we meet our business needs, we could look at the ABC and the Quarterly Meetings. Something 'quarterly' has 4 parts. Presently we have the ABC and 3 other meetings. Perhaps they could be given equal footing and spread the proposals over 4 business Quarterly Meetings, thus engaging delegates throughout the year and making these meetings less Proposal-centric.
- Let's suggest restructuring how the organization does its business. I'd rather keep it focused and measurable and achievable.
- We have challenges defining the relationship between the ABC and the Quarterly Meetings. These distinctions could be defined in a Conference Charter.
- There are things we could study and recommend for the current ABC structure, without doing a deep dive and trying to make our service structure look like those of other 12-Step organizations. It is important that we are cognisant of those other structures, but we don't have to design a path to get to where they are.
- I'm not sure volunteers alone would be able to tackle a larger mandate. Professional assistance might be required.
- A Conference Charter establishes the relationship of the Conference to the fellowship and the organization. The AIAAnon Charter is only 6 pages long. Perhaps this would be a good place to start.
- I believe there is an upcoming Proposal that addresses a Conference Charter. Would that impact our decision? [Answer: No]
- Other groups or committees may be looking at a Conference Charter. We should go back to the ABC/AWC Committee, so as not to duplicate efforts and to gain direction.

- The Board member was unaware of any current Charter enquiry. If the Proposal item is part of the ABC agenda, the delegation could be informed of the work we are doing and be invited to participate.
- Are we arriving at a motion?
- No, I don't think we are arriving at a motion.
- So we are concluding our discussion. There is no motion being sent to the Friday meeting. We will post minutes and a recording to our Slack Channel.
- We are determining our work and we have not arrived at a decision. We will have to continue this discussion

Brad H. offered to draft an outline for the next meeting identifying some of the issues we have discussed here. Discussion will continue.

Motion to Adjourn: Mary Jo L. Seconded by John R.