

Minutes: ABC Study Subcommittee - 23 6Jun6

Jim R and John R - CoChairs

June 6, 2023

Our current directive was adopted at the 2023 ABC, which states:

Motion: To approve extending the ABC/AWC Study to provide recommendations without limitation, including:

- *Drafting a charter for the conference, and*
- *recommendations for changes in other areas, depending on availability of adequate resources, and*
- *separating the AWC study from the ABC study, creating an additional study as resources permit, and*
- *that the delegates will receive regular updates until the study is completed.*

Our original mandate was established by a motion from the 2022 ABC, which stated:

...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, June 6th 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 will be posted on the private Slack channel.

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

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

There were no Minutes from our last meeting, Friday, May 19th.

Decisions/Motions from the last meeting, needing approval:

NO MOTIONS were carried at the last meeting.

NOTE: Since the ABC, we had hoped to have more participation, so that we could include new members in the process of choosing our meeting times, going forward.

Recent Activity:

At our last meeting, May 19th, we approached our efforts with a renewed vigor. We accepted the primary task of drafting a Conference Charter. To that end we tackled two objectives:

1. Assemble samples of Charters from other 12 Step programs in order to find similar themes which we could then apply to the outline of our own Charter framework, and
2. Write an article for the Comline, to disseminate, lightly touching on our task and encouraging participation from the fellowship, and from the Delegates, in particular.

We have accomplished both of our objectives. The Drive has a lot of information from other programs, as well as a lot of information from a former WSO group - the Service Network Committee (originally Service Structure). This is a mountain of information, ready to be mined.

We also published an article in the Comline Blog. A simple story of the origins of this Subcommittee and the call for a Charter. We didn't get prescriptive as to what a Charter had to contain. We directly invited members to get involved. We pointed out the benefits of participating as well as the flexibility of involvement - no commitment. We asked that anyone with an interest write to us. The article is here:

<https://adultchildren.org/comline/fellowship-news/finally-we-hava-an-aca-conference-charter/>

Beyond the blog space, the article was shared on Slack channels and was placed as a link in the chat at the European Committee meeting. The article was even sent directly to one of the Delegates who has been championing the creation of a Conference Charter.

To date, there has been no response.

Our meeting discussion, beyond how to approach creating a Charter, addressed the elephant in the room - or rather, the lack of *anyone* in the room.

Those in attendance at this meeting see themselves not as the creators of a Charter, but rather as the shepherds of a process. We are left wondering... what the flock? Or rather, where's the flock? There is a distinct lack of interest in participating in this endeavour.

Maybe we are putting the cart before the horse. Maybe there needs to be more of a sense of a 'delegation', of a 'Conference', before something like a Charter can emerge.

Charter or not, the business of ACA and of WSO will continue.

Although not strictly in the form of a motion, the 3 attendees are in agreement:
That the work of the ABC Study Subcommittee be suspended until after the 2024 ABC.

The meeting closed with the Serenity Prayer

The next scheduled meeting is Friday, June 16th at 5:00 PM Eastern.

Much will happen on Slack