

OPPM

OPERATING POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

This is a living document and is continuously being updated. Look under the Quick Links section at www.acawso.org for the most recent copy.

Includes the Corporate ByLaws

As of November 22, 2024



ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS WORLD SERVICE ORGANIZATION, INC. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Note: Revisions to this document made since the October 2012 update are either footnoted or are referenced in the Change Log at the end of this document.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose of ACA WSO

The sole purpose of the Adult Children of Alcoholics World Service Organization (ACA WSO) is to serve the Fellowship of Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACA). It 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, through sharing information and experiences with one another and by applying to their own lives, in whole or in part, the Twelve Steps, which constitute the recovery program upon which ACA is founded. (See [Bylaw II](#))

The ACA WSO shall do this by using the 12 Traditions and the 12 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.

The ACA WSO shall consist of a Board of Trustees (hereafter referred to as the Board) for the purpose of complying with the laws of the State of California, which require a membership corporation to be composed of members. The Board will have all the powers provided for in its bylaws, including selection of Trustees recommended by the Nominating Committee, the selection of officers of the Board as well as responsibilities for disposition of corporate assets. This is all done in the service of the purposes to which the ACA WSO is dedicated.

A member of the Board is subject to the laws of the State of California and is expected to exercise the powers vested in them by law in a manner consonant with the faith that permeates and guides the fellowship of ACA, inspired by the 12 Steps and in accordance with the 12 Traditions and the 12 Concepts of Service.

The ACA WSO may set up new corporate bodies to serve the purposes of ACA, provided that the ACA WSO shall own all of the capital stock of such corporate bodies, and if such corporate body is a membership corporation, its structure shall be in keeping with that of the ACA/WSO. The ACA WSO is expected to refrain from forming any new corporate body if a majority of the fellowship shall disapprove of its formation.

So that the ACA WSO Board may more effectively serve the purposes for which it is formed, an Executive Committee shall automatically be formed, solely consisting of all Officers of the Board, and furthermore that the Board of Trustees shall form any other committees as necessary to carry out its purposes, maintain an office, or storage space, for the archives and ACA WSO equipment, and conduct an Annual Business Conference (ABC).

B. Brief History

In 1983 the Adult Children of Alcoholics groups voted to establish a permanent Central Service Board (CSB) to act as trusted servant to the fellowship of the emerging ACA, responsible for implementation of service activities, and required to report their activities on a regular basis to all affiliated ACA meetings. They found and established immediately a phone and office staffed by ACA to serve as a center for communications and service work.

In 1984, at a Business Conference, groups voted to establish ACA as an autonomous

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Twelve-Step, Twelve-Tradition organization. It was voted to request the CSB to act as the World Service office on an interim basis (IWSO). It was agreed that any and all materials to be distributed to the general fellowship on a regular basis, must be submitted to the CSB/IWSO for review and acceptance prior to any such distribution.

It was determined that the CSB/IWSO would not create an 'Emeritus Status' for CSB/IWSO Trustees.

In 1989, by Ballot, the fellowship voted for the CSB/IWSO to be discontinued and the Trustees continue to serve as the ACA Interim World Service Organization (ACA/IWSO).

In 1990 the fellowship determined that "Interim" be dropped and the ACA/IWSO, by Ballot, became the World Service Organization (WSO) for ACA in 1991.

The principal office of the corporation, for the transaction of its business, is located in Los Angeles County, California. The corporation may also have offices at such other places, within or without the State of California, where it is qualified to do business as its business may require and as the members of the ACA WSO may designate. The Corporate Seal is kept within the ACA WSO office locked files along with its tax-exempt number.

The ACA WSO Board, in its deliberations and decisions, shall be guided by the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts of ACA and group conscience. The ACA WSO Board shall use its best efforts to ensure that these Traditions and Concepts are maintained, for it is regarded by the fellowship of ACA as the custodian of these Traditions and, accordingly, it shall not itself, nor, so far as it is within its power to do so, permit others to modify, alter or amplify these Traditions, except in keeping with the provisions of the ACA ABC.

ACA WSO Board members function as Trustees of the ACA fellowship. In accordance with Tradition Two, the Board may act for the service of ACA; it shall never perform any acts of government.

C. Articles of Incorporation and ByLaws

The Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are separate publications.

The ACA WSO is registered in the State of California and established as a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation. These documents and any corporate Seal shall be kept in a locked file within the ACA WSO office or a Safety Deposit Box.

See Appendix VI for links to the Articles of Incorporation and the ByLaws.

D. OPPM Purpose

The Operating Policy and Procedure Manual (OPPM) will determine the everyday working policies of the ACA WSO. Policies and procedures must be in keeping with the current Bylaws.

Rev. Motion No. 06139802

This Policy Guide has been put together combining the appropriate bylaws and past motions of

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the Board of Trustees and the ABCs. It was accepted into use at the 1992 Annual Business Conference and in 1995. The OPPM was revised in 2010 by the ACA WSO Board of Trustees and contains the day to day operating guidelines by which the Board and Annual Business Conference shall function. It was partially revised in 2012. Newer updates are footnoted and/or included in the Change Log at the end of this document.

Each Trustee shall be responsible for knowing the current policy or procedure, and updating the manual as required, either by downloading the current version from the forum where it is posted, or by keeping a paper copy and adding footnotes to it where necessary to keep it current.

All proposed revisions of the Bylaws, OPPM or other legal documentation be presented in completed form with the suggested deletions be indicated by reduced pitch, italics, and additions be indicated by bold italic characters. The approved motion number as the update code. ***Rev.***
Motion No. 04259704

II. WSO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A. General

The number of individuals seated on the ACA WSO Board shall not exceed 20 at any one time.

Such individuals, hereinafter referred to as Trustees, shall be members of the ACA fellowship.

Trustees shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or other obligations of the corporation. (Bylaw IV.4)

Trustees shall have all the powers provided in the bylaws and which are normally vested in the "Board of Directors" under the laws of the State of California. Trustees may, by general resolution, delegate to committees or to officers of the ACA WSO specific responsibilities as the Board deems appropriate.

B. Responsibilities

The general responsibilities of the Trustees are to:

1. Exercise the powers vested in them by the laws of the State of California, in a manner consistent with the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of ACA, and in keeping with the directives of the ACA Annual Business Conference (ABC).
2. Contribute significant time in order to perform the service required. This is further explained in the "Qualifications for Board Membership" section below.
3. Perform any and all responsibilities and duties imposed on them collectively or individually by law, the Articles of Incorporation, and/or the Bylaws.
4. Fulfill the following standard duties of a Trustee: *
 - a. **Duty of Care** — Each board member has a legal responsibility to participate actively in making decisions on behalf of the organization and to exercise their best judgment while doing so.
 - b. **Duty of Loyalty** — Each board member must put the interests of the organization before their personal and professional interests when acting on behalf of the organization in a decision-making capacity. The organization's needs come first.
 - c. **Duty of Obedience** — Board members bear the legal responsibility of ensuring that

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the organization complies with the applicable federal, state, and local laws and adheres to its mission.

*Source: [Boardsource.org - Legal-duties-nonprofit-board-members](https://boardsource.org/legal-duties-nonprofit-board-members)

5. Provide oversight and accountability for the organization by ensuring that the organization is appropriately stewarding the resources entrusted to it and following all legal and ethical standards.

This includes managing the employment of executive level employees, including fixing their compensation based on WSO's Compensation Policy and ensuring they are appropriately fulfilling their assigned responsibilities.

6. Maintain transparency with the ACA Fellowship regarding large matters of policy and finance.
7. Read and be familiar with the content of this document (OPPM) and, until they become incorporated into the whole, be aware of any policy motions that are passed by the Board that impact this document.
8. Ensure that the Board Secretary has current contact information at all times, i.e. address, phone, email, and an emergency contact person.

C. Compensation

Per the ACA WSO Conflict of Interest Policy that all Trustees are required to sign, (see Appendix VIII) Trustees may not be compensated for rendering services to the corporation as a trustee. Trustees shall, however, receive reimbursement for approved expenses incurred in the performance of their regular duties, e.g., travel related costs, legal verification documentation, etc..

D. ACA WSO Property

Trustees entrusted with any property of WSO, whether tangible or intangible, shall exercise exemplary care in utilization of such items/information during their period of service.

No person shall interpret WSO property entrusted to their care as their personal property.

Within two weeks of the end of their Board tenure or tenure in an officer role, Trustees shall return all such property to the Board Secretary or to the next individual filling that role. In the case of any additions being made to Board property that incurs financial costs, prior approval is necessary and receipts must be provided for reimbursement.

Additionally, upon notification by the Board at any other time and for cause, a Trustee may be asked to return WSO property. This may be done by certified mail or via email after a majority decision is made by the Board, or during an in-person or teleconference meeting of the Board at which a quorum is present. Such property shall be promptly returned (within 10 business days) to ACA WSO by turning it over to a designated member of the Board or if requested, ensuring delivery to the ACA WSO office.

E. Correspondence

To ensure that necessary records and documents, paper or electronic, are adequately protected and maintained as determined by the Board and in keeping with the laws of the State of California, the issue of correspondence will follow the guidelines of the ACA WSO Document

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Retention Policy (See Appendix III - Records Retention Schedule).

When answering correspondence directed to the Board, Trustees may only respond as directed to do so by Board consensus, or as required by their officer role. If a Trustee wishes to share their personal knowledge and recovery, they may do so, as long as it is made clear that it is their personal experience. This guideline applies whether the communication is by email or an online forum used by the Board and the Fellowship participation.

Trustees must use their WSO trustee and/or officer email accounts when corresponding in their role as a Trustee/Officer and ensure significant correspondence is documented in the board repository/share drive. Also, a Trustee should forward any emails they receive that are intended for the entire board to the Secretary for distribution. Any paper correspondence should be forwarded to the Board Secretary who will manage it according to the Document Retention Policy.

Any correspondence generated or intended for distribution beyond the workings of the Board, e.g., general announcements to all ACA groups, must be reviewed by the Board, or designated subset of the Board, for purpose of policy, procedure and Tradition consistency.

F. Categories of Trustees and Composition

There are two categories of Trustees:

1. At Large – from the general fellowship,
2. Regional (see subsectionSection III-L K.below)

In alignment with the ACA Diversity Statement, the goal is for the Board to be diverse and inclusive to reflect the diverse global communities we serve. With this in mind, not more than two trustees should be from the same geographical location.

Note: It is suggested that, when possible, there be at least two Trustees who reside outside of North America, whether they are At Large or Regional Trustees.

G. Term of Service

A single term of service of a Trustee shall be two (2) years. Trustees are eligible to serve a maximum of three (3) such terms of service.

Other than the commencement of service at an ABC, Trustees will begin their terms of service on the day they are installed on the Board. For example, if a Trustee is installed on February 1, 2019, their two-year term will end on January 31, 2021. If they remain on the Board for their full three terms, their service as a Trustee will end on January 31, 2025.

For Trustee's who start their term of service starts at an ABC, their official start time will be on the day when Trustee ratifications are confirmed (see "Fellowship Ratification" below). Such terms will end at the same point two years hence at the ABC, no matter the date of that ABC. Please note that Board members may resign from the Board at any time, per subsection O.2 below.

H. Fellowship Ratification of Board Members

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Delegates are asked to ratify all new and continuing Trustees during the ABC. The Chair of the Nominating Committee (NomCom) will facilitate this process.

New and continuing Trustees are officially ratified after Worldwide Online Voting takes place and the minority opinion is heard and processed. At this point, Trustees whose term ends at the ABC officially leave the Board. The new Board is at this point officially installed.

I. Vacation, Leave of Absence, and Self-Care

Self-care is an important part of ACA, and all Trustees should honor their need for rest, renewal, and personal recovery. This should include time off for all Trustees.

Because time off for any individual Trustee affects others, all Trustees should communicate any planned absences to the greatest extent possible. The Board recognizes that in some circumstances, such as a sudden medical emergency, a Trustee may not be able to communicate with the Board.

Trustees are expected to attend the Annual Business Conference (ABC). Any leave or vacation that conflicts with the ABC must be approved in advance by the Board. The Board, in turn, will strive to honor bona fide emergencies and grant leave when needed, even during the ABC.

1. Self-Care

In all aspects of this policy, the prevailing value should be individual and group self-care. Trustees should be open to reasonable accommodations to support other Trustees taking leave or vacation, while setting appropriate limits if essential board functions are compromised. Likewise, Trustees taking leave or vacation may be adding to the workload of fellow Trustees and should manage and communicate about a pending absence in ways that reduces any burden to others.

2. Vacation

- a) Trustees should generally plan to take up to four weeks of vacation from Board work annually. Vacations are defined as a temporary but substantial withdrawal from normal Board activity.
- b) Trustees should be protective of their vacation and rest time, but they may choose to periodically monitor Slack channels and engage in light Board tasks and communication. Except in emergencies, Trustees are not expected to attend Board- or committee-related meetings while on vacation.
- c) If a vacation requires a Trustee to miss a Working Session, Board Meeting with the Fellowship, strategic planning session, or other significant Board event, they will give the Board as much advance notice as possible.

3. Leave of Absence

- a) Leave is defined as a temporary separation from the Board.
- b) Where possible, leave plans should be submitted to the Board in writing, and include a beginning and ending date. Those seeking leave are encouraged to give at least a general reason for their request, while respecting the Trustee's need for privacy about specifics.
- c) A Trustee may declare a leave of up to six weeks at one time without Board approval. Additional leave must be requested in writing and approved in advance by a Board vote.
- d) Trustees may take leave more than once. In any given year, maximum allowed leave is 12 weeks, unless the Board approves additional leave time. A maximum of six months' total

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leave may be granted to a Trustee over multiple years, unless the Board grants additional leave time.

- e) Trustees taking leave should, if possible, make themselves available on a limited basis for up to a week to make sure that all necessary handoffs of duties are completed smoothly. This should include providing the Board (as much as possible) with a list of committees and other projects that the Trustee is currently working on.
- f) Once all major handoffs are complete, a Trustee on leave should be removed from Slack channels accessed only by Trustees.
- g) If a Board officer takes leave, the officer's position is considered vacated for the duration of the leave. In the event of a Board officer's leave or vacation, the Board may choose to appoint an interim officer to perform duties normally assigned to the officer.

J. Commitment to Service

All members of the Board shall agree to comply with, and be bound by, all terms and provisions of the ACA WSO bylaws as well as the policies and procedures as set forth in this document. As a condition of service, and prior to their election to the Board, potential Trustees shall sign the ACA WSO Suggested Commitment to Service. A copy of this document may either be obtained from the Board Secretary or downloaded from the WSO website. It is also shown on pages 601 and 602 in our fellowship text (BRB).

If a Board candidate is unwilling to sign this document, they must send a statement to the Board explaining their objection. If the Board determines that the reason does not violate the Traditions and is not otherwise objectionable, said statement will be published on the website Repository. This will allow the Fellowship to view such statement and ask questions prior to their election to the Board.

K. Board Nominating Committee

1. Origin

The NomCom was formed by Board motion in 2017 to replace the process of the Board selecting Trustees and/or Trustees being nominated from the floor of the ABC. At that time there were no published qualifications for Board membership. With the creation of the NomCom, specific qualifications were established that focused on ACA recovery, service experience, and emotional sobriety. After the 2017 ABC, Board nominations from the floor were no longer accepted due to the new NomCom vetting process.

2. Purpose and Goals

- a) Purpose - to identify and vet (review the credentials of) ACA members from the worldwide fellowship who are interested in serving as Board members. The Committee is responsible for forwarding qualified candidates (nominees) to the Board for consideration and selection as Trustees.
- b) Goals:
 - 1) To represent the fellowship's broad values by making the nomination and vetting process fair and transparent.
 - 2) To present candidates to the Board who can capably carry out the WSO's business and service needs.
 - 3) To remain aware of the benefits of having a Board from diverse backgrounds.
 - 4) To work with the Board to identify specialized needs that WSO has, such as financial

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or other business oversight, in the event potential candidates may have those skills/background.

3. Committee Membership and Participation

The NomCom will consist of up to five members, including one member from outside of the U.S. and Canada, when possible. NomCom members will be eligible for three two-year terms.

Trustees are not eligible to be on the NomCom until after they have been off of the Board for at least one year. Likewise, former NomCom members are not eligible for Board membership until after they have been off of the NomCom for at least one year.

In the event there are not enough NomCom members available to vet Board and NomCom candidates, due to their valued experience with the process, previous NomCom members may be asked to fill-in. However, they will not be considered a voting member of the NomCom during that time.

Due to the confidential nature of the work done in this committee, and unlike other Committees of the Board, NomCom meetings are not open to anyone outside of the NomCom and the Board Liaison.

It is expected that one NomCom representative will attend each ABC.

4. Membership Qualifications for the NomCom

In addition to such spiritual qualities as humility, integrity, trustworthiness, and strong commitment to open communication, to help ensure that NomCom members have a full awareness and understanding of Board requirements, the following are qualifications for nomination and election to the NomCom:

- a) Continuous attendance at ACA meetings for at least the previous five years;
- b) One or more years of active service on a WSO committee to help ensure an understanding of the ACA service structure;
- c) Attended at least two WSO Board Meetings with the Fellowship within the previous 12 month;
- d) A working knowledge of the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts of Service, as well as a grounded understanding of the value of the group conscience process;
- e) May not hold a high-level volunteer position in another 12-Step fellowship;
- f) Demonstrated skill at working in a group setting and completing projects;
- g) Ability to donate substantial time to perform the NomCom responsibilities, including the following
 - 1) Attend monthly and other 'as needed' NomCom meetings;
 - 2) Attend meetings with the Board on a quarterly basis and otherwise if necessary;
 - 3) Participate in all aspects of the candidate vetting process as described in the General Duties section above and shown in the WSO Nominating Process flowchart at the end of this Appendix.
- h) Willingness to abide by and sign the Commitment to Service, the WSO Conflict of Interest Policy, and the Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA);
- i) Agreement to protect confidential information gained during the candidate evaluation process; this agreement extends beyond the time of the member's service on this committee;
- j) Demonstrated emotional sobriety and effectiveness in the face of conflict, e.g.,

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- respectfully honoring minority opinions;
- k) Strong organizational and communication skills.

Note: The Nominating Committee can ask the Board to consider exceptions to these desired qualifications. Such a request, and the reason for the exception, will be submitted in writing to the Board.

See Appendix IV for specific details about how the NomCom functions.

If there is a discrepancy between information in this section and Appendix IV, the most recently updated information will apply.

L. Qualifications for Board Membership

The following are the desired qualifications that Board candidates should meet before being considered for the position of Trustee. This applies to both At Large and Regional candidates:

1. Continuous attendance at ACA meetings for at least the previous five years.
2. One or more years of active service on a WSO Committee to help ensure an understanding of the ACA service structure.
3. Attendance on at least two WSO Board Meetings with the Fellowship within the previous 12 months.
4. Working knowledge of ACA's Steps, Traditions and Concepts of Service, as well as a grounded understanding of the value of the group conscience process.
5. May not hold a high level volunteer position in another 12-Step Fellowship.
6. Demonstrated skill at working in a group setting and completing projects.
7. Ability to donate substantial time to perform Board responsibilities that minimally includes the following:
 - a. Attend at least two Board meetings per month.
 - b. Attend the yearly ABC and AWC.
 - c. Attend the Board's annual Strategic Planning meeting/training retreats.
 - d. Maintain communication with other Trustees as necessary to complete commitments (via email, telephone, and other web-based communication platforms)
 - e. Fulfill any additional commitments of Board membership as deemed necessary.
8. Willingness to abide by and sign the WSO Commitment to Service, WSO Conflict of Interest Policy, and the Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA).
9. Agreement to protect confidential information gained during the course of doing Board work; this agreement extends beyond the time of service on the Board.
10. Demonstrated emotional sobriety and effectiveness in the face of conflict, e.g. respectfully honoring minority opinions.
11. Strong organizational and communication skills.

Note: The Nominating Committee can ask the Board to consider exceptions to these desired qualifications. Such a request, and the reason for the exception, will be submitted in writing to the Board.

M. Regional Trustees

A Regional Trustee can be elected to the Board when a vacancy is available and the candidate

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has been properly presented to the Nominating Committee for consideration.

It is recognized that a Regional Trustee is essentially serving two groups simultaneously, i.e., ACA WSO and their Region. While it should be self-evident about the differences in these roles, the following general guidance is offered to help avoid confusion.

1. When doing general Board work and committee work, which includes attending WSO Board meetings, the Regional Trustee is serving the entire ACA Fellowship rather than one geographical region. This Trustee is, therefore, directly responsible to the entire ACA Fellowship.
2. The Regional Trustee will represent both the minority and majority concerns of those in their Region to the Board. When they become a Trustee, it is understood that their Region accepts on faith that they may have information available to them that perhaps the Region does not have nor will be given, and therefore the Regional Trustee is expected to act in service to ACA WSO to the best of their ability.

N. Board Norms of Conduct

Norms of Conduct were created to help encourage respect and civility in WSO interactions. See Appendix XI. (Motion 2019-0112-07 and Motion 2020-0813)

O. Impeachment/Removal, Resignation, Vacancy

1. Impeachment/Removal

In keeping with the Commitment to Service, any Trustee, whether At Large or Regional, may be removed by request or cause. Tradition violations, working outside the boundaries of the Policies and Procedures as set forth in this document or that have become common practice before being added to this document, abuse of fiscal responsibility, or other action seen as adverse to the operation of the Board or in service to the Fellowship, as determined by the majority of the members of the body (the Board or ABC) will serve as just cause.

A Trustee who shall be absent from three (3) consecutive regular monthly meetings of the Board, without notice to the Board, shall automatically be removed from the Board unless such absences are due to emergency situations for which the Board declares exceptions

Absence by a Trustee from four (4) out of 12 monthly meetings is cause for concern and the Trustee will be put on notice.

The Board may declare a Trustee's office vacant who has been declared of unsound mind by a final order of a court, conviction of a felony, or been found by a final order or judgment of any court to have breached any duty under Section 5230 and following the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law.

Action for removal may be taken up at any Board meeting in keeping with meeting requirements.

If a Regional Trustee is removed from or wishes to leave the Board, the Region they represent will be notified as soon as possible. In such cases, only a non-confidential reason for termination will be included in any documentation and thus stated in the notification to the Region. Upon request, the Board will have a confidential call with the Region's officers to communicate anything that should not be released as public information.

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The Region may then present a suitable replacement to the Nominating Committee.

2. Resignations

Any Trustee may resign, either effective immediately or effective at a later specified time, upon giving written notice to either the Executive Committee, or the full Board. However, no Trustee may resign if the corporation would then be left without a duly elected Trustee or Trustees in charge of its affairs, except upon notice to the Attorney General of the State of California.

3. Vacancy

If this Corporation has vacancies on the Board created by the removal or resignation of a Trustee, such a Vacancy may be filled through the nomination process.

P. Board Meetings

1. Meeting Notice

The Board Secretary will notify Trustees of the date, time, and venue for all meetings of the Board of Trustees and any changes to meeting schedules.

All Trustees must ensure that the Board Secretary has current contact information at all times, i.e. address, phone, email, and an emergency contact person.

2. Types of Board Meetings

- a. **Board Meeting with the Fellowship:** These meetings are held quarterly on the WSO online communication platform. If, due to extenuating circumstances, a meeting cannot be held as scheduled, the Board will reschedule as soon as practical. The Board Secretary will be responsible for having a prominent notice of the change placed on the websites.

Such meetings are intentionally open to the Fellowship to maintain transparency relating to WSO Operations, Committees, and the Board.

The agenda is generally posted at least three (3) days prior to the meeting. New items of business, including motions, may be added to the Agenda by Trustees with majority agreement of the Board members present during the meeting.

At designated times throughout the meeting, the Fellowship is invited to ask questions or make comments about the topic at hand. As time allows, there may also be an opportunity for additional questions and comments after the close of the official agenda. In addition, members can send questions and comments via email to the Board Secretary, the General Manager, and Committee Chairs.

- b. **Board Working Sessions:** These sessions are held each month, both on a scheduled and as needed basis. These Board member sessions are held for the purpose of conducting Fellowship and Corporate business. Voting may only take place if a quorum of the Board is present. To help ensure well-informed decision-making, when the Board would benefit from having additional information on the topic at hand, key stakeholders may be invited to segments of these meetings. Motions passed from such meetings will be publicly posted on the WSO website each month for the record.

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- c. **Emergency Executive Committee Meetings:** In such cases as may be necessary for the purpose of conducting Fellowship and corporate business, the officers may call an emergency meeting to handle a critical item. All Board members will be invited to attend these meetings as well. Any Board member not present will be informed immediately of any action taken.
- d. **Strategic Planning Meetings:** As often as is deemed feasible and practical, at least twice a year, the Board will meet for this purpose, according to good governance practices. If feasible and practical, the Board will meet in person. When this is not possible, virtual meetings will be held.
- e. **Executive Sessions:** When a matter is considered sensitive/confidential in nature, an executive session will be called that will not be recorded, nor will minutes be required except noting topic and next steps, if applicable. These sessions are only held with at least a quorum of the Board or a quorum of the officers if it is an Executive Committee meeting. Examples of such meeting topics are sensitive personnel matters or discussions about items that may have legal ramifications.

3. Board Meeting Protocol

Decisions are made by the group conscience of those Trustees present at any meeting where a quorum is present.

Before a decision is made, all efforts will be made to ensure that relevant information and recommendations are available to help inform the decision. After all relevant material is considered, a vote of yay or nay will be given. Minority opinion will always be given the opportunity to be heard.

Robert's Rules of Order will be used as a guide whenever a procedural issue occurs that is not covered by the Bylaws, the Traditions, or this document.

4. Quorum

A quorum of the Board is necessary for any regular motions to be considered and voted on by the Board. Quorum is generally defined as a simple majority of the eligible participants. An exception to this rule is that a change in any ByLaws requires a quorum of 75%.

