

Agenda: ABC AWC Study Subcommittee - 23 2Feb7

Jim R and John R - CoChairs

Feb 10, 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 Tuesday, February 7th at 11:30 am, Eastern.

The meeting was recorded and posted on the private Slack channel.

We opened our meeting with the **ACA Serenity Prayer**

Note our participants: Jim R, John R Brad H, Charlie H, Marcin C, Mary Jo L

Minutes from the last meeting, Jan 20th, are posted on our Slack channel.

Motion: to Accept the Minutes. Brad H. Seconded by John R

Decisions/Motions from the last meeting, needing approval:

1. **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: No discussion

MOTION: To Ratify the above motion from Jan 20th. John R. Seconded by Brad H

Discussion: Is there anyone opposed to accepting this motion?

Hearing no opposition, the motion is ratified.

Time Sensitive Item:

As part of our mandate it states: “**regular updates will be provided to 2022 ABC delegates and the fellowship.**” In accordance, we will be presenting a report to the Quarterly Meeting of the ACA WSO Delegates, in advance of their February 18th meeting. A draft of a report is found here:

[w Report to the QM 23 2Feb18.docx](#) We will edit a final version of our report.

Discussion:

- There is no opposition to discussing this item
- [Screen share: the report from above]
- Questions were raised about the wording of the previously passed Motion (Dec 16) which describes the method by which the Committee would adopt their Motions. Each Motion of the

Committee would have to be affirmed at two consecutive committee meetings, providing more of an opportunity for all members to collaborate in the decision making process.

- The Motion could be amended in the future to read 'procedural' motions, or motions concerning the process of this committee
- We decided to add an asterisk on this section of the Report noting the reference to 'procedural motions' - to be raised at a later date.
- We had a discussion about the labeling system of our reports and minutes -
 - ABC AWC Study | Year (23) | Month (both # and word, ie 2Feb) | Date
- We turned to the Requests of the Delegates part of the Report
- Point 1: We are asking for an extension, based on the use of the word 'findings' in our mandate from the ABC Delegation. 'Findings' expresses 'conclusion' of the study, which in 2023, will not be completed.
- We have a history of asking for extensions on this type of study. We have asked with additional tasks outlined for the Delegates to weigh.
- Do we have to set a date for the presentation of findings?
- This is likely to be a multi-year study. Possibly to the 2025 ABC. We need to offer a date, because we will be asked our opinion anyway.
- Let's leave it at 2024 and ask for an extension then, if needed. All in agreement.
- Point 2: We again, and formally, ask for the Delegates to allow us to look at both the ABC and AWC separately.
- Haven't we already had that distinction from the ABC AWC Committee? We can only ask the ABC Committee to ask the Delegates.
- We have made the request of the ABC Committee, and we have no indication of developments.
- Can we report that we have made no progress in studying the AWC. It's almost required.
- In another opinion, we have our mandate from the Delegates, we can make the request.
- Right and expectation that this Subcommittee would report directly to the Delegates.
- Are we making a recommendation to the Delegates, or noting that we informed the ABC AWC Committee of our recommendation?
- Facts: We have focused exclusively on the ABC. We have requested of the ABC AWC Committee that the study be 2 pronged, with another group looking at the AWC.
- Return to Point 1: New language was posted in the chat and added to the statement.
- Point 3: Let's change 'other 12-steps' to 'some '12-steps'.
- Conference Charter. Have we decided, as a committee, to recommend that we look at a charter?
- It makes sense that the charter be worked out in conjunction with an ABC restructure.
- Question: Is this Committee willing to take on Conference Charter creation?
- This is something that we have talked about from our inception. A charter is necessary.
- Is there anybody here who objects to the need for a Charter? No.
- So, do we recommend that the scope of our work be expanded to include overseeing the study of an ABC Charter?
- With one no vote and one abstention, we make the recommendation.
- We may need to further inform the delegates of what a charter is, actually.
- Suggest asking for more time to report to the Delegates (currently 3 minutes)
- Point 4: Service Structure.
- Add the reasoning - to improve representation.
- Too many examples of the levels of structure. Easily lost.
- Suggestion - to delete the entire passage. If we do a charter study it will be included in that study.
- Is anyone opposed to removing Point 4? No.
- Point 5: More focus on the Charter. Seems to muddy the water. The current Ballot Proposal about a Charter may have it's own discussion, and there is no need to bring it into the report.

- Point 5 was removed.
- Final questions: Are we to expect a response from the Delegates? If so, when? And until then, what shall we focus on?
- The Delegates will either respond at the Quarterly or at the ABC. Not interim.
- Lacking direction we will look at both involving more members in the Study and addressing issues pertinent to the actual running of the ABC, gavel to gavel.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE TABLED FOR POSSIBLE* FURTHER DISCUSSION

Recent Business:

1. Breaking down the Outline*, almost by sentence, so that participants may choose items which they feel are important to address. With a survey sampling, we prioritize the items to discuss - first... second... etc. We will talk about the issues, one item at a time, at subsequent meetings arriving at some type of conclusion. And we will have a document on our Drive where participants can add their comments and ideas.
*The link is here - [w 23 1 8 OUTLINE: Issues for ABC Study.docx](#)
2. Results of the Survey. The selections were tabulated. We chose for shared interest among participants, as well as offering each person an opportunity to discuss they're top priority. The results are here - [w ABC_AWC Study - TOP Priorities.docx](#) . After we complete the initial discussions we will reassess and develop subsequent priorities.

Discussion: Are there any comments about the process or product?

New Business:

Taken one at a time, we will have focused discussions of the OUTLINE issues. After going through the issues, we may choose to review our decisions.

1. Should this subcommittee address restructuring of the annual conference within the current service structure, only, or should it include identifying needed changes in the service structure?

Discussion:

2. What should be the scope of this subcommittee's study?
[ABC Practices / WSO Service Structure / ABC Charter / Other 12-Step Comparisons]

Discussion:

3. How can this subcommittee attract more and diverse fellowship views to participate in the study?

Discussion:

4. ACA 's conference does not yet have a conference charter.
[Should this subcommittee develop a recommendation for a charter?]

Discussion:

NOTE: There were dozens more items in the original OUTLINE and we will work our way through them over the coming months.

**Most of these questions have now been offered to the Delegation for direction. Depending on the response, we will know if we will pursue a discussion. Until we have a response we will return to the OUTLINE for our committee meeting Agenda items -*

[w](#) 23 1 8 OUTLINE: Issues for ABC Study.docx , beginning with **Question 8**.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Mary Jo L. Seconded by John R.

Are there any parting words?

The meeting ended with the Serenity Prayer.