

[To be included in the 2023 ABC Delegate Binder]

WSO Board of Trustees Report

WSO, Purpose and Priorities: Serving the Fellowship

What is ACA WSO?

The Adult Children of Alcoholics World Service Organization (ACA WSO) is an agency created and now designated by the fellowship of ACA to maintain service for those who might be seeking, through ACA, the means for recovering from being raised in an alcoholic or otherwise dysfunctional home. The ACA WSO shall do this by using the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts of Service in its deliberations and decision-making process and use its best efforts to ensure that the traditions are maintained throughout the fellowship. (from OPPM, Section I)

Who is ACA WSO?

WSO is “Us, the ACA Fellowship”. WSO is also an incorporated nonprofit business entity with a Board of Trustees. As per the Concepts, the Conference serves as the service arm directing the “ACA WSO.”

The Board of Trustees receives feedback and takes direction from the Conference on matters of large policy and finance. The trustees, staff and volunteer committees implement these directions and manage the general operations. More will be discussed on this subject throughout the Annual Business Conference.

What is the Current ACA WSO Inc Structure:

Trustees: 7 Trustees, 5 after the 2023 ABC ratification

Staff: 8 staff and 1 consultant

Volunteers: 60 in multiple committees

Committees: 19 Standing Committees, 12 Subcommittees and 3 Studies established by the 2022 ABC.

Registered Meeting Groups: 2612 **Intergroups:** 104 **Regions:** 2

The Board is currently reviewing committee structure, including collaboration committees, with the intention of consolidating, simplifying, pausing when sufficient resources are not available, and transferring some responsibilities to staff or other committees where possible. We will work collaboratively with our committees and volunteers over the next 6-9 months as we transition.

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We will keep the delegates informed and will request guidance at the delegate meetings.

Additional information is available at [WSO-Organizational-Chart](#)

What is WSO's Purpose as per our Bylaws, Article 2:

The sole purpose is to serve the fellowship of Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACA) by maintaining service for those who might be seeking, through ACA, the means for recovering from being raised in an alcoholic or otherwise dysfunctional home.

To achieve its purpose, Article 3, ACA WSO shall:

3.1 Provide public information, meeting locations, educational material and such other services as may be deemed necessary.

3.2 To organize and provide support service to those Meetings, Intergroups, and Regions that are registered with ACA WSO and are guided by the Twelve Steps and follow the Twelve Traditions of ACA.

3.3 Convene an annual conference where consideration regarding the business of ACA WSO occurs and priorities for the coming year are discussed and implemented when/where feasible.

Our bylaws ask the Trustees to share with the Conference the business of WSO and the upcoming priorities. Additional information is available at: [ACA WSO Bylaws](#)

2023 Initial Priorities & Goals:

Priority 1: Financial & Business Stability

Goals:

- Balanced budget and/or positive bottom line.
- Continue increasing 7th tradition and recurring contributions.
- Increased Prudent Reserve.
- Publish new publications around the world.
- Effective global distribution systems for international printing of literature.
- Continue to assess staffing requirements and update the OPPM.

Priority 2: Strengthening the Conference & WSO Relationship

Goals:

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- Support the delegates in transitioning to taking on more active roles, including leadership, in the planning process and development of a World Service Conference (WSC).
- Work with the ABC study to support their efforts in suggesting a proposed structure and charter for the future.
- Continued and improved communications with delegates so they are informed of large policy and finance matters.
- Receive increased feedback and guidance from the delegates.
- Increase clarity and shared understanding of the Concepts.

Priority 3: Volunteer Recruitment, Retention & Engagement

Goals:

- Increased health and safety in service environments.
- Increased fun and engagement.
- Continue to refine complaint resolution processes.
- Increased support for WSO volunteers with orientation and training.

Priority 4: Fellowship & Public Engagement

Goals:

- Continue to provide support to groups and public outreach efforts.
- Strengthen the meeting listing directory.
- Increase engagement with intergroups and regions for mutual support.

