

## Minutes: ABC AWC Study Subcommittee - 23 3Mar7

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Jim R and John R - CoChairs

Mar 13, 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, March 7th at 11:30 am, Eastern.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86308923438>

Meeting ID: 863 0892 3438

Passcode: 90755

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

Open our meeting with the **ACA Serenity Prayer**

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

No Agenda was prepared, given our questions around the direction of the Subcommittee

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### RECAP

The previous Subcommittee meeting on Feb 17th was focused solely on the oral report to be offered to the Delegates at the Quarterly Delegate Meeting the next day, on Feb.18th. It was determined that we would ask the Delegates for guidance around 2 questions:

- Will the term of the ABC Study be extended beyond the 2023 ABC?
- Should the study Subcommittee look at the issue of drafting a Conference Charter?

Although we offered our written report along presumed channels, it was never received by the Delegates. Therefore, bringing these questions to the Quarterly was a little awkward, since they were uninformed and, with a full agenda, it seemed inappropriate to wedge our way in. At the Quarterly meeting a vote was taken as to the timeliness of the Study report and it was determined that the Delegates could respond at a later date. Going forward we will notify the Delegates of important matters directly.

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Discussion: Where are we, and what is this Study group studying?

**Charlie H:** Ideas we may take back to the Delegation at the ABC for input:

- The ABC will be virtual going forward

- There is a need for a Conference Charter

Perhaps put together a few other topics to bring to the ABC

**Bradford H:** Likely our study will be extended to 2024. Additionally Liz will be stepping back from leadership of the 23 ABC planning

**CH:** Planning for 23 will be undertaken by Edmundus and Marcus, with Board guidance.

**Jim R:** Question: can this committee observe the planning of the 23 ABC?

**CH:** Yes, they are meeting tomorrow... and subsequently.

**Marcin C:** Here looking for clarity about the direction of this subcommittee. Our Mandate says we will include the delegate's viewpoint. Suggest we keep it simple - do what we can and listen for delegate feedback.

**BH:** There were hopes that delegates would participate.

**JR:** Perhaps instead of having something super-comprehensive, we could offer some simple varied suggestions. Throw out some ideas and see how they come together. Feedback that I have received from delegates leads me to believe they are looking for focus and effectiveness.

Struck by the idea of having each Quarterly Delegate Meeting focused on a corresponding Collaboration Committee, along with any related Ballot Proposals, Projects and Reports. This could add to effectiveness and focus. Something for us to explore.

**CH:** Let's create a list - what has been on the mind of this Subcommittee. We may not have clear decisions, but would have some general points of discussion to present to the Delegates. Get guidance at the ABC. Topics:

- Continuation of this Study
- Does ACA develop a Conference Charter? (with explanation)
- Does the ABC remain as a virtual event only?
- Relationship between the ABC and Quarterlies

**JR:** Again, suggest each Quarterly/ABC have a focus corresponding to a Collaboration Committee focus. (Agenda?)

Have an intention of encouraging Delegates to participate.

**Mary Jo L:** If we don't have participation, can we just allow natural incremental change, without the Study group? **MC** in agreement.

**CH:** We could do a better job of outreach and noting year-round participation. Evidence that Delegates are willing. We can ask.

**JR:** As a new Delegate, I followed where I was led. We cannot fault the delegates for arriving timidly after being told repeatedly what to do. Perhaps Delegate Engagement could be re-envisioned as Delegate empowerment.

Idea: Quarterly meetings are creating Delegate 'motions from the floor'. How does that differ from the Proposal process? You can't have both, it won't work. I would lean toward the Delegates bring forward proposals and creating the agenda. The only difference is requiring a registered Delegate bring forth the proposal/motion. Let the delegates create the process. Four times a year, at the Quarterlies.

**BH:** Let the Delegates create the agenda, with inclusion of necessary Board business items.

**MC:** Yes, we could use more participation on Committees and Study groups - a more global perspective. For example, the timing of the meeting. Fearful of giving too much empowerment to the Delegation, for certain aspects of the WSO and ABC.

**CH:** Let's ask ourselves, why are we having a Conference? This was in evidence at the 2016 ABC, and it led to positive change and development. Let's lead with optimism.

**JR:** Out of the Delegate loop... What happens between the Quarterlies? Do the Delegates have a contact list so that they may communicate with one another? Do they have a kind of 'newsletter' so that they can be informed? Do they get reports beforehand? Do they have fellowship activities - like a Delegate Dance or a poetry reading - so that they can get to know each other better? Does anyone know?

**CH:** Right now there is very little... **JR:** Is there a contact list?

**CH:** I send communications through Brad L, in IT. I would say no

**JR:** So they can't reach out to one another. What's existing for the networking? If we would like the Delegates to participate, the best start is for them to talk amongst themselves.

And why spring all the work on them at the Quarterly or ABC? I think they would feel more included, part of the 'solutions' if they are kept abreast of what's going on. And it's been said we'll have more fun in our lives - does that include within WSO?

**BH:** It's possible that WSO is a little co-dependant with the Delegates. We take on the efforts, regardless of our resources and without asking for support from the Delegates. There could be value in giving the Delegates a blank slate for much of the ABC/Quarterlies.

The meeting ended with the Serenity Prayer.

*Note: Outreach to Delegates is poor. Our channel on Slack is private. A communal channel has not yet been established. Our late-arriving webpage does not have the Zoom meeting links, though it mentions the timing. We can do better.*

Meeting notes taken by Charlie (edited by Jim R)  
as potential points of discussion at the upcoming ABC

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**About the Study**

- 1) Continue the study?
- 2) Recruitment strategy to encouraging delegates to participate in this study?

**About the Delegates**

- 3) What happens between Quarterly meetings? Contact list accessible for delegates?
- 4) What is available for Delegate networking? Provide opportunities to meet/discuss/give ideas? Promise 7?
- 5) Delegate ownership of the conference and its meetings? Need to provide space for the Delegates to fill - create a vacuum.

**About the Conference**

- 6) Define primary purpose(s) of the Conference
- 7) Would it be beneficial to have a Conference Charter?
- 8) The ABC - online vs. in-person?
- 9) Separate the ABC from AWC?

**About conducting business**

- 10) ABC & Quarterlies - How do they work together?
- 11) Geographic/time zone rotation?
- 12) Regional gatherings?
- 13) More precise focus/agenda for delegate gatherings? Correlating to the Collaboration Committee focuses?
- 14) Ballot and Proposal building process? ( to include Floor motions)
- 15) ABC/Quarterly Agenda building/approval