Any meeting at which a quorum is not present may still be held for the purpose of providing updates, or it may be adjourned. The only motion that the Chair may entertain at a meeting lacking quorum is a motion to adjourn.

In the case of Board Meetings with the Fellowship, if a quorum of the Board is present and the meeting is held, time will be provided for fellowship questions and comments. If a quorum of the board is not present and the meeting is not held (adjourned), notice will be placed on the website as soon as possible to inform the Fellowship of the reason it was not held.

Once a quorum is established, if it is known that one or more Trustees will have to leave early, thereby causing the meeting to lose quorum, motions should be entertained first in the agenda.

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5. Board Motions

The Board may pass motions at any time for the sake of efficiently conducting the business of ACA WSO.

To maintain transparency for the fellowship, all motions passed by the Board, except those to approve the minutes of a previous meeting, must become part of the official record posted on the website. The Board Secretary will ensure that all motions passed for the previous month are added to the Book of Motions for the year and the updated Book of Motions is published each month for the record.

Motions passed by the Board can emanate from a Trustee or a Committee.

- a. Motions passed outside of a Board meeting are designated as “specific concurrence motions” and are voted on via unanimous written consent.
 - i. The Secretary or Assistant to the Board Secretary will monitor that all Trustees vote on the motion.
 - ii. The Trustee presenting the motion is considered to be the one who made the motion. Because these are online motions, a second Trustee must second the motion before it can be discussed and/or voted on.
 - iii. Any Trustee may request that there be a discussion on the motion presented. The motion will then be moved to an upcoming Board Meeting or online discussion.
 - iv. A written record of the specific concurrence motions passed are stored in the Board files along with the Board Meeting minutes. They are also included in the published Book of Motions updated each month.
- b. Recalling or amending previously passed motions:
 - i. If a motion has been passed but has not been acted upon, a new motion must be created to recall the original motion. Both motions will then reference each other in the Book of Motions.
 - ii. If a previously passed motion is to be amended, a new motion must be made and both motions notated.

6. Voting

When the proper quorum or majority is present, every act or decision made by a majority of the Trustees present at a meeting duly held is the act of the Board.

The minority voice is important and ought to be recognized at all times. Yet once an issue has been decided, it is expected that all Trustees will accept the decision and go forward in compliance with it.

a. Absentee Voting

A Trustee who will be absent from a Board meeting due to mitigating circumstances or compelling limitations may vote by absentee ballot. Such Trustees will inform the Board Secretary by email of their vote on agenda motions.

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However, if the absentee vote is cast before those present vote on the motion, and such motion is substantially modified during the meeting, the absentee vote will not be counted for a substantially modified motion. The Trustees have the option of holding over a vote on the modified motion to include the absentee voter on the modification. They will also hold over a vote on the modified motion if there is a difference of opinion among Trustees about what constitutes a substantial modification on a motion and a quorum vote cannot be reached.

b. Substantial Unanimity

When substantial unanimity is required, agreement of 75% of the members of the full Board is needed.

7. Board Agreements – Group Consensus

The Board sometimes addresses issues that only require agreement rather than a formal motion e.g., asking the Board for permission to get bids on a project. In such cases, a group consensus is sufficient, meaning that majority agreement is required.

III. BOARD OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A. General

The Officers of the Board are referred to as the Executive Committee (EC) and shall consist of the following Corporate Officers: Chairperson, one or two Vice Chairpersons, Secretary, and Treasurer.

1. Powers and Authority

The Board shall delegate to the EC any of the powers and authority of the Board in the management of business and affairs of the corporation, except said committee may not by itself:

- a. Approve of any action, which, under law or WSO Corporate ByLaws, requires the approval of the proper majority of the full Board.
- b. Fill vacancies on the Board.
- c. Amend or repeal existing ByLaws or adopt new ByLaws.
- d. Amend or repeal a resolution of the Board.
- e. Create committees of the Board.
- f. Approve a transaction to which this Corporation is a party and in which one or more of the Trustees has a material financial interest.

By majority vote of its members, the Board may at any time revoke or modify any or all of the authority so delegated to this Committee.

The EC shall be responsible for ensuring that all other committees of the Board are complying with their responsibilities.

The EC shall schedule at least two meetings each month at an agreed-upon time. Other Board members are welcome to attend if they wish. Minutes of proceedings and actions will be kept. Unless the information is covered in the general Board reports, quarterly EC reports must be submitted for posting on the Service website prior to the Board's Meetings with the Fellowship.

Trustees shall select officers from amongst themselves to meet the lawful requirements of the

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State of California and comply with customary corporation terminology.

The officers of this corporation shall be: Chairperson, one or two Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer.

A single Trustee may hold more than one office, except that the Chairperson may not hold any additional officer positions. (Bylaw IV.7) Per California code, there must be at least three officers in place at all times.

Even though certain outside entities require WSO to execute legal documents that may refer to the Chairperson as President or Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or to the Treasurer as Chief Financial Officer (CFO), such terminology may not be used within our fellowship when describing those roles.

Officer titles shall not be used by such officers except when conducting ACA WSO business.

Officers shall hold office until the end of the stated term, unless they resign, are removed, or are otherwise disqualified to serve. Trustees may be elected to a partial term if their tenure as a Board member ends during that full term of office.

B. Term of Service

The term for Board officer positions shall be one year, from July 1 through June 30 (Bylaw IV.9). Officers may be elected to a maximum of three full terms per officer role. If an officer is initially elected mid-term and serves more than six months, they may be elected to a maximum of two additional full terms.

C. Elections

The Board will elect officers after the Annual Business Conference and by June 30 of each year. Replacement officer elections will take place as needed.

A simple majority of Trustees must be present for the election of an officer. If there are three or more candidates for a specific office and none of them gets a majority, a second vote will be held. The two candidates with the highest number of votes in the second round will proceed to a third vote. Any candidate may withdraw before an additional vote is held.

The order of annual elections will start with the chair, followed by vice chair(s), treasurer, and secretary.

As the election is held for each office, all candidates for that office will be asked to leave the meeting while the remaining Board members hold discussions and the election for that office is completed.

The Board Chair is responsible for ensuring that elections are conducted appropriately, but must delegate the coordination responsibility for any office for which they are a candidate.

D. Replacement of Officers

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In the event of a vacancy in any office other than that of Chairperson, such vacancy should be filled temporarily by appointment by the Chairperson until such time as the Board shall fill the vacancy. As long as there are three sitting Officers, the Board has the discretion to not fill an officer vacancy if circumstances dictate, such as the proximity of the vacancy to the next election of officers.

Any replacement Officer elected by the Board will be responsible to serve only the remainder of the term of office to which they are elected.

If a replacement Officer serves less than six months of someone else's term, they are then eligible to run for three full terms of their own.

E. Resignation or Removal of Officers

An officer may resign from their office at any time by giving written notice to the Board or to the Chairperson or Secretary of the Board. Resignation as an officer does not mean a resignation from the Board, unless that is their intention.

A Trustee may be removed from their officer position for failure to fulfill their responsibilities, as outlined in the OPPM.

F. Duties of Officers

1. Chairperson

The Chairperson (Chair) shall be the chief executive officer of the corporation and shall, subject to the guiding principles of ACA WSO, supervise and guide the affairs of the corporation and the activities of the officers.

Other specific duties are as follows:

- a. Perform all duties generally attributable by law and custom to such office as may be required by the laws of the State of California, by the Articles of Incorporation and ByLaws of this corporation, or duties which may also be prescribed by the Board.
- b. Chair all meetings of the Board. If the Chair is not in attendance, the Vice-Chair shall preside. If the Chair and Vice-Chair are unable to preside, the remaining Trustees will select which Trustee in attendance will chair the meeting. Optionally, the Chair may choose to rotate this role among the Trustees.
- c. Execute all legal documents in the name of the corporation, including contracts and other instruments that may be authorized by the Board, except as otherwise expressly provided by law, the Articles of Incorporation, or the Bylaws.

2. Vice Chairperson

In the absence of the Chair or in the event the Chair is unable to act or chooses not to act, the Vice Chairperson (Vice Chair) shall perform all duties of the Chair and, when doing so, shall have all the powers of and be subject to, all the restrictions placed on the Chair. The Vice Chair shall have other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law, the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws or which may be authorized by the Board.

3. Secretary

The Secretary shall perform all duties incident to the Office of Secretary and such other duties as

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may be required by law, the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws, or the Board.

These duties shall include the following:

- a. Certify and keep at the principal office and/or on the website, the original, or a copy of the Bylaws, including official amendments to same.
- b. Maintain historical records of minutes of all meetings of the Board, including Executive Committee meetings. Each meeting's minutes should record the time and place of the meeting, type of meeting, how notice was given, the names of those present or represented, and the proceedings thereof. The minutes must include the ACA logo and the full name of the corporation. Produce an annual Book of Minutes that contains all the minutes from the Board Meetings with the Fellowship that year.
- c. Maintain a complete historical record of all approved Motions, to be kept at the principal office and/or on the website.
- d. Ensure that all notices are duly given in accordance with the Bylaws or as required by law; be the custodian of the records and of the Seal of the Corporation and see that the Seal is affixed to all duly executed documents, the execution of which, on behalf of the corporation under its Seal, is authorized by law or by the bylaws. If the Secretary is not located at the principal office, the Secretary can direct the custodial actions be handled by the designated Special Worker.
- e. Maintain a historical record of Trustees at the principal office and/or on a private WSO board shared drive. This record should contain the names and addresses of Trustees, their terms of service, offices held, and in the case where any Trustee resigns mid-term or is asked to leave the Board, record such fact together with the date on which such membership ceased. For all current Trustees, this record should also include emergency contact information.
- f. Upon request, exhibit at all reasonable times to any Trustee of the Corporation, or to his or her agent or attorney, the Bylaws, the list of Trustees, and the minutes of the proceedings of the Board.
- g. Present the minutes from Board meetings as follows:
 - i) Working Sessions - provide minutes electronically for approval (e.g. via a specific concurrence motion). If a Trustee proposes an amendment to the minutes, this would be taken up at the next Board meeting. However, minor changes to the minutes (e.g., grammatical corrections) can be done electronically.
 - ii) Board Meetings with the Fellowship - present the minutes from the previous meeting for approval at the following meeting. Draft minutes will be posted on the service website within six weeks.
- h. Maintain an updated Book of Motions. When a policy motion has been passed, ensure that the OPPM Committee is notified to incorporate it into this document (OPPM).
- i. Ensure that all Trustees, Committee and Sub-Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs sign a copy of the Conflict of Interest Statement in January each year, or as new individuals assume these roles. (Note: The General Manager handles this for employees.) When WSO sponsors any in-person event (e.g. ABC, AWC, Regional events) the Host Committee members of the event who may be involved with making recommendations and decisions about venue and vendor choices will also be asked to complete a Conflict of Interest Statement.

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4. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall perform such duties as may be required by law, the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws or the Board, and have custody of and be primarily responsible for overseeing the financial health and requirements of the corporation.

Specific responsibilities shall include the following:

- a. Ensure the board is presented with the annual operating budget for discussion and approval. This includes a mid-year review and approval of changes to said budget.
- a. Ensure sound financial policies and internal controls are in place for management of funds and assets.
- b. Ensure compliance with all relevant financial and accounting regulations. This includes, but is not limited to, audits and the preparation of the IRS Form 990, which is filed annually within IRS established timeframes.
- c. Ensure proper financial reporting including:
 - i. The publication of all monthly and annual financial statements to the Board and Fellowship that account for the corporation's properties and business transactions. Note: per motion of the Board in July 2021, publication of financials may be delayed by up to two months to ensure that figures are properly reconciled.
 - ii. Monthly listing of 7th Tradition contributions from the Fellowship, whether by group or individuals, for publication on the WSO website and annually for inclusion in the ABC Delegate Binder. At no time will the names of individual contributors be disclosed, except as required by law (e.g. IRS 990 form).
- e. Serve as the Chair of the Finance Committee.

IV. LEGAL/INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

History: In the interest of representing the fellowship, the Board contracted with counsel, as discussed previously, and allocated \$1,500 for an initial retainer to take decisive legal action to send out "cease and desist" letters to all parties associated with The Adult Children Anonymous General Service Network (ACA/GSN) as named in their own documents. As a result of this confrontation it was determined that the Board, when necessary, may retain legal counsel on issues deemed necessary by the Board.

Prior to retaining legal counsel, verbal and written contact will be made by a designee of the Board, to attempt to bring about a satisfactory agreement (settlement) to any issue in which the ACA WSO fellowship is being violated.

The Board will attempt to obtain volunteer council on every occasion prior to designating funds for such expense.

A. Logo

The logo and the ACA initials are trademarked for use of the Adult Children of Alcoholics World Service Organization, Inc. The Master Filing of this Trademark is maintained within the locked files of the ACA WSO. **Rev. Motion No. 04259705**

The Trademark shall not be approved for use by outside commercial entities, and may not be altered or added to in any manner.

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The ACA WSO Trademarks may be used by registered meetings, Intergroups, and Regions affiliated with the ACA WSO. The use of these symbols indicates current registration only, and they are not to be used to imply endorsement of the content of letters, statements, policies, or the actions of bodies other than the ACA WSO. **Rev. Motion No. 04259705**

Refer to SECTION X.F for more information on the logos that are used for the various stages of literature development.

V. ACA WSO FISCAL POLICIES

A. General

The Fiscal Year for ACA WSO is January 1 to December 31 as set by [Article Seven \(VII\) of the Bylaws](#). Note: All money references in this document refer to U.S. Dollars. Also, groups are defined as meetings, Intergroups and Regions.

B. 7th Tradition Contributions

ACA WSO shall request contributions from ACA groups and members for the purpose of helping to maintain WSO operations and service activities. Guidelines for such are as follows:

1. WSO may only accept contributions from ACA groups and members.
2. The maximum annual contribution by an ACA member cannot exceed \$50,000.
3. There is no maximum annual contribution limit from ACA groups.
4. There is no monetary limit to the amount of contributions that can be made to WSO through wills or other bequest instruments.

As noted in Section III.F of this document, the Treasurer is responsible for ensuring that contributions are listed monthly on the website and annually in a report to the ABC Delegates.

C. Signatory

The Board Chair, the Treasurer, and General Manager are the authorized signatories on all ACA WSO accounts. The Board may replace either the Board Chair or the Treasurer as signers on the account with other Trustees by majority vote of the Board.

D. Expenditure Approvals

The Board establishes guidelines for the expenditure of funds, and management of such expenditures to ensure the appropriateness of expenses. The Treasurer ensures that the appropriate level of approval is attained before expenditures are made.

Any expenditure more than \$5,000 for the purchase of a single item or service should have bids from three (3) suppliers, if possible. Exceptions may be considered by the Board. Acceptance of the lowest bid is not necessarily required. These bids will be reviewed and specifically approved in advance by the Executive Committee for up to \$10,000 and by the Board of Trustees if the expenditure is \$10,000 or higher. Long term contracts, such as those for office rent, etc., are excluded from this requirement.

All potential expenditures must be approved prior to the order of goods or services as follows:

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1. Orders of Inventory for resale require approval of the General Manager for purchases up to \$25,000; Executive Committee approval for purchases of \$25,000 to \$99,999; and the full Board for purchases of \$100,000 or greater. These purchases shall be reported by the approving party during the Board Meeting with the Fellowship.
2. The General Manager is authorized to approve/purchase budgeted operating expenditures for the Distribution Center of up to \$5,000. In the GM's absence, the Treasurer is authorized to approve the same.
3. Non-recurring or non-budgeted expenditures of up to \$2,000 may be authorized by the General Manager. Anything exceeding \$2,000 and less than \$10,000 requires approval by the Executive Committee. Expenditures of \$10,000 or higher, must be approved by the Board.

Requests for software should first be vetted by the IT Committee for integrity of the program, overall company usage and longevity, and cost effectiveness.

4. Committees with annual budgets are authorized to spend those funds as needed within the bounds of the committee's work. For other than routine, recurring expenses, or expenditures exceeding budget requests, appropriate paperwork must be completed and submitted to the Treasurer or designate as soon as possible. Amounts less than \$10,000 must be approved by the Executive Committee. Amounts of \$10,000 or greater must be approved by the Board. Sub-committees must get sign-off from the Primary Committee, e.g., the PSC Committee signs off on H&I non-routine expenditures.

E. Reimbursement

Expenses incurred by Trustees, Special Workers, and authorized volunteers are reimbursable if they are deemed to be directly related to carrying out the business of the WSO. (See Appendix IX - Travel Reimbursement Policy.)

To receive reimbursement for an appropriate expense, the currently authorized expense form must be submitted to the Treasurer, or designate, with an original or copy of verification of the expense. The Treasurer, or designate, will review the documentation for completeness and direct the disbursement of funds. The Board Chair approves reimbursements for the Treasurer.

Reimbursement requests should be submitted within 30 days of the expenditure. If the expense report is not received within 30 days, then minimally estimated expenses must be submitted with the full expense report turned in within the following 30 days. Any expense reports not received within 60 days of the expense will be forwarded to the Executive Board for approval.

Reimbursement should be received by the submitting person within a maximum of 30 days.

F. Records/Reports

The Treasurer is responsible for ensuring that all financial reports are prepared monthly and/or annually, as noted in Section III.

G. Committee Budgets and Reimbursement

Each committee and sub-committee of the Board of WSO will be asked to present annual budgetary requirements to the Finance Committee to cover the following fiscal year. Standing

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and Ad Hoc Committees are entitled to at least a \$600 annual budget. If a larger budget is required, it must be documented and approved by the Board, either separately or as part of the overall approval of the Annual Budget.

Any proposed expenses over budget must be approved according to the Expenditure Approvals Section above.

Unused funds are not carried over to the next fiscal year.

H. Accounting Policies

All purchases of Fixed Assets or Intangible Assets made by the WSO under \$1,000 will be expensed rather than capitalized and depreciated or amortized. This is effective as of 1-1-17.

I. ACA WSO Prudent Reserve Policy

The purpose of the Prudent Reserve Policy for ACA WSO is to ensure the stability of the mission, programs, employment, and ongoing operations of the organization. The Prudent Reserve is intended to provide an internal source of funds for situations such as a sudden increase in expenses, one-time unbudgeted expenses, unanticipated loss in funding, or uninsured losses.

The Reserve may also be used for one-time, nonrecurring expenses that will build long-term capacity, such as staff development, research and development, or investment in infrastructure. Prudent Reserves are not intended to replace a permanent loss of funds or eliminate an ongoing budget gap.

It is the intention of ACA WSO for Prudent Reserves to be used and replenished within a reasonably short period of time.

1. Definitions and Goals

The Prudent Reserve Fund is defined as a designated fund set aside by action of the Board of Trustees. The minimum amount to be designated as Prudent Reserve will be set at an amount sufficient to maintain ongoing operations and programs for a set number of months. The Prudent Reserve serves a dynamic role and will be reviewed and adjusted in response to internal and external changes.

The Target Minimum is initially set at three months of the monthly average of actual operating costs for the last completed fiscal year. The number of months included in calculating the Target Minimum may be subsequently adjusted to achieve and maintain a prudent reserve. The amount of the Target Minimum will be calculated each year after the budget is adopted based on budgeted operating costs. Each time the Target Minimum is adjusted, the adjustment will be reported by the Finance Committee to the Board of Trustees and will be included in the regular financial reports.

For setting the Target Minimum, only, the calculation of operating costs includes all recurring, predictable expenses such as salaries and benefits, occupancy, office, travel, program, and ongoing professional services. Depreciation, in-kind, and other non-cash expenses are not included in the calculation. The calculation also excludes some expenses such as pass-through programs, one-time or unusual expenses, and capital purchases.

2. Accounting for Reserves

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The Prudent Reserve Fund will be recorded in the financial records as a Board-Designated Prudent Reserve. The Fund will be funded and available in cash or cash equivalent funds. Prudent Reserves will be maintained in a designated bank account or investment fund, in accordance with investment policies.

3. Funding of Reserves

The Prudent Reserve Fund will be funded with surplus unrestricted operating funds. The Board of Trustees may from time to time direct that a specific source of revenue be set aside for Prudent Reserves. Examples may include one-time gifts or bequests, special grants, or special appeals.

3. Use of Reserves

a. Identification of appropriate use of Prudent Reserve funds

The Finance Committee will identify the need for access to reserve funds and confirm that the use is consistent with the purpose of the reserves as described in this Policy. This step requires analysis of the reason for the shortfall, the availability of any other sources of funds before using reserves, and evaluation of the time period that the funds will be required and replenished.

b. Authority to use Prudent Reserves

Authority for use of up to \$30,000 of Prudent Reserves is delegated to the Executive Committee in consultation with the Chair of the Finance Committee. The use of Prudent Reserves will be reported to the Board of Trustees at their next scheduled meeting, accompanied by a description of the analysis and determination of the use of funds and plans for replenishment to restore the Prudent Reserve Fund to the Target Minimum amount. Approval from the Board of Trustees is required for use of Prudent Reserves in excess of \$30,000.

c. Reporting and monitoring

The Treasurer is responsible for ensuring that the Prudent Reserve Fund is maintained and used only as described in this Policy. Upon approval for the use of Prudent Reserve funds, the Treasurer will maintain records of the use of funds and plan for replenishment. He/she will provide regular reports to the Board of Trustees of progress to restore the Fund to the target minimum amount.

4. Review of Policy

This Policy will be reviewed every other year, at minimum, by the Finance Committee, or sooner if warranted by internal or external events or changes. Changes to the Policy will be recommended by the Finance Committee to the Board of Trustees.

J. Compensation Policy

At Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families (ACA), we believe that a clear and well-designed compensation strategy is key to attracting, motivating, and retaining valued Special Workers. Our compensation philosophy is built on principles of fairness, competitiveness in the marketplace, and alignment with our mission and values. As an inclusive organization, ACA is dedicated to fostering an environment that reflects the diverse communities we serve, where everyone feels encouraged to bring their full, authentic selves to work.

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Our compensation philosophy underpins our commitment to a fair, transparent, and competitive compensation system that values the contributions of every employee. By adhering to these principles, we strive to create an environment where special workers are motivated, compensated fairly, and empowered to deliver their best performance.

See Appendix XIII for full policy: [APPENDIX XIII –ACA WSO COMPENSATION POLICY](#)

K. Special Worker Salaries

While the total monthly amount for all salaries paid for Special Workers is included in the Profit and Loss Statement each month, ACA WSO does not require that individual salaries of Special Workers be published. Therefore, after the Board approves motions for new hires or salary raises, no monetary figure will be included in the book of motions or Board Meetings with the Fellowships. However, in the case of motions to approve raises, the percentage of increase must be included in the motion.

L. Audit Committee Purpose and Audit Policy

1. Mission Statement of the Audit Committee

To provide oversight of the annual WSO Third Party financial audit in compliance with the Laws of the State of California and the OPPM guidelines.

- a. A standing Audit Committee shall be formed and be composed of a minimum of three members reporting directly to the ACA WSO Board. Members should have an Auditing, Financial or Statistical background and be comfortable presenting the audit process to the board and fellowship. Selection of Audit Committee Chair shall be affirmed by the Board. Selection of Committee members shall be affirmed by the Committee Chair and any already existing Committee members, as per Tradition Two.
- b. The strategic goals of the WSO Audit Committee are to:
 - Ensure the selection process of a Third Party Auditor complies with WSO guidelines for choosing outside vendors.
 - Provide oversight of the Third Party Auditor,
 - Establish a formal review of the auditors recommendations for improvement of our financial reporting system.
 - Ensure that resolved audit issues are properly documented.

2. Audit Policy Objectives

- Ensure the Organization's compliance with relevant laws and regulations.
- Enhance the reliability of financial auditing.
- Promote good governance and risk management.
- Prevent, detect, and address any irregularities or fraudulent activities on a timely basis.

3. Audit

a. Frequency of Audits

An external audit of the Organization's financial statements shall be conducted annually, in accordance with the requirements of the State of California or as determined by the Board.

b. Conduct of Audits

External auditors shall be selected through a competitive bidding process, with a minimum of three bids solicited each year. However, the Audit Committee may request Board approval to use the same external auditor for up to a maximum of an additional two years after a successful initial audit cycle with that auditor.

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c. Reporting

The results of all external audits, along with any audit opinions issued by the external auditors, shall be presented to the Board and shared with the Organization's stakeholders at the yearly ABC.

d. Conduct of Audits

The external audit shall be conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards by a firm of certified public accountants.

4. Audit Findings

Any audit findings indicating potential irregularities, compliance issues, or other areas of concern shall be investigated and resolved promptly by the appropriate staff, under the oversight of the General Manager. Corrective actions, if necessary, shall be developed and implemented in a timely manner under the oversight of the Audit Committee and reported to the Board.

5. Confidentiality and Record Keeping

Records related to audits shall be retained for a period of [3 years or as required by law].

6. Review of Policy

This Policy shall be reviewed by the Audit Committee at least once every three years to ensure its effectiveness and continued relevance.

VI. ACA WSO OFFICE

A. General

A priority of the ACA WSO Board is to provide an accessible office that offers recovery information of the ACA Twelve Step Program to everyone.

WSO employs special workers (Staff) who provide a number of services, including, but not limited to the following:

1. Answering phone and mail inquiries.
2. Providing information for those seeking recovery through attendance at ACA meetings.
3. Facilitating the sale and distribution of merchandise and WSO conference-approved literature.
4. Distributing information to the therapeutic community and the public.
5. Maintaining the list of ACA meetings, Intergroups and other service levels.
6. Maintaining files for financial records, contracts and other legal documentation, original copies of WSO literature files, archival information about the fellowship and other important correspondence.
7. Ensuring that the proper flow of information happens among appropriate Trustees, committees, Staff and vendors.

The office will be in charge of assuring that all computer records are properly backed up in case of data failure.

B. Group Registrations

All ACA Twelve-Step, Twelve-Tradition affiliated Meetings, Intergroups, and Regions (Groups) are eligible to register with ACA WSO. ([Bylaw III 2](#)) Additional layers of the ACA WSO Service Structure are included as they are created.