Priority 5: Long Term Strategic WSO Business & Service Structure

Goals:

- Develop a 3-5 year plan in consultation with the Conference and the ABC study.
- Design business and service structures needed to support the worldwide fellowship and WSO organization.

Priority 6: Effective & Healthy Functioning of the Board

Goals:

- Restructure Trustee and Board responsibilities to create a healthy service workload.
- Find ways to improve turnaround time to respond to requests.
- Increase development and training opportunities on best practices for Boards and service structures, leading us to broaden and diversify our ACA culture, including diversity, leadership, and facilitation training.
- Increase the number of Trustees with diverse and international backgrounds.

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It is important to understand that each of these priorities are necessary to ensure that ACA WSO is sustainable. We will do the best we can to fulfill these priorities, slowing the pace when more resources are required. It is important that we balance the time we spend on our service, recovery and self-care so that we don't cause an overload on our volunteers or Trustees, current or future. We are building our foundation for the longer term and will provide regular updates to the delegates.

"Easy Does it" and "Progress not Perfection."

We will be asking for feedback at the 2023 ABC on the above priorities and goals.

[Large Policy and Increased Delegate Voices](#)

The Concepts reminds us that the Conference of delegates "traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance." See: [The Twelve Concepts of ACA](#)

The question for us at this moment is how to make this happen in an informed way as we transition to a fully mature Conference.

WSO will continue to bring forward large policy issues requiring guidance and direction from our Conference.

In the November, 2022, Quarterly meeting we engaged the delegates in a discussion on the 7th Tradition which was mutually beneficial. WSO reached out and asked the delegates for support to increase our 7th Tradition contributions. Our Finance Committee, Treasurer, and General Manager worked together with the Board, delegates, and groups to do this and the initial results look promising. We have a balanced 2023 budget and are hoping to see sustained contribution increases so we can invest in strengthening our organization to meet the future challenges. For example, we are building up the Prudent Reserve using the savings and investment accounts.

In 2022 we brought forward the idea of using Social Media for ACA WSO as a public outreach, many 12 step Twelve Step organizations are already doing this. At the February, 2023, Quarterly Delegate meeting we let the delegates know we were considering piloting an ACA WSO Facebook page to gather information for the delegates to make an informed decision on the use of social media at the 2023 ABC.

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As we move forward, your voices are needed on policies such as diversity, long term strategic planning, bequests, literature, etc. We are interested in what policy and principles the delegates believe need to be discussed at future Conferences.

The Board has been thinking we could create a “living document” or a “hopper”; a list of upcoming policy discussions that could be updated by both delegates and the Board. This could be posted on our conference web page and included in future agendas of delegate meetings. Perhaps the ABC Study, the Ballot Proposal Committee, and/or the ABC Committee could develop a process for delegate input and a way to prioritize the list.

In conclusion, we are a young world fellowship, filled with such promise, carrying the ACA message to so many countries in so many languages. Recently, we heard of a Japanese speaking member living in the United States expressing deep gratitude for the new Japanese Big Red Book (BRB) and Yellow Workbook (YWB) that was only possible because of our new publishing system. An Adult Child in another fellowship in France tearfully connected with the new French ebook version of the BRB and discovered a whole new world. They are starting a new ACA meeting in France to continue the journey by sharing the message with others. These are only two of many stories that reflect Tradition 5, carrying the ACA message, made possible with all of us working together.

It's been a privilege to volunteer and be part of strengthening our worldwide fellowship, our Conference and WSO. This next year ahead is filled with both hope, inspiration and challenge. With mutual respect and trust, grounded in our Commitments of Service, Traditions and Concepts there is nothing we can't accomplish together in unity. Our organization has been built by Adult Children for Adult Children with the support of delegates, volunteers, committees, staff and trustees over the years.

WSO needs more volunteers to keep up the momentum. Consider doing more service from the “heart” for ACA at all levels. It is a great place to practice and strengthen our ACA recovery, not to mention all the new healthy friends you will meet around the world. There is a lot of support and fun for our volunteers. Please join us! For more information see: [Contribute-your-time](#)