

2026 ABC Ballot Proposals - English

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TOPIC A: WSO OPERATIONS

Proposal 2026-1: WSO Shop Committee

Submitted by: IG630

Issue: To form a committee to look into WSO/shop selling ACA related items

Background: 7th tradition has been low, below usual. In order to maintain the critical work of WSO in carrying the message alternate revenue sources must be looked into.

This proposal seeks to form a committee to look into whether a Shop selling additional merchandise relating to ACA would not only aid in supporting the primary mission with funds yet also be within the concepts and traditions. Some suggested items include BRB book covers with ACA logo, other items such as T-shirts and coffee mugs, pre printed signs to help people find meetings, and other items to help support meetings.

Resources/Implementation: Many retreats and workshops presented by meetings and Intergroups sell items to help pay for events. Our tradition states attraction rather than promotion. Being asked about the Bear on my shirt or the bumper sticker on my car, in our opinion, does not violate guidelines and could even create interest through conversation. A gift from one member to another with ACA slogans, in our opinion, supports our program, such as a token with ACA serenity affirmation. After visiting many meetings, I've experienced not being able to find the room at a location. Preprinted and laminated signs with our logo and arrows to help fellow travelers find a meeting would be helpful. Items such as tent cards and other printed support items for meetings without resources to create them would also be helpful.

Privately owned "serenity" type shops are very profitable yet finding ACA related gift items or other items to support ACA meetings are almost nonexistent. It's our belief that the offering of related ACA items can fulfill two desires, 1) increase funds available to carry the message, 2) increase visibility to carry the message.

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- Everything sold to-date with the ACA logo has been recovery-based; ACA has not previously authorized logo-bearing merchandise such as mugs, shirts, or other branded items, nor have any other Twelve Step fellowships AA, AI-Anon, NA).
- ABC/AWC Local Host Committees have received temporary approval in the past to place the ACA logo on items such as t-shirts and hats for fundraising for AWC events (e.g., 2017 San Diego, 2018 Toronto, 2019 Malmo).
- The Group Conscience of the fellowship can determine whether additional, non-recovery items, e.g., coffee mugs, tote bags, sweatshirts, could be sold in a way that supports identification and self-support in a manner that is attraction rather than promotion.

Resources links:

[Adult Children Shop -Other Products webpage](#)

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Proposal 2026-2 - Automatic Enrollment in Literature Discount

Submitted by: Region 6, IG640, CA1656

Issue: When a Region or Intergroup is approved, they are automatically approved and enrolled in the 30% Literature Discount.

Background: Currently there is a lengthy Application process to become a Region or Intergroup, then there is a second application process for the literature discount. So it could be 6-8 months before a group receives books, that includes 2 applications, ordering and mailing time. Don't we want to get books to members as soon as possible?

Additionally there have been suggestions that existing Regions and Intergroups help with books. Most of the world has no Intergroup or Region, so if someone starts one, let us help them get books. Please pass this proposal. Thank you.

Resources/Implementation: CA 1403, CA 1656, NV 008, WEB 1054, CA IG 640, AZ IG 009, and Region 6 ARC ACA Region Connecting all support this proposal.

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- WSO policy requires verification steps before literature discounts can be granted. Under current procedures:
 - An Intergroup or Region is certified first, and a separate discount application is submitted afterward.
 - The chair completes the discount form, designating the ordering person and email address, in order to authorize them for tax-related compliance.
- WSO's auditor expresses caution about any form of automatic enrollment, noting that the lack of a separate vetting process or documentation increases risk concerns. Requiring a basic application or annual certification confirming appropriate use of the discounts would be a reasonable process.
- Other 12-step fellowships (AA, Al-Anon, NA) do not use automatic enrollment; rather, they use agreement-based systems for literature discounts.
- Moving to an automatic enrollment process would involve new IT integrations and adjustments to existing workflows, and would have IT cost impacts.
- Greater automation may increase use of the 30% discount, which would have related financial impacts.

Resource links:

[Intergroup Bulk Discount Program webpage](#)

Proposal 2026-3 - Amend Pricing Policy Statement

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Submitted by: OK0058

Issue: A motion be adopted amending the ACA Literature and Products Pricing Policy adopted at the September 27, 2025 CBM by adding the following paragraph. “Provided, however, that any adjustment in pricing enacted by the WSO Board shall not continue in effect unless that action is ratified by a majority of Delegates present at the next ABC or CBM.”

This amendment clarifies that the Conference has the “final decision in large matters of general policy and finance” as stated in Concept VI.

Background: The current ACA Literature and Products Pricing Policy Statement grants ACA WSO the authority to “adjust pricing in accordance with inflation and other cost-related factors while maintaining affordable and accessible literature through discounted initiatives and a variety of supportive programs.” This is in accordance with Concept VIII, which identifies the Board Trustees as “the principal planners and administrators” with respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance.

However, Concept VI affirms that the Conference has “the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services” and the “final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance.”

This means that the Conference has an oversight responsibility over the WSO in decisions about setting policy and decisions about finance.

Based on fellowship-wide reactions to the recent book price increases, this proposal asserts that book pricing is widely perceived to be a large matter of policy and finance, as it affects the fellowship as a whole in its ability to “carry the message of ACA recovery” in accordance with Tradition Five.

Book price increases should therefore be subject to oversight by the Conference in accordance with Concept VI through ratification of increases implemented by the ACA WSO Board of Trustees as suggested in this proposal. This will ensure that price changes reflect the shared wisdom and interests of the entire ACA Fellowship, building more trust and openness within the organization.

Resources/Implementation: The WSO Board of Trustees is solely responsible for implementation of this proposal.

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- The motion passed by the delegates at the 2025 ABC: *We move to approve the following ACA Literature and Products Pricing Policy Statement:*
 - *To ensure the sustainability of ACA WSO’s essential services and operations by responsibly adjusting pricing in accordance with inflation and other cost-related factors; and*
 - *To uphold ACA’s primary purpose—carrying the message to adult children who still suffer—by maintaining affordable and accessible literature through discounted initiatives and a variety of supportive programs.*

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- Requiring delegate ratification would shift routine operational authority away from the Board and GM.
- Concepts III, VI, VII, and VIII assign trustees responsibility for managing world service affairs, including timely pricing decisions.
- Pricing adjustments aligned with inflation are treated as routine operational matters in other large 12-Step organizations.
- Tying pricing adjustments changes to an annual conference cycle would limit timely financial responsiveness. When pricing adjustments were delayed in the past, they contributed to a deficit, such as the deficit of \$82,122 in 2022.

Resource links:

[The ACA Twelve Concepts](#)

[Operating Policies & Procedures Manual](#) (reference Section: Fiscal Policies, subsection M)

Proposal 2026-4 - Literature Price Increases Approved by Delegates

Submitted by: Region 6, IG640, CA1656

Issue: We propose that all literature price increases will be approved by the Delegates at the Annual Business Meeting.

Background: There have been 2 literature price increases in the past couple years making a hardcover red book cost \$30 - \$32 if delivered in America. There are not enough Intergroups or Regions for newcomers to contact for free literature. Tradition 5 - our primary purpose is to carry the message to the adult child who still suffers. Literature needs to be affordable to the newcomer, and delegates need to be part of the decision making process as Concept VI states, On behalf of ACA as a whole, our Annual Business Conference has the principle responsibility for the maintenance of our world services.

Resources/Implementation: This proposal does not violate the ACA Steps, Traditions, Concepts, ACA Bylaws, ACA Articles Of Incorporation, The ACA OPPM, County, State or Federal Law.

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- This proposal appears to be a duplicate of Proposal 2026-3, which concerns the same subject.
- This is not in alignment with "Concept VIII – The Trustees of the World Service Organization act in this primary capacity: with respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs."
- Having Delegates approve all literature price increases is not aligned with Concept VIII, which assigns overall policy and financial planning to the Trustees
- Other fellowships such as AA, AI-Anon, and NA assign pricing decisions to their corporate boards, with reporting provided to the fellowship rather than voting.
- Shifting price-setting authority to the ABC would reduce the ability to adjust to changes in printing and shipping costs as they are incurred.

Resource links:

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[ACA Twelve Concepts](#)
[Operating Policies & Procedures Manual](#)
[ACA WSO Books of Motions by Year](#)

Proposal 2026-5 - Add Staff Descriptions and Salary Range to OPPM

Submitted by: Region 6, IG640, CA1656

Issue: We propose that all ACA Office Staff and Contractors Job Descriptions and Salary Guidelines are outlined in the ACA Operations Policy and Procedures Manual – OPPM.

