

COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

Committee	
Charter Ad Hoc Committee Report	
Inception Date	Sunset Date
November 2, 2022	

Chair / Vice Chair (<i>First name, Last Initial; State or Country</i>)		
Josh W (DC/USA) and Mary Jo L (IL/USA) Co-Chairs		
Members (<i>First name, Last Initial; State or Country</i>) -		
Marcus H, California, USA *	Pam M, California, USA	Carole C, California, USA
Jim M, California, USA	Kaz S, Washington, USA *	Marion M, United Kingdom
Bill D, California, USA *	Kelle J, Florida, USA	Laura L, California, USA
Amica, West Virginia, USA	Erica P, Illinois, USA	
*Indicates they are no longer active members		

Statement of Purpose
<i>The purpose of this Committee is to draft a Charter for the Conference, and that the Delegates will receive regular updates until the study is completed.</i>

Bullet list of committee activities since the last ABC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Passed an internal motion in August “that changes to the WSO Bylaws need to be approved by $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Conference.” with the intention of taking it to the Delegates. ● Gave a progress update at the September 2025 CBM where we ?? ● Asked for Delegate feedback at the January 2026 CBM to inform the content of Section 3 ● Elected new Committee Chairs

Tasks Completed
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Progress on the draft Charter: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Section 1 (Purpose of the Charter): Completed and approved the following draft language: <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>The ACA World Service Conference Charter is a body of principles and relationships through which ACA as a whole functions, providing a framework for Conference decision-making and outlining mutual obligations and responsibilities between the Conference and the WSO. The Charter is an informal agreement between the ACA Fellowship, as represented by the Conference, and the ACA World Service Organization regarding their relationship. The provisions of this agreement are traditional and are intended to reflect the spirit of the ACA Traditions and the Twelve Concepts for World Service.</i></p> b. Section 2 (Purpose of the Conference), evaluating draft language c. Section 3 (“Composition of Conference”), where we could not find substantial unanimity within the committee, we sought and have received Conference guidance from the January 2026 CBM Delegates on the following areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Participation and voting rights of the Board of Trustees - Full with some limitations ii. Participation and voting rights of Senior Paid Special Workers - Limited

- d. Section 4 and 5: Began work on Sections 4 (“Delegates’ Role in the Conference (/ Conference Relationship to the Fellowship”) and 5 (“Conference Relation to the WSO Board of Trustees”) of the Charter
- 2. Restructuring: As of the January 2026 CBM, the ABC Study subcommittee became the Charter ad-hoc committee. Sustainability, previously a subcommittee of the ABC Study subcommittee, now reports directly to the ABC Committee as a subcommittee.
- 3. Requested time at the 2026 ABC for a motion regarding the authority of the Conference to approve all amendments to the Bylaws, specifically that:

*All amendments to or restatements of the WSO ByLaws shall require prior approval by the Conference, except in instances of a legal emergency. In such cases, any changes made will be subject to review and ratification at the next meeting of the World Service Conference (ABC/CBM). Legal emergency is defined as a situation requiring amendments to the bylaws to ensure compliance with applicable state or federal law. (see **End Note** of this document for context)*

However, we received the following directive from the Board:

"[OPPM] Section XI – Committees, sub-section F. Responsibility/Accountability
Committees are accountable to the fellowship, through the governance of the Board. Any actions they wish to take that propose to establish new policy or impact the fellowship as a whole must be approved by the Board.

Although other 12-step organizations may take different approaches, that alone does not establish a need for immediate action.

The process of changing the by-laws is more appropriately incorporated into the full drafting of the Charter, where it can be evaluated in context, rather than introduced as a standalone change.

As such, this motion will not move forward to the delegates at the upcoming ABC”

Goals for the year ahead

- 1. Charter Language:
 - a. Complete draft language for Sections 2-5 of the Charter
 - b. Start work on section 6-12 of the Charter
- 2. Collaboration:
 - a. Continue consulting regularly with the World Service Conference and the WSO Board concerning progress of, and questions related to, the Charter.
 - b. Collaborate with the Concepts Study Committee to ensure harmony between the draft charter and the ACA Concepts.
 - c. Partner with the ABC/CBM Committee and the Sustainability Study subcommittee on all shared concerns.

WSO Website - Repository URL of meeting minutes / reports

<https://acawso.org/charter-adhoc-committee/>

Committee Contact information
Charter@acawso.org

End Note:

Supporting information for the motion we proposed to bring to the 2026 ABC:

1. Brief description: The large majority of 12-step programs include, as part of their Conference Charter (or within the Bylaws themselves, or Service Manuals), the bedrock idea that any changes to Bylaws of the World Service Organization (WSO) require review and approval by their World Service Conference (WSC). The Charter committee has decided to include such a constraint in the upcoming draft Charter.

We proposed to bring this forward as an independent motion to the 2026 ABC to get this cornerstone in place now because we felt

1. While a draft Charter may not be ready until 2027, this critical cornerstone could be put into place now by an approved motion of the Conference
2. Since deciding to bring this motion, the Charter Committee has become aware that the Board plans to develop recommendations for updates to the Bylaws and other organizational governance docs – and so this takes on additional urgency. (see Board Motion 2025_12_08: Advisory Group to Review Bylaws and Articles of Incorp.)
3. While the current Board has indicated they do not intend to make any further changes to the Bylaws without Conference approval, the Bylaws, as currently written, do not prohibit such changes being made by a potential future Board.
4. It is important to address this as soon as possible as it is basic to the charter framework and spirit of the Concepts.
5. This has been identified as a gap across multiple committees for several years