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Groups shall register online and must include the following information:

1. Group name
2. Location
3. Time and day of meeting
4. Public contact information to be published with the meeting listing
5. Primary contact information, including an email address; this information will be kept confidential by WSO and used solely for the purpose of communicating with the group

Providing this information and a group's subsequent listing on the WSO website indicates their agreement to abide by the ACA 12 Traditions. Meetings that do not follow ACA's 12 Traditions will be delisted.

All groups are encouraged to update their information at least annually on the WSO website to ensure receipt of information sent from WSO, including the ABC Ballot and ABC Registration, as well as other announcements that may be sent out from time to time.

The use of the ACA trademark, as shown on the cover of this document, shall be limited to only those groups registered with ACA WSO for the purpose of identification for meeting listings, names, notifications, locations, etc.¹

C. Correspondence and Social Media

Trustees and Committees may send form letters or similar communication to the Staff to be mailed to the Fellowship. After the Staff has formatted the material, it should be returned to the Trustee or Committee for review before being sent out. All such material will carry the ACA WSO logo.

Social media may be used as a public awareness and outreach tool by ACA WSO while adhering to the Traditions in its use.

D. Records Management and Retention Policy

1. Purpose
 - a. Adult Children of Alcoholics World Service Organization, Inc. dba ACA WSO ("Corporation") requires its trustees, officers, employees, volunteers, agents, and other personnel (all such persons are referred to in this Policy as "Corporation Personnel") to observe high standards of business and personal ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities. The purpose of this Records Management and Retention Policy ("Policy") is to ensure that all Records (as defined in sub-section c below) that are necessary for business and compliance reasons will be retained for a specific period of time (see Appendix III Records Retention Schedule) that will reasonably assure their availability when needed, but for no period of time longer than reasonably necessary for the purposes for which the data was collected. This Policy is intended to support the Corporation's endeavors to comply with state, federal, and international laws governing the destruction of documents and records applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations.

¹ Clarification of Trademark and Logo guidelines is under revision for legal conformity.

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- b. It is the policy of the Corporation to retain and manage all Records in accordance with uniform guidelines, practices, and procedures. All Corporation personnel shall manage, protect, and maintain all Records in accordance with the Records Retention Schedule and this Policy.
 - c. “Records” means all documents, files, or records created or maintained by any Corporation Personnel while acting within the course and scope of their duties pertaining to Corporation business or operations, or copies of any of the foregoing, in any format or medium, including but not limited to: computer records, electronic mail (“e-mail”), voice mail messages, text messages, instant messages, handwritings, photographs, photocopies, or facsimiles, regardless of the manner in which the record has been created or stored. Specific categories and types of Records are contained in the Retention Schedule.
 - d. All Records required to be retained to document the Corporation’s legal compliance, or otherwise required by law, rule or regulation to be retained, shall be retained for the periods required by law as described in the Retention Schedule. All Records required to be retained due to pending or threatened litigation or investigation shall be retained for so long as the litigation or investigation is active, plus any additional period as may be provided for in Section 3 of this Policy and the Retention Schedule.
2. Scope
- a. All Records pertaining to Corporation business maintained or created by any Corporation Personnel, including any Records retained off Corporation property, are subject to the requirements of this Policy. The format of Records to be retained may vary, e.g., hard copy original, photocopy, digital, computer file, e-mail, and computerized images. Regardless of the format selected, Records must be safeguarded and easily accessible. In addition to paper Records, this Policy applies to all electronic Records, whether or not stored on Corporation-issued devices, including Records created or maintained by Corporation Personnel remotely, such as on home personal computers, laptops, tablets, phones, other devices, back-up drives, or the internet on cloud platforms (e.g., Google Drive, Adobe Cloud, Apple iCloud, Google Mail, Dropbox and Microsoft OneDrive).
 - b. To the extent possible, the Record retention guidelines contained in this Policy should apply to all applicable Records created, maintained, stored, or otherwise in the possession of Corporation’s third-party vendors.
3. Legal Hold
- a. Retention procedures will be suspended when a Record or group of Records are placed on legal hold (“Legal Hold”). A Legal Hold requires preservation of appropriate Records under special circumstances, such as litigation, government investigations, or consent decrees. In the event that the Corporation’s Board of Trustees (“Board”) or management learns of any claim that could reasonably give rise to litigation or government investigation, the Corporation shall consult with legal counsel as to the need for a Legal Hold. In such a case, the Corporation, in consultation with legal counsel, will determine and identify what Records are required to be placed under a Legal Hold.
 - b. The Corporation will notify individual Corporation personnel if a Legal Hold is placed on Records for which the individual is responsible. The individual is then required to locate, index, and protect the necessary Records. Any Record that is relevant to a Legal

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Hold must be retained and preserved. If the individual is unsure whether a Record is relevant to a Legal Hold, the individual should protect that Record until they receive clarification from their supervisor following the Corporation's consultation with its legal counsel. **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH A LEGAL HOLD MAY RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT RISK, EXPOSURE, OR LIABILITY TO THE CORPORATION.**

- c. Legal Hold remains effective until it is released in writing by the Corporation after consultation with legal counsel. Following the final resolution of the relevant litigation, government investigation, or consent decree, the Corporation will consult with legal counsel as to the release of the Legal Hold. After the individual receives written notice from the Corporation, the individual may return all Records relevant to the Legal Hold to normal retention procedures.

4. Administration

- a. This Policy is to be administered by Corporation management under the oversight of the Board. Questions regarding this Policy should be directed to the General Manager or to the Secretary of the Board.
- b. Guidelines for retention of Records are provided for in the Retention Schedule. Any changes to the Retention Schedule must be approved by the Board.
- c. Records shall be created, maintained, and stored in a manner that complies with Corporation's Records storage, accessibility, and retrieval procedures as well as Corporation's privacy and data security policies and procedures.
- d. Records kept on-site should only be destroyed in accordance with the Retention Schedule. Records that are sent off-site shall be labeled with a destruction date.

In the first quarter of each year the General Manager will review a list of all Records that have reached the destruction date, will confirm that the Records can be destroyed, and will decide whether any such Records are the subject of a Legal Hold to ensure the Corporation's continued ability to produce Records for known investigations or litigation. The Corporation shall maintain a schedule of Records that have been approved for destruction and the dates that any Records are destroyed.

If the Corporation uses an outside vendor for storage and/or destruction of Records, after approval for destruction, the Records storage vendor shall shred or otherwise destroy the noted Records in the manner specified by the Corporation and provide a certificate of destruction in accordance with this Policy. Confidential Records shall be destroyed only by secure means. Destruction of electronic Records shall utilize a method to ensure the electronic Records are completely and securely destroyed and not retrievable from any storage media.

- e. The General Manager and the Board will meet biennially to review and, if necessary, update this Policy to comply with changed business practices and systems and new or amended laws or regulations. Any changes to this Policy must be approved in writing by the Corporation's Board. The changes will be distributed to relevant Corporation Personnel.
- f. Failure to comply with this Policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment, volunteer, or Board member status.

E. Oversight Committee

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The purpose of the Oversight Committee is to maintain contact with the office management to ensure that all operations are running smoothly, that policies are being followed, and that the Staff has the resources they need to do their jobs.

This committee shall be made up of Trustees and volunteers with specific business and technology expertise. This committee should include at least one member of the Board's Executive Committee.

F. Office and/or Distribution Center Closure

Should funds not be available to maintain a physical office and/or Distribution Center, the Oversight Committee shall

1. Present to the Board a structure for continuing the outreach efforts of ACA.
2. Present a plan of how to close down the Office and/or Distribution Center.

Once these items are approved, under the direction of the Executive Committee, the Oversight Committee shall do one or all of the following things, depending on the situation:

1. Lay off any paid staff with a letter of recommendation.
2. Place all records in storage at a place determined by the Board.
3. Set up systems for answering phones, handling mail, maintaining the website and meeting database updates.
4. Dispose of all excess equipment with an accounting of items and monies received.
5. Create any procedures necessary to maintain whatever services that will continue to be offered.

Should the above plan be unworkable due to lack of funds, or trustees, the remaining Officers and Trustees shall dissolve the corporation in keeping with [Bylaw Article XII](#) for dissolution of ACA WSO.

Any actions taken should meet the criteria set by the IRS in keeping with WSO's not for profit status.

A letter describing the above actions will be mailed to all affiliated Groups.

G. ACA WSO Archives Collection Policy

The mission of the ACA WSO Archives is to collect, preserve, and protect the organization's historical artifacts, as well as business and historical records in print and digital formats. These records and materials are made available in an organized and convenient manner to the ACA WSO Board of Trustees and other volunteers, special workers and the fellowship. They serve as a resource, providing information to assist fellowship operations. The cataloged information in the Archives will enable the fellowship to research our history in order to understand the origins, goals, and programs of ACA.

1. Collection Policy

The ACA WSO Archives serve as a repository for both official and unofficial records that document the history of ACA throughout the world. The Archives include personal collections,

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manuscripts, correspondence, publications, photographs, records of WSO and local service entities' activity such as minutes, agendas, reports, etc., and memorabilia related to the origin and development of the ACA Fellowship.

2. Collection Scope

The Archives collects materials in any format that has long-term value for documenting the work of ACA WSO and the fellowship. Acquisition priorities include, but are not limited to:

- a. Publications released by ACA WSO including books, directories, annual reports, Conference reports, surveys, booklets, pamphlets, public service announcements, press releases and other media relations materials; and more;
- b. ***The Traveler*** newsletter and any predecessors or successors. ***The ComLine Newsletter and (later) Blog*** and other such materials produced by ACA WSO;
- c. Materials published outside ACA WSO that describe the program of ACA, the problem of Adult Children generally, or that otherwise have significance to the organization, such as books, articles, speeches, reviews, television and media programming; and more;
- d. Audiovisual collections including: photographs, videos, and sound recording significant to ACA. This encompasses recordings of Annual Business Conferences (ABC), ACA World Conventions (AWC), International Gatherings, Meetings held by WSO, as well as other significant events, including speeches and talks by early ACA pioneers, ACA WSO Trustees, and other individuals; and more;
- e. Minutes and other documentation of the ACA WSO Board, committees, Conferences, and Conventions;
- f. Work papers, subject files, correspondence, reports, financial information;
- g. Personal papers of ACA WSO Trustees, and other significant figures including early ACA pioneers. These may include correspondence, journals, diaries, scrapbooks, photographs, manuscripts, speeches, obituaries, and artifacts;
- h. Oral histories and stories of figures significant to the global operations of ACA WSO;
- i. Histories of Regions and Intergroups including pertinent reports and newsletters of meetings therein;
- j. ACA Anniversary Medallions and the original designs from which they were created, Cover Design Art for ABC Delegate Manuals, ACA Book Illustrations, etc.

3. Acceptance of Donated Materials

The ACA WSO Archives welcomes donations of archival materials that fall within the above collection scope. Anyone wishing to donate items of archival value should contact the ACA Archivist through the main California Office. A decision will be made as to the suitability of the items and methods of transport.

Once items are accepted for donation, ACA WSO Archives is committed to organizing and preserving them, which involves manual labor and costs for archival supplies. Please note that donations that necessitate expensive conservation, special housing, extensive processing, or excessive demands on the Archives resources may not be accepted.

The donor will be asked to sign a ***Deed of Gift***, transferring their property over to the ACA WSO Archives. While an unrestricted transfer of the title to the property is preferred, ACA WSO Archives is willing to work with donors who specify certain restrictions as a condition of

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the gift. Additionally, the donor may be asked to sign an Assignment of Copyright form, if applicable.

The ACA WSO Archives does not provide monetary appraisals for donors and will not comment on the financial value of any material. If a donor requires a monetary appraisal is desired, it is recommended that such appraisals be carried out by an impartial third party before title to the material is conveyed to the ACA WSO Archives.

The ACA WSO Archives generally does not purchase archival records, books, or artifacts, and generally does not accept items on loan.

4. Exclusions

The ACA WSO Archives does not typically acquire collections focused on local groups, Intergroups, or Regions. Many such local groups maintain their own vibrant archives collections for the benefit of their local fellowship. However, depending on the global relevance, we do accept area histories and certain other materials produced at the local level.

5. Retention and Deaccession/Removal

In most cases, a maximum of three copies of any item will be retained. ACA WSO Archives may decide to digitize, microfilm, or reformat donated collections for preservation purposes. In these cases, the original material may be kept by the Archives, placed in off-site storage, or removed from the collection. If items are removed, they may be returned to the original donor or their heirs, donated to an appropriate repository or disposed of.

Donated archival materials are considered highly important and are meant to be preserved permanently. However, no individual or institution can foresee or control the changing attitudes of future generations, and cannot guarantee permanence beyond the best available preservation methods.

The ACA WSO Archives reserves the right to reevaluate historical material and to carefully and judiciously dispose of certain items from its collection, following established professional standards. The ACA WSO Archives may decide to deaccession/remove an item from its collection if any of the following conditions apply:

- a. The item is not relevant to Adult Children of Alcoholics or to the ACA WSO Archives' mission and purpose;
- b. The item would be more appropriately housed in a different archival repository;
- c. The item has deteriorated beyond usefulness;
- d. The item is made of hazardous materials or is actively decomposing in a manner that directly affects the condition of other items and/or the health and safety of the WSO staff and/or visitors;
- e. The ACA WSO Archives is unable to continue to provide care and storage for the object in keeping with professionally acted standards;
- f. The items' care and storage is far more expensive than the value of the object as it related to the ACA WSO Archives mission and purpose;

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- g. The item will be replaced with a similar object of greater significance, quality, and better condition;
- h. The item is subject to legal and ethical standards requiring its removal.

Complete records will be maintained on all deaccessioned/removed items and their subsequent disposition. A deaccessioned/removed item may be disposed of in one of the following methods (in order of desirability):

- Transfer to another more appropriate ACA archives repository, at the level of the region, intergroup, or meeting;
- Donation to an appropriate non-ACA archives or scholarly institution;
- Return to the original donor;
- Destruction of the item.

VII. POLICY ON REPORTING AND INVESTIGATING ALLEGATIONS OF SUSPECTED IMPROPER ACTIVITIES (a.k.a Whistleblower)

1. General

This policy requires board members, committee members, delegates, and employees to observe high standards of business and personal ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities. As employees and volunteer representatives of the Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families World Service Organization, hereinafter the “Organization,” we must practice honesty and integrity in fulfilling our responsibilities and comply with all applicable laws and regulations. The Organization provides information on business and personal ethics for employees in the Employee Handbook and the Operating Policies and Procedures Manual (OPPM). Information on business and personal ethics for volunteers is found in the Service Norms, Traditions and OPPM. Collectively this information is known as the Code of Ethics and further referred to in this document as the “Code.”

2. Reporting Responsibility

It is the responsibility of all board members, committee members, delegates, and employees to comply with the Code and to report violations or suspected violations in accordance with this Whistleblower Policy.

3. No Retaliation

No board member, committee member, delegate, or employee who in good faith reports a violation of the Code shall suffer harassment, retaliation, or adverse employment consequences. An employee who retaliates against someone who has reported a violation in good faith is subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment. A volunteer who retaliates against someone who has reported a violation in good faith is subject to suspension from the Organization’s activities. This Whistleblower Policy is intended to encourage and enable employees and the Organization’s volunteers to raise serious concerns within the Organization prior to seeking resolution outside the Organization.

4. Reporting Violations

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The Code addresses the Organization's open-door policy and suggests that employees and volunteers share their questions, concerns, suggestions, or complaints with someone who can address them properly. For example, an employee's supervisor is in the best position to address an area of concern or, in the case of volunteers, the Committee Chair. However, if you are not comfortable speaking with your supervisor/Committee Chair or you are not satisfied with this person's response, you are encouraged to speak with someone in management or a Board Member whom you are comfortable approaching. Supervisors, Managers and Committee Chairs are required to report suspected major violations of the Code to the Executive Committee of the World Service Organization Board via the **Secretary at secretary@acawso.org**, who has specific and exclusive responsibility to investigate all reported violations. For suspected fraud, or when you are not satisfied or uncomfortable with following the Organization's open-door policy, individuals should contact the Executive Committee directly.

If you have information regarding possible violations of state or federal statutes, rules, or regulations, or violations of fiduciary responsibility by the Organization, we encourage you to report it immediately to the Secretary of the Board. Alternatively, you may contact the California State Attorney General's Whistleblower Hotline at (800) 952-5225. The Attorney General will refer your call to the appropriate government authority for review and possible investigation.

5. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is responsible for investigating and resolving all reported complaints and allegations concerning violations of the Code and, at their discretion, shall include the General Manager.

6. Accounting and Auditing Matters

The Executive Committee shall address all reported concerns or complaints regarding accounting practices, internal controls, or auditing. Management shall immediately notify the Executive Committee of any such complaint and work with the committee until the matter is resolved. The Executive Committee may require the Audit Committee to handle the investigation.

7. Acting in Good Faith

Anyone filing a complaint concerning a violation or suspected violation of the Code must be acting in good faith and have reasonable grounds for believing the information disclosed indicates a violation of the Code. Any allegations that prove to have been made maliciously or knowingly to be false and prove not to be substantiated will be viewed as a serious disciplinary offense.

8. Confidentiality

Violations or suspected violations may be submitted on a confidential basis by the complainant or may be submitted anonymously. Reports of violations or suspected violations will be kept confidential to the extent possible, consistent with the need to conduct a thorough investigation.

9. Handling of Reported Violations

The Executive Committee will notify the sender and acknowledge receipt of the reported violation or suspected violation within five business days. All reports will be investigated as

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promptly as resources allow, however in any case no longer than 4 months, and appropriate corrective action will be taken if warranted by the investigation.

VIII. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

A. Websites

ACA WSO currently maintains the following websites:

1. www.adultchildren.org – our main website that provides information to members, prospective members, and the public, including the therapeutic community. It has information about ACA literature, a list of registered meetings, Intergroups and Regions, as well as other resources.
2. acawso.org – a site that supports the volunteer service structure of our fellowship.
3. www.acawsoec.org – a site that supports our European Committee.
4. shop.adultchildren.org – our shopping cart for literature sales and other items.
5. shop.adultchildren.ca or adultchildren.ca – the shopping websites in Canada

All WSO websites include a privacy statement.

The Board may approve the creation of other websites as needed.

In accordance with ACA Traditions, WSO websites:

1. May not contain advertising or links to outside enterprises, including, but not limited to personal recovery pages, public/private agencies, or similar organizations.
2. May contain links to outside enterprises that are required in order to conduct the business of WSO, e.g., Zoom, PayPal, Survey Monkey, MailChimp, etc.
3. May contain links to websites operated by WSO-registered ACA groups (meetings, Intergroups and Regions) that focus on the recovery of adult children.
4. May not contain last names of ACA members, including email addresses that include a member's last name.

When a user clicks on a link on a WSO website that goes to a non-WSO website, a notification will appear that tells them they are leaving the WSO-owned website.

Only events that are sponsored by the WSO and WSO-registered ACA meetings, Intergroups and Regions may be posted on WSO websites.

Website administrators and others involved with the functioning or maintenance of WSO websites and similar communication mediums must be approved by the Board.

B. IT User Access Policy

The WSO Information Technology (IT) Committee has created this policy to protect the integrity of the various technology aspects needed for the effective operation of WSO. As WSO has grown, so have the technological needs and responsibilities of our Special Workers, the WSO Board of Trustees, WSO Committee Volunteers, and outside vendors (e.g. accountants).

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Final approval for all IT User Access rests with the WSO Board of Trustees. The IT Committee has the responsibility to make policy and user access recommendations, in collaboration with other committees, to the Board.

Any policy or access recommendation is meant to:

1. Balance the business/operations needs of WSO with IT industry best-practices and security standards.
2. Give users the ability to fulfill the requirements of their position (the Trustees, Committee Volunteers, Special Workers, and outside vendors).
3. Maintain the spirit of the Traditions and Concepts of Service,

Many of these systems have more than one type of user access level. As in most organizations, the level available to an individual should depend upon their role/responsibilities, and in certain cases, their level of technological ability.

All users will need to have signed the WSO Information Technology Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) prior to being given access to any systems.

1. Primary User Access: The highest level of access to all systems will automatically be given to the following:
 - a. The General Manager and IT Manager, due to their overall technology-related responsibilities.
 - b. The WSO Board Chair, due to their overall responsibilities to WSO. This is in place, regardless of the Board Chair's technology expertise. In the event the General Manager and IT Manager are unable to perform their responsibilities, the Board Chair will be able to access systems with the help of other Special Workers, volunteers, or special consultants, if needed.
2. Other Access levels:
 - a. The WSO Board Treasurer will be given primary access to all financial systems, with specific level access to multi-purpose systems, as the technology allows.
 - b. The General Manager and IT Manager will determine the level of access to be granted to other Special Workers.
 - c. Access levels for volunteers to the live production servers will be approved by the Board.
 - d. Access will automatically be given to contractors/vendors, based on executed contracts.

A record of all IT Access approvals will be maintained by the IT Manager. Access will be promptly removed when the service/employment/contract is completed.

C. WSO Communication Platforms User Agreement

Anyone who uses a ACA WSO communication platforms (e.g. Slack and Zoom) must sign the WSO Communication Platform User Agreement. Just as User Agreements are often required by other organizations to help promote a safe environment, this ACA WSO Agreement is meant to

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do the same: to ensure healthy and safe communications on the online platforms used by our service volunteers and staff.

This agreement is posted on the WSO website, see: [Communication Agreement](#)

To report a possible breach of this agreement, you can complete the [WSO Slack-Chat Concern Form](#) which is sent to the Safety Resources Committee.

IX. PLACING ISSUES BEFORE THE BOARD

Issues can be brought before the Board in various ways.

1. By contacting a member of the Board.
2. Through a Committee of the Board.
3. During the Guest commentary portion of the Board's Meetings with the Fellowship.
4. By submission of a proposal for the Annual Business Conference.
5. By exercising the Right to Petition, which Groups may use to request that the Board reconsider any issue(s) previously considered. (See Appendix I)
6. Complaints involving volunteer, including Trustees (See Appendix XII)

X. COMMITTEES

A. General

WSO committees are composed of ACA members, including Trustees, as well as an occasional non-ACA member, such as a WSO Special Worker or a subject matter expert.

All committees are referred to as Committees of the Board. The term "committee" in this section refers to the primary committee and any sub-committees or other groups associated with the committee.

There are two general types of committees: Standing and Ad Hoc.

1. Standing Committees: permanent committees that meet regularly throughout the year.
2. Ad Hoc Committees: temporary committees that meet regularly until their defined purpose is accomplished.

The purpose of WSO committees is to respond to the needs of the fellowship within specific areas of service and help carry the message.

Committees are created or disbanded by appropriate motions of the Board and/or the ABC.

Committees shall attempt to have a varied membership, including geographically, where possible, so that all members of the fellowship have an opportunity to grow through giving service.

Meetings and actions of committees shall be governed by the same policies and procedures that apply to meetings of the Board (see Section II of this document). Committees should establish regular meeting schedules and publish them for the benefit of their committee members, the

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Board and the fellowship.

A Mission Statement must be written and submitted to the Board for approval at the committee's inception, or as soon thereafter as possible. Changes to Mission Statements must be approved by the Board.

B. Annual Board Review of Committee Structure

Each year, between July and mid-November, the Board will review the existing roster of committees to ascertain that it best serves fellowship needs, and add, subtract or combine WSO Board committees as needed. The Board is strongly encouraged to consult with affected committees before making changes to the existing committee roster. The Board also may extend the review deadline if needed.

C. Trustee Participation

Trustees may join any Committee as a member.

Trustees may attend any Committee's meeting(s) without becoming a member of that Committee, provided prior notice is given to the Committee Chair before attending. In such cases, they should discuss participation guidelines with the Committee Chair.

Trustees may add themselves to any closed committee channel in Slack, but they need to be respectful of the Committee by giving prior notice to the Committee Chair. In such cases, they should act as observers and send any questions or comments in a direct message to the Committee Chair.

D. Committee Leadership

To ensure continuity and the spiritual principle of rotation of trusted servants, candidates for either chair or vice chair should be eligible to serve at least a one-year term as committee chair. Consistent with the Commitment to Service and Concepts, former officers are encouraged to provide space for their successors to have the authority needed to perform their service role.

Consistent with Concepts 3, 10 and 11 and Tradition 9, the Board of Trustees confirms committee chairs and vice chairs, using the following process:

1. Committee chairs and vice chairs may serve a maximum of three one-year terms, starting at the Annual Business Conference following confirmation by the Board and ratification by the delegates.
2. Committee members are asked to nominate or affirm, by mid-December, chairs and vice chairs who meet eligibility requirements in the OPPM. The Board will review all nominees and decide whether to approve them or select other candidates by the end of January. Chairs and vice chairs will be announced at the next Board Meeting with the Fellowship.
3. ABC delegates will be asked to ratify committee chairs and vice chairs at the conclusion of each committee's report.
4. When a committee chair or vice chair leaves the position before completion of their term, the committee will notify the Board so that a person can be appointed to complete the

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term. If a replacement chair or vice chair is confirmed and serves more than six months before the next ABC, they may seek a maximum of two additional one-year terms. If they serve less than six months in a replacement capacity, they may seek a maximum of three one-year terms.

5. The selection of subcommittee chairs and vice chairs is delegated to the committees.

The following are suggested eligibility criteria to serve as ACA WSO committee chairs, cochairs, or vice chairs. Committees may nominate candidates who do not meet every item on this list, but where that occurs, they should explain to the Board why the committee believes that specific criteria should be waived.