Background: A 501 C 3 Non profit organization such as ACA can post job descriptions and salary ranges which would be necessary to hire employees. This proposal does not violate the ACA Steps, Traditions, Concepts, ACA Bylaws, ACA Articles Of Incorporation, The ACA OPPM, County, State or Federal Law. Transparency is imperative for member trust and support.

Resources/Implementation: In person meetings, Zoom meetings, WEB meetings, Intergroup 640, and Region 6 ARC have discussed and support this proposal.

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- Publishing salary ranges raises privacy and legal issues and risks outdated information.
- The OPPM functions as a policy manual, not an HR handbook; personnel matters are the responsibility of the Board and GM under employment law. No other 12-step organizations publish staff compensation information.
- Required transparency is already provided through IRS Form 990.
- Job descriptions change frequently and may not fit the OPPM's purpose.
- Current practice lists staff titles and posts job descriptions and salary ranges when positions are open.

Resource Links:

[ACA WSO Org. Chart & Committees, Staff Lists](#) (see page 4 for a list of staff)
[ACA WSO Compensation Policy](#)

Proposal 2026-6 - Conference Approve Budget for New Lit. Projects

Submitted by: Region 2

Issue: We move that the Annual Business Conference (ABC) must approve the budget for all new literature projects before Fellowship money is spent. This authority belongs to the ABC as the voice of the groups and should not be placed in the OPPM, which should only be for WSO's internal operations.

Background: The OPPM was created to guide WSO office and committee work, not to make Fellowship-wide policy. Literature projects are Fellowship-wide because they affect every member and meeting. For that reason, both the content and the budget for new

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literature must go to the CBM for approval. This motion removes any confusion by making clear that OPPM covers office procedures, while the ABC holds the authority for approving literature projects and their budgets.

Intent:

- Protects Fellowship Funds: No large sums are spent without approval from the Conference, according to Concept 6 regarding large matters of policy and finance.
- Clarifies Roles: OPPM = WSO office use. ABC = Fellowship authority.
- Follows Tradition Two: Decisions are made by the group conscience of the Fellowship.
- Builds Trust: Members can see and trust how literature funds are used.
- Prevents Overreach: Keeps WSO focused on administration, not decision-making for the Fellowship.

Resources/Implementation: N/A

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- Across fellowships, their Conferences address policy and global-impact decisions, while the Board/WSO manages operations, budgets, staffing, vendors, and administrative responsibilities.
- The conference approves the initial concept of the literature to move forward and the board approves related budget expenditures as they become known.
- The Board holds the legal responsibility for ACA finances, and shifting budget authority to the ABC would create overlapping and conflicting roles.
- Other 12-Step fellowships do not assign literature budget approval to their conferences; budgeting authority remains with Boards/WSOs, as per Concept VIII.

Resource Links:

[Operating Policies & Procedures Manual](#)

[Literature Committee webpage](#)

[Conference Direction \(Past ABC Motions and Publications in Development\)](#)

[ACA Twelve Concepts](#)

Topic B: SERVICE STRUCTURE & GOVERNANCE

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Proposal 2026-7 - OPPM Limit to WSO/Committees-Large Matters Need Conf. Approval

Submitted by: Region 2

Issue: We move that the Operating Policy and Procedures Manual (OPPM) be used only for World Service Organization (WSO) office and committee operations. Any decisions that affect the entire Fellowship, especially large matters of policy and finance, as described in Concept 6, such as the creation of new literature, changes to existing literature, or changes to service structure must be approved by the Conference.

Background: The OPPM was created to guide WSO's daily work, not to make decisions for the Fellowship.

Placing Fellowship-wide policies or literature into the OPPM takes authority away from the groups and creates confusion among members. It also gives the impression that WSO is making decisions on behalf of the Fellowship, rather than supporting the Fellowship's group conscience.

The Twelve Concepts say that ACA groups, through their Conference delegates and their representatives in the service structure (Inverted Pyramid) hold the final authority of the Fellowship.

This motion makes things clear: the OPPM is for WSO work only, and the Conference is where decisions that affect the World-Wide-Fellowship are made.

Intent: It is our intent to protect the role of the Conference, respect the authority of the groups, and keep WSO focused on its intended role of administration by carrying out approved ballot proposals and legal and fiduciary responsibilities of the non-profit corporation.

Resources/Implementation: Even though the WSO has said it will split the OPPM, we need Conference approval to guarantee it happens within the one-year timeline and that major policy and financial matters are placed correctly. This approval ensures the Fellowship's voice is honored and that decisions about policy and finances remain under Conference authority.

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- The OPPM was adopted by the Conference in 1992 and 1995 to guide day-to-day operations of the Board and the ABC.
- The OPPM contains legally required or operational business policies under the purview of the WSO Board of Trustees. A separate Conference Charter is being developed to outline Conference roles and responsibilities, and the fellowship will have time to review and approve it.
- Concept VIII assigns Trustees responsibility for major policy and finance matters and identifies them as primary planners and administrators.
- Literature policies include essential financial and business components that must

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remain in the OPPM, while Fellowship-related elements will be included or referenced in the developing Conference Service Manual (CSM).

- The ABC Sustainability Subcommittee is discussing a CSM, and its development will require Conference input, including clarity on what constitutes large matters of policy and finance.
- Work to separate Conference-related and WSO operational content in the OPPM is underway, though completion may take more than one or two years.
- Some items identified as “large matters” intersect with Trustee responsibilities in Concepts III, VI, and VII, such as operational and HR decisions.
- Recent Conference discussions have focused on seeking Conference approval for Conference-specific matters (e.g., ABC/CBM voting rules and ballots), while major policy and finance items must remain in the OPPM for legal and tax compliance.

Resource Links:

[Operating Policies & Procedures Manual](#)

Proposal 2026-8 - Removing Requirements for Petitions to the Board

Submitted by: OK0058

Issue: The ABC adopt a motion directing the Board of Trustees to amend Appendix I, Section A, of their OPPM to read as follows:

- A. Who may File a Petition:
- a. WSO Committees
 - b. The Fellowship - may be submitted by the following:
 - i. One or more registered meetings, or
 - ii. One or more registered Intergroups, or
 - iii. One or more registered Regions.

Background: Article V of the ACAWSO Bylaws says, "All members have a right to petition any decision made by the Board in keeping with the guidelines set forth in the 'Right to Petition' as contained in the OPPM."

Article III adds, "All Twelve Step, Twelve Tradition ACA affiliated Meetings, Intergroups, and Regions are considered members of ACA WSO." This means every ACA group and meeting is a member and should have the right to petition the Board.

However, the OPPM currently states, "A petition must be submitted by at least four groups," which goes against Article V's guarantee for all members—including single groups or meetings—to petition.

Because Article V promises this right to every member, the rule requiring four groups clearly contradicts the Bylaws. This issue has been raised with the Board, but nothing has changed.

For example, in June 2025, our group's petition about the Board's decision to ban our Delegate from the only place Delegates can discuss ABC business was rejected for not

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having at least four groups. The Board's response pointed to the OPPM's rule.

We urge the Board to revise the OPPM so that all of its provisions are consistent with the WSO Bylaws.

Resources/Implementation: The Board of Trustees is solely responsible for implementation of this proposal.

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- The Operating Policies and Procedures Manual (OPPM) limits petition rights to multiple groups so that petitions reflect matters of broad fellowship concern. The OPPM states, "*Who May File a Petition*"
 - WSO Committees
 - The Fellowship, through any of the following:
 - Four or more registered meetings
 - One or more registered Intergroups, each representing at least four meetings
 - One or more registered Regions
- Potential impacts include increased administrative and trustee workload, inequity among more than 2,500 registered groups, and the need to evaluate consistency with Concept XII if a single group could file a petition.

Resource Links:

[ACA Twelve Concepts](#)

[Operating Policies & Procedures Manual](#)

Proposal 2026-9 - Region Certification Application

Submitted by: Region 6, IG640 CA1656

Issue: The Region Certification Application is a 2 page document and is listed in the Operations Policy and Procedures Manual - OPPM. A Region Application is passed through one committee before being voted on by Delegates.

Background: Region Certification can be accomplished in less than a year. Delegates need to be aware of the process so they can be inspired to start Regions in their area, and so new Regions can be announced to all the Delegates. An ACA Region Application does not violate the ACA Steps, Traditions, Concepts, ACA Bylaws, ACA Articles Of Incorporation, The ACA OPPM, County, State or Federal Law.

