

*[To be included in the 2023 ABC Delegate Binder]*

## **A Letter from the Board of Trustees Chairperson**

Dear Delegates,

I write this letter as a humble Adult Child on behalf of the Board, grateful for the trust in the 2022 ABC delegates in ratifying us to the WSO Board. Thank you. We are doing our best to serve our worldwide fellowship and delegates following your direction through the Conference, the Concepts, Traditions, and Commitment to Service.

*I want to express gratitude and appreciation for all the current and former Trustees of the ACA World Service Organization (WSO). These humble volunteers have given from their heart and gifted us their precious hours to support our groups in so many ways. Thank you.*

### **Appreciation of General Manager and Staff**

*We are fortunate to have hard working and talented staff that are committed to our World Service, often donating many hours of service beyond those for which they are paid. They are our rock. Thank you.*

### **Appreciation of WSO Committees & Service Volunteers**

*We are grateful and inspired by our current and past volunteers, some of whom have been providing service for many years and tirelessly share their service experience, strength, and hope on a daily basis. We would not be able to provide support to our groups and delegates without them. Thank you.*

### **Appreciation of Delegates**

*We are appreciative of our current and past delegates for representing their group's voice. Yours and your group's voices are the foundation of our fellowship, Conference and World Service Organization. Thank you.*

**Looking at our past:** WSO is at an interesting point in our history. We were incorporated as a World Service in 1987 and this is our 36th Annual Business Conference (ABC). We have come a long way over the years. We experienced amazing growth in the 80's, published ACA literature by Adult Children for Adult Children in 2006, and again in 2020 experienced amazing growth with an International expansion in the wake of the global pandemic.

We have also experienced many challenges over the years; externally, in the late 90s, with shrinking groups before the Big Red Book (BRB) was published in 2006; internally, with the initial development of the WSO organizational structure and the Annual Business Conference. Everyone was doing their best. Our BRB guides us to remember to do our work with the attitude of progress, not perfection, and easy does it. We are both celebrating what has worked well and learning more about what is needed.

**Looking at our last year:** It has been both rewarding and challenging at the same time. Challenging, with the volume of requests and limited resources, increasing concerns from volunteers who were feeling unsafe in providing service at the 2022 ABC and in our WSO service committees, increased requests from groups for service and literature support, increased delegate meeting support with quarterlies, and managing a budget deficit in 2022.

Rewarding, too, as we needed to discover new ways to provide support for the fellowship, delegates, committees and staff. In 2022, the delegates voted to increase delegate meetings and the quarterly meetings started. At first the delegates worked on the overflow of work from the 2022 ABC, but moved on to start discussing matters of large policy and finance. We are excited and inspired to see our Conference develop, by delegates for delegates. We are here to support this next stage of development in our evolving structure.

ACA literature is foundational to our recovery and we have made great strides to bring more literature to our worldwide fellowship. We have unprecedented access to digital ACA recovery publications in many countries. In 2020, we only had two ebooks in English. In 2023, we will have increased to 21 ebooks in 10 languages. We also went from 20 printed books in 9 languages to 31 printed books in 14 languages.

We have started a WSO Health and Safety Advisory group to unify and increase health and safety for our volunteers. Our Volunteer Resources Committee has started welcoming and supporting our new volunteers and has created a playful space for fun and support.

The Board has also been challenged with losing valued board members due to health issues and service workload. We are creating new ways to work within the board by delegating responsibilities to the Executive Committee, Collaboration Committees, and staff whenever reasonably possible. We are looking at multiple ways of reducing the service workload to more manageable levels for current and future Trustees.

**Looking to our future:** At this time, as more challenges surface, we need additional volunteers, staff, and Trustees to keep up the momentum. At the same time, we are working to consolidate and simplify our service committee structure. We have great hope and confidence in our Adult Children Fellowship, Conference of delegates and World Service Organization. This is a turning point as we cooperatively, collaboratively, and with great curiosity work on our future with delegates, committees, staff and Trustees on behalf of our fellowship.

We will be discussing the WSO's priorities for the coming year in our Board report on day 1 of the ABC, as the Bylaws request us to do, and we will be requesting your feedback. On day 2 of the ABC, we will start discussing your ideas on how to increase our delegate voices in developing and updating our policies. This is only the start of many discussions to come in the future as we evolve together.

Welcome to the 2023 ABC, ACA's 36th Annual Business Conference. This is your meeting! 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 and service.



Sue V.

WSO Board of Trustees Chair, on behalf of the WSO Board Members - Bradford H., Charlie H., Dove H., Fredrik H., Erin D. and Tamara P.