1. Continuous attendance at ACA meetings for at least the previous two years.
2. One year or more of combined service to an ACA intergroup, region or WSO committee, with at least six months of active participation on the WSO Committee they would be chairing.
3. Attendance on at least three WSO monthly Board Meeting with the Fellowship within the 12 months prior to becoming chair.
4. Working knowledge of ACA's Steps, Traditions and Concepts of Service.
5. WSO committee chairs and vice chairs may not hold a similar position in another 12-Step Fellowship.
6. Demonstrated skill at working in a group setting and completing projects.
7. Ability to meet all committee meeting requirements, attend Board Meetings with the Fellowship, and comply with all OPPM guidelines related to committee officer service.
8. Willingness to sign both the Commitment to Service and a WSO Conflict of Interest Statement.

E. Committee Membership and Operations

While following the guidelines of the OPPM, the Traditions and the Concepts of Service, committees may generally choose how they operate. This includes the level of participation required by committee members (especially if the committee is deadline driven), the number of members they can reasonably accommodate, and the number of meetings a member may miss because of the nature of the committee's work.

To help members stay informed, and new members to get acclimated, committees are required to produce reports, as noted below, and should provide a communication channel for committee work. They are also encouraged to have a general communication channel for prospective members to learn about their work.

F. Responsibility/Accountability

Committees are accountable to the fellowship, through the governance of the Board. Any actions they wish to take that propose to establish new policy or impact the fellowship as a whole must be approved by the Board.

Committees are held fiscally responsible and are funded by ACA WSO according to their needs.

The committee chair is responsible for ensuring that the committee fulfills its reporting obligations per the section below.

G. Reports and Notifications

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The business and progress of each committee shall be explained through three types of written communication: a statement of major strategic goals, monthly business reports, and annual business reports to the ABC.

1. The Committee's top three strategic goals for the coming 12 months should be drafted and updated at least once a year and submitted to the Board for periodic review. Major strategic goals should clearly align with the Committee's statement of purpose and directives transmitted to the Committee by the Board. They should be posted on the Committee web page, and prominently listed in all monthly and annual reports.
2. A monthly report must be submitted for posting on the WSO service website, at least three days before the monthly Meeting with the Fellowship. This report should include the committee's statement of purpose, a brief list of strategic goals, major activities of the previous month, and major decisions by the committee and its subcommittees.
3. Annual: a report of each committee's activities covering that covers the past fiscal year (January 1 through December 31) with an addendum to cover significant actions after the first of the year and prior to the Annual Business Conference. This report must be submitted to the ABC Committee Chair, or designated alternate, within the timeframe required. All annual reports should include the committee's statement of purpose, top strategic priorities for the year completed and the year to come, and a list or chart of major work in progress.
4. Meeting recordings and minutes: Committee meeting minutes will not be stored on the WSO service website. If a committee chooses to keep such minutes, it is responsible for storing them or turning them over to the Archives Committee. If recordings are made of committee meetings, such recordings should be deleted within three months.

H. Proposals/Motions

Any Trustee on a committee or who serves as the liaison is responsible for presenting recommendations/motions that require Board approval. When possible, motions should be presented to the Board Secretary at least five days prior to the Meeting with the Fellowship in order to be placed on the agenda.

I. Correspondence

Committee Chairs and/or members who have received and answered paper correspondence from the fellowship will forward a copy of all such correspondence to the office for filing.

Committee members should use WSO provided email accounts in order to document all correspondence, including communication with the fellowship at large.

Any correspondence intended for distribution to the fellowship by a committee must be consistent with ACA WSO policies, procedures, and Traditions. Trustees associated with committees are directly responsible for this consistency.

J. Professional Advisory Committee

ACA WSO may have Professional Advisory Committees composed of persons who have a particular expertise that the Board and/or Fellowship require from time to time.

The function of such a committee would be to furnish professional counsel and guidance to the

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ACA WSO in the development of sound policies and the conduct of activities on the highest possible level. Such committee members will be evaluated based on their qualifications and ability to serve.

Advisory committees shall act only in advisory capacities to the Board and shall be clearly titled as "advisory" committees.

XI. ACA WSO LITERATURE

A. ACA WSO Literature Policy

ACA WSO has an open literature policy. This means that ACA groups have the right to use non-conference approved literature, conditional upon their group conscience and that various other considerations are taken into account, e.g., that the ACA 12 Traditions are used as their guideline, etc.

WSO conference-approved literature should be easily understood and give individuals practical help in grasping and working the ACA program. ACA literature should support emotional sobriety, self-love, and gentle reparenting.

All ACA conference-approved literature carries the ACA logo and copyright. ACA literature may not be copied, reproduced, or redistributed, except as permitted in Section XI. Publishing.

B. Literature Development

Additional explanation of the WSO literature development process, including a submission address, is available on the WSO website.

Generally, ACA literature is any book, trifold, booklet, or other format (including ebooks and audio books) that communicates information relevant to ACA recovery and can be individually purchased or downloaded.

Any ACA member or group is invited to submit proposals at any time to create or revise ACA literature. Proposals also may come from the WSO Board and Literature Committee itself. Development, evaluation, design and publication of new literature can take years to complete. Evaluation also involves a wide range of ACA members and viewpoints. In proposing new ACA literature, an author should be motivated by service, and surrender any notion of personal ownership.

C. Submitting Literature Proposals

Except for trifolds, which can be submitted in their entirety, initial proposals for new literature should be brief and should not include a full manuscript. For textbooks or workbooks, an outline and a maximum of 1-2 chapters is encouraged. A cover note, with contact information, should answer these questions:

1. How is the proposal different from existing ACA literature?
2. What fellowship recovery need does the proposal address? And is there any specific audience that the literature is intended to reach?

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3. Is it best described as a tri-fold, a small booklet, a textbook/workbook, a workshop guide, or something else?
4. Who is the author or team of authors?

When an individual or group submits a piece of literature to WSO, they must sign a release form that gives WSO the right to make changes and/or include it in a larger publication. Where space permits, the originating group or individual will be given credit in an acknowledgement section.

D. Evaluating Literature Proposals

Proposals are placed in a queue, which is periodically updated, and evaluation priorities are determined based on perceived benefit to ACA's broad global fellowship. This includes budget considerations and whether the needs of non-English-speaking ACAs are being met.

1. Fellowship Submissions: The Literature Committee, aided by the Literature Evaluation subcommittee, will evaluate submissions and determine their viability for Board consideration. Evaluators may communicate directly with the authors to ask questions and propose suggested revisions and publication strategies. An item also may be placed in the Best Practices section of the ACA website so that the fellowship may have an opportunity to experiment with proposed literature and give feedback.
2. Internal Development: The Literature Committee may add a literature piece to the queue based on feedback from the fellowship. The Literature Committee will assign an author, and consult with the evaluation subcommittee during development.

E. Literature Evaluation and Approval

1. General

Regardless of whether a proposal is submitted directly to the Literature Committee, approved as an ABC motion or ballot measure, or developed internally by ACA WSO, all Literature projects must go through the same evaluation and approval process before they may be considered Conference-approved literature. This process includes a documented, in-depth fellowship review (fellowship review mode) period, and revision process overseen by the Literature Committee.

- a. Projects submitted to the Literature Committee will be assessed by the Literature Evaluation subcommittee, in accordance with criteria posted on the ACA WSO literature pages. Authors will be notified whether a project is considered suitable for publication. Under the Right of Petition, they may ask the Literature Committee for further consideration.
- b. A favorable ABC vote on a new proposal, such as one submitted through a ballot measure, is an approval of the concept, not approval of the literature. Such a vote directs the Literature Committee to form a development team, to move the project to possible publication and eventual Conference approval. The development team would include the author(s) or backers of the ballot measure if they choose to participate.
- c. If the Board of Trustees determines that a project referred by the ABC is not appropriate for publication, the Literature Committee will notify the project's proposers and report this to the next ABC. ABC Delegates may accept the Board of Trustees' decision or direct ACA WSO to continue development of the project.

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- d. Projects developed internally by ACA WSO will be assessed by the Literature Evaluation subcommittee for their suitability for publication. Revisions will be suggested or implemented as needed to advance the project.
- e. Once a project is considered ready for fellowship review, it will be forwarded by the Literature Committee to the ACA WSO Board of Trustees with a recommendation that a publishing budget and release schedule be set.

2. Fellowship Review and Revisions

The most important evaluation of any new ACA literature being developed is performed by the fellowship at large. New literature projects will be made available to the fellowship for six months to three years of fellowship review. During fellowship review mode, ACA WSO may sell paper and digital copies of the publication, prominently identifying the project as a fellowship review mode version that is not yet Conference approved. The fellowship at large is encouraged to read and use the publication as it would any other ACA WSO literature. An accessible online feedback system, along with clear, prominent instructions will be provided to submit written feedback to ACA WSO.

The Literature Evaluation subcommittee will review all collected feedback, and at the end of the review period, it will assess whether the publication is of value to fellowship recovery. It also will make any needed revisions based on feedback.

Once the fellowship review mode is complete, the Literature Evaluation subcommittee will submit the completed manuscript, as well as a report on fellowship feedback and any significant edits made as a result, to the Board of Trustees. If the Board of Trustees decides not to forward the publication to the ABC for final Conference approval, it will notify the next ABC. ABC Delegates may accept the Board of Trustees' decision or direct ACA WSO to continue development of the project.

3. Final Conference Approval

Each year, the Board of Trustees will determine by the January Board Meeting with the Fellowship what literature it is forwarding to the ABC for final Conference approval. Electronic access to each publication will be added to the ABC web page, and to the ABC delegate binder, so that delegates may access the publication at no cost. WSO will give delegates no-cost access to each publication in advance of the ABC. The Literature Committee and Board of Trustees will submit a statement of the publication's purpose to ABC delegates, along with a report documenting fellowship at large feedback and resulting revisions.

The Literature Committee will host an information session regarding projects that will be submitted to the Conference, and will invite registered ABC delegates to attend this meeting. Delegates are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with new literature projects before voting on whether to grant Conference approval.

Final Conference approval, based on extensive fellowship review, affirms that a piece of literature reflects the experience of the fellowship at large and is considered helpful to ACA members and groups in furthering recovery. Because of its unique status, Conference-approved projects will feature a specified labeling and logo use, to clearly distinguish them from other ACA WSO literature projects. Even after conference approval is granted, the fellowship may continue to send comments and request additional revisions.

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Further information is available in the “Logos Use for Literature Projects” section of the literature policy.

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F. Logo Use for Literature Projects

	Standard ACA WSO Logo
	Fellowship Review Mode Logo
	Conference Approved Logo
	Fellowship Reviewed / Conference Approved Logo

Final Conference approval reflects a unique consensus of endorsement—including the fellowship at large, ABC Delegates, and the Board of Trustees. Therefore, a prominent, center-placement of the ACA WSO logo on publication covers, and on introductory pages, is reserved only for Conference-approved literature. At times ACA WSO will choose to place the logo elsewhere on the cover.

The inside publication page will detail the Conference approval date. Where both have occurred, the literature will be labeled “Fellowship Reviewed and Conference Approved.” Literature that has not undergone fellowship review, or received Conference approval, should avoid any language, logo, or

other usages that in any way resemble the distinct labeling authorized for publications that have met these standards.

ACA WSO Conference Approved

Literature bearing this logo has been approved prior to use of the new approval process. It has gone through the previous process of writing and review by the Literature Committee, the Board of Trustees and the fellowship. It was approved for publication as Conference Approved at an Annual Business Conference.

Publication Cover



Publication Introduction



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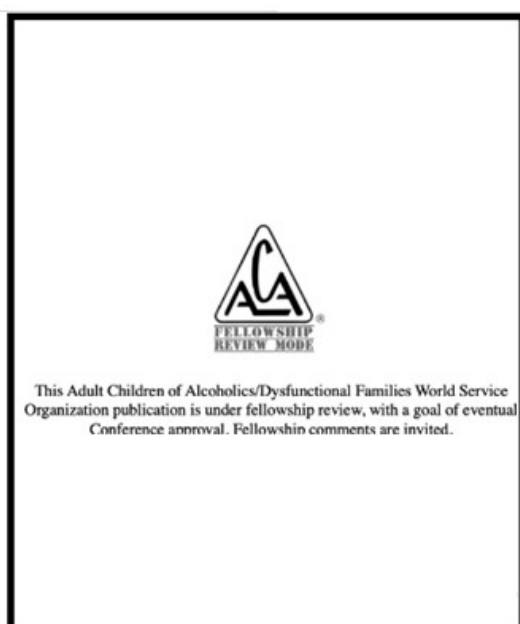
(Text below logo: © Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families World Service Organization)

(Text below logo: Approved by the 20XX ACA WSO Annual Business Conference. ©DATE Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families World Service Organization, Signal Hill, CA)

Manuscript in Fellowship Review Mode

ACA WSO manuscripts that have not received Conference approval display an ACA WSO Fellowship Review Mode logo on the cover and at the bottom of an introductory page, accompanied by a written explanation of the project's history, authorship, and approval status. An ACAWSO "Fellowship Review Mode" logo, appears near the logo to signify that a project is undergoing ACA WSO fellowship review. The introductory page includes information on how readers may submit feedback

Publication Cover



(Text below logo: This Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families World Service Organization publication is under fellowship review, with a goal of eventual Conference approval. Fellowship comments are invited.)

Publication Introductory Page



(Text below logo: This ACA WSO publication is under fellowship review, with a goal of eventual Conference approval. Fellowship comments are invited. To submit Feedback, please visit <http://acawso.org/link>. (And other relevant information about the development process.))

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ACA WSO Fellowship Reviewed and Conference Approved

Literature that has gone through the new approval process will use this logo. This means the Board of Trustees has approved the project and created a budget for printing and distribution. The fellowship has had 3- 6 years to purchase, use, and comment on the literature. After that time, the piece of literature is brought to the Annual Business Conference for approval by delegates representing the fellowship.

Publication Cover



(Text below logo: © Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families World Service Organization)

Publication Introductory Page



(Text below logo: Fellowship Reviewed between Date and Date. Approved by the 20XX ACA WSO Annual Business Conference. ©DATE Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families World Service Organization)

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Service Entity Publications

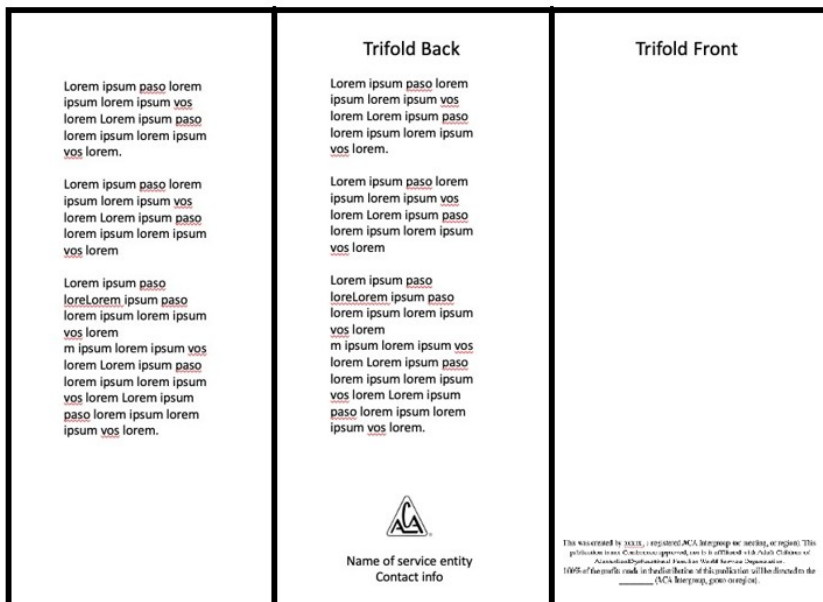
Use of the ACA logo on publication covers and the front of trifold is reserved for ACA WSO publications only. ACA service entities (such as an ACA Region, Intergroup, or individual Meeting Group) that are registered in the ACA WSO database may identify local literature projects with the ACA WSO logo at the bottom of an inside page, and on the back of trifold but not on covers. It must be accompanied by a written explanation of the project and which service entity has produced it. To avoid confusion, these projects should carry a **disclaimer on the cover**, “This was created by xxxxx, a registered ACA Intergroup (or meeting, or region). This publication is not Conference-approved, nor is it affiliated with Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families World Service Organization.”

Introductory/Inside Page of a Booklet



(Along with the ACA logo on the introductory page of a booklet, the text should read the same as on the cover: “This was created by xxxxx, a registered ACA Intergroup (or meeting, or region). This publication is not Conference approved, nor is it affiliated with Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families World Service Organization.”)

Trifold Use



(Text on Trifold Front: This was created by xxxxx, a registered ACA Intergroup (or meeting, or region). This publication is not Conference approved, nor is it affiliated with Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families World Service Organization. 100% of the profits made in the distribution of this publication will be directed to the _____ (ACA Intergroup, group or region).)

To respect the Traditions, the ACA WSO logo may never be used in for-profit literature. Service entities charging any money for locally produced literature, even if only to cover printing and shipping costs, must direct all profits to a registered ACA service entity or entities; they must affirm this fact and to whom the profits are directed in print on the bottom of the introductory page. For example, “100% of the profits made in the distribution of this publication will be directed to the _____ ACA Intergroup.”

Additional detail on logo use and disclaimer language is available at the Literature Committee section of the ACA WSO service website.

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G. ComLine

1. Purpose

The primary purpose for the ComLine Blog is to act as an open forum for the fellowship on sharing recovery experiences where articles, poems, artwork, stories, music, reviews, and other expressions are submitted by members of the fellowship.

2. Approval/Oversight

The ComLine Blog is produced by the ComLine Blog Subcommittee of the WSO Literature Committee. The Chair of the ComLine Blog Subcommittee is selected by and reports to the Literature Committee Chair.

3. Budget

The Literature Committee Chair will be responsible for seeing that the Sub-Committee's budget is used as intended and that all documentation is submitted and in order.

4. Submissions

All articles and other items submitted for the ComLine Blog must comply with a Submissions Policy adopted by the Subcommittee and approved by the Chair of the Literature Committee.

5. Committee

If there is no Trustee on the Literature Committee, the Board will appoint a Trustee to act as liaison with the ComLine sub-committee to ensure that the guidelines, intent, and fiscal policies are understood.

NOTE: When this Section is revised, consideration will be given to including other methods of direct communication with the Fellowship.

XII. ACA WSO PUBLISHING

A. Digital Literature

Digital literature may be considered in addition to, or in place of, hard copy publication. This decision will be made as part of the overall publication, pricing and distribution plan.

Where a digital format is approved, Literature Committee special workers will make all needed preparations for selling e-publications online. The Literature Chair reports the sales and royalties to the Treasurer and accountant, as well as report the sales volume in the Literature Committee Monthly Report.

B. Policy for Reproduction and/or Distribution of WSO Books and Literature

This policy provides general guidance regarding this topic.

All ACA WSO books and literature have been copyrighted and the initial point of supply/sale must be through WSO. The resale of purchased books and literature is authorized without further restrictions.

NOTE: Sections of WSO-sanctioned translations in development may be reproduced for use within a meeting. Such copies must have a watermark that says property of ACA WSO and

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may not be sold to anyone or distributed outside of meetings.

1. **ACA WSO Copyrighted Books:** Any reproduction of these books in whole or in part is not authorized except as described below for use within ACA meetings.

Registered ACA groups may only reproduce limited extracts of up to 5 pages for use within their meeting. ACA members and visitors should be encouraged to purchase their own copy of these books for their personal use.

2. **Tri-folds:** WSO tri-folds are available for free download from the adultchildren.org website. Reproduction is authorized for use in ACA groups as well as for general outreach purposes. Counseling and related facilities are also authorized to reproduce our tri-folds for free distribution to their patients and their extended practice.

3. **ACA Booklets:** Reproduction of these items in whole or in part is not authorized except as described below for use within ACA meetings.

Registered ACA meetings and Intergroups are authorized to make copies for use within their meeting on a limited basis. Such copies may not be distributed outside of a meeting.

ACA Group Websites: Except in the case of resale of books and materials, WSO requests that group websites direct users to www.adultchildren.org for purchase and/or download of ACA copyright materials. In no case should any website provide any WSO copyrighted material for download that is not otherwise available for free download.

C. Translations of WSO Books and Literature

The WSO encourages ACA members to translate our literature into their native languages as an outreach to their community and local ACA meetings. However, such translations must be in accordance with policies established by the WSO. Those involved in such translations must sign a translation agreement acknowledging that the copyright and ownership of the translations are to be the property of WSO. In no case will such translations attempt to blend the ACA message with any non-WSO approved books or materials. Procedures and guidance will be provided by the WSO to ensure such translations are accurately translated and retain the message of the source copyright materials.

Additional guidance on translation is available on the Literature Committee section of the website Repository, and from the Literature Committee staff.

XIII. WSO EVENTS: ANNUAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE (ABC) and ACA WORLD CONVENTION (AWC)

The ABC is held on the Thursday and Friday prior to the fourth (4th) weekend of April each year. Any exception to this timing must be approved by the Board. The AWC begins immediately following the ABC on Friday night.

There are many groups and individuals that work together to ensure successful events. Along with the Host Committee that ensures that logistics and facilities are managed on the ground,

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there are also many roles at the Board and Committee level that are associated with these two events. Those that are common to both events are:

- Board Liaison – a member of the Board who serves as the conduit for information between the Board and the main event Chairs and Committees for the ABC and AWC
- Finance Liaison – a member of the Finance Committee who helps ensure that the financial aspects of the two events are monitored closely
- Technology Liaison – a member of the Website and Database Committee who helps ensure that the venue, the technology vendors and the event Committees understand the needs of WSO for both events
- Host Committee Chair – a member of the Host Committee who is responsible for ensuring that the needs of both events are managed
- Facilities Coordinator – a member of the Host Committee who helps ensure that the needs of both events are honored

A Host Committee search team is tasked with locating Intergroups and Regions who are interested in hosting future ABC/AWC events.

A. Annual Business Conference (ABC)

1. Brief History and Purpose

In 1983, the Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACA) Business Conference (BC) was organized by the Central Service Board. This was later changed to the Annual Business Conference (ABC).

The Conference was established for the purpose of bringing unity and consistency to the ACA fellowship. This was to be done by establishing guidelines for both service and communication links within ACA.

In 1987 the ABC Committee was authorized to print and mail ABC communication intended for the individual meetings and Intergroups. The minutes from the ABC, in addition to being sent to all Intergroups, were sent to all registered delegates present at the ABC where addresses were known.

In 2013, for the first time the ABC was held outside of the United States in Birkerød, Denmark.

A motion was passed in 2015 to host an annual recovery event to be held, when possible, in conjunction with the ABC. This was subsequently named the ACA World Convention (AWC)

The first annual AWC was held in 2016 in Delray Beach, Florida. The AWC started on Saturday night, after the closing of the ABC, and continued through Sunday afternoon.

The Delegate Training Subcommittee was created at the 2016 ABC. Its goal was to better prepare the Delegates for their role.

In early 2017, the WSO Board passed a motion to hold the ABC on Thursday and Friday so that the AWC could be extended an extra day – from Friday night through Sunday afternoon.

At the 2018 ABC, a motion was passed that WSO use online conferencing and voting technologies to make the ABC accessible to Delegates who are not able to attend in person.

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2. Required Roles, Committees and Responsibilities

In addition to the roles noted in the beginning of this section, the ABC requires that the following roles be filled:

a. ABC Committee Chair

- i. Candidates for this role shall be selected from those who either volunteer or are identified for their abilities. If possible, this person should have prior experience in some major role associated with a recent ABC, preferably as the Vice Chair. They are ratified by the ABC delegates. An ABC Committee shall be formed if one does not already exist.
- ii. The term of service is one year with a maximum of two consecutive terms. After a hiatus of two years, an individual may again serve in this role.
- iii. The ABC Committee Chair works with the Host Committee as needed.
- iv. One or more WSO Special Workers may be utilized as they are available.
- v. Responsible for ensuring that the Delegate binders are completed, provided online before the ABC, and also printed for distribution to all on site registered delegates. An abbreviated version of the binder is given to guests. Two extra copies of the Delegate binder should be produced for the WSO archives.
- vi. The ABC Committee Chair is responsible for the following:
 - a) Ensuring that the ABC is held in accordance with the ACA WSO ByLaws and this document.
 - b) Preparation and distribution of notifications to the Fellowship about the ABC, both through email blasts and information in the Traveler Newsletter
- vii. The ABC Committee Chair is responsible for ensuring the following reports are submitted:
 - a) A monthly written report for the Board Meeting with the Fellowship to be filed with the Board Secretary at least three days prior to the meeting.
 - b) A written summary of all results of the Ballot Proposals included on the ABC agenda, including a very short synopsis of the discussions, resultant motions, amendments and outcomes of same – within one week after the ABC.
 - c) A written summary within one week of anything from the ABC proceedings that require action by the Board.
 - d) A written summary within one week of additional items brought before the ABC body for discussion and potential action.
 - e) A written summary of recommendations to the Board for future such events – to be prepared after hosting a meeting that includes the ABC Committee including the Vice Chair, current and future Host Committee Chairs and pertinent sub-committee chairs, Delegate Training Sub-Committee Chair, Ballot Prep Chair, Board, Finance and Technology Liaisons, the Conference Chair and Secretary, and any WSO Special Workers involved in planning and executing the events(s).

Note: The summaries in b), c) and d) above will be written as an article for the July edition of the ComLine.

- viii. The completion of the duties of the ABC Committee Chair after an ABC shall be upon completion of the final ABC report.

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- b. ABC Committee Vice-Chair: Shall maintain regular contact with the ABC Committee Chair and be included in all meetings and electronic communication. This person shall be well enough informed to be able to step into the Chair role if it should be required.
- c. Delegate Training Sub-Committee (DTSC) Chair – the DTSC is responsible for both pre-ABC training sessions as well as training during the ABC. The purpose is to help guide ABC Delegates in understanding how the ABC is conducted and their role in the process.
- d. The Conference Chair (aka the ABC Chair) is the individual who presides over the proceedings of the ABC meeting.
 - i. Nominations will be taken by the Board for this role through the end of January, with announcements of the need to fill this role made at three or more prior Board Meeting with the Fellowship. The Board may also nominate a candidate.
 - ii. The Conference Chair will be chosen by the Board by mid-February. This decision will be based on the past experience attending ABCs as well as demonstrated ability to be effective in a role that requires a calm but firm demeanor.
 - iii. The Conference Chair will not have a vote as a delegate.
- e. Conference Secretary: The Board Secretary will work with the ABC Committee Chair to determine the best way for the minutes to be taken. If extra help is needed, the Host Committee will be contacted. The ABC will be recorded as backup documentation.