Resources/Implementation: In person meetings, Zoom meetings, web meetings, Intergroup 640, and Region 6 ARC have discussed this proposal and support it.

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- Board review is necessary to ensure compliance with bylaws and to reduce fiduciary and legal risks.
- The proposal would shift Region approval from the current committee, Member

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Services, and the board process, to the delegate body, and would bypass the Board in approving Regions.

- This shift would introduce additional administrative work for delegates at ABC/CBMs.
- Concept VI indicates the Conference should be involved in giving direction through policy; Concept VIII indicates the WSO implements that policy.

Resource Links:

[Region Registration webpage](#)

[Region Listings](#)

Proposal 2026-10 - Three Member Requirement for all Committees, Groups, etc.

Submitted by: IL172

Issue: We propose that all committees, subcommittees, etc., whether created by the Board or the Conference, must maintain a minimum number of active members to remain operational - that minimum to be established based on the scope of the work involved. This will help ensure sustainability and a balance of perspectives. If membership falls below the threshold, the group will be placed on temporary hiatus until sufficient volunteers are available to reactivate it.

Background: Per the Operating Policy and Procedures Manual (OPPM), “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, Study Groups, etc., are also created by the Conference Business Meetings to translate group conscience decisions into action.

In practice, however, many such committees, etc., struggle with a shortage of volunteers, which can result in burnout, delays, and loss of credibility due to underrepresentation.

The appropriate minimum number of volunteers depends on the scope and complexity of the work. Establishing a defined minimum membership threshold promotes accountability, a stronger exchange of ideas, broader representation, and continuity if a member becomes temporarily unavailable.

Placing committees on temporary hiatus does not mean abandoning their purpose. It reflects the fellowship’s current level of investment in an issue and offers a respectful pause until enough willing volunteers step forward.

In summary, we believe our proposal supports:

- Tradition One, safeguarding unity and common welfare by promoting balance and efficient functioning,
- Tradition Two, honoring the group conscience and preventing too few volunteers from carrying the load alone, and
- Tradition Nine, ensuring committees remain effective, reflect current fellowship interests, and stay accountable to those they serve.

Resources/Implementation: A designated individual/group would be responsible for

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ensuring that all committees, etc., are meeting the member threshold and recommend that affected committees be put on hiatus if they are not. In such cases, a call for new volunteers can be put out for the struggling committee(s).

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- When committee participation is low, allowing one or two active servants to continue the work can support the fellowship; the Board would be able to address these situations with flexibility on a case by case basis.
- The Operating Policies and Procedures Manual (OPPM) does not prescribe a universal minimum membership requirement for committees or workgroups. Each committee's size is determined by the scope and needs of its assigned work, and there may be circumstances when fewer than three members are necessary.
- Placing committees on hiatus due to temporary membership fluctuations may delay core services and interrupt ongoing work. We understand the intent to promote sustainability by encouraging at least three members, and recognize there are both positives and negatives to setting a universal minimum.

Resource Links:

[Operating Policies & Procedures Manual](#)

Proposal 2026-11 - Amendment to the Bylaws

Submitted by: OK0058

Issue: A motion be adopted directing the Board of Trustees to amend Article XI, Section 3, of the WSO Bylaws by adding the following phrase: and provided the amendment is ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the registered Conference Delegates in attendance at the immediately following Business Meeting of the Conference, except in cases where the Board's legal counsel determines that this ratification would infringe upon legal duties of the Board or individual Trustees.

Background: The current rules say that only the WSO Board can change the Bylaws, without input from the Conference Delegates who represent the ACA Fellowship. This proposal keeps the Board's power to suggest changes, but adds a new step: a change must also be approved by a vote of the Delegates at the next Conference before it takes effect. Ratification would require a majority vote by Delegates present at the Conference, making sure that every change is carefully reviewed and agreed upon. This gives the Conference a real way to check and balance the Board's decisions without infringing on the Board's or any Trustee's legal duties.

The ACA WSO Bylaws already say that the ABC can set up guidelines for service and communication, and that the group conscience of the Delegates should guide the Board. This proposal builds on those ideas, helping Delegates do their job of watching over any changes to the Bylaws. Adding this extra step means that any changes will represent the shared wisdom and interests of the entire ACA Fellowship, building more trust and

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openness within the organization.

Resources/Implementation: The WSO Board of Trustees is solely responsible for implementation of this proposal.

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- The Bylaws are a standard legal document for not-for-profit organizations that place responsibility on the Board to manage WSO affairs.
- The Conference may make decisions to make change to the Bylaws, however legal authority to amend them reside with the Board as per state law.
- The Board has initiated a review of the Bylaws beginning in 2026. In keeping with its commitment to the Conference and the Concepts, they will consult with the Conference throughout the process.
- Because the Bylaws is a legal document, a full legal review will take place before any changes are brought to a Conference Business Meeting so that decisions are well-informed.

Resource Links:

[ACA WSO Policies and Projects in Development](#)

[ACA WSO Bylaws](#)

Proposal 2026-12 - Amend OPPM where Inconsistent with Bylaws

Submitted by: OK0058

Issue: A motion be adopted directing the Board to remove all provisions in their OPPM providing for use of procedures from sources other than the latest edition of Roberts Rules of Order in conducting any Conference business meeting, and remove provisions that allow delegates to vote when not actually in attendance at the meeting as that vote is conducted. This ensures compliance with Article IX, Section 4, and Article VIII, Section 1, of the WSO Bylaws.

Background: "The Board of Trustees has adopted an OPPM that contains several provisions which violate, or are inconsistent with, the WSO Bylaws. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Article IX, Section 4 of the Bylaws requires that the "latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be used as a guide in resolving any disputes; however, the ultimate authority shall be the group conscience of those persons present, but the OPPM provides for conducting the meeting in accordance with procedures described in the OPPM or by "Modified Robert's Rules of Order" and does not permit a group conscience of those persons present to be the ultimate authority.
- Article VIII, Section 1, of the Bylaws requires a group conscience obtained from delegates in attendance at Conference business meetings, but the OPPM allows for worldwide online voting by delegates who are not in attendance at the time of voting.

The WSO Bylaws say the ABC can set up guidelines for service and communication, and

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that the group conscience of the Delegates in attendance should guide the Board. This proposal builds on that idea, helping Board Trustees do their job of ensuring that WSO's operating policies and procedures comply with the Bylaws. Fulfilling this proposal will reflect the shared wisdom and interests of the entire ACA Fellowship, building more trust and openness within the organization.

Resources/Implementation: The WSO Board of Trustees is solely responsible for implementation of this proposal.

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- Work to align the OPPM and Bylaws is ongoing, and a coordinated Bylaws review with the OPPM team is planned for 2026; a full legal review is needed before any updates go to an ABC to ensure well-informed decisions.
- The only inconsistency that exists between the Bylaws and OPPM is a minor timing difference regarding the ABC date, and the Board annually approves the ABC schedule in accordance with both documents.

Resource Links

[ACA WSO Policies and Projects in Development](#)

[ACA WSO Bylaws](#)

For information about the relationship between the Bylaws and OPPM see the following document:

[Bylaws and OPPM](#)

Topic C: LITERATURE

Proposal 2026-13 - Large Matters Definition Booklet

Submitted by: IG76

Issue: We propose that volunteers create a booklet that defines "large matters of general policy and finance" referenced in Concept 6. This committee will use material provided as a basis to create their booklet related to policy and finance matters. Their draft will be e-mailed to worldwide delegates before the May 2027 ACA Annual Business Conference. Following fellowship review, the committee will submit the final draft for approval at the 2028 Annual Business Conference.

Background: The WSO Concepts Committee has been working on defining general policy and finance matters, but the paragraph-or-two, short form of Concept 6 may not provide enough detail for members to clearly understand which matters fall under the WSO service board's jurisdiction and which are the responsibility of the Conference of Delegates.

There is a need for clarity: The lack of clarity can create confusion when ACA members discuss key topics of policy and finance.

