

A Letter from the Board of Trustees Chairperson

Dear Delegates,

I write this letter as an ACA member, grateful Adult Child, humble trusted servant on the ACA World Service Organization Board and as the Chair of the Board for our 2024 Annual Business Conference (ABC).

Your World Service Organization (WSO) provides support to our fellowship and meeting groups that helps carry the message to those who still suffer. We do this by developing, publishing and distributing ACA literature, providing meeting and public services support, and maintaining the ACA website, including the meeting listing directory, etc.

This past year has been both a challenging and rewarding year. Challenging, as our volunteer resources on the Board and in our Committees were shrinking and rewarding as everyone came together with solutions, especially our fellowship when we sent out a letter asking for help. You, the fellowship, heard our call and volunteers started to come in, rolled up their sleeves and asked, "How can we help?" We are grateful. We need your continued support, keep coming into WSO service, our fellowship needs us all.

It is important to note that we need a minimum of three active Trustees, for a non-profit board as recommended by the California Attorney General's office and without any Board Trustees, the ACA WSO would potentially have to be dissolved as a California corporation. Therefore, we have been proactively taking steps to avoid that outcome and ensure ACA WSO continues to be viable. As most of you know, we have come close to having less than three trustees over the past year. That hopefully will not happen again with our fellowship's support. We have six trustees asking to be ratified at this Annual Business Conference (ABC). This is a step in the right direction and yet more trustees are still needed. 10 - 12 trustees would be optimal and we can have up to 20 according to the bylaws. Please contact our Nominating Committee Chair at ChairNomCom@acawso.org for more information.

At the same time, we have much to celebrate as a fellowship:

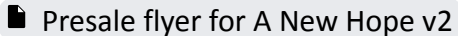
- Over 2800 ACA members attended the 2023 Annual World Convention (AWC) from over 68 countries.
- Over 75,000 Adult Children purchased literature in 2023.
- Our literature - five publications in 2023 in over 13 languages and even more in translation development. Three new publications scheduled for 2024- A New Hope, Connections and RSG (Ready Set Go).
- All ACA publications have converted to electronic books that are accessible around the world
- Three new trustees to be ratified at the 2024 ABC, two new volunteers working to revitalize the Member Services Committee and much more.
- Safer spaces in the Annual Business Conference (ABC), Board with Fellowship Meetings (TC), in WSO committees and on Slack, thanks to the Health and Safety Advisory group's efforts.
- New Service Norms being rolled out for fellowship review at the 2024 Annual Business Conference.

Looking at our last year:

The Board has focused priorities on resolving key barriers for volunteers in providing service in WSO. Without WSO volunteers we can't meet the needs of our fellowship and if we don't have enough Trustees we won't have a sustainable World Service Organization.

So what we have done at the Board level is implement new processes and delegating responsibilities to staff and volunteers to make the service workload more reasonable. We also needed to assess other barriers to service for both the Board and the Committees, health and safety. We encouraged increased self care, leaves of absences and created a Health and Safety advisory group early in 2023, which swung into action to assess and resolve a number of situations that were contributing to a general unease with WSO volunteers and ABC Delegates. As a result, many volunteers and prospective Trustees have expressed an increased sense of safety and energy.

For the committees, they have been working hard to provide the day-to-day support of our groups in member services, public services, meeting listings etc. We have a new volunteer resources committee that is providing welcoming introductions and resources for our new volunteers. See [Volunteer Resources Committee webpage](#) for more information.

In the office, we have a new finance Controller, Sylvia, as we said goodbye to Lucia, our Controller for many years. We also needed to add staff to work with our General Manager on increased requirements in IT and in Publishing and Translations. We have over 55 translations in development and another three new English titles being launched in 2024. One of these books, "A New Hope," will be released for purchase in the next couple months. We are adding a special flier to the Delegate Guidebook and on our websites about pre-orders for our global fellowship. We will utilize our global distribution hubs to launch the books simultaneously - no more waiting for our international fellowship to be able to receive new books. See: 

For Finance, the ACA WSO Board of Trustees commissioned a required financial audit for the 2023 fiscal year when the end of year finances indicated that ACA WSO would generate more than \$2M in revenue. Volunteers heeded the call to form an Audit Committee and this committee and the Auditor are pleased to present the Audited Financial Statements and Management Letter to the delegates at 2024 Annual Business Conference. See: [Audit Committee webpage](#) for more information.

Looking to our next year:

We expect to continue to be busy managing current projects and new projects approved at the 2024 ABC. The Board will highlight at the Conference the priorities, policies and projects in development known at this time. We will continue to look for ways to increase opportunities for feedback and dialogue with our delegates and fellowship.

As we mature, it seems we are starting to reflect more and more on who we are as an ACA fellowship and organization as we see with the Name Study; what kind of meetings are ACA meetings; and where is the healthy balance between an ACA meeting and our open literature policy. We have come a long way and we will continue to move forward in the decades ahead answering these questions together.

WSO service work is where we continue to heal, learn to play and make new friends around the world. We are a 46 year old program. History tells us that the ACA program was substantially strengthened

with the publishing of the BRB. With the publishing of the Loving Parent Guidebook (LPG), we are the first generation of ACA members integrating the “Loving Parent” principles into our service work along with the “Suggested Commitments to Service.”

We will continue to have Board retreats with trustees, staff, committee chairs, virtually, and in person when funds allow. We are building a strong World Services team for our worldwide fellowship. We will be starting work on a new “Service ACAdeMy.” The purpose will be to develop and implement an educational service resource center for WSO that supports a positive and effective environment for WSO volunteers at all levels.

Our literature will continue to expand in all languages; we currently have 13 and we expect to have 20 languages published this next year. As of December 2023, we completed a three year project which resulted in all publications being available as ebooks, substantially increasing accessibility of our literature to our fellowship. We will be starting to create more audio books this year, beginning with the Strengthening My Recovery book (SMR). It will take many years to have all publications on audio. Your continued [7th Tradition](#) will greatly support this effort.

As we mature, we look forward to working with delegates and the ABC study to transform our Conference structure to be reflective of the collective group conscience. This can only be done with increased volunteer support for the ABC Committee from the fellowship.

We recognize large changes take time, resources and a change management plan as we transition and evolve. We can't do this alone or separately. The Board, Fellowship and Conference, will need to be unified in the best interests of our fellowship in the years ahead.

In conclusion, I would like to leave you with this thought. In four short years, our fellowship will be turning 50 years old. Let's start thinking about how we would like to celebrate this very special birthday party for our fellowship around the world for all our Adult Children. Please start talking about this with your groups and we will be offering opportunities for further discussion.

Welcome to the 2024 ABC, ACA's 37th Annual Business Conference. We look forward to hearing from you, our delegates, as to how we may continue to serve our fellowship.

Thank you again for your caring, support and service.

In Loving Unity,



Sue V.

WSO Board of Trustees Chair, on behalf of the WSO Board Members - Dove H., Jim R., Ken R., Rich R., Sue V. and Tamara P.