The basic requirements for the minutes are:

- Who was present, including Delegates, Trustees, non-voting attendees, and other individuals who fill pertinent roles.
- A listing of meeting segments and what reports were given during those segments. Reports that are included in the Delegate Binders will be referenced but not repeated within the minutes.
- Motions made, who made them, seconded them, pertinent discussion (names of speakers are not required), votes and outcomes.

All motions and their results must be made available for the Board Secretary to add to the Board's May Board Meeting with the Fellowship Agenda.

The draft minutes will be due within two months after the completion of the ABC. At that time they will be posted on the WSO website with a link sent to the delegates.

Final minutes must be completed by October 31st and will be included in the Delegate binder for the following year.

- f. Parliamentarian: A Parliamentarian will be available during the ABC to ensure that the Modified Robert's Rules of Order are followed (see Appendix X). It's important to note that the Traditions, Concepts and the OPPM will supersede any version of Robert's Rules.

3. Delegates

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An ABC Delegate is an elected representative of a meeting or a WSO service body that is registered with WSO.

Groups are autonomous and can decide for themselves who their delegate shall be, although it is highly recommended that the delegate have been a regular meeting attendee for at least a year and will be able to attend one of the Delegate Training sessions.

Delegates participate in the discussion and voting at the ABC as part of presenting the views of the group they represent.

In addition to representing their group at the ABC, a delegate can serve in other ways:

- In January, before the ABC, a delegate may assist their group by shepherding the Ballot process for the submitted proposals.
- After the ABC, delegates can offer their insights, as well as their experience, strength and hope by participating in ABC surveys.
- They may also be expected to provide a written report to their group.
- A delegate may also be inspired to volunteer for a WSO Committee.
- They may also offer their insights to a first-time delegate the following year.

Delegates who travel to an ABC may receive partial or full reimbursement from the group they represent, depending on the financial resources of that group.

Any member of the fellowship can attend the ABC. However, an individual group may have only one registered delegate. An exception is that two individuals may share the position of voting delegate for their group as long as they are both registered and have indicated how they will share their responsibilities, e.g., person A will cover the first day and person B will cover the second day.

More information for Delegates may be found on the acawso.org website.

4. The ABC and Delegate Voting

See Appendix X – ABC and QDM Voting Rules

Per the ByLaws, the group conscience obtained from the delegates in attendance shall provide direction and recommendations to the Board for conducting the business of ACA WSO. It is also the Board's responsibility to provide information about how proposals or suggestions will impact the fellowship in ways that the delegates may not be aware of.

5. Board Ratification

ABC Delegates are asked to ratify all Trustees at the end of Day Two of the ABC. As each Trustee is presented for ratification, the ABC Chair shall note which term and part of the term they are about to start, e.g., first term, first year; first term, second year; second term, first year; etc. It is at this time that any outgoing Trustees officially leave the Board and newly elected Trustees are added to the Board upon ratification.

The ABC does not accept nominations from the floor for new Trustees. The Nominating Committee was created in 2017 to manage the Board nomination process and this committee

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accepts nominations year around.

6. Quarterly Business Meetings

The 2022 ABC Delegates passed a motion to hold quarterly business meetings of from two to four hours each to handle spillover business from the previous ABC.

B. ACA World Convention (AWC)

A motion was passed in 2015 to host an annual recovery event to be held in conjunction with the ABC. This recovery event was named the ACA World Convention (AWC).

In 2016 the first annual AWC was held in Delray Beach, Florida. The AWC started on Saturday night, after the closing of the ABC, and continued through Sunday afternoon.

As noted previously, in early 2017 the WSO Board passed a motion that moved the ABC from Friday and Saturday to Thursday and Friday so that the AWC could be extended an extra day – from Friday night through Sunday afternoon.

Host Committee: The group whose city wins the bid to host the next ABC and/or AWC will be called the Host Committee. The ABC Committee Chair shall help guide the work with a Host Committee and oversee their work to produce the ABC.

XIV. BALLOT PREPARATION COMMITTEE (BPC)

The BPC is responsible for tasks associated with the annual ABC Proposal and Ballot process. These tasks include:

- A. Information and Education
- B. Call for Proposals
- C. Review Proposal submissions
- D. Draft WSO Analyses in cooperation with the Board and relevant Committees
- E. Facilitation of Proposal translations
- F. Publication of the Ballot for group voting
- G. Validate and publish Ballot results

Important dates that will also be noted in the sections below are: (Amended by Motion passed June 18, 2020)

- August 1st – Call for Proposals
- September 30th – Proposals Due
- Month of October – with the help of the BPC and/or relevant WSO Committee(s), submitted Proposals may be revised through October 31st.
- November 30th – WSO Analyses Due
- December 31st – Translations due
- January 8th – Ballot published to all groups via email
- January and February – Town Halls to review Ballot Proposals; Proposal Authors (Groups) invited to introduce their Proposals and answer questions
- February 15 – Ballot Voting Opens
- March 31st – All Ballots due

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- April 3rd – Publication of Ballot results

Note: In this section of the OPPM the word 'group' refers to any ACA meeting, Intergroup, Region or other service body registered with WSO.

A. Information and Education

The BPC is responsible for educating the fellowship about the Proposal and Ballot process. This is done before the Call for Proposals as well all stages listed in this section. Information that was disseminated in previous years is available on the <https://acawso.org> website.

B. Call for Proposals

The Call for Proposals begins with emails sent to WSO Private Contacts of all registered groups by August 1st that informs them about the process and deadlines. All pertinent information will also be available on the WSO website (<https://acawso.org/category/ballot-prep/>) and announced through other WSO publications.

The Proposal guidelines shall include the following paragraph: "We recognize that our program operates within the Spirit of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and that we must exercise judicious behavior in being of service to our fellowship. We encourage all groups to embrace the needs of our global fellowship as a whole. Proposals that are better handled at the meeting, WSO service body or Committee level may be directed away from the Ballot, based on discussion with the submitting group."

C. Proposal Submissions

Proposals may be submitted by any ACA group that is registered with WSO. While proposal ideas may be initiated by an individual group member, submitted Proposals must be the product of a wider group conscience. Note: Proposals may also be submitted by the Board and WSO Standing and Ad Hoc Committees. Sub-Committees may submit through their primary Committee.

The following information must be included with the Proposal:

- The contact information for the individual entering the Proposal; this can be the WSO Meeting Contact, the Primary or Secondary Private Contact, the Secretary, the WSO Delegate (if the group has one), or any alternate appointed by the group.
- The WSO group ID number, the WSO Committee name, or the Board
- The Private Contact information listed on the WSO database, if different than the submitting individual above. If the group doesn't know this information, they may send an email to meetings@acawso.org.

There are three (3) sections of a Proposal:

1. The Issue (up to 75 words)– the specific action or change being sought from WSO, written as a single, clear statement/idea.
2. The Background (up to 250 words) – the reasoning, and perhaps history, behind the proposal and how the action or change may positively impact the global fellowship.
3. Optional: Resources and Implementation (up to 300 words) – information the proposing group may have, including how the proposal can be implemented, based on research and discussion with WSO, as well as volunteer help that may be available.

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Proposals must be received by the WSO no later than September 30th.

During October groups will have an opportunity to work with the BPC and relevant WSO committees to modify Proposal language. Groups with similar proposals can be given the opportunity to work together if they wish, perhaps even combining their Proposals.

Groups must submit their final proposal by October 31.

D. Proposal Analysis

With the help of Trustees and appropriate Committees, the BPC shall prepare a draft of the WSO Analysis for each proposal and submit them to the Full Board for approval so that they are ready for translation by November 30th.

E. Translations

Proposals will be available for volunteer translators as early as the first week of November, but no later than the first week of December. Translators are asked to contact bpc@adulthoodchildren.org for more information. Translations are due by December 31st.

F. ABC Ballot

Ballots containing the Proposals will be sent to all email accounts associated with registered ACA groups by January 8th. Links to the Ballot will also be placed in announcements on the WSO websites and WSO publications.

During January and February the BPC will conduct at least two Town Halls to allow submitting groups to introduce their Proposals to the Fellowship.

The Ballot will be available for voting starting February 15th and will close on March 31st. Groups will be asked to vote *Yes*, *No*, or *No Opinion* for each Proposal. A *No Opinion* will not be included as part of the total vote count. A field will be provided for an optional group comment for each Proposal.

G. Validate and Publish the Results

When counting the Ballot results, an affirmative vote of 66.7% of those groups responding to a Proposal will place that Proposal on the ABC agenda for considerations by the ABC delegates.

The BPC will provide the ABC Committee with the final voting totals by April 3rd, indicating which Proposals should be included on the ABC Agenda. The results of the Ballot will also be published on the WSO websites and publications.

Comments that were included in the Ballots about all Proposals will also be sent to the ABC Committee for dissemination and inclusion in the Delegate Binders.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I — RIGHT TO PETITION

If certain groups within the ACA Fellowship are dissatisfied with some action or inaction of WSO (i.e., the Board or a Committee of the Board), they may formally petition the Board for reconsideration or some other specific action. The decision to file a Petition must be the result of a group conscience vote of the petitioning body.

A. Who may File a Petition:

1. WSO Committees
2. The Fellowship – may be submitted by the following:
 - a. Four or more registered meetings, or
 - b. One or more registered Intergroups that each represent at least four meetings, or
 - c. One or more registered Regions.

B. Guidelines for Filing Petitions:

1. A designated representative(s) from the Petitioners will submit the Petition in writing to the Board Secretary (secretary@adultchildren.org), cc'ing the Board Chair (chair@adultchildren.org). Note: In the case of a WSO Committee(s), Petitions are submitted by the Committee Chair.
2. Petitions should include the following:
 - a. Contact information for all supporting groups.
 - b. The original action or inaction taken by the Board or WSO Committee.
 - c. The reason for submitting the Petition.
 - d. Optional: any background information, including information that might not have been available at the time of the original WSO action or inaction.

D. Responsibilities of WSO Secretary

The Board Secretary will

1. Submit the Petition to the Board.
2. Send an email to the Petitioners indicating receipt of the Petition and pointing out that the clock has started ticking and each party is responsible for adhering to their respective timelines as outlined in this Right to Petition procedure
3. Place the petition on the agenda for the regularly scheduled Board Meeting with the Fellowship (TC) no more than 40 days after receipt of the petition. NOTE: Petitions with their original submission date will remain on the Monthly TC agenda along with a monthly progress report made by the Secretary until a resolution has been determined and announced. The petition and resolution will remain on the agenda for two additional months.

E. Submitted Petition Process

The Board may

1. Decide that they are in favor of the Petition and pass a motion to make the requested change.
2. Reject the Petition, with an explanation, if they determine that implementation would violate the ByLaws or any other part of the legal structure of WSO.

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3. Pursue a mutually agreeable solution with the Petitioner(s). If this is not obtainable, move to (4) below.
4. Engage an Intermediary, as described below.

E. Intermediary Process

1. Both the Board and Petitioners will approve an independent intermediary(s) who is not a Trustee nor someone affiliated with the petitioning group(s).
2. After meeting with both parties, within 30 days the Intermediary will submit an analysis of the Petition to both parties, along with a recommendation for resolution.
3. The Petitioners will have up to 30 days from receipt of the analysis and recommendation to review the information and add additional comments, if they choose.
4. The Petition, with the addition of information from B and C, will be given to the Board.
5. The Board will have 30 days to review the material and, with the agreement of $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of Trustees, take one of the following actions:
 - a. Accept and implement the adjusted petition.
 - b. Propose a solution to the Petitioner(s) to be accepted or rejected within 30 days.
 - i. If accepted by the Petitioners, the Board shall then pass a motion implementing the agreed-upon solution within 30 days.
 - ii. If rejected by the Petitioner(s), proceed to c. below.
 - c. Reject the petition with an explanation.
6. If a $\frac{2}{3}$ Board majority vote of the Board is not reached in order to implement one of the above actions, the matter will go back to the Intermediary to generate recommendations for the next step.

F. Deadline for Board Action

The entire process may not take more than six (6) months to resolve.

G. Further Recourse for Petitioners

The Petition may not be re-submitted after a resolution has been determined by the Board. If Petitioners do not feel the Board has given their petition a good faith effort, then they may submit a Proposal for ABC.

APPENDIX II – REGION CERTIFICATION PROCESS

A. Requirements to Establish and Certify an ACA Region

1. Introduction

Regions are part of the service structure of ACA, situated between the WSO and the Intergroups and/or the Fellowship. They provide information and support, connecting ACA members, groups, and Intergroups.

Regions may be formed by common features, such as a geographic area, virtual, or language. Local or shared needs will best determine how Intergroups come together to organically form Regions. Regions may change over time. These changes will be driven by the growth of ACA and the need to support more Intergroups and membership services.

Developing and certified Regions should consider sending a representative to the meetings of the

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Regions/Intergroups Subcommittee of MSC (Member Services Committee).

The **BRB** section titled *How to Start an ACA Intergroup or Regional Service Committee* (pg. 603) lays out the first steps to take to form a Region

2. Certification Process

The following are steps for actual certification that proposed Regions must follow to qualify for formal recognition by ACA WSO.

- a. Notify the Regions/Intergroups Subcommittee (regions@acawso.org) of your intent to become certified as a Region.
- b. Document the following and send to the Regions/Intergroups Subcommittee:
 - i. A list of the service positions, including Regional Board members and officers, plus the length of the terms of service.
 - ii. The names, emails and physical addresses of those currently holding the above service positions.
 - iii. Mailing address and website of the proposed Region.
 - iv. The names and WSO-assigned numbers of the Intergroups that are forming the proposed Region. NOTE: after certification, Regions must continue to have at least three Intergroups in good standing that are associated with it.
 - v. A service plan that hopes to improve recovery throughout the proposed Region.
 - vi. A description of the geographic area or common feature, such as language, that the new Region serves and how this supports member groups and Intergroups.
 - vii. At least three months' worth of minutes and other organizational information, such as legal documents.
 - viii. ByLaws that are in line with The ACA Traditions and Concepts of Service, including what will happen upon dissolution of the region.
 - ix. Documentation of a bank account and at least three months of account statements in order to demonstrate financial transparency to the member groups as well as the Fellowship in general.
- c. While Regions generally are autonomous in their decision-making, they are expected to adhere to the Traditions and Concepts of Service. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - i. Transparency and accountability to the fellowship they serve.
 - ii. A process that ensures regular rotation of trusted servants.
 - iii. A designated member of the Region's current officers, such as a treasurer, who will administer any treasury or financial reserves and provide regular reports to the regional membership.

When all information is received and in order, the Regions/Intergroups Subcommittee will forward it to the Executive Committee who will recommend the Region to the Board for consideration and determination of whether the Region will be formally certified.

Once certified, a Region may submit a candidate to the Nominating Committee if they would like representation on the Board. Regional Trustees must meet the same eligibility requirements as all other Board Trustees (see Section II. WSO BOARD OF TRUSTEES).

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B. Recertification*

Because certified Regions have a formal role within the ACA WSO service structure, including the opportunity to submit a nominee for the Board of Trustees, they must accept a requirement to annually verify that they are meeting WSO certification requirements.

A notice will be sent annually to all certified Regions by May 1st from the Regions/Intergroups Sub-committee that their recertification documentation is due by July 1st.

The recertification process is as follows:

1. Each certified Region must present updated certification documents annually by July 1st to the Member Services Committee (MSC) and copy the Board Secretary. If all is in order, MSC will inform the F&PE CC; the Board Secretary will inform the Board. The Region is then presumed recertified for the following year, unless either the F&PE CC or the Board have questions about the recertification information within two months of receipt.
2. If there are issues with the recertification documents that need to be addressed by the Region, a notice will be sent to them before the end of the two-month review process explaining the issues. If a meeting is necessary, it will include at least two Board members (one of whom should be a Board Officer) and the Officers of the Region.
3. If the result of this meeting is a determination that the Region needs to take corrective action(s), they must respond to the Board within 90 days with evidence that those action(s) have been resolved or are in the process of being resolved with a date of when it will be completed.
4. If the issue(s) is not resolved, the Board may decide to decertify the Region, or place them on suspension. The suspension will be in place for up to six months ("Suspension Term"), at the end of which time the Region will either be reinstated because matters have been resolved, or they will be decertified. During the Suspension Term a note will be added to the Region's listing on the WSO website that the Region is in suspension but not decertified.
5. If a Region is decertified, it will no longer be listed on the WSO website. The Region may have up to two years to apply for recertification.

*Note: On August 2, 2024, the Board of Trustees passed a motion to put the annual Regions recertification process on pause (Ref: Motion 2024_08_02)

C. Complaint Process

If ACA groups or Intergroups that are presently, or formerly, part of a Region believe the Region is not in compliance with certification requirements, they are to notify MSC, which informs the F&PE CC, which forwards this information to the Board's Executive Committee. F&PE CC and the Executive Committee then work together to examine and clarify the issues raised. They will refer the matter to the full Board if they feel action is warranted. The process will then be the same as step one of the Recertification process as stated above.

The primary goal of actions taken will be to determine if any violations can be corrected in a way that would allow the Region to remain certified. However, in the event of severe or repeated violations, the Board may withdraw or modify a Region's certification.

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A Region's course of action will be the Right to Petition process, as outlined in the OPPM, if they feel actions taken by the Board are not warranted.

APPENDIX III - RECORDS RETENTION SCHEDULE

A. Records Retention Periods

1. The following documents must be permanently retained:

- Governance Records: Including articles of incorporation, charter and amendments, bylaws, board minutes, IRS documents pertaining to tax exempt status
- Tax Records: Filed state and federal tax returns/report
- Intellectual Property records: Copyright and Trademark registrations applications, assignments, licenses, written agreements
- Financial Records: Audited financial statements
- Major Asset Records: Deeds, mortgages, property assessments and bills of sale
- Current contracts, leases and insurance (in effect)
- Records addressing any employee medical complaint
- Information supporting membership records (duration of membership, membership application and overall membership statistics)
- Records required to determine retirement benefits, including 401(k)

2. The following documents must be retained for 7 years:

- Accounts receivable records including invoices to customers
- Accounts payable records including invoices from vendors, expense reports
- Canceled checks
- Bank statements
- "Back-up" and supporting documentation for tax returns
- "Back-up" and supporting documentation for audited financial statements

3. The following documents must be retained for 6 years:

- Employee benefits data for active plans. Employee benefits data for terminated plans must be retained for one year.

4. The following documents must be retained for 5 years:

- Workers compensation/injury records from latest of date of injury or date of compensation last provided

5. The following documents must be retained for 4 years:

- Employee income tax records
- Contracts, leases and insurance policies after expiration
- Payroll records
- Employee personnel files (3 years after termination of employment)
- Recruitment and hiring records
- FMLA records

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B. Terms of Retention

Note: These requirements are in effect unless superseded by California Requirements.

	Minimum Requirement
Accounts payable ledgers and schedules	7 years
Archives of the ACA Program, Products, and Literature	Permanently
Audit reports	Permanently
Bank reconciliations	2 years
Bank statements	3 years
Checks (for important payments and purchases)	Permanently
Contracts, mortgages, notes, and leases (expired)	7 years
Contracts (still in effect)	Contract period
Correspondence (general)	2 years
Correspondence (legal and important matters)	Permanently
Correspondence (with customers and vendors)	2 years
Deeds, mortgages, and bills of sale	Permanently
Determination letter for income tax exemption	Permanently
Depreciation schedules	Permanently
Duplicate deposit slips	2 years
Employment applications	3 years
Expense analyses/expense distribution schedules	7 years
Year-end financial statements	Permanently
Insurance records, current accident reports, claims, policies, and so on (active and expired)	Permanently
Internal audit reports	3 years
Inventory records for products, materials, and supplies	3 years
Invoices (to customers, from vendors)	7 years
Minutes books, bylaws, and charter	Permanently
Patents and related papers	Permanently
Payroll records and summaries	7 years
Personnel files (terminated employees)	7 years
Retirement and pension records	Permanently
Tax returns and worksheets	Permanently
Timesheets	7 years
Trademark registrations and copyrights	Permanently
Withholding tax statements	7 years

Document development/approval:

- *Drafted by the General Manager based on CA non-profit samples*
- *Online collaboration/review by Board Members and Committee Chairs completed on April 18, 2024.*

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- *Legal review completed on April 23, 2024 (W:\Working\01450\01\W0658807.DOCX)*
- *Adopted by the Board of Trustees on May 9, 2024.*

APPENDIX IV – NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A. Accountability and Cooperation Statement

The NomCom is accountable to the Conference and the WSO Board. The Committee strives to promote and support a cooperative working relationship with both service bodies.

B. General Duties and Process

Due to the NomCom's unique nature and the need for close communication with the Board, one Trustee will be appointed to serve as a communication liaison. This individual's responsibility will be to act as a resource to the NomCom as well as to keep the Board informed of ongoing non-confidential Committee work.

NOTE: Because of the guarantee that is given to candidates that the process is confidential, the liaison will be excluded from discussions directly related to any candidates.

The NomCom will ensure that the qualifications for Board candidacy is published on the WSO website, and any other publications available. This will include the skills, experience, wisdom, and program knowledge that support a candidate's potential for being a WSO Trustee.

Due to the confidential nature of the work done by this Committee, all records will be kept in a location, whether online or physical, that is not accessible by others in service to WSO. However, in keeping with the standard for all Committees of the Board, the NomCom is required to produce monthly reports, even though they may be fairly generic in nature.

The NomCom will consider all Board candidates, including those recommended by individual members of the Fellowship or ACA groups. Upon receipt of an application, Board candidates will be vetted by NomCom based on the qualifications before they are nominated to the Board.

In conducting its vetting process, the NomCom will do the following (see the accompanying NomCom Process Chart at the end of this section):

1. Review written applications of Board candidates to first determine if they meet the list of Board qualifications shown in OPPM Section II.K, Qualifications for Board Membership.
2. Interview those candidates who appear to meet the qualifications.
3. Interview references and others who have knowledge of them/interactions with them.
4. Conduct additional evaluations, such as examining committee attendance and considering feedback from those who have served with the candidates. This may include observations of their interactions on Slack and Zoom chats.
5. Submit qualified nominees along with the nomination packet to the Board. This packet will inform the Board how the nominee meets the Board qualifications, plus stating other strengths and opportunities for growth.
6. Schedule and conduct a Q&A meeting with the Board and the candidate to give each the opportunity to ask clarifying questions. The Board may not contact candidates directly about

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their candidacy before discussing next steps with the NomCom. Instead, the Board will contact NomCom if they want more information about the candidates.

7. After the Board deliberates, they will either:
 - a. accept the NomCom recommendation, in which case the NomCom notifies the nominee, who has up to one week to accept the position or not.
 - b. does not accept the NomCom's recommendation, see Disputes section below.
8. Notify the Board of the candidate's response.
9. If the candidate:
 - a. accepts the position, the Board will pass a motion.
 - b. does not accept the position and the NomCom thanks them for applying.
10. For candidates that accept the position, schedule a "Meet and Greet" between the Board and the new Board member.
11. At the conclusion of the "Meet and Greet" meeting, the Board officially announces the new Board member to the fellowship and schedules orientation sessions.

C. Disputes

1. Board objections to any Trustee nomination must be submitted to the NomCom in writing within 30 days of the Q&A meeting.
2. The Board's written objections must cite specific qualifications that a candidate allegedly fails to meet. This written objection can also include recommendations for a path forward for the candidate to reapply.
3. The NomCom will specifically evaluate the objections of the Board as follows:
 - a. If the NomCom finds that the objection is valid, the nomination will be withdrawn and the candidate will be notified and given a copy of the Board's written response. The candidate may reapply at a later date if they feel the objection has been resolved.
 - b. If the NomCom finds no merit to the Board's objections, the Board will be notified that the nomination will be sustained.
4. In the event of a stalemate between the Board and the NomCom, an impartial Mediator will be enlisted to help the parties come to an agreement.
5. If an agreement cannot be reached, and the candidate does not object, then the candidacy will be submitted as a motion to the delegates by the NomCom at the next ABC. At that point, the process will follow ABC guidelines for all motions.