Large matters of policy, for example, might include: ABC Production, Anonymity, Autonomy,

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Censuring, Complaints, Concepts, Conference Committees, Conference Members, Cooperation with 12-Step programs, Crosstalk, Diction in Publications, Donations, Eligibility to be WSO Trusted Servants, Eligibility to be Members, Employee Voting, Finances, Group Conscience, Group Registration, Governance, Guidance for New Groups, Inventories, Leadership, Media Concerns, Outside Literature Use, Public Relations, Relapse Guidelines for Trusted Servants, Relationships, Inverted Pyramid Service Structure, Sponsorship, Traditions, and Verbal Language

Large matters of finance might include: Audits, Contract Employee Compensation, Debts, Digital Services Costs, Dissolution Distribution of Treasury, Donations, Emergency & Disaster Funds, Financial Obligations, Financial Reports, Fund Raising, Group's Responsibility in Finances, Group Treasury Guidelines, Literature Sales, Literature Scholarships, Non-Profit Status, Outreach Funding, Outside Contributions, Payroll & Pensions, Publication Costs & Revenues, Rent, Utilities, & Liability Insurance Costs, Service Board Donations in the Service Structure, Special Events Costs, Taxes, Treasurer's Role, and Funding for Trusted Servants.

The booklet will serve as a comprehensive guide, offering definitions and examples on these topics, making discussions and decisions more productive and transparent.

Resources/Implementation: Our Intergroup conferred with the WSO Concepts Committee that is working on wording Concept 6 to embody more clearly and succinctly the ACA vision. The Concepts Committee feels strongly that the Conference determines what are large matters of policy and finance.

The proposed booklet committee will explore specific examples of situations that are most likely decisions for the Conference and those that the WSO service board makes in its role as the non-profit corporation which allows ACA to legally exist.

A volunteer committee of Delegates will determine when and how they will meet. They will decide how to proceed with the material provided to them by the proposing Intergroup (i.e., enhance, rewrite, or reorganize it).

The committee will list ACA examples of policy and finance. They will consider which ones +constitute "large matters" for consideration by the fellowship. The committee will define and give examples for each item on their policy and finance lists.

This committee will work with the WSO IT team to send four mailings to worldwide delegates and meeting contacts that:

1. Invite participation in the committee;
2. Provide updates on the committee's progress and gather input (once each time in advance of the 2 Conference Business Meetings); and
3. Share the rough draft before the May 2027 Conference to allow for fellowship review.

The committee will consider and revise the e-mailed draft as they see fit and submit the finalized version of the booklet for approval at the 2028 Annual Business Conference.

This booklet will address a significant gap in ACA: the need for a well-defined and universally understood framework for both policy and finance matters. By offering concrete

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examples and definitions, ACA members can have more effective conversations, make informed decisions, and avoid confusion or disagreements about jurisdiction or authority.

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- It may be premature to produce a booklet before the Conference reaches agreement on a clear definition of large policy and financial matters. This is still under development with the Concepts committee. Until this work is completed there is no material to provide to such a committee.
- If this proposal is accepted, the booklet would need to be added to the literature-in-development projects, and the budget would need to be updated to include the additional costs; incorporating this material into an existing service manual could reduce expense and improve accessibility.

Proposal 2026-14 - Six Inventories Booklet Committee

Submitted by: IG76

Issue: Volunteers will create a booklet containing six inventories: 1. Personal-Daily; 2. Blameless Family-of-Origin; 3. Meeting; 4. Service Board; 5. Service Board Committee; and 6. 4th Step Inventory.

Our Intergroup will provide rough-draft inventories for the booklet committee to consider. Their inventories will be sent to worldwide delegates and meeting contacts before the May 2027 ACA Annual Business Conference for input. The final draft will be proposed for approval at the 2028 Annual Business Conference.

Background: Business meetings are sometimes marked by significant conflict. Inventories can be used to restore personal and group harmony. While ACA accepts the idea, it too often requires that the group create their inventory to use which can delay the work of the fellowship. After researching 12-Step inventories, it became clear that most of the inventories were rambling narratives that differed greatly in focus.

While the practice of taking inventories is common in other 12-Step programs, ACA lacks a standardized approach or clear tools for inventories, leaving members without a concrete method for resolving issues in personal interactions or program service.

The absence of standard forms or specific inventory tools in ACA has resulted in confusion, leaving members with vague, overly general explanations. The existing ACA literature, including the Big Red Book, contains limited inventory guidance, mostly in a narrative form, which is not easily actionable.

The proposed Six Inventories Booklet aims to fill this gap by providing specific, standardized inventory tools for both personal and group situations. If this proposal passes, ACA will have a tool to address and resolve dysfunctional interactions and foster healthy group dynamics.

Resources/Implementation: We sent an e-mail to the WSO Literature Chair to determine if a project of this kind is being developed. To date, we have received no response. We also

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researched on the WSO website the projects the Literature Committee has in evaluation, revision, and translation. We saw nothing like this, and we feel these instruments would be invaluable in ACA.

A committee of volunteers will decide on logistics, including when and how often to meet. They will choose leaders and determine how they will proceed to revise the given draft copy.

The committee will decide on the components of each inventory and develop each of those components. As noted above, the committee will have a draft of each inventory provided by our Intergroup to use as a basis to begin their deliberations (rather than blank paper). The six proposed inventories are: Personal Daily Inventory; Family-of-Origin Inventory; Meeting Inventory; Service Board Inventory; Service Board Committee Inventory; and a 4th Step Inventory.

The committee will work with the WSO IT team to send out four mailings to:

1. Invite participation in the committee;
2. Update delegates and meeting contacts on the committee's progress and gather input prior to the two Conference Business Meetings; and
3. Share their rough draft of the booklet before the May 2027 conference and request suggestions from meetings and delegates.

After considering fellowship input for revisions, the committee will present the final draft for approval as a proposal at the 2028 Annual Business Conference.

This proposal addresses a clear need within ACA: providing members with standardized tools to resolve personal and group-level issues. By introducing specific inventories, ACA can help members confront behavior problems, foster healthier group dynamics, and create a more functional program.

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- If this proposal is accepted, the booklet would need to be added to the literature-in-development projects and the budget updated to include the additional costs; the approved author team would then join the Literature in Development subcommittee and follow the OPPM requirements, including the literature evaluation and approval process. Incorporating this material into an existing service manual could reduce expense and improve accessibility.
- Our records show that a response was sent by the Literature Committee, but may not have been received by the proposal revision deadline. In this email, the Literature Committee confirmed that no literature projects of this type are currently underway.

Proposal 2026-15 - Inverted Pyramid Booklet Committee

Submitted by: IG76

Issue: We propose a committee of Conference delegates creates a booklet defining the

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Inverted Pyramid service structure for ACA. The committee's draft of that booklet will be made available to global delegates before the May 2027 Annual Business Conference.

Our Intergroup will provide material for the committee to consider for their booklet. Incorporating input received from the worldwide fellowship, the final draft will be presented as a proposal at the 2028 ABC for Conference approval.

Background: Bill W. and Dr. Bob established the Inverted Pyramid model so that Alcoholics Anonymous would democratically continue after their demise. ACA founders adopted the Inverted Pyramid model.

Two ways were originally established for the WSO service board to freely communicate within the ACA fellowship. Through the ballot process, worldwide delegates vote to determine what WSO committees work on.

The other way, embodied in Tradition 9, is that representatives from groups create service boards and committees to combine resources for more effective services. Meetings elect representatives to make their needs known, find solutions, and supply the resources to enact the solutions. The Intergroups elect their representatives to serve them on Region boards. Region boards then select representatives for the WSO Board, in theory.

Although we have three Regions, one Region Representative is seated on the WSO Board. This means that of the 2,461 worldwide meetings, about 425 meetings have an open channel for information sharing and communicating with their Intergroups, Regions, and the WSO Board.

The breakdown of the service structure is evidenced in a lack of volunteers as leaders, sponsors, service board leaders, and committee members. Incoming 7th Tradition donations are not sufficient to fund our global message that recovery is available. Instead, most of WSO's revenue comes from literature sales. Of groups worldwide, 183 delegates, 7% of the total, voted on ballot proposals in 2025. Of about 2568 registered groups last year (meetings, Intergroups and Regions), about 100 delegates attended. Of those, about 50 voted on any ballot proposal.

Implementation/Resources: Having conferred with the WSO Sustainability Committee (the committee most likely to address our ACA service structure model), it is not currently working on any booklet or service manual wherein the information about the Inverted Pyramid service structure model is explained.

Delegate volunteers on this committee will determine when, where, and how they meet. Given a rough draft of material on the topic from the group making this proposal, the committee will develop their draft explaining the Inverted Pyramid model. They will document the history of its development in Alcoholics Anonymous. They will explain what the Inverted Pyramid model looks like in ACA when it is fully implemented. They will address the benefits of using the Inverted Pyramid service structure.

