

MINUTES FOR ABC STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

April 22, 2025, 5:00 PM Eastern US Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99370360615?pwd=cTNYZVNEd0ZFaWFEeCtPZEZCS2F5UT09>

Zoom 1 Meeting ID: 993 7036 0615

Passcode: 182011

I. OPEN MEETING (5:00 to 5:05)

- a. Chair of the Month (Charlie) opens meeting
- b. Serenity Prayer
- c. Roll Call of Subcommittee Members X=Present; ☐=Absent)

	Bill D		Josh W		Marcus H	x	William G-B
x	Carole C	x	Kaz S	x	Marion M		
x	Charlie H	x	Kelle J	x	Mary Jo L		
	Dove H		Ken R	x	Pam M		
x	Jim M		Laura L		Sue V		

- d. Introduction of Guests

II. REVIEW AGENDA AND DO READINGS (5:05 to 5:13)

- a. Motions to Amend Agenda
- b. Motion to Approve Agenda Pam/Kelle Approved by acclamation
- c. Section Timer: Kelle until 6:15
- d. Share Timer 2:00: Mary Jo
- e. Note Taker? Charlie

III. READINGS: Excerpts from the [ACA 12 Traditions and Meditations](#) (Traditions 1, 2, & 12), followed by one minute of quiet group reflection

IV. MINUTES:

- a. (5:13 to 5:15) Approval of minutes tabled until April 29..
- b. UPDATED HIGH-LEVEL SUMMARY OF RECENT ACTIONS: APRIL 1, 8, 15, AND 22 (Resource for reading & reference; no action on this is needed)
 - i. 4/22: Tabled action on a proposed resource document for the ABC.
 - ii. 4/22: Have not identified a chair for May.
 - iii. 4/15: Approved sending of resource document regarding fellowship charter
 - iv. 4/15: Examined questions relating to conflict of interest and Conference composition
 - v. 4/8 Meeting: There was extended discussion on whether to submit a fellowship comparison document as a supplementary supporting document for the ABC delegate handbook. Bill agreed to finalize a scaled-back comparison document, and Charlie stated his intention to include time on the 4/15 agenda.

- vi. 4/8 Meeting: Continued work on assessment of Section 3 issues (Conference Composition). Explored questions about whether a maximum percentage of Conference votes should be assigned to trustees, paid staff, etc., if these categories are granted voting rights.
4/1 Meeting: Unanimously voted to suspend rule (for one meeting) that dedicates 75 percent of time to Charter composition
- vii. 4/1 Meeting: Reviewed and revised ABC report line by line and voted unanimously to approve.
- viii. Slack: After an additional period to review minor cleanup edits, the report was sent to the ABC/QDM Committee on April 5, the deadline for submitting ABC reports.

V. OLD BUSINESS OR TIME-ESSENTIAL BUSINESS

- a. Completion of work on an ABC Resource Document (5:15-5:30)

Considered, and debated at great length, whether a summary of fellowships and links complied with an authorizing motion approved on April 15.

Background: On April 15, the Committee approved the following motion:

Develop a support document listing which fellowships we've reviewed, plus links to the relevant websites. The document presented for approval included additional fellowships that had not been presented to the committee.

After two motions failed, the committee voted unanimously to table this topic.

MOTION (BY KELLE): TO SUBMIT A REVISED LIST THAT HAD ONLY THE EIGHT FELLOWSHIPS IN AN ORIGINAL SIDE BY SIDE COMPARISON FOR A FINAL VOTE ON APRIL 29. DEFEATED, WITH 3 YES VOTES, FOUR NO, AND TWO ABSTENTIONS.

MOTION (BY MARY JO): TO APPROVE THE LONGER LIST AS DRAFTED. ALSO FAILED (4 YES, 4 NO, AND 1 ABSTAIN).

MOTION (BY MARY JO, SECONDED BY CAROLE): TO TABLE DISCUSSION OF THE RESOURCE DOCUMENT.. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. Brief update on the Sustainability Study by Marion. Report and motions are submitted to the ABC/QDM, but negotiations continue on allotting time to deliver a report mandated by the 2024 ABC, while also introducing two motions (regarding changing the QDM schedule and clarifying that delegates have broad authority to discuss and vote on motions/new business at all meetings of the Conference.
- c. (5:30-5:35) Search for a chair in May

Background: We have been appointing rotating chairs on a monthly basis. No one volunteered for May. Mary Jo volunteered for June, and Kaz said he might be available in July. A discussion ensued in which several members said they do not feel prepared or have the bandwidth to chair the committee even for a one-month period.

d. All further actions were tabled and the meeting was adjourned.

e. Next steps on Composition section (5:35-6) TABLED

- i. Review and approve list of “substantial unanimity” items
- ii. Review and approve list of items lacking substantial unanimity
- iii. Review and approve list of ideas the group has discarded

(Resource for discussion: Updated document from the recent discussions on Conference Composition

(<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1s7HATRX8CDFR0M8MgMt6aKAOkDLr0eIn/edit>)

f. Planning for ABC (6-6:20) TABLED

- i. Review our commitments for the year between 2025 and 2026 ABC's, as stated in the 2025 ABC report.
- ii. First discussion of how we present Composition section process at ABC, and then at next delegate business meeting

g.

h. Closing and closing prayer (6:25-6:30)

Tabled until after ABC

- i. Discuss Charlie's [Report from 2017](#) [is linked] Note: The chair suggests tabling as the time urgency of this is not clear.
- j. Consideration of the ABC Study and/or Sustainability Study group as separate committee(s), possibly to involve direct discussion w/ Sustainability Study, and with ABC/QDM Committee. Note: The chair suggests tabling until after the May 2025 ABC. Reviewing the committee structure in relation to the various ABC studies is now part of our goals for 2025-26.

- k. What does the ABC (Charter) Study group mean by use of the terms "Conference decision" or "Conference final vote"? Do either or both of those terms mean the Fellowship **as a whole** has no role whatsoever in the intended process?
- l. POSSIBLE motion: to include a description in the Adult Children of Alcoholics charter to spell out the meaning of the inverted pyramid, a (possibly revised) graphic of the ACA inverted pyramid, and how, going forward, the internal service structure works in ACA in accordance with Tradition 9. PAM: motion made and seconded on Slack that you folks insist is an acceptable place to conduct committee business. NOT a "possible" motion; an actual motion made and seconded.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS**

VII. ADJOURNMENT (6 : 30) Motion: Seconded:

ACA Serenity Prayer