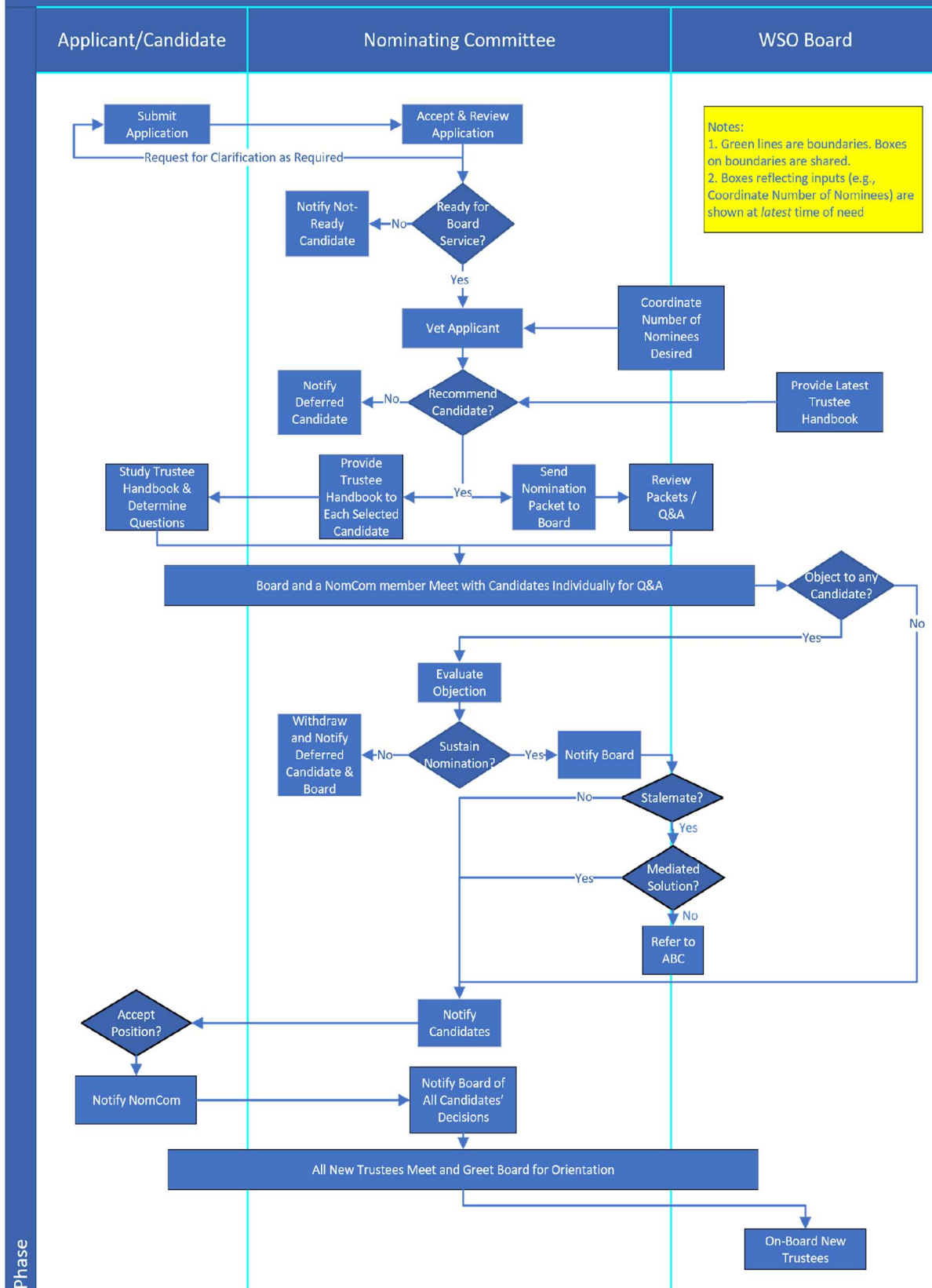
Additional Information on the NomCom and Board Selection Process:

- WSO-certified Regions are entitled to one seat on the Board of Trustees. Regions will be asked to forward their candidates to the NomCom, who will vet them in accordance with stated guidelines in this section. If a candidate from a Region is not eligible for Board membership, the Region will be notified and encouraged to send another candidate for vetting.

A flowchart of the Nominating Committee process is shown on the next page.

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WSO Nominating Process



APPENDIX V – HISTORICAL DATES AND EVENTS

This appendix contains historical dates and events.

Handbook for Adult Children. ACA WSO brought this LA/SFV IG project under the auspices of the Literature Committee Sept. 12, 1992 and provided as much support as was possible. **Rev. Motion No. 06109513** (Renamed the ACA Fellowship Text (Steps & Traditions Book), the Handbook was published in November 2006).

APPENDIX VI – ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS

A. ACA WSO Articles of Incorporation

The ACA WSO is incorporated in the State of California, USA and is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charity organization.

The ACA WSO was incorporated in January 1987 as the Adult Children of Alcoholics Central Service Board, subsequently amended in March 1992 as the Adult Children of Alcoholics World Service Organization (ACA WSO). Click [HERE](#) to see a copy of the Articles of Incorporation.

B. ACA WSO Bylaws

Click [HERE](#) to see the most recent copy of the ACA WSO ByLaws.

APPENDIX VII -- ACA 12 STEPS; 12 TRADITIONS; 12 CONCEPTS

Click [HERE](#) to find the Twelve Steps of Adult Children of Alcoholics.

Click [HERE](#) to find the Twelve Traditions of Adult Children of Alcoholics.

Click [HERE](#) to find the Twelve Concepts of Adult Children of Alcoholics.

APPENDIX VIII – CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

**Adult Children of Alcoholics World Service
Organization, Inc.
CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY**

Article I: Purpose

The purpose of this Conflict of Interest Policy is to establish the procedures for the identification and resolution of conflicts of interest in the context of transactions or arrangements entered into by “Adult Children of Alcoholics World Service Organization, Inc.” hereinafter “Adult Children of Alcoholics” where an Interested Person (defined below) may have a Financial Interest (defined below) in or Fiduciary Responsibility (as defined below) towards an individual or entity with which Adult Children of Alcoholics is negotiating a transaction or arrangement. The determination that a conflict of interest exists does not prohibit the Adult Children of Alcoholics from entering into the proposed transaction or arrangement provided that the procedures set forth in Article III below are followed. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state laws governing conflicts of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable corporations.

Article II: Definitions

1. Interested Person

Any director, principal officer, employee, or member of a committee with Board-delegated powers who has either (a) a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below (“Financial Interest”); or (b) a fiduciary responsibility to another organization, as defined below (“Fiduciary Responsibility”), is an interested person.

2. Financial Interest

A person has a Financial Interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment or family (which are spouse, children and step children, and other relatives living with such person):

- A. an ownership or investment interest in any entity with which Adult Children of Alcoholics has a transaction or arrangement; or
- B. a compensation arrangement with Adult Children of Alcoholics or with any entity or individual with which Adult Children of Alcoholics has a transaction or arrangement;
- C. a potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which Adult Children of Alcoholics is negotiating a transaction or arrangement; or

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- D. other than an arm's-length relationship with prospective or actual grantees relative to the design of specific projects, preparation of specific proposals and review and oversight of funded projects, and Adult Children of Alcoholics related activities.

Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors. Gifts and favors include any gratuitous service, loan, discount, money or article of value, but does not include loans from financial institutional on customary terms, articles of nominal value ordinarily used for sales promotion, ordinary "business lunches" or reasonable entertainment consistent with local social or business customs.

A Financial Interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under Article III, Section 2, a person who has a Financial Interest may have a conflict of interest only if the Board or appropriate committee decides that a conflict of interest exists.

3. Fiduciary Responsibility

A person has a Fiduciary Responsibility towards an organization or individual if he or she:

- a. occupies a position of special confidence towards such organization or individual;
- b. holds in trust property in which another person has the beneficial title of interest, or who receives and controls the income of another; or
- c. has a duty of loyalty or duty of care to an organization (by virtue of serving as an officer or director of an organization or other position with similar responsibilities). A duty of loyalty requires the person to refrain from dealing with the organization on behalf of a party having an interest adverse to the organization and refrain from competing with the organization. A duty of care requires the person to discharge his or her duties in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believes to be in the best interests of the organization.

A Fiduciary Responsibility is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under Article III, Section 2, a person who has a Fiduciary Responsibility may have a conflict of interest only if the Board or appropriate committee decides that a conflict of interest exists.

Article III: Procedures

1. Duty to Disclose

In connection with any actual or possible conflicts of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence and nature of his or her Financial Interest or Fiduciary Responsibility and all material facts to the directors and members of committees with Board-delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangements.

2. Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists

After disclosure of the Financial Interest or Fiduciary Responsibility and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he or she shall leave the Board or

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committee meeting while the final determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining Board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.

3. Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest

- a. An interested person may make a factual presentation at the Board or committee meeting, but after such presentation, he or she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement that results in the conflict of interest. An interested person shall not actively participate in the discussion of, or vote on, the transaction or arrangement that results in the conflict of interest, either formally at a Board or committee meeting or informally through contact with individual Board or committee members. In addition, the interested person should not be counted in determining whether a quorum is present for the Board or committee meeting at which the transaction or arrangement that results in the conflict of interest is to be voted upon.
- b. The chair of the Board or committee shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.
- c. After exercising due diligence, the Board or committee shall determine whether Adult Children of Alcoholics can obtain a more advantageous transaction or arrangement with reasonable efforts from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.
- d. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably attainable under circumstances that would not give rise to a conflict of interest, the Board or committee shall determine by a majority vote (or other voting requirement, as provided in the Bylaws of Adult Children of Alcoholics) of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in Adult Children of Alcoholics interest and for its own benefit and whether the transaction is fair and reasonable to Adult Children of Alcoholics and shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement in conformity with such determination.

4. Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy

- a. If the Board has reasonable cause to believe that a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.
- b. If, after hearing the response of the member and making such further investigation as may be warranted in the circumstances, the Board or committee determines that the member has in fact failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective actions.

Article IV: Records of Proceedings

The minutes of the Board and all committees with Board-delegated powers shall contain:

- a. the names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a Financial

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Interest or a Fiduciary Responsibility in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the Financial Interest or Fiduciary Responsibility, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the Board's or committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.

- b. the names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the names of the persons who recused themselves from such discussion and votes, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection therewith.

Article V: Compensation Committees

A voting member of any committee with Board-delegated powers whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from Adult Children of Alcoholics for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.

Article VI: Annual Statements

Each director, principal officer, and member of a committee with Board-delegated powers annually shall sign an acknowledgement and disclosure form that:

- a. Affirms that such person has received and reviewed a copy of this conflict of interest policy and agreed to comply with its terms;
- b. Requires that such person disclose any Financial Interest in or Fiduciary Responsibility towards any entity such person believes may enter into a proposed transaction with Adult Children of Alcoholics in the upcoming year.

Article VII: Periodic Reviews

To ensure that Adult Children of Alcoholics operates in a manner consistent with its charitable purposes and that it does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its status as an organization exempt from federal income tax, periodic reviews shall be conducted. The periodic reviews shall, at a minimum, include the following subjects:

- a. Whether compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable and are the result of arm's-length bargaining.
- b. Whether arrangements with other organizations conform to Adult Children of Alcoholics' applicable written policies, are properly recorded, reflect reasonable payments for goods and services, if any, further Adult Children of Alcoholics' charitable purposes and do not result in inurement or impermissible private benefit.

Article VIII: Use of Outside Experts

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In conducting the periodic reviews provided for in Article VII, Adult Children of Alcoholics may, but need not, use outside experts. If outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the Board of its responsibility for ensuring that periodic reviews are conducted.

***CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/DISCLOSURE FORM
FOR ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS WORLD SERVICE ORGANIZATION,
INC.***

1. CONFLICTING ORGANIZATIONS

I am a director, trustee, officer, representative of, or have a Financial Interest in the following organizations that have or may have a conflict with the interests of the Adult Children of Alcoholics

Organization and Title or Interest:

2. CONFLICTING ACTIVITIES/OBLIGATIONS

I am involved in no activity or transaction, nor am I a party to any contract involving interests that are or could be found to be adverse to the Adult Children of Alcoholics except for the following:

3. CONFLICTING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES/COMMITMENTS

I have not committed to, nor am I pursuing, any business opportunity that does or might adversely affect the Adult Children of Alcoholics except for the following:

4. CONFLICTING RELATIONSHIPS

I do not have a Fiduciary Relationship with any person with whom Adult Children of Alcoholics is pursuing a business opportunity except for the following:

5. OTHER POTENTIAL CONFLICTS

Any other concerns I may have regarding actual or potential conflicts of interest are listed below:

I have received and reviewed Adult Children of Alcoholics Conflict of Interest Policy, and to the best of my knowledge, I have accurately answered the above questions.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

APPENDIX IX – TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

Note: Copies of receipts are required for all expenditures, except as otherwise noted in this policy.

All reasonable expenses for transportation, lodging and food are reimbursable for Trustees, employees, and others while traveling on WSO business, as long as the travel is pre-approved using the Travel Approval Form (shown at the end of this Appendix), or it is part of larger group travel, such as to the ABC, which is accepted as necessary by the Board.

Travelers may arrive the day before a scheduled WSO event. Travelers crossing three time zones and/or who have more than eight hours of flying time, including layovers, may arrive an additional day prior to a scheduled event. Any requests for additional days outside of this timeframe will require approval by the Board or a person authorized by the Board (e.g., Treasurer or General Manager).

A. Transportation to the Destination:

Each person should travel by the most efficient and economical means as is reasonable and possible.

The following transportation costs are reimbursable:

1. Airline or train tickets, including the cost of one checked bag. The cost of flight insurance is also reimbursable.
 - a. Travelers are responsible for the cost of seat upgrades, unless pre-approved by the Board for health reasons.
 - b. Reimbursement is for the actual cost of flights between the traveler's home and the approved destination. If the traveler is connecting to another destination as well, they are responsible for those additional costs. To determine the reimbursable amount, when making travel arrangements, screenshots showing the cost of a single destination round trip ticket at the time of the purchase of the actual ticket should be made to submit with the expense report.

NOTE: Non-Stop flights that are more expensive yet could avoid significant layover time or extend international travel time unreasonably, may be reimbursable if approved by the Board or a person authorized by the Board (e.g., Treasurer or General Manager).

2. Airport parking for the least expensive daily parking rate.
3. Cab fare, ride sharing, or the cost of mileage reimbursement for a friend or relative who drives the traveler to or from the airport. Mileage reimbursement is based on current GSA (US General Services Administration) rates.
4. Driving vs. flying: If the traveler chooses to drive to and from home to the destination rather than use a more economical mode of travel, the reimbursement for car rental and/or gas may not exceed the cost of airfare and related expenses. In such cases, the traveler should make screenshots showing the cost of a single destination round trip ticket for submission with their expense report, taken on a date that corresponds to a reasonable date when flight reservations would have been made.
5. Other Travel Alternatives, such as Bus or Train: Guidelines should be treated the same as

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noted above for Driving vs. Flying.

B. Transportation at the Destination:

All factors should be considered when deciding whether to rent a car or use local transportation options.

If it is most reasonable and effective for the traveler to rent a car, the reimbursement will include the rental cost, rental car company insurance, and gas.

NOTE: if free transportation is available during any leg of a trip, such as for travel to and from the airport, every reasonable effort should be made to use it – unless there are health or safety concerns, or it is too difficult because of luggage and materials being transported.

C. Food, Incidentals, and Entertainment:

1. Food and Incidentals per diem. WSO has adopted the U.S. Government's General Services Administration (GSA) meals and incidental expenses (M&IE) per diem rates.

Receipts are not required for meals and incidentals for which per diem is claimed.

Payment for per diem expenses while traveling will be the current GSA rate, or an equivalent amount in a foreign currency for non-US travelers. This includes incidentals.

A maximum partial per diem is granted for travel days. A full day's per diem is granted when such travel from home and destination lasts eight (8) or more hours.

2. General Partial per diem details:
 - a. Any of the traveler's meals that are provided or paid for by others, including as part of an event/meeting or provided by the hotel, should be deducted from the per diem for that day per the following: Breakfast 25% of per diem, Lunch 30% of per diem, Dinner 45% of per diem. As an example, if lunch is provided, the traveler will claim only 70% of the full day per diem rate for that day. Note: Airline inflight meals are not counted as provided meals.
 - b. Per diem for local travelers on travel days: those who drive to an event/meeting within 100 miles may claim per diem for only the meal(s) they have to pay for themselves during the time they are asked to be on site.
 - c. When all meals are provided, there will be no per diem available, including for incidentals.
3. Entertainment: On the rare occasion that a Trustee or key employee is authorized to invite other members of the fellowship, employees or vendors to a meal, they will make every effort to stay within the individual meal costs for all parties for that meal. They will not be required to obtain a separate receipt for only the guest(s). Instead, their meal should be paid for as part of the whole. If per diem applies because they are traveling, then they will deduct that meal from their per diem.

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ACA WSO PRE-TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION FORM

All travel on behalf of ACA WSO requires authorization prior to confirming the travel arrangements. This form should be completed by the traveler and submitted to the committee chair or Trustee who is responsible for the traveler's budget. After that person approves, please send to the Treasurer, who will obtain Board approval.

Traveler _____ **Date of Submission** _____
First Name Last Name

Destination _____

Date of Departure _____ **Date of Return** _____

Purpose of the Travel and Goals to be Accomplished

—

—

—

—

Estimated Funds Required _____ **Budgeted or Unbudgeted?**

Cost Center (Committee or Account #) _____

Submitted by _____
Committee Chair or Trustee Printed Name

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Signature _____ Date _____

Board Approved Motion # _____ Date _____

APPENDIX X – ABC and QDM VOTING RULES

Rules for ABC Delegate Deliberation and Voting (For Virtual Meetings)

A. Introduction

The Annual Business Conference (ABC) brings together adult children from around the planet. It is important that Delegates experience a safe environment of openness, inclusion, unity, placing principles before personality, and relying on a worldwide group conscience to achieve substantial unanimity on major issues. These values reflect the First, Second, Fifth, and Twelfth Traditions; Concepts 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, and 12; and ACA's Commitment to Service.

As the result of a vote taken at the 2022 ABC, Quarterly Delegate Meetings (QDMs) were established to give the Delegates a continual voice in the affairs of the ACA World Service Organization (WSO).

To help support this type of deliberation, the following considerations have been put into place:

1. To accommodate all global time zones, worldwide online voting will be conducted outside of the actual ABC and QDM hours to make decisions on motions and Trustee ratifications.
2. Formal rules for discussion have been kept to a minimum. There will be some flexibility around time. Except where noted, delegates should limit their comments to about a minute. But speakers always will be given a small amount of additional time to complete a thought, and the Chair will give up to 90 seconds to those who do not speak English as a first language. If the Chair feels additional discussion time may be warranted, they may ask for a show of hands to see if the Delegates agree - within the context of timing of the full agenda.
3. The Conference Chair has the discretion to call on Delegates out of order so that those who have not been heard previously will be given an opportunity.
4. Delegates are highly encouraged to not repeat points that have already been made.
5. The Parliamentarian is entrusted to make decisions about process and order. In the case of submission of alternative motions (described below) the submitting Delegate may appeal the Parliamentarian's ruling to the Chair. The appeal must be seconded by another Delegate. The Delegate who appeals will have up to 90 seconds to voice their appeal. The Chair will then ask for a raised-hands poll of the Delegates to determine whether the

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Parliamentarian's decision stands or not. If 60% or more wish to overrule the Parliamentarian, the alternative motion will be added.

The ABC honors the minority's right of petition (Concept 5) by including the opportunity to request a re-vote on motions and Board Trustee ratifications through the minority opinion process.

Important note: Historically, it has not always been possible to complete the business of the Conference in two days. With Delegate agreement, agenda items that are not covered may be deferred to the QDMs.

The ABC lasts 2 days for approximately 8 hours each day, including breaks. The Delegates may elect to go beyond 8 hours for a maximum of an additional half hour if the discussion in progress warrants that. As the ABC Committee attempts to accommodate the many different time zones of the Fellowship, the starting time may vary from year to year and will be published well in advance of the ABC.

This Appendix covers the process of voting for Ballot Proposals, Study Group Motions, Floor Motions, and Board Ratifications during the ABC.

B. Worldwide Online Voting

A worldwide online voting process is used to increase access to registered Delegates across the globe who may find it difficult to attend due to time zone issues or conflicting commitments.

Except for specified procedural matters, most final decisions will be made through this voting process that will last 10-12 hours and be available to all registered ABC Delegates, no matter what time zone they are in, and whether they are able to attend the ABC real time.

Individualized emails are sent to all registered Delegates that will enable them to cast their online votes.

For the 2-day ABC, this voting officially opens within two hours of the close of the first day's session and closes within 2 hours of the start of the next day's session. If there is voting to be done after the end of the second day's ABC session or the QDM, the length of time available to vote will be announced.

To assist in this process, a WSO web page will be available that will include the Motions and Board Trustee Ratifications to be voted on, a brief summary of the main pro and con arguments, and audio recordings of Delegate discussions.

C. Quorum

Quorum rules exist to ensure that a vote reflects a substantial unanimity, not just a small percentage of Conference Delegates. Quorum refers to an established number of Delegates that must be present during any vote taken. Quorum is 50% of the number of Delegates who raise their hand as present during quorum counts.

Quorum counts will be taken near the beginning and mid-point of each session, as well as about

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an hour before the completion of each business day.

If any vote, in either a poll or in worldwide online voting, gets a total number of votes that is fewer than 50% of the most recent quorum count, the proposal or motion will be tabled until quorum is reestablished. At that time, Delegates will be given the choice by poll of calling for a revote, or accepting the initial vote as reported. If quorum is not reestablished, the matter will be held over to the next meeting - either a QDM or the ABC.

D. Ballot Proposals, Study Group, Board, and Floor Motions

Depending on the results of the ABC Ballot, Delegates may be asked to process and vote on Ballot Proposals that made it to the ABC Agenda, motions that are presented by Study Groups, the Board, and time sensitive Floor Motions that are presented by Delegates.

The process is essentially the same for all three types of items, with the exception of additional processing of Proposals to determine if the Delegates feel that Motions should be presented.

Ballot Proposals

Once the ABC begins, in accordance with Tradition 2, the final word on all Ballot Proposals belongs to the Delegates, not to the group that authored them.

If there are no Ballot Proposals on the agenda, move to the next section entitled Study Group and Time Sensitive Floor Motions.

Initial Assessment. When consideration of a Ballot Proposal begins,

1. The submitting group(s) will have chosen a single Delegate to speak for up to three minutes to advocate for/explain their Proposal.
2. Delegates will have up to 20 minutes to discuss the general merits of the Proposal. A reminder will be given when five minutes remain.
3. Each Delegate may speak only once during a Proposal's discussion time. Any Delegate who spoke during the submitting group's presentation may not speak again, unless called on by the Conference Chair to answer a question posed during the Delegate discussion.

Identifying a general direction. A poll will be taken to determine how the Delegates wish to proceed. The poll will have the following choices (note that abstentions do not count in the vote outcome):

1. I support the spirit of the Ballot Proposal and would like a Motion to be crafted for approval at the ABC.
2. I need more information and prefer a motion to be crafted to initiate an in-depth study that will report to a future ABC.
3. I would like this matter to be postponed for discussion at the next QDM.
4. I do not support the Ballot Proposal in any form.
5. I abstain from voting.

Note: If the purpose of a Ballot Proposal is to call for a long-term study, Option A will be

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reworded to reflect this, and Option B will be eliminated.

Polling Results

1. If the poll indicates 60% or more support for any one option, the Conference Chair will direct the proceedings to the next stage in the process (“crafting a motion”). Exception: if option 4 (I do not support the Ballot Proposal in any form) receives 60% or more of the vote, the Proposal is defeated and dropped from the ABC agenda. No motion is necessary.
2. If no option receives at least 60% in the initial poll, a second poll will be taken with the top two options, plus Options 4 and 5.
3. If no option receives 60% in the second poll, a third and final poll will be taken, with the top option plus Options 4 and 5.
4. If options 1 or 2 remain and they receive 60% or more, “Crafting a Motion” will begin.
5. If the option with the highest vote receives less than 50%, the Proposal dies.
6. If the option with the highest vote receives a simple majority, but less than 60%, it will be referred to the ACA World Service Organization, where an appropriate committee will give the issue further study.

Crafting a Motion. To determine the actual motion to be considered, Delegates may submit alternative language that will achieve the general direction set by the previous polling.

1. If Delegates chose Option 1 (“support the spirit of the Ballot Proposal”), a Delegate from the group that drafted the Proposal may submit a written motion first.
2. After 3 minutes of quiet reflection, other Delegates are then invited to draft alternative motions that accomplish the general spirit of the Ballot Proposal.
3. Those with alternative motions will be called on. The Conference Chair will have the option of calling on Delegates who have not been heard from before, or as often as others.
4. After each alternative motion is submitted, the Parliamentarian will assess if the motion accomplishes the general spirit of the Ballot Proposal.
5. Ten minutes will be allotted for the process of submitting alternative motions, and the Conference Chair will advise Delegates when only three minutes remain.

If Option 2 (“long-term study”) or 3 (“refer to the QDM”) is chosen, there will be no original motion from a submitting group.

Discussing and selecting a preferred motion.

1. All alternative motions are posted on the screen and Delegates may discuss the merits of the motions for a total of up to 15 minutes. A time warning will be given at five minutes.
2. Delegates will then be polled to determine the preferred motion as follows:
 - a. First poll: will include all motions, plus, “I do not support any of the motions.”
 - b. Following the first poll (if no motion gains 60%): the chair will identify all motions that received 20% or more. Those motions will be placed in a second poll, along with “I do not support any of the motions.”

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- c. Following the second poll (if needed): The chair will identify the top two motions, and place them in a third poll, along with “I do not support any of the motions.”
- d. Following the third poll (if needed), the chair will place the top remaining motion, along with “I do not support any of the motions” in a final poll.
- e. Fourth and final poll: If the remaining motion receives 60%, it is added to the worldwide online voting Ballot. If it receives less than 50%, it is defeated. If the motion receives a simple majority, but less than 60%, it will be referred to the ACA World Service Organization, where an appropriate committee will give the issue further study.

Combined Discussions of Multiple Ballot Proposals

If there are multiple Ballot Proposals that are either nearly identical or address very similar issues, the following may happen:

1. The ABC Committee may propose that the Delegates discuss whether multiple similar Proposals can be combined into one motion. This option should be presented to Delegates at least one week in advance of the ABC.
2. In presenting this option at the ABC, the ABC Committee will briefly explain how the Proposals are related and how the Fellowship may be better served by combining them.
3. The designated representative of the submitters of each Proposal will have up to 3 minutes to speak on their Proposal.
4. There will be 30 minutes of Delegate discussion that covers all of these potentially combined Proposals.
5. A poll will be taken to determine the Delegates wishes to either consider the original Proposals separately or to combine them. As with other polls, the hoped for outcome is that one option will receive 60% or more of the vote.
 - a. First poll:
 - i. I support combining these Proposals
 - ii. I do not support combining these Proposals
 - iii. I abstain from voting
 - b. Following the first poll (if no option gains 60%): the chair will identify any option that received 20% or more. Those options will be placed in a second poll, along with “I do not support these Ballot Proposals in any form.”
 - c. Following the second poll (if needed): The chair will identify the top two options, and place them in a third poll, along with “I do not support any of the options.”
 - d. Following the third poll (if needed), the chair will place the top remaining option, along with “I do not support any of the options,” in a final poll.
 - e. Fourth and final poll: If the remaining option receives 60%, it is added to the worldwide online voting ballot. If it receives less than 50%, it is defeated. If the option receives a simple majority, but less than 60%, it will be referred to the ACA World Service Organization, where an appropriate committee will give the issue further study.