This committee will work with the WSO IT Committee to send four mailings to worldwide delegates and meeting contacts to:

1. Invite participation in the committee;

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2. Provide updates on the committee's progress and gather input (once each time in advance of the 2 Conference Business Meetings); and
3. Share their rough draft before the May 2027 Conference to allow for fellowship review.

The committee will submit the final version of the booklet as a proposal for Conference approval at the 2028 Annual Business Conference.

This booklet will explain the Inverted Pyramid service structure in ACA, showing how it improves communication, maximizes resources, and helps us better reach those in need.

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- If this proposal is accepted, the booklet would need to be added to the literature-in-development projects and the budget updated to include the additional costs; the approved author team would then join the Literature in Development subcommittee and follow the OPPM requirements, including the literature evaluation and approval process. Incorporating this material into an existing service manual could reduce expense and improve accessibility.
- ACA already has an existing version of the Inverted Pyramid description in the OPPM, which could be reviewed for possible revision.
- The Sustainability Study was created at the direction of the Conference to develop recommendations on processes and procedures for Conference Business Meetings, and could include that in their scope. Any Delegate may join the Sustainability Study to participate in this work.
- Creating an additional committee would duplicate existing efforts and divide resources. Creating any diagram now would pre-empt that work already being done.

Resources link:

The Inverted Triangle is in the Service Structure and Group Representation Section of the [Operating Policies & Procedures Manual](#)

Proposal 2026-16 - Adopt Responsibility Declaration

Submitted by: Region 6, IG640, CA1656

Issue: We propose that ACA adopt the Responsibility Declaration - When anyone anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of Recovery always to be there, and for that I am responsible.

Background: AA and Al-Anon adopted this statement and it is not anywhere in ACA Literature. The Literature committee does not need to comment on or discuss this before ACA World Delegates discuss it. Tradition 5 states our Primary purpose is to carry the message to the adult child who still suffers, and The Responsibility Declaration reaffirms that the hand of ACA is always there.

Resources/Implementation: In person meetings, zoom meetings, Intergroup 640, and

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Region 6 ARC discussed and support this proposal.

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- Al-Anon's version is worded differently, and the proposal does not explain the reason for the alternate wording; it is also unclear how this wording differs from Tradition Five on carrying the ACA message.

Proposal 2026-17 - Recruitment of Literature Committee Chairs

Submitted by: CT112

Issue: That the Board of Trustees identify and recruit independent volunteers to chair or co-chair the WSO Literature Committee, and to return all Literature Committee activities to full compliance with WSO's written policies and procedures, including transparency and accountability of Literature Committee activities to the fellowship.

Background: At the May 2024 WSO annual business meeting, the Literature Committee Chair stepped down after serving a two-year term and a one-year extension, and several other committee members also stepped down. In April 2024, a former Literature Committee chair volunteered to become Interim Chair and recruit new leadership, but the board declined his offer. The Board appointed a board member to create a Literature Assessment Project, which has not produced any regular minutes or reports. It also has not made progress in appointing a permanent chair or co-chairs. The chair position has remained unfilled since May 2024. At least some Conference-approved projects have languished under the interim Literature Assessment Project, with minimal reporting to the Conference and fellowship.

The proposal would direct that the Board appoint a chair or co-chairs, and that they reorganize the Literature Committee in alignment with WSO's Operating Policies and Procedures Manual. This includes regular, detailed status reports on all ongoing literature projects.

Proposal Resources/Implementation: The ballot proposal simply directs the Board to follow the OPPM in managing literature projects through the Literature Committee. It should not cost any resources, and it should not be difficult to implement. Many potential volunteers are readily available from the Literature Volunteer Form.

Resources/Implementation: There is no Literature Committee to contact. That is the reason for the proposal. The question has been asked at both the regular board meeting and at the last CMB why no new literature chair has been appointed. The response was "no one volunteered."

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- WSO agrees there is a need for a Chair of the Literature Committee.
- Due to volunteer burnout, the Board requested a review of the Literature Committee

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in 2024. The assessment identified the need for a clearer structure, stronger support for author teams, and better-defined requirements for the chair role.

- The Literature Assessment Project (LAP) team is currently serving as the interim Literature Chair, supported by two trustees and two literature subcommittee chairs, until the position is filled.
- The Literature Committee is currently being rebuilt. Work is underway to clarify requirements for the Chair role, including project-management experience, not being on an active author team, and having sufficient availability.
- Although the position has remained unfilled while the committee is being rebuilt, recruitment through Open Houses and the Traveler has increased volunteer participation, and several highly skilled volunteers have recently joined.
- Literature-in-Development has been re-purposed to provide end-to-end support to author teams as part of strengthening the overall structure, which is intended to provide support to all Conference-approved projects.
- LAP has reported regularly at Board Meetings with the Fellowship (BMF) and Conference Business Meetings (CBM) since the 2024 ABC, ensuring transparency to the Conference and fellowship.

Proposal 2026-18 - Laundry Lists Workbook for Conference Approval

Submitted by: Region 2

Issue: We move that ACA WSO submit The Laundry Lists Workbook: Integrating Our Laundry List Traits to the Annual Business Conference (ABC) for formal approval as Conference Approved Literature (CAL) in accordance with the current Literature Policy as outlined in OPPM.

Background: The Laundry Lists Workbook is currently printed and sold by WSO, but there is no motion in the Book of Motions showing Conference approval of its content or its publication as required by the OPPM.

The workbook is sold and marketed as if it is Conference Approved Literature (CAL). On Amazon, ACA WSO's Author Page states: "We only sell official (ACA WSO) Conference Approved Literature." The workbook also displays the ACA logo on the cover without any note clarifying that it is not Conference Approved.

Timeline:

- In 2014, the ABC passed Proposal 201411, asking WSO to develop literature explaining The Other Laundry List and its meaning for ACA recovery.
- In response, WSO published The Laundry Lists Workbook in January 2015 (spiral-bound).
- A Kindle version was released in October 2022.
- However, the workbook has not received final approval from the ABC.

This motion does not question the value of the workbook, which many members find helpful. Instead, it asks for accountability to ensure ACA follows its own policies, Concepts, and Traditions. Submitting the workbook for Conference approval protects trust, promotes

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transparency, and ensures the process for approving ACA literature is respected and consistent.

Resources/Implementation: In order to implement this proposal, WSO will submit The Laundry Lists Workbook to the Conference for approval at the next ACA Business Conference. A designee of the WSO will write the proposal using the same platform as all other proposals.

This proposal should not require financial or human resources beyond the writing itself. Maintaining the Fellowship's trust is essential; submitting literature for Conference approval is a basic responsibility of our World Service Board, ensuring transparency and honoring our shared decision-making process.

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- CAL is an acronym used by Al-Anon, and ACA has always used our own conference approval procedure for literature.
- The 2014 ABC approved this literature, as per the literature policy at that time, through Motion ABC-2014-2-04201402: "That the WSO develop a piece of literature further elaborating the materials briefly described in the first pages of the first chapter of the Fellowship Text concerning the other Laundry Lists and its implications for Adult Children recovery." The motion was carried unanimously.
- In September 2020, the Literature Policy was updated to add a new process requiring Fellowship Review followed by Conference Approval. The Safety Card was the first item approved under this process, and the Loving Parent Guidebook will be the second.
- If it is the will of the Fellowship, the Laundry Lists Workbook could be brought forward for re-approval at the 2026 ABC in alignment with the current policy. There will be additional costs needed to implement.

Resources:

[Literature Committee webpage](#)

Conference Direction:

[Status of Motions Passed by the Conference 2014- 2025](#)

Proposal 2026-19 - Amendment to BRB

Submitted by: WEB0815

Issue: We propose a small but significant change to the amend example on page 247 of the Big Red Book. Currently the text says: "I am involved in a program in which I am learning to

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change my behavior and to live more honestly and openly.”

We would suggest changing the text as follows: “I am involved in the ACA 12-Step recovery program, in which I am learning to change my behavior...”

Background: We have two main arguments based on Traditions of ACA.

11th tradition states: “Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion...” (p. 542)

In this argument we apply the 11th Tradition to relationships with all people who do not participate in the ACA program. ‘The attraction’ mentioned in the tradition means that a person who is involved in a 12-step program, changes their behavior and others notice this and they become interested in where the change comes from. I believe that the new version of the text would increase ACA’s attraction since making amends is morally/spiritually compelling and people get to know where it’s actually coming from.

The 5th Tradition states: “Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the adult child who still suffers” (p. 513). In a certain sense, amends with ACA mentioned is a way for the Higher Power to spread the message of ACA. A person who has received amends may mention ACA to someone they know who could benefit from the program. Also, later on ACA could become more known among the general public and adult children who are still suffering could find their way here more easily.

Resources/Implementation: Our group has at least one volunteer who is willing to help implement this proposal. We have contacted the Literature in Development Subcommittee for their input and we are waiting for their answer.

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- This proposed change can be submitted for consideration directly to the BRB Revision author team, who is currently rewriting the book as part of a Conference-directed initiative (ABC motion 2021-2), which would be a faster, more efficient, and cost-effective path.
- Implementing a standalone BRB change would require republishing because of index and pagination impacts, with associated production and staff coordination costs, and would affect the English BRB as well as all existing and in-progress translations.

Resources:

[Literature Committee webpage](#)

Conference Direction:

[Status of Motions Passed by the Conference 2014- 2025](#)

Topic D: BALLOT PROPOSALS

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Proposal 2026-20 - Worldwide Voting on Ballot Proposals

Submitted by: IG76

Issue: We propose that worldwide voting on ballot proposals be the one and only vote on those proposals. Time allotted at the Annual Business Conference or Conference Business Meeting to the proposals passed by the fellowship will allow Delegates to discuss the steps to implement the proposals. Delegates will be invited to be on the committees implementing passed proposals.

Background: Original ACA policy on ballot proposals was for global Delegates to decide which ballot proposals would pass.

The WSO Board changed and codified their new method in the Operating Policy and Procedures Manual and in the WSO By-laws (Amended 8/13/2022, #4).

They cited Tradition 2 (group conscience decision-making) to justify allowing votes of ABC Delegates to outweigh the votes of the worldwide Delegates. That might make sense if that vote was cast by a majority of the worldwide delegates, not the handful of WSO Board members or even the 6% of possible group delegates who attended an ABC.

Currently, global delegates (you) cast ballots on what the “informed” delegates attending the ABC will discuss. Those “informed” delegates, constituting about 6% of the worldwide groups, now determine which proposals pass or fail. While passed proposals then go out to global Delegates, the participation in voting diminishes. Global delegates already cast their ballots. The time window for voting is quite short, as well.

It is unclear to this proposing group how the few Delegates at the Business Meetings have been designated as having superior ability to worldwide Delegates. With 2,461 registered meetings, 102 Intergroups, and 3 Regions, there may be up to 2,566 Delegates worldwide. In fact, then global fellowship in 2025 returned 183 ballots. At the last ABC, about 100 Delegates attended and about 50 cast their votes on any proposal. How can 50 Delegate votes be more representative of the fellowship than the 183 Delegate votes?

Implementation/Resources: To implement this proposal, if passed, the WSO Operating Policy and Procedures Manual will have to be updated. The ACA WSO Bylaws will have to be updated. Updated Bylaws will need to be sent to California State.

Other than postage, these are paperwork changes that incur no cost. The OPPM and Bylaws updates will require the updated copy to be uploaded onto the ACA WSO website.

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- There was no change to the ByLaws in 2022 about ABC and delegate matters.
- All groups can already vote on ballot proposals, and proposals that pass are placed on the ABC agenda for Delegate discussion and voting.
- In the current process, Groups have a two-month window to evaluate proposals and vote which ones will end up on the ABC or CBM agenda.
- This proposal eliminates the ability for Delegates at the ABC to participate in

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discussion, editing, and final voting on proposals, or work with feedback from their groups to improve proposals or turn them into motions.

- Board members do not vote at the Conference in their capacity as Board members, while some other Twelve Step fellowships allow their trustees or executive staff to do so. This topic is under discussion in the ABC Study/Charter Committee.
- The existing process provides opportunities for participation both before and during the ABC, and includes involvement of Delegates who attend as well as those who do not.

Resources:

[Ballot Prep. Committee webpage](#)

[Annual Business Conference Meetings webpage](#)

Conference Direction: (Past Motions)

[Status of Motions Passed by the Conference 2014- 2025](#)

Proposal 2026-21- Immediate Ballot Proposal Access to Delegates

Submitted by: OK0058

Issue: The ABC adopt a motion directing the Board of Trustees to make every ballot proposal received by the Ballot Preparation Committee (BPC) that is determined to meet criteria for inclusion on the proposal ballot available to every registered Delegate, immediately.

Background: Chapter XV of the WSO's OPPM operating manual explains the rules for handling ballot proposals. For years, these rules have required that proposals from the ACA Fellowship (such as Groups, Meetings, Intergroups, Regions), the WSO Board, and Committees be sent to the Ballot Preparation Committee (BPC) for review and analysis. However, the Board does not let ABC Delegates see or discuss the proposals or the WSO's analysis before it is time to vote. Because of this, many groups may vote without hearing important information and opinions from Delegates.

If only the proposal and WSO analysis are shared, the ACA Fellowship may not get enough background or different viewpoints to understand each proposal's importance or impact. Sharing proposals with Delegates as soon as the BPC has vetted them would give Delegates more time to talk about them, share their thoughts, and help their groups prepare for voting.

This change would make the process more open and give everyone a better chance to participate. Delegates would be able to ask questions, discuss ideas, and give feedback, leading to more thoughtful group conversations. The result would likely be higher participation, better understanding of what is being decided, and decisions that reflect what most members want. In the long run, this would help everyone trust the process more, encourage people to get involved, and strengthen the sense of community within the Fellowship.

Resources/Implementation: Implementing this proposal will require a minimal amount of additional work for the BPC to post the proposals on the ABC website as soon as their eligibility for the ballot is verified and to email a link to those posted proposals to each

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Delegate.

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- This proposal appears to be similar to Proposal 2026-22 and 2026-23, and the same points expressed for that proposal may apply here.
- There is no rule preventing a proposer from sharing a ballot proposal with groups, intergroups, or regions.
- Early distribution could allow inaccurate or unclear proposals to circulate before correction.
- The timing available for group discussion under normal proposal volumes is generally sufficient for review and decision-making.
- Proposals vetted for eligibility are sent for translation, and WSO prepares informational material to support informed discussion; these steps require adequate time.
- A WSO Analysis provides information drawn from the Board, WSO committees, and staff, reflecting operational details and context that may not be readily available to group members.
- The process for improving ballot procedures is already under review by the Ballot Prep Committee.

Resources:

[Ballot Prep. Committee webpage](#)

Conference Direction: (Past Motions)

[Status of Motions Passed by the Conference 2014- 2025](#)

[Operating Policies & Procedures Manual](#)

Proposal 2026-22 - Revisions to WSO Analysis of Ballot Proposals

Submitted by: OK0058

Issue: WSO analysis of ballot proposals be limited to those placed on the ABC agenda and shared with all registered Delegates for seven days of comment. All Delegate comments and the WSO analysis for each proposal will be posted on the official ABC website and emailed directly to all registered Delegates for transparent and accessible Fellowship review.

Background: The Ballot Preparation Committee (BPC) section of the OPPM prescribes the ballot proposal process. For years, proposals from the ACA Fellowship have been submitted to the WSO for review and analysis. The Board and its committees write the analysis, but many Delegates only see this analysis after their groups begin talking about and voting on proposals. The Fellowship vote on ballot proposals serves as a poll for which proposals merit placement on the agenda for Delegate consideration.

Because only the proposal and the WSO's analysis get shared, the Fellowship often does not get enough information to understand each proposal. Most members hear only what the Board thinks, and miss out on other important opinions from Delegates or group members.

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For example, in one recent year, the WSO analysis on a proposal to study an issue said the issue was already being studied by a committee. That was not true, and it caused the proposal for a study of that issue to fail.

By changing the process so that Delegate comments are collected first and then shared together with the WSO analysis, the decision-making will be more open and fair. This ensures everyone can read both the analysis and the feedback from Delegates before making their choices. Increased transparency helps Delegates make informed decisions about the agenda for their business meetings and encourages greater participation by the Fellowship in sending a Delegate. When every opinion is included and visible, people will trust the decision process more and feel their voices are respected.

Resources/Implementation: Although the Ballot Proposal Committee will have more Delegate feedback to handle, both the Committee and the WSO Board will have an easier time because they will only focus on proposals that many people support. This means the WSO can use its time and resources on the most important proposals, making it quicker and easier to review them carefully. The new process helps make sure work is spent on proposals that matter most, which will improve how things are reviewed and decided.