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If a combined Motion is the choice, then the Crafting a Motion process, explained previously, will be followed.

Study Group, Board, and Time Sensitive Floor Motions

Motions at the ABC may be presented by Study Groups, although the number of such motions will be limited due to their time sensitive nature as well as the amount of time available. This section also covers Board Motions that may emanate from Delegate discussion and are the wish of Delegates to pursue. Such Motions must have been published in the Delegate Binder before the ABC.

These Motions as well as Floor Motions that meet the requirements for time sensitivity will follow the process in this section.

In accordance with Tradition 2, once a Study Group Motion or a Floor Motion is made and seconded, the final word on all Motions belongs to the Delegates, not to the authors.

1. The motion is presented (up to 5 minutes).
2. The Motion must be seconded by a Delegate.
3. Discussion and debate is conducted for up to 20 minutes with each Delegate speaking up to one minute. Exceptions are made for those where English is not their first language.
4. A poll will be taken as follows:
 - a. I am in favor of this motion as presented and want it sent to Worldwide Online Voting.
 - b. I am in favor of this motion but would like minor changes.
 - c. I am in favor of deferring action to a future meeting.
 - d. I am not in favor of this motion.
 - e. I abstain from voting.

If a, b, c, or d do not receive 60% or more of the vote, the one with the lowest percentage drops off the list and another poll is taken that includes d. This process continues until a decision is reached.

If b receives 60% or more, we move to the alternative motion process.

If a, c, or d receive 60% or more of the vote, that determines the next step - that either a - the motion goes to Worldwide Online Voting, c - the motion is deferred, or d - it is defeated. Note that abstentions are not counted as part of the total voting percentages.

If the final vote results in a simple majority but less than 60%, it will be referred to the ACA World Service Organization, where the Board will give the issue further study.

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5. Alternative motion process:

Delegates may submit alternative motions that do not substantially change the general direction set by the motion presented.

Alternative motions must be seconded by another Delegate.

- a. Start with 3 minutes of quiet reflection.
- b. 10 minutes will be allotted for presentation of alternative motions.
- c. The group that presented the original motion may present its own alternative motion, based on the discussion.
- d. Delegates who have alternative motions will raise their hands and be called on.
- e. The Delegate will read their alternative motion and post it in Chat.
- f. The Secretary will copy and paste it onto a slide on the screen.
- g. The Parliamentarian will advise whether the language meets the requirements of maintaining the integrity of the original motion.
 - i. If yes, the Chair calls on the next Delegate
 - ii. If no, the Secretary removes it from the list

Exception - per the information given at the start of this Appendix, the Delegate may challenge the Parliamentarians ruling and the Chair will process the objection.

6. Delegate discussion: up to 15 minutes on the merits of the alternative motions.

7. Voting on alternative motions:

- a. The first poll will include all alternative motions plus “I abstain from voting.”
- b. If none of the choices gains 60%, depending on the number of alternative motions submitted, anything that received less than 20% will be removed and another poll will be taken that includes “I abstain from voting”
- c. Following the second poll (if needed): the top two motions will be placed in a third poll, along with “I abstain”
- d. Following the third poll (if needed), the chair will place the top remaining motion, along with “I abstain” in a final poll.

8. Final results:

- a. Any motion with 60% of the votes is sent to Worldwide Online Voting.
- b. If the final vote results in a simple majority but less than 60%, it will be referred to the ACA World Service Organization, where the Board will give the issue further study.

Trustee Ratifications (Day 1)

The Nominating Committee will conduct this portion of the ABC and will present introductory statements.

Ratification of Trustees requires a simple majority of all voting Delegates.

1. Trustees may each speak up to three minutes.
2. At the end of all individual Trustee introductions, Delegates will have a total of up to 15 minutes to ask questions of Trustees.

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3. Trustees will have up to one minute to respond to questions asked of them. More time will be allotted if needed.
4. Trustee ratifications will be placed in Worldwide Online Voting.

Announcement of Voting Results and Minority Opinion

At ABCs and QDMs, Delegates may express a minority opinion following any vote submitted to Worldwide Online Voting. For a two-day ABC, the voting results will be posted on the website two hours prior to the beginning of Day 2.

During the minority opinion portion of the meeting on Day 2, the Delegates will be asked if anyone in the minority requests to state a minority opinion.

1. If there is no minority opinion on a vote, the result of the voting is final.
2. If there is a minority opinion, up to three members of the minority may seek to persuade the majority to reconsider their initial vote. Each such minority voice will have up to one minute to speak. All comments are to be directed to the Delegates as a whole and should be consistent with the Twelfth Tradition guidance of “principles before personalities.”
3. Minority opinion response:
 - a. For Motions, because of the amount of time between the presentation of the Motion on the previous day or previous proceedings and the probability of alternative Delegates in attendance, the proposer of the motion will have up to two minutes to respond to the minority.
 - b. For Trustee ratifications, after the minority opinion is heard, the Trustee will have up to two minutes to respond.
4. The Delegates are then polled to see if they wish to revote on the Motion or Ratification.
 - a. If more than 40% request a revote on either a Motion or ratification, the original 60% or more vote will be called into question. The original motion or ratification will be resubmitted to Worldwide Online Voting at the first opportunity along with an explanation that the Delegates requested a revote.
 - b. If fewer than 40% request a revote, the original vote is final.

Delegate Floor Motions Requirements

Delegates may submit Floor Motions on Day 1 by emailing them to the Conference Secretary within one hour of the close of business that day.

On Day 2, before considering the deliberation of Floor Motions, Delegates will determine if the issues are time sensitive and cannot wait until a future QDM.

Delegate Floor Motions:

1. May not contain the sum and substance of any Proposals that were on the Ballot sent to groups in January, whether they are on the ABC Agenda or not. They may also not be

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similar to motions that are presented on Day One or expected to be presented on Day Two.

2. Must be submitted in writing to the Conference Secretary within an hour after the official close of ABC business on Day 1.
3. Should be written in the form of a motion (“I move that . . .”) with a background that Includes reasoning and why it is time sensitive, e.g., it affects a decision that is in the process of being made about an upcoming WSO event.
4. Should include the resources that will be needed to accomplish and who that might be.
5. Should be brief – not to exceed 75 words for the Motion, with up to 100 words for the background.
6. Indicate the best way that the submitters may be contacted before the start of Day 2.

All Floor Motions will be posted for preview on designated web pages and Slack channels before the start of Day 2. They will be labeled as either conforming or non-conforming to the guidelines.

1. The Conference Chair(s), the Parliamentarian, and ABC Committee members will review the Proposals before the start of Day 2 to determine if they meet the Floor Motion criteria. Submitters may be contacted if clarification is needed.
2. At the designated Floor Motion time, Delegates will first be polled to determine whether they think each of the conforming Floor Motions are time sensitive.
 - a. For those that are not time sensitive, they will be postponed to the next QDM.
 - b. For those that are time sensitive, Delegates are then polled to determine the order in which Floor Motions will be processed.
3. If there is not enough time to process all time sensitive Motions, those that remain will be referred to the Board.

E. Committee and Board Presentations

Rather than reports from individual WSO Committees, a representative from one or more committees may give summary reports. There will be an opportunity for Delegates questions after each such report.

Due to time constraints and lack of time for individual WSO Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs to be presented to the Delegation in detail, Delegates will not ratify them, as stated elsewhere in the OPPM. If Delegates know of any reason why a Committee Chair/Co-Chair should be removed from their position, they are encouraged to follow the OPPM Appendix XII Complaint Process.

Per the ByLaws, the Board will also discuss WSO’s broad strategic priorities and specific high-profile initiatives, for the coming year. Following this, Delegates will have the opportunity for questions.

APPENDIX XI – BOARD NORMS OF CONDUCT

Trustees have endorsed the idea of norms of conduct that will help promote trust and encourage respectful communication and behavior consistent with the ACA Traditions and Concepts. We recognize that none of us is perfect; we are above all Adult Children who each bring our own challenges with interpersonal communication. Service work can provide many important opportunities for us to grow personally and spiritually if we are willing to look at ourselves honestly.

The central goal of the norms is not to eliminate differences, but to support Trustees in resolving conflicts in a healthy manner that references Program tools. Each Trustee shares individual and collective responsibility in upholding the agreed-upon norms of Board behavior listed below.

1. Communication/Potentially Contentious Issues

- a. Address contentious issues directly with the other Trustee(s) before taking conflicts to the Board as a whole.
- b. If a Trustee feels it is necessary to consult the Board as a whole about a matter, they will let the other affected Trustee(s) know before escalating the dispute.
- c. Avoid harsh, judgmental comments, and especially be cautious when expressing differences in writing. Use neutral language.
- d. Before communicating a disagreement in writing, first call the other Trustee(s).
- e. Listen receptively and respectfully during disagreements. When upset, pause and reflect before responding. Avoid reacting. Try to stay centered and calm. (Trait 14)
- f. Per the Tenth Step, make sincere and prompt amends, if needed, to the affected parties.
Per the Ninth Step, not only do we make apologies, we strive to make behavioral changes.

2. Board Unity/Mutual Respect

Unity is the core principle of the First Tradition. This does not preclude us from expressing differences, but it reminds us that we rely on one another to serve the fellowship, which is our primary responsibility.

We agree to keep the following in mind:

- a. Weigh a conflict's importance against the damage it may cause to ourselves, the other individuals involved, and the Board's ability to do its work. Ask yourself "How important is this?"
- b. Refrain from jumping into a conflict that doesn't involve you directly.
- c. Place principles before personalities in resolving conflicts.
- d. In meetings, strive to listen to all opinions respectfully. Avoid speaking a second time until all others have spoken.
- e. Except as permitted by Robert's Rules, avoid interjecting.
- f. Ensure that the voice of the minority is heard and respected.
- g. Show respect for the committee process. Ensure that no Trustee or Committee Chair remains uninformed about situations that can adversely affect their ability to do their work.
- h. Avoid secrecy about internal issues that affect the whole Board. We should not be afraid to surface issues that are important.

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3. Resolving Conflicts/Enforcement of Norms
 - a. The Board will use the norms in this document, along with the Traditions, the Concepts and the OPPM to help clarify and resolve differences.
 - b. Although one-on-one resolution is preferred, the Board has final responsibility to enforce these norms. The Board will strive for a calm, principle-based discussion of all relevant views and information.

The Board recognizes that many norms include some subjective terms, which will be applied in widely varied situations. They will, therefore, regularly review implementation of the Norms of Board Conduct and make changes as needed. The Board also will develop OPPM language to define potential consequences for any Trustee found by the Board to repeatedly violate the norms. (Motion 2019_0112_07)

ADDENDUM:

A motion was passed on August 13, 2020, to include the following guidelines on dispute resolution.

1. All Trustees may at any time call a group conscience to address troublesome communications. In all Board disputes, the Board as a whole, per Tradition 2, has the ultimate word. If a group conscience is called, all Trustees will have an opportunity to be heard.
2. All Trustees are permitted, and expected to, surface disputes or blockages that they feel affect their safety or effectiveness as Trustees. This should be done as quickly as possible, and a first attempt to resolve disputes should begin with those directly involved.
3. Trustees consciously strive to avoid Critical Parent or Wounded child communications. All Trustees commit to respectful discussion of complaints and concerns. Punitive comments will be avoided in all cases.
4. Where first discussions do not yield a resolution, either party may elevate the issue: to a mutually agreed upon group of three mediators, or to the Board. If no agreement is reached on who will serve as mediators, the issue goes to the Board. If mediation doesn't reach an agreement, any participant may elevate a dispute to the whole Board.
5. In any dispute, the Board has the authority and obligation to protect a safe, respectful environment for processing all Board disagreements. Unless the Board as a whole has weighed in, no trustee is expected to accept a decision or action they fundamentally disagree with.
6. In addition to resolving specific disputes, the Board may, in the case of repeated or severe violations of Traditions, Norms, OPPM, etc., take disciplinary actions toward individual Trustees. This may include letters of caution, request to take a leave, suspension, or removal from the Board, in alignment with OPPM procedure.

APPENDIX XII – COMPLAINT PROCESS

1. Draft Complaint Evaluation Process

The OPPM does not set out a specific process for evaluating complaints regarding volunteer behavior (including but not limited to complaints against Trustees). While the Board has reviewed volunteer complaints in the past, we have done so without a formal or consistent process.

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A review of our various guiding documents affirms that ACA WSO has a right and responsibility to ensure a safe working environment for WSO volunteers, as well as for paid employees. This authority is grounded in numerous sources listed in Section 2 below. They include WSO's articles of incorporation and bylaws, which address our legal obligations as a registered corporation in the state of California, and the Traditions, Concepts, Commitment to Service, Big Red Book commentaries on ACA service, and the OPPM. We also have spoken with HR consultants about our corporate responsibilities regarding volunteer safety from any form of harassment or abuse.

This is an initial policy for assessing complaints submitted to the Board, as well as a potential foundation for a permanent assessment process. In keeping with ACA literature, the suggested process seeks to balance compassion and accountability. At least in the initial stages of adoption, the process should emphasize opportunities for education and constructive change where a volunteer's behavior is negatively affecting others. But it recognizes, as does the Big Red Book and the Board Norms of Behavior, that extreme or repeated mistreatment of WSO volunteers can lead to additional responses.

A. Fairness and Due Process

The lack of a spelled-out process for assessing complaints involving volunteers (including complaints about Board trustees) has numerous downsides. Establishing a consistent process is important for consistency, transparency and trust. In keeping with Concept 4, it should be seen as accessible to, and fair to, volunteers at all levels of WSO service. The following elements should be considered:

1. A transparent process for reporting and addressing complaints concerning behavior by volunteers and Trustees should be clearly posted on the website, including a form for submitting a complaint. This would remove any mystery on how ACA members should handle concerns about potentially problematic behavior. A volunteer may also contact the Board or an individual Trustee by email.
2. Establish a comprehensive scope. The policy may be used by, and applies to, all WSO volunteers, including Trustees. The only exception is disputes that involve only Trustees, which are covered under the Board Norms section of the OPPM.
3. There should be a consistent, written assessment process for evaluating complaints. This process should reference program service tools, such as Traditions, Concepts, and Commitment to Service, as well as the OPPM and laws governing harassment and workplace misconduct. It also should reference program recovery tools, such as the Laundry List/Other Laundry List, the Steps, Reparenting, and Emotional Sobriety. This process should become more complete with time and experience.
4. Find neutral individuals to evaluate complaints. It is expected that evaluators often may know one or more parties to a complaint, but they should be free of any prejudice or conflict of interest.
5. Assessment teams should include non-Board volunteers, as well as designated Trustees, and be diverse to reflect a range of perspectives.
6. Potential resolutions should include self- or group inventory, evaluation, increased awareness, and amended behavior, as part of a range of recommended changes, and not over-relying on formal disciplinary action. At the same time, the ultimate goal is service to the fellowship, and formal action may be needed when harmful behavior is severe or persistent.

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7. There should be a policy regarding confidentiality at various stages of the process. All parties will keep initial evaluations confidential, and Board discussions and motions related to assessing a complaint will take place in executive session.
8. Short-term support policies so that volunteers may remove themselves from potential continuing abuse.
9. An initial policy that addresses these elements should be approved expeditiously so that pending complaints are not stalled for process reasons.
10. There should be ongoing review and revision of the initial policy. This is to be organized through the Executive Committee, who will likely seek input from the WSO Volunteer Resources Committee.
11. The Board should determine whether any unresolved complaints regarding Trustees or other WSO volunteers should be referred for evaluation under this process.
12. The Board will develop a generic public statement that can be shared if someone discloses that an assessment is in progress.

B. Initial Assessment Process & Scope of Complaint

As affirmed in the Big Red Book, differences and tensions can arise in ACA service. Starting with the Board, any WSO volunteer must promote a service climate based on trust and mutual respect, resolving conflicts in a healthy manner that references Program tools.

When a WSO volunteer feels mistreated in a way that chronically or severely erodes their sense of safety and respect, and in a way that is inconsistent with Program principles or normal protections against workplace harassment, they may submit a complaint to the WSO Board's chair, vice chair, secretary or treasurer. Receipt of the complaint will be acknowledged in writing, and the Board will be informed. In such instances, the Board will authorize a team to assess the complaint, relying on the Traditions and other program tools, as well as basic HR tools for assessing workplace harassment allegations.

Note: If the complaint involves a member of the Executive Committee, the person filing the complaint may send it individually to one other member of the Executive Committee.

C. Initial Procedures

1. WSO, working with the assessment, secures all video and text evidence – zoom video, chat and transcription; request the complainant secure their emails, slack messages, minutes and texts.
2. Discuss whether the complainants need short term support during this process, i.e., sabbatical from committees etc.
3. Determine if any Trustees or other volunteers must recuse themselves from the evaluation process. This includes recusal from any role in the assessment by anyone who filed or helped to file the complaint, or who is named as a subject of the complaint. Volunteers, including Trustees, also should declare any reasons that might call their neutrality into question. An example might include a direct sponsor-sponsee relationship with a participant, or extensive participation in of events cited in a complaint. Simply knowing one or parties to a complaint is not grounds for recusal.
4. Identify an evaluation team to assess complaints. The team should include non-Board volunteers and should include members who are knowledgeable about WSO service and widely respected as fair and impartial.
5. Confirm participation of the evaluation team and ask them to sign confidentiality agreements.

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D. Initial Assessment Phase

1. Assessment Team prepares
 - a. Review the process with the evaluation team, including the Legal and Policy Framework.
 - b. Provide the evaluators with materials for assessing HR complaints, including questions to identify potential harassment, as a resource. Ask if they wish additional training with WSO's HR consultant.
 - c. Review complaint(s) and determine whether the complaint—if factually true—might warrant potential Board action of some type. If no, recommend no further action. If yes, report this to the executive committee and schedule a meeting with the complainant.
 - d. Think through questions to ask the complainant and respondent, seeking help from the executive committee if desired. Given the unique service dynamics of ACA, the team may specifically consider whether one or more volunteers engaged in emotional relapse or “acting out” behaviors, such as excessive reliance on traits from the Laundry List, Other Laundry List, or Workplace Laundry List.
2. Initial Interviews
 - a. In all interviews, the reason for seeking the interview should be communicated. Written notes will be kept of all interviews. The complainant should be asked whether they expect confidentiality. If so, there should be a realistic assessment before proceeding as to whether that is possible, given the nature of the complaint. The complainant also should be asked to keep the evaluation confidential while it proceeds.
 - b. Ask questions of complainant to gain additional facts about the case; ascertain the exact nature of the alleged violation (e.g., Traditions, Concepts, state law). Ask for corroborating witnesses and evidence, securing evidence as needed.
 - c. Following the interview, assess whether, if true, the allegations warrant potential Board action. If so, report preliminary findings to the Executive Committee and schedule an appointment with the subject of the complaint (respondent).
 - d. If the evaluators determine that the respondent should be interviewed, they will advise that person of the reasons for the complaint, including the specific alleged incidents, but not show them the written complaint. The evaluators also should advise the subject that any direct retaliation against the complainant is prohibited and subject to Board action. They also should advise the respondent that the initial evaluation is confidential and will not be divulged by WSO.
 - e. During the interview, ask questions of the respondent to gain additional facts about the case, and the subject's side of what happened. Specifically pose any questions about potential violations of Traditions, Concepts, etc., to get a response. If needed, ask for corroborating witnesses and evidence, securing evidence as needed.
 - f. Determine if witness interviews are needed, and if so, conduct them. The Board will be notified if this is happening.
3. Initial Assessment
 - a. Review physical and interview evidence.
 - b. Decide whether the allegations are substantiated. If so, consider potential Board actions and determine which is most appropriate.

Possible actions can include dismissal of the complaint; written advisory to one or more volunteers involved, with any suggestions for a change in behavior; specific mandated training or Program reflection; request to voluntarily take time away from WSO service to

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focus on personal recovery; suspension from WSO service for a designated period; and dismissal from WSO service. Other actions could include requesting one or more volunteers make amends, facilitated discussions- either with individual and /or with chair of the Board etc., review of policies, education, healthy boundaries are established, warning given etc.

4. Presentation of Initial Findings

- a. Once the team's research is complete, they will present written findings and meet with the entire Board in executive session. This will include an initial finding of whether the team believes the allegations to be true, whether they found the behavior to be part of a larger pattern, and which WSO action they consider to be most appropriate.
- b. If the team concludes that an allegation is fundamentally unmerited or made in bad faith, they will notify the Board.

5. Next Steps

- a. The Board considers the evaluation and determines appropriate next steps regarding the parties to the complaint.
- b. Before finalizing an action, the Board will advise complainant and respondent of the preliminary findings and ask if anything in the report is incorrect, or if there is a major omission that might change the finding.
- c. After receiving additional comments, the Board will make its decision. In addition to specific recommendations regarding parties to the complaint, the Board also may refer continued follow-up action to a Committee and/or the WSO-Volunteer Resources Committee to support a healthier climate at within a specified committee.
- d. If the Board believes that either a suspension or expulsion may be warranted, an additional round of investigation will take place. This will include Board interviews of the complainant, respondent, and if needed, third-party witnesses.
- e. The Board also will determine what if anything should be communicated to the fellowship and committees.

6. Appeals Process if Requested

- a. Once the Board determines an appropriate resolution, it will designate a manner to transmit the outcome of the process to all volunteers involved. Each volunteer has a right of petition. If they disagree with the decision, they may arrange time with the Executive Committee to state their concerns.
- b. If the appeal demonstrates that some aspect of the finding was erroneous or fundamentally unfair, the Executive Committee will appoint a panel of up to four volunteers to hear the appeal. They will ask the volunteer making the appeal to summarize their concerns in a one- or two-page document.
- c. The appeal process will only consider whether information in the original findings and information were accurate and fair enough to justify the proposed Board actions. The team considering the appeal will not conduct fresh research or interviews.
- d. Where possible, the team considering the appeal should have three or five members, and most or all should be non-Board volunteers.
- e. Once the appeal is complete, a summary of findings will be submitted in writing to the Board. If it is found that the original decision is fundamentally unfair and should be changed or reversed, the reasons will be clearly stated.

7. Board Review of Complaint Process (Within 2-3 months)

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- a. The Board will appoint a team to assess the first applications of the complaint Process, identifying what worked well, what could be better and next steps.
- b. This is communicated to the full Board.
- c. Board also will assess whether other unresolved complaints should be reviewed under the initial policy.
- d. Policies will continue to be developed, in collaboration with the executive committee and the WSO Volunteer Resources Committee. Any updates to the process will be added to the OPPM and communicated to the fellowship transparently with semi or annual reviews.
- e. Communicate with fellowship the new policies and expectations.

2. Authorities regarding Board oversight of committees and volunteers: Legal and Policy Framework

The initial policy for evaluating complaints involving volunteers, including Trustees and committee volunteers, draws on the following authorities:

A. [Bylaws](#)/California Articles of Incorporation

1. Comment: WSO must comply with California law. Bylaw II.1: “ACA WSO shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of California as a public benefit corporation. The organization shall maintain a nonprofit and tax-exempt status under the laws of the United States and the State of California. This organization shall be organized for purposes as defined under Internal Revenue Service Code Title 26 U.S.C., Section 501 (c) 3., and shall be incorporated in accordance with California Corporation Revenue and Taxation Code, Section 23701 (d).”
2. Comment: WSO’s sole purpose is fellowship service. Bylaw II.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.”
3. Comment: WSO committees assist WSO’s sole purpose of service. Bylaw VI.2. “Committees shall be formed as deemed necessary to conduct the business of ACA WSO in keeping with the definitions and guidelines set forth in the OPPM.”

Conclusion: Because committees play an essential role in assisting WSO’s sole purpose for incorporation, the Board is authorized to form such committees and ensure that their function serves WSO’s sole purpose of service. This includes addressing volunteer purpose that may hurt committee service or compromise the safety of other volunteers.

B. Traditions and Concepts

1. Comment: Per Tradition 9, WSO is a service board ratified by the fellowship, through the Annual Business Conference, and may appoint committees to help provide this service. Tradition 9: “ACA, as such, ought never be organized, *but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.*”
2. Comment: Traditions 1 (Unity), 2 (Group Conscience), 12 (Principles Before Personalities) all support harmonious group interactions in which the voices and perspectives of all members are honored. To quote the Tradition 2 meditation, volunteers are encouraged to follow this spiritual guidance: “Allow me to listen to and consider the views of others. May I state my view and support all group decisions, including the ones I might disagree with.”

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3. Comment: Tradition 5 (Primary Purpose) supports productive committee and volunteer activity that helps ACA “carry its message to the adult child who still suffers. Detours into squabbling and argument are discouraged. To quote the Tradition 5 meditation: “Help me remember to ask myself a simple question when I am doing the business of ACA. ‘Does what we are about to do support the primary purpose of carrying the ACA message to another adult child needing help?’ “
4. Comment: Per Concept 7, WSO manages issues related to legal instruments governing WSO. Concept 7: “The Annual Business Conference recognizes that the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Adult Children of Alcoholics World Service Organization are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Adult Children of Alcoholics.”
5. Comment: Per Concept X, it is appropriate and necessary to set the scope of authority and guidelines for effective service. Concept X: “Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority—the *scope of such authority to be always well defined* whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description, or by the Operating Policy and Procedures Manual and bylaws.”
6. Comment: Per Concept XI, Trustees hold “final responsibility for ACA’s World Service administration” and must give “serious care and concern” to proper function of committees and committee members. Concept XI: “While the Trustees hold final responsibility for ACA’s World Service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate trustees, executives, staffs, and consultants. *Therefore the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.*”

Conclusion: The Traditions and Concepts all support committees that function according to a respectful group conscience, and do not divert ACA from its primary purpose. Concept XI specifically notes that the Trustees have the need to support healthy volunteer conduct at the committee level.