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- This proposal appears to be similar to Proposal 2026-21 and 2026-23, and the same points expressed for that proposal may apply here.
- The description of the existing process in this proposal is not accurate. The Board and its committees write the analysis, and both the proposal and the WSO analysis are released together at the start of the Ballot Proposal voting period, giving Groups and Delegates access to the analysis before they begin discussing or voting on proposals.
- A WSO Analysis provides information drawn from the Board, WSO committees, and staff, reflecting operational details and context that may not be readily available to group members.
- In the existing Ballot Proposal process, Groups can include comments on both the proposal and the WSO analysis with their ballot submission. These comments, made with the benefit of the WSO analysis, are published shortly after ballot voting closes, giving Groups six weeks to review them before the ABC discussion.
- Additionally, the BPC puts on town halls where each proposer is provided an opportunity to present their proposal and any additional facts, and the Fellowship can ask questions.

The process for improving ballot procedures is already under review by the relevant committees and the Board.

- The proposed process would eliminate the opportunity for groups to have the WSO analysis in advance to inform their voting with full information.
- The shortened timeline would not allow adequate time for translation groups, limiting international participation.
- A seven-day review period is insufficient time for groups to review, develop group conscience, vote and provide their comments.

Resources:

[Ballot Prep. Committee webpage](#)

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[Operating Policies & Procedures Manual](#)

Proposal 2026-23 - Change to WSO Analyses Process

Submitted by: TEL0341

Issue: That the WSO analysis of Ballot Proposals shall be presented only for those proposals that have met the 66.7% threshold for placement on the ABC agenda. Such analyses shall be released after fellowship voting has been completed and shall include, if provided, a response from the proposing group. The analysis and any responses must be published no later than three weeks prior to the ABC event.

Background: At present, the WSO Board analysis accompanies all proposals on the fellowship ballot. This practice provides commentary on proposals prior to the fellowships determination of whether they believe a proposal warrants inclusion on the ABC agenda. The process creates additional work for the WSO Board and volunteers, and it may inadvertently affect group decision making as proposers are not afforded the opportunity to respond to the analysis and then have those responses included in the publication of the ballot. This does not allow for all perspectives, can create confusion, and can influence outcomes. Letting the fellowship review and vote on proposals first would ease the Board's and other volunteers' workload and also give the groups more stewardship as to which issues are most important to them and therefore of value to be placed on the Business Conference agenda to be discussed further. Giving the Conference more responsibility and involvement in the process, procedures and policies of our business meetings is a larger goal. We believe this proposal would help facilitate and support that goal.

Resources/Implementation: The Ballot Prep Committee or any committee or group that is designated as shepherding this process would facilitate the implication of this beginning in the 2026-2027 cycle. This would be included in the OPPM or whatever Conference Document or manual that is or will be in place that is specific to all Conference policy, and procedure including agenda setting for all Conference Business meetings.

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- This proposal appears to be similar to Proposal 2026-21 and 2026-22, and the same points expressed for that proposal may apply here.
- The proposed process would eliminate the opportunity for groups to have the WSO analysis in advance to inform their voting with full information.
- A WSO Analysis provides information drawn from the Board, WSO committees, and staff, reflecting operational details and context that may not be readily available to group members.
- The process for improving ballot procedures is already under review by the Ballot Prep Committee.

Resources:

[Ballot Prep. Committee webpage](#)

[Operating Policies & Procedures Manual](#)

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Proposal 2026-24 - Adjusting Timeline for Ballot Process

Submitted by: BPC

Issue: We move to adjust the timeline for the ballot process: beginning with the 2027-2028 ballot season, the Call for Proposals will be issued at the Annual Business Conference (ABC); publication of voting results shall occur no later than the end of the year. The Ballot Prep Committee (BPC) shall be authorized to adjust the timeline between start and finish of the ballot process to meet the needs of the fellowship.

Background: The current timeline as outlined in the Operating Policies & Procedures Motion (OPPM) stipulates that the ballot process begins on August 1 with the Call for Proposals and ends on April 3 of the following year with publication of ballot voting results (OPPM, see Ballot Preparation Committee section). It was developed when delegates met only once a year, at the ABC. This motion adapts the existing process to make use of and consider additional Delegate Meetings now being held.

Resources/Implementation: If this motion passes, the OPPM or other process documentation governing conference operations will be updated to reflect this new timeline for the ballot process. The current OPPM further stipulates that proposals receiving an affirmative vote of at least 66.7% shall be added to the agenda of the ABC. By ensuring ballot voting is completed four weeks before the January delegate meeting, this motion, if adopted, would create a window for inclusion of these proposals on the agenda of the Delegate Meeting for preview and initial discussion. This will give delegates an opportunity to consult with their groups and return to the ABC with an informed decision about these proposals. As agenda planning mechanisms for the new delegate meetings are considered, an additional motion may arise to ensure proposals voted on to the ABC agenda by December are also included in the agenda for the January delegate meeting.

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- The purpose of the Ballot Prep Committee (BPC) is to oversee the proposal process – educating the fellowship, calling for and developing proposals, encouraging translations, compiling a Ballot, encouraging the vote, and tallying and announcing the results.
- The current ballot timeline places a significant portion of the review, editing, and preparation work in the final month of the year, when WSO is completing budget planning and many volunteers have end-of-year commitments.
- When the number of proposals is high, such as the 34 submitted this year, the volume of work required during this period increases.

Resources:

[Ballot Prep. Committee webpage](#)
[Operating Policies & Procedures Manual](#)

Topic E: CONFERENCE STRUCTURE

2026 ABC Ballot Proposals - English

Proposal 2026-25 - Create a Conference Charter Committee

Submitted by: OK0058

Issue: A motion be adopted directing the Board of Trustees to assist Delegates in forming a Conference Charter Committee by providing contact information for each registered ACA Group, Intergroup, and Region, and, upon request by the Committee Chair, to continue assisting by providing information and feedback to the Committee as it develops a draft of a Conference Charter to be recommended for adoption by the full Conference at the 2027 ABC.

Background: The Board and its committees struggle with a heavy workload and too few volunteers, causing delays like those seen with the Conference Charter. Since May 2022, only one out of up to twelve charter sections has been drafted, and there's no permanent Chair.

A new Conference Charter Committee made up of Delegates can address these issues without burdening WSO committees. Delegates, chosen for their service and understanding of group needs, can efficiently collaborate, incorporate diverse perspectives, speed up progress, and improve transparency.

Though the Board has held off on forming Conference Committees, waiting for guidelines, we believe Delegates can self-organize under ACA WSO Bylaws, which allow the Conference to create Special Committees. This proposal directs the Board to support Delegates in establishing a Conference Charter Committee that reports directly to the Conference, allowing regular updates and feedback.

If this proposal is approved, the WSO will have the option to continue the work of their Charter Committee or ask the Conference to reconsider their motions directing the creation of the WSO Charter Committee and defining its work and scope.

Resources/Implementation: Our group will provide a Delegate to serve on the new Committee and act as interim Chair or Co-Chair until a permanent Chair is chosen. This Delegate has experience as a Board Trustee and as Chair of the WSO charter committee.

Other Committee members will be volunteer Delegates. The interim Chair or Co-Chairs will schedule initial meetings until the Committee selects its own leaders.

The WSO Board will support the Committee by providing requested resources, such as contact information for Delegates.

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- This proposal appears to be similar to Proposal 2026-27, and the same points expressed for that proposal are used here.
- The ABC Committee, ABC Study Subcommittee, and Sustainability Subcommittee have already been working on a Conference-directed effort related to organizing a Conference and any future Conference committees.

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- The Sustainability Study was created at the direction of the Conference to develop recommendations on processes and procedures for Conference Business Meetings, and any Delegate may join the Sustainability Conference Structure Study Group to participate in this work.
- The ABC Study and Sustainability Study provide regular updates to the Conference and request feedback from Delegates.
- Creating an additional committee would duplicate existing efforts and divide resources.
- A complete charter would be required for implementation. Adapting an existing 12-step fellowship charter could expedite the current development and creation of a Charter and Conference structure.
- At the January CBM, Delegates will be invited to join a Sustainability Conference Structure Working Group to review structures used in other 12-Step fellowships and provide input on the Charter.
- Pre-selecting a Delegate to serve as interim Chair of a new committee would establish leadership without a Conference vote, raising questions related to the application of Tradition Two.

Resources:

[ABC Study-Charter Committee webpage](#)

[ABC Sustainability Subcommittee webpage](#)

[Status of Motions Passed by the Conference 2014- 2025](#)

[Operating Policies & Procedures Manual](#)

12 Step Conference Comparison: [12 Step Charter Summary](#)

Proposal 2026-26 - New Communication Channel for Delegates

Submitted by: OK0058

Issue: The ABC adopt a motion directing the ACA Board of Trustees to recognize a Delegate-owned and operated communications channel as an official communication channel for the Conference and for all registered delegates, a channel under the exclusive use, management, and control of registered Conference Delegates.

Background: Right now, Delegates use a Slack channel that is controlled by the Board. Board control means Delegates cannot talk freely, and they risk being excluded or censored. For example, before the 2025 ABC, a Delegate was suspended and could not connect with others or prepare for the meeting.

An independent channel would let Delegates share ideas, work together, and represent their groups without fear. It would help all groups have a fair voice and make the conference process more open and honest. As the ACA WSO Bylaws say, Delegates should guide the Board, not the other way around.

Some may worry about security or misuse. To address this, Delegates can set their own rules for respectful and safe communication. They can review these rules regularly to make sure everyone acts responsibly.

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Having Delegates own and control their own channel will build trust, improve teamwork, and ensure that every group is well represented. It will also relieve the Board from any legal liability that may result from operating a Delegate channel by the WSO.

Resources/Implementation: The Board of Trustees is solely responsible for implementation of this proposal immediately after being notified of the initiation of the delegate-owned channel.

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- WSO cannot purchase, implement, or support a platform it does not control due to its fiduciary and fiscal responsibilities, including potential legal liability for content.
- If there were such a platform, there would be additional costs requiring funding and ongoing support from WSO.
- There are currently two Slack channels dedicated to Delegate communication and information. Participation in WSO-managed channels includes following the Safety Communications Agreement, a standard expectation similar to guidelines used across social media platforms.
- Delegates are free to create informal, independent communication spaces, but these cannot be recognized as an official ACA Delegate tool without meeting WSO safety, inclusivity, and oversight requirements, as required by its legal and fiduciary responsibilities.

Resources:

[WSO Communications User Guidelines Agreement](#)

Sign up to use WSO's Slack:

[WSO Communication Platforms Agreement](#)

Proposal 2026-27 - Conference Committee to Create a Conf. Executive Committee

Submitted by: OK0058

Issue: The ABC adopt a motion directing the Board of Trustees to assist Delegates in forming a Conference Committee that will create a plan for an Executive Committee of the Conference, describe the roles of its officers, and design how officers are chosen. The Committee will recommend a draft plan and selection process by March 2027. This gives enough time for feedback before the final plan is presented at the 2027 ABC.

Background: The WSO Board says it supports Delegates organizing a Conference that represents the ACA Fellowship, but it has not taken action yet. Instead, the Board has delayed forming Committees, asking for guidelines first. We urge the Board to start helping form these Committees now and provide needed support. Many Board Committees are understaffed, causing delays in important work. For example, the Conference Charter committee has worked since May 2022 but has no draft charter yet.

Forming a Conference Committee would not increase the WSO's workload. It would allow

2026 ABC Ballot Proposals - English

Delegates to organize and handle tasks the WSO cannot finish.

ACA WSO Bylaws let Delegates set service and communication guidelines, and their decisions should guide the Board. This proposal directs the Board and empowers Delegates to organize the Conference and guide the Board.

Resources/Implementation: Our group will provide a Delegate to join the new Committee and serve as interim Chair or Co-Chair until the Committee chooses its own leaders. This Delegate has experience as a Board Trustee and Chair of the WSO charter committee. Other members will be registered Delegates who volunteer.

The Interim Chair will schedule early meetings until the Committee picks a Chair, Secretary, and other leaders.

The WSO Board must support the Committee by sharing contact information for Delegates and providing communication tools to help the Committee organize and do its work.

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- This proposal appears to be similar to Proposal 2026-25, and the same points expressed for that proposal are used here.
- No other 12-Step WSO has an executive committee of the Conference, and such a structure is not aligned with the Concepts.
- The ABC Committee, ABC Study Subcommittee, and Sustainability Subcommittee have already been working on a Conference-directed effort related to organizing a Conference and any future Conference committees.
- The Sustainability Study was created at the direction of the Conference to develop recommendations on processes and procedures for Conference Business Meetings, and any Delegate may join the Sustainability Conference Structure Study Group to participate in this work.
- The ABC Study and Sustainability Study provide regular updates to the Conference and request feedback from Delegates.
- Creating an additional committee would duplicate existing efforts and divide resources.
- A complete charter would be required for implementation. Adapting an existing 12-step fellowship charter could expedite the current development and creation of a Charter and Conference structure.
- At the January CBM, Delegates will be invited to join a Sustainability Conference Structure Working Group to review structures used in other 12-Step fellowships and provide input on the Charter.
- Pre-selecting a Delegate to serve as interim Chair of a new committee would establish leadership without a Conference vote, raising questions related to the application of Tradition Two.

Resources:

[Specific Motions Passed Related to Conference Structure and Charter](#)

[ABC Study-Charter Committee webpage](#)

[ABC Sustainability Subcommittee webpage](#)

[Status of Motions Passed by the Conference 2014- 2025](#)

2026 ABC Ballot Proposals - English

[Operating Policies & Procedures Manual](#)

12 Step Conference Comparison:

[12 Step Charter Summary](#)

Proposal 2026-28 - Delegate Vote to Remove a Delegate Slack Channels

Submitted by: Region 6, IG640, CA1656

Issue: We propose that no Delegate may be removed from any Slack channel without Delegate discussion and vote.

Background: There are many slack channels with several being for Delegates. Only Delegates should be allowed to remove a delegate after delegate discussion and vote.

Resources/Implementation: This proposal does not violate the ACA Steps, Traditions, Concepts, ACA Bylaws, ACA Articles of Incorporation, OPPM, or County, State or Federal Law. This proposal was discussed at in person meetings, Zoom meetings, WEB meetings, Intergroup 640 and Regions 6 ARC and support it.

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- Delegate Slack Communication channels are an optional service provided to Delegates by WSO. They are not necessary for Delegate communication.
- Only one person has been removed from Slack after being given three opportunities to stop making harmful comments; choosing not to do so, the person was removed according to the Safety Communications Agreement.
- Slack is an official ACA tool, and ACA WSO is responsible for managing WSO safety, inclusivity, and oversight requirements in line with its legal and fiduciary responsibilities.
- Participation in WSO-managed channels includes following the Safety Communications Agreement, a standard expectation similar to guidelines used across other social media platforms.
- All users agree to the same guidelines when joining Slack, and all users are subject to the same boundaries.
- Survey feedback from delegates has expressed a need for safety in communication spaces. Safety has improved significantly: Since 2022, clearer guidelines and stronger support have improved overall safety, and the Communication Platforms User Agreement has fostered more respectful and inclusive use of Slack. Survey feedback from delegates continues to highlight the need for safety in communication spaces, and while a small minority still report challenges, overall progress reflects dedicated volunteer efforts.

Resources:

[WSO Communications User Guidelines Agreement](#)

Sign up to use WSO's Slack: [WSO Communication Platforms Agreement](#)

2026 ABC Ballot Proposals - English

[Data Analysis Committee Report on Safety Concerns](#)

[2025 Board Annual Report for ABC](#) (see Section 6, A: Safety Resources Initiatives)

Proposal 2026-29 - Proposals are First on ABC Agenda

Submitted by: Region 6, IG640, CA1656

Issue: We propose that all Delegate Proposals be listed on the first day of the ABC Agenda

Background: There have been several ABC where Delegate Proposals which come from the membership were not discussed at the ABC or CBM. Committee do not represent the membership.

Resources/Implementation: This proposal does not violate the ACA Steps, Traditions, Concepts, ACA Bylaws, ACA Articles of Incorporation, OPPM, or County, State or Federal Law.

WSO Analysis:

Factors to Consider:

- Some ABC agenda items are required to occur first due to legal and fiduciary obligations of the corporation, including actions mandated by state law and the ACA Bylaws, such as trustee ratification and other required business.
- First-day items generally include old business from previously approved motions, major policy matters, legal and financial items needing delegate direction.
- An agenda-setting process is already in place that includes delegate participation in determining priorities.
- Listing all Delegate Proposals on the first day would bypass the ABC prioritization vote, remove Fellowship input, and elevate new business over work already mandated by earlier Conferences.
- Under the current schedule of ABCs and CBMs, all proposals are addressed at a conference meeting.

Resources:

[ABC Committee Webpage](#)

[Annual Business Conference \(ABC\) and Conference Business Meeting \(CBM\) Info](#)