C. Big Red Book/Tradition 9/Service Handbook/Laundry List-Other Laundry List/Workplace Laundry List/Commitment to Service

1. Unfortunately, the trauma experienced by adult children creates challenges for almost everyone who participates in service and can actually induce service volunteers to act out dysfunctional behaviors. As examples:
 - a. The Workplace Laundry List notes that: “We confuse our boss or supervisor with our [dysfunctional] parent(s),” and, “We confuse our co-workers with our siblings or our [dysfunctional] parent(s) and repeat childhood reactions in those working relationships.”
 - b. Members who identify with the Laundry List may be quick to feel victimized by other volunteers, while those who practice Other Laundry List may be quick to domineer others.
 - c. The Commitment to Service cautions those in service “to avoid losing my own recovery through the use of service to act out my old behavior, especially in taking care of others, controlling, rescuing, being a victim, etc.”

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- d. The Tradition 9 essay (Page 535) reminds us that “many of us arrive at ACA wounded and angry. We hurt, so we want to hurt others. However, no one has the right to harm anyone in ACA.” The essay explains this behavior as an attempt to recreate a dysfunctional family of origin, adding that “we could avoid working on ourselves by blaming group members for imagined wrongs or slights.”
2. In the Big Red Book, two extended passages provide options to an ACA group to deal with disruptive members. Both are rooted in the authority of the group conscience.
 - a. While the Big Red Book favors informal solutions, it notes in Pages 533-535 that if there is an ongoing pattern of troublesome behavior, “such a person could be asked through another group conscience to leave the meeting until he or she has a change of heart regarding disruptive behavior.”
 - b. Specifically addressing the disruptive behavior of cross talk, the Big Red Book gives authority to all members to call an immediate group conscience to address the behavior.

Conclusion: ACA literature is very clear that the nature of the ACA condition makes it highly likely volunteers will be triggered, and that this may lead to violations of others through distorted thinking and disrespectful conduct. All volunteers have a shared responsibility in responding to this fact with compassion and accountability—so that volunteer settings do not replicate our families of origin.

D. OPPM

The OPPM has multiple examples of the Board regulating committee behavior, and the Board has the right to remove Trustees who disrupt WSO unity and function. There is no logical reason to believe this does not extend to other volunteers who disrupt volunteer unity and service function.

1. **Section II.N.1: The OPPM authorizes a majority of the Board (or ABC) to impeach any trustee for cause.** The OPPM adds, “Tradition violations, working outside the boundaries of the Policies and Procedures as set forth in this document or that have become common practice before being added to this document, abuse of fiscal responsibility, or other action seen as adverse to the operation of the Board or in service to the Fellowship, as determined by the majority of the members of the body (the Board or ABC) will serve as just cause.”
2. **Appendix XI, the Norms of Conduct, also recognizes that the Board has a responsibility to examine behavior that may disrupt service to the fellowship,** but in a compassionate manner. It says that the Norms “promote trust and encourage respectful communication and behavior consistent with the ACA Traditions and Concepts. We recognize that none of us is perfect; we are above all Adult Children who each bring our own challenges with interpersonal communication. ... The central goal of the norms is not to eliminate differences, but to support Trustees in resolving conflicts in a healthy manner that references Program tools.”
 - a. The Norms suggest a wide range of proportionate responses to disruptive behavior, but notes that removal of a disruptive Trustee may be required “in the case of repeated or severe violations of Traditions, Norms, OPPM, etc., [to] take disciplinary actions toward individual trustees. This may include letters of caution, request to take a leave, suspension, or removal from the Board, in alignment with OPPM procedure.”

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- b. An addendum to the Norms states: “In all Board disputes, the Board as a whole, per Tradition 2, has the ultimate word.”
- 3. **The Executive Committee is established under [Bylaw VI.1](#)**, which states, “The Board shall form an Executive Committee from among its members who shall be delegated the powers and authority as deemed appropriated by the Board and shall serve in keeping with the guidelines set forth in the OPPM.
 - a. Under the OPPM, the Executive Committee is “responsible for ensuring that all other committees of the Board are complying with their responsibilities.” Presumably one aspect of this function is to ensure that individual volunteers are not disrupting or abusing committee functions. This can be done using criteria similar to those used to assess potentially problematic behavior by Trustees (e.g., Traditions, Concepts, OPPM, Commitment to Service, etc.)
- 4. **Section IX, discuss the relationship between WSO committees and the Board.** It notes that “All committees are referred to as Committees of the Board. ... Committees are created or disbanded by appropriate motions of the Board and/or the ABC.”

The section specifies that committees are to be generally guided by the Traditions, Concepts, and OPPM. It also sets out numerous areas where the committees must meet standards of accountability set by the Board of Trustees.

 - a. Section IX notes that committee chairs and vice chairs must be ratified by the Board and by the ABC.
 - b. Committees also must use Board procedures for conducting meetings.
 - c. Committees also are required by the Board to periodically update their statements of purpose and to regularly update and report their top three strategic priorities, and also to file monthly reports for the Board Meeting with the Fellowship.
- 5. **Section IX.F specifically sets out a relationship of accountability to the Board (and ABC) by all Committees of the Board.** IX.F notes that “Committees are accountable to the fellowship, through the governance of the Board. Any actions they wish to take that propose to establish new policy or impact the fellowship as a whole must be approved by the Board. ... The committee chair is responsible for ensuring that the committee fulfills its reporting obligations.”
- 6. **Comment: The Board is under legal obligation to assess harassment and similar complaints filed by paid WSO staff.** Our HR consultant advised us that WSO has a similar right and obligation to protect the well-being of volunteers, by setting behavior standards for volunteers and examining safety complaints involving volunteers.

Conclusion: Since the Board holds itself accountable for respectful communications and adherence to the Traditions, and because committees operate in service to the fellowship, through the governance of the Board, applying a similar expectation to committees and committee volunteers is clearly within the Board’s authority under the Bylaws and OPPM.

APPENDIX XIII –ACA WSO COMPENSATION POLICY

Compensation Philosophy

At Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families World Service Organization (ACA WSO), we believe that a clear and well-designed compensation strategy is key to attracting,

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motivating, and retaining valued Special Workers. Our compensation philosophy is built on principles of fairness, competitiveness in the marketplace, and alignment with our mission and values. As an inclusive organization, ACA is dedicated to fostering an environment that reflects the diverse communities we serve, where everyone feels encouraged to bring their full, authentic selves to work.

Our compensation philosophy underpins our commitment to a fair, transparent, and competitive compensation system that values the contributions of every employee. By adhering to these principles, we strive to create an environment where special workers are motivated, compensated fairly, and empowered to deliver their best performance.

1. Market Positioning

As ACA is an organization that recruits all over the world, our market-competitive compensation is defined for each position based on factors such as: a) nonprofit industry and b) similarly sized organizations and c) location. We utilize two compensation databases to understand the pay rates for our jobs in comparison to others in similarly situated organizations. These survey databases include CompAnalyst (a salary.com compensation database that aggregates company-reported salary surveys) and the Economic Research Institute (ERI) survey database. These databases return pay ranges that include all pay rates for a specific job. This is exhibited below:



We target the market median (50th percentile) of our peer organizations and align our pay ranges accordingly, centering the internal pay range around the median.

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We utilize and analyze this market data and industry trends to ensure our special workers are paid competitively. Special workers who demonstrate high performance and exceptional contributions are rewarded, further differentiating their compensation. In addition to market competitive pay, we offer a benefits package that forms the total compensation package.

2. Location Differentials

We recognize that the cost of living and market conditions can vary significantly across different locations, and our compensation philosophy is designed to account for these geographic variations. Our goal is to ensure that Special Workers are compensated fairly and equitably, regardless of where they live and work.

For U.S.-based special workers, we analyze market data specific to each state and, when applicable, specific cities or metropolitan areas. This allows us to account for differences in cost of living, labor market conditions, and other regional economic factors that may impact market compensation. For Special Workers outside the U.S., we consider country-specific market data to ensure compensation is competitive and aligned with local economic conditions.

Our approach to location differentials is grounded in the principle that all special workers should be fairly compensated for their work, no matter where they are based. By adjusting salaries to reflect local market conditions, we desire to maintain a competitive edge in attracting and retaining talent globally while ensuring equity and fairness within our workforce.

3. Executive Compensation

At ACA, we believe that fair, competitive, and strategically aligned executive compensation is essential to attracting and retaining the leadership talent needed to achieve our long-term vision and organizational goals. Our executive compensation philosophy reflects our commitment to rewarding leadership excellence while ensuring that executive compensation is aligned with the company's values, performance, and market standards.

Executive compensation is determined by ACA WSO's Board of Trustees. To ensure our compensation packages remain competitive within the market, the Board may engage an

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independent compensation consulting firm to provide expert analysis. This external firm conducts a comprehensive review of ACA's current executive compensation structure and considers key industry benchmarks, peer organizations, market trends, and best practices. The firm may offer recommendations based on this analysis to ensure our executive compensation aligns with the organization's values, goals, and long-term strategy.

This independent, data-driven process ensures that ACA's executive compensation is competitive, fair, and consistent with industry standards. The Board's oversight of executive pay reflects our commitment to ensuring that compensation is aligned with ACA's strategic objectives while rewarding leadership performance that drives success and sustainability for the organization.

4. Setting Salary for Other Special Workers

We are committed to setting salaries that reflect the value an employee brings to the company while being competitive within the market. The process of setting compensation for other special workers is managed by the General Manager in consultation with the Board of Trustees as needed. Factors used to set an employee's salary in the range include but are not limited to the following:

Organizational and Economic Factors

- Budgets and Funding
- Cost of Living (COLA) and Market Conditions
- Internal fairness

Individual Factors

- Work experience (type and years of experience)
- Education, certifications and qualifications
- Performance (e.g. diligence, teamwork)
- Employee location

New hires will usually start at the lower end of the salary level within a range. Special workers advance through the salary range based on experience, learning, and growing responsibilities. That said, some factors may be outside of the Special Workers' control such as the organizational factors listed above.

5. Salary Increase Practices

Salary adjustments will happen once annually to align with ACA's Board of Trustees approved budget cycle, with all special workers on the same increase schedule. This approach ensures that salary increases are evaluated fairly across all Special Workers while maintaining alignment with the organization's budget. A salary increase budget will be established, with all special workers initially receiving an across-the-board COLA increase. However, the final total salary adjustment percentage will be differentiated based on performance and other compensation factors outlined

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above. Note that in times of economic crisis/uncertainty salary adjustments may not be financially feasible.

Adjustments may also be pro-rated up or down, depending on employee's last date of increase or anniversary date. For example,

- if an employee has not been employed one year at time of salary adjustment, we may pro-rate down from the established percentage (e.g. 2.5% of 5% possible adjustment)
- If an employee is made to wait longer than a year since prior increase, we will pro-rate up (e.g., 5.25% of 5% possible adjustment)

In cases where an employee received a promotion in the year, including an increase, it will be communicated that an annual salary adjustment may not apply since their compensation was evaluated with a recent increase. Salary adjustments will be communicated to special workers.

6. Transparency

We believe that transparency in compensation fosters trust and engagement. Our approach to compensation is built around clear communication and openness:

- **Open Communication:** Special workers are informed about how their salary is determined, the factors that influence salary increases, and what they can do to advance their compensation.
- **Salary Ranges:** Salary bands for each role are clearly defined and communicated to special workers to ensure clarity on how their compensation fits within the larger structure.
- **Regular Reviews:** We conduct annual compensation reviews to ensure our practices remain aligned with our philosophy and market conditions.

ACA promotes an open and transparent compensation program while respecting the sensitivity and privacy of individual pay information. Managers and supervisors are mindful of this when communicating about pay decisions.

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CHANGE LOG

Dates in this section denote the version dates of the OPPM in which the items first appeared.

Dates of the Motions reflect the Board's Meeting with the Fellowship (formerly TC) when said Motions became part of the official record. Actual Motions may have been passed by the Board at an earlier time and then included in the OPPM prior to that TC.

1. December 9, 2017
 - Section I PURPOSE OF ACA updated
 - Section III WSO BOARD OF TRUSTEES, sub-sections A through H updated
2. December 28, 2017
 - Section IV ACA WSO BOARD OFFICERS updated
 - Section V DUTIES OF OFFICERS updated
3. February 22, 2018
 - Section IV ACA WSO BOARD OFFICERS updated
 - Section IX EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE updated
4. March 8, 2018
 - Section XI ACA WSO OFFICE updated
5. April 14, 2018
 - Section III WSO BOARD OF TRUSTEES, sub-section G through end of section updated
 - Section VII PLACING ISSUES BEFORE THE BOARD revised
 - Section VIII BOARD MEETINGS revised
 - Section XII ACA WSO LITERATURE revised
 - Section XVI ACA WSO COMLINE updated
6. December 8, 2018
 - Section III WSO BOARD OF TRUSTEES, sub-section F paragraph 2 updated
7. January 22, 2019
 - Section III WSO BOARD OF TRUSTEES, sub-section J – redundancies removed between this section and Appendix IV NOMINATING COMMITTEE
 - Section V DUTIES OF OFFICERS – updated parts of Secretary and Treasurer responsibilities
 - Section VI ACA WSO FISCAL POLICIES updated, including removing redundancies between sub-section E and the Treasurer responsibilities listed in Section V DUTIES OF OFFICERS
 - Appendix IX TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY - added Travel Reimbursement Form by Board motion 2019_0112_08
 - Section III WSO BOARD OF TRUSTEES, addition of new sub-section M – Board Norms of Conduct, with accompanying Appendix XI BOARD NORMS OF CONDUCT, which changed previous sub-section M to N.
8. February 19, 2019
 - Section XX BALLOT PREPARATION COMMITTEE revised
9. February 28, 2019
 - Section IV ACA WSO BOARD OFFICERS updated
 - Section XXI INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, but then known as ACA WSO WEBSITE, revised
10. March 28, 2019

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- Section X COMMITTEES updated
 - Section XIX WSO EVENTS: ANNUAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE (ABC) AND ACA WORLD CONVENTION (AWC) revised
11. August 1, 2019
- Section XIX WSO EVENTS: ANNUAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE (ABC) AND ACA WORLD CONVENTION (AWC), sub-section A.4.g – Changed to 60% threshold to pass an ABC motion
 - Section XX BALLOT PREPARATION COMMITTEE, sub-section G. Change to 60% Yes votes on Ballot to be added to ABC Agenda
12. November 21, 2019
- Revision of Appendix I – Right to Petition
13. December 12, 2019
- Section III WSO BOARD OF TRUSTEES, sub-section D ACA WSO Property, 3rd paragraph
14. March 29, 2020
- Added Appendix X – ABC MOTION PROCEDURE, including Modified Robert’s Rules of Order
15. August 31, 2020
- Section XX BALLOT PREPARATION COMMITTEE – pertinent dates for Proposals and Ballots
16. September 24, 2020
- Appendix II REGION CERTIFICATION PROCESS revised
 - Section XII ACA WSO LITERATURE, sub-section E revised
 - Addendum to Appendix XI BOARD NORMS OF CONDUCT
17. October 16, 2020
- Section XII ACA WSO LITERATURE, add new sub-section I referring to logo usage
18. November 16, 2020
- Section XIX WSO EVENTS: ANNUAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE (ABC) AND ACA WORLD CONVENTION (AWC) Added remote access to ABC Delegates in Section XIX.A.1
 - Renamed Section XXI from ACA WSO WEBSITE to INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY and also added the IT User Access Policy
 - Section X COMMITTEES - added new sub-section B, replaced sub-sections C (now D) and F (now G).
19. January 7, 2021
- Section X COMMITTEES: changes to sub-section D - Committee Leadership.
20. February 14, 2021
- Section VI FISCAL POLICIES changes to C.2,3,4 – Expenditures Approvals
 - Section X COMMITTEES, sub-section D - addition of an introductory statement about rotation of service
21. March 18, 2021 Revision
- Revised Appendix X – Robert’s Rules. Motion 2021_0410_01
22. September 11, 2021 Revision
- Appendix IV NOMINATING COMMITTEE, under “Other notes” added protocol for Board contact with Trustee candidates. Motion 2021_0313_01.

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- Section XIX WSO EVENTS, change to sub-section A.4.b; allowing Ballot Proposal submitters time to present their Proposals at the ABC. Motion 2021_0410_04
- Section VIII BOARD MEETINGS, changes to sub-section B.2 - schedule of working sessions. June 2021
- Addition of sub-section C to IX. Executive Committee regarding regular meeting schedule. July 2021
- Section V. Duties of Officers. D. 3. Authorization for delay of presenting financials at the Monthly TC. July 2021
- Section VI. ACA WSO Fiscal Policies, new sub-section I. Special worker salaries. July 2021
- Appendix IX. Travel Reimbursement Policy revision. July 2021
- Section XX. Ballot Preparation Committee (BPC) change to Proposal due dates as well as elaboration in appropriate sub-sections. August 26, 2021
- 23. November 11, 2021
 - Section X. Committees, sub-section C. October 2021
 - Appendix I. Right to Petition revision. November 4, 2021
- 24. February 28, 2022
 - Section VI. FISCAL POLICIES, sub-section B.3: increase bequest limit to \$50,000
 - Section XX. BALLOT PREPARATION COMMITTEE (BPC), sub-section C. Proposal Submissions
 - Appendix IV NOMINATING COMMITTEE, added flowchart
- 25. May 4, 2022
 - Section VI. ACA WSO FISCAL POLICIES, C. Signatory (Motion 2022_0514_07) and D. Expenditure Approvals (Motion 2022_0516_06)
 - Section VII PLACING ISSUES BEFORE THE BOARD, item 6 and APPENDIX XII – Complaint Process.
 - APPENDIX X. ABC VOTING RULES
 - APPENDIX II. REGION CERTIFICATION PROCESS, Additional Expectations and Recertification (Motion 2022_0514_05)
- 26. September 24, 2022
 - Section IV. ACA WSO BOARD OFFICERS, B. Elections (Motion 2022_0709_06)
 - APPENDIX VI. BYLAWS, Article IV, Sections 7 and 9 (Officers and Terms of Service) (Motion 2022_0709_07)
 - Section III. WSO BOARD OF TRUSTEES, G. changed from Leave of Absence to Vacation, Leave of Absence, and Self-Care (Motion Aug. 11, 2022)
 - Section V. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, C.7 Secretary – added sub-sections a) and b) (Motion Aug. 11, 2022)
 - APPENDIX II. REGION CERTIFICATION PROCESS – Amended sub-section A to include verbiage about local or shared needs; removed sub-sections B and C and renamed Recertification as sub-section B (Motion Aug. 11, 2022)
- 27. February 11, 2023
 - Replaced all instances of the term Board member with the word Trustee
 - Remove Sub-section D.5 that refers to the DCOC from Section VI ACA WSO FISCAL POLICIES (Disbanded per Motion Nov 30, 2022)
 - Section XX BALLOT PREPARATION COMMITTEE, sub-section G. Change back to 66.7% Yes votes on Ballot to be added to the ABC Agenda (Motion Dec 14, 2022)

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- Section X COMMITTEES, sub-section C. Board Participation. Amended and sub-section heading changed from Board Communications, Oversight and Participation. (Motion Feb 10, 2023)
 - Section XI. ACA WSO OFFICE, sub-section B. Group Registrations. Added that meetings that do not follow the ACA 12 Traditions will be delisted. (Motion Feb 10, 2023)
28. April 30, 2023
- Adjustment to Section IV. ACA WSO BOARD OFFICERS, General and Term of Service, to conform to the ByLaws changes in the September 24, 2022, version of this document.
 - APPENDIX II. REGION CERTIFICATION PROCESS amended. (Motion April 27, 2023)
 - Section XIX. WSO EVENTS: ANNUAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE (ABC) and ACA WORLD CONVENTION (AWC); remove the outdated voting rules from sub-section A.4 as well as a paragraph about Floor Motions – both of which are in APPENDIX X. (Removed as a result of updated information that is in Appendix X.)
 - APPENDIX X. ABC and QDM VOTING RULES amended. (Motion April 29, 2023)
 - SECTION XVI. ACA WSO COMLINE amended. (Motion April 29, 2023)
29. October 3, 2023
- a. APPENDIX IX. TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY amended. (Motion September 28, 2023). Note: A correction was made to Section C.1. The first paragraph said “Food and Incidentals per diem, herein referred to as M&IE (Meals and Incidental Expense rate). WSO has adopted U.S. Government General Services Administration (GSA) meals and incidental expenses (M&IE) per diem rates.” The phrase “herein referred to as M&IE (Meals and Incidental Expense rate)” was removed as it is inconsistent with the remainder of the policy.
30. April 3, 2024
- SECTION VIII. BOARD MEETINGS amended. (Motion April 3, 2024). Note: Corrections were made throughout the document to change “Board monthly Teleconferences” to “Board Meetings with the Fellowship.”
31. May 22, 2024
- SECTION III.J Board Nominating Committee, SECTION III.K Board Qualifications, and APPENDIX IV - NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Motion 2024_05_10)
32. July 8, 2024 – NOTE: many of the changes going forward are part of reorganizing the flow of the OPPM into more logical sections and combining redundancies.
- Changed SECTION I. to INTRODUCTION. Moved the following previous sections under this new section as sub-sections: SECTION I. PURPOSE OF ACA WSO, SECTION II. BRIEF HISTORY, SECTION XIII. ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION, SECTION XIV. BYLAWS, and SECTION XV. ACA WSO OPERATING POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL. Former APPENDIX III. OPPM DEVELOPMENT was moved into this last new sub-section.
 - Moved SECTION VIII. BOARD MEETINGS to be a subsection under SECTION II. WSO BOARD OF TRUSTEES.
 - Moved original SECTION XVII. LOGO and XVIII. LEGAL to new SECTION V. LEGAL/INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.
 - Moved SECTION XI. WSO OFFICE after VI. FISCAL POLICIES to become new

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SECTION VII.

- Amended SECTION VII.D Records Management and Retention Policy and added new APPENDIX III. Records Retention Schedule
- SECTION XXI. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY revised and moved after WSO OFFICE to become new SECTION VIII.
- Subsections of SECTION XII. ACA WSO LITERATURE that apply to Publishing were moved to new SECTION XIII. ACA WSO PUBLISHING.
- SECTION XVI. ACA WSO COMLINE was added as a subsection of SECTION XII. ACA WSO LITERATURE
- A link to the Articles of Incorporation was added to APPENDIX VI, which is now labeled ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS. The actual ByLaws were removed and a link added to the most recent copy on the WSO website.
- APPENDIX VII – the Steps, Traditions and Concepts are now available via links to them on the WSO website.

Chart of Reorganization of Sections

New Section or Subsection	Prior to July 2024 this information was previously contained in
I. Introduction A. Purpose of ACA WSO B. Brief History C. Articles of Incorporation and ByLaws D. OPPM Purpose	I. Purpose of ACA WSO II. Brief History XIII. Articles of Incorporation XIV. ByLaws XV. ACA WSO Operating Policy & Procedure Manual APPENDIX III. OPPM Development
II. WSO Board of Trustees	III. and VIII
III. Board Officers/Executive Committee	IV., V. and IX
IV. Legal/Intellectual Property	XVII and XVIII
V. ACA WSO Fiscal Policies	VI.
VI. ACA WSO Office	XI.
VII. Information Technology	XXI
VIII. Placing Issues Before the Board	VII
IX. Committees	X
X ACA WSO Literature	XII and Comline XVI
XI ACA WSO Publishing	XII Literature
XII. ABC and AWC	XIX
XIII. Ballot Prep	XX
<u>Changes to APPENDICES</u>	
APPENDIX III. Records Retention Schedule	New (Appendix III previously OPPM Development which was moved to SECTION I.)

33. Sept. 4, 2024

- Amended SECTION VI FISCAL POLICIES:
 - i. Added new J. Audit Committee Purpose and Policy (Motion 2024_08_07)
 - ii. Updated D. Expenditure Approvals to include a sentence about board discretion for obtaining bids so it is consistent with the Audit policy under J.
 - iii. Updated B. 7th Tradition Contributions with new annual contribution limit and removal of bequest limit. (Motions 2024_06_07 & Motion 2024_06_09)
- Amended SECTION III ACA WSO BOARD OFFICERS with new title SECTION III BOARD OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Motion 2024_08_11).

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- Merged SECTION IV. Duties of Officers and SECTION VII. Executive Committee into SECTION III BOARD OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE and updated whole section (Motion 2024_08_11).

34. Nov. 22, 2024

- Added a NOTE to Appendix II -Region Certification Process/B. Recertification - Region recertification on pause (Motion 2024_08_02).
- Amended SECTION VI. ACA WSO OFFICE
 - i. Added WSO Archives Collection Policy to new subsection G. (Motion 2024_11_02)
 - ii. Added Social Media usage policy to subsection C. Correspondence and Social Media (ABC_2024_09).
- Amended SECTION II: WSO BOARD OF TRUSTEES, subsections A-H (Motion 2024_10_05).
- Added WSO Communication Platform User Agreement to SECTION VII: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, new subsection C (Motion 2023_0909_02).
- Added expanded “Whistleblower Policy,” as a new SECTION IX (Motion 2024_05_03).
- Amended SECTION VI FISCAL POLICIES:
 - i. Added Prudent Reserve Policy as new subsection I. (Motion 2022_0813_12)
 - ii. Added Compensation Policy as subsection J. and Appendix XIII (Motion 2024-11-04).
- Corrections were made throughout the document to remove references to “Collaboration Committees” since they were dissolved (Motion 2024_11_03).