



**Adult Children of Alcoholics & Dysfunctional Families
World Service Organization**

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OPERATING POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL (OPPM)

**This is a living document that is continuously being updated. The most recent copy
can be found under the Quick Links section at www.acawso.org.**

As of April 2, 2026

OPPM (Operating Policy and Procedures Manual)

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose of ACA WSO

The sole purpose of the Adult Children of Alcoholics World Service Organization (ACA WSO) is to serve the Fellowship of Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACA). It is an agency created and now designated by the fellowship of ACA to maintain service for those who might be seeking, through ACA, the means for recovering from being raised in an alcoholic or otherwise dysfunctional home, through sharing information and experiences with one another and by applying to their own lives, in whole or in part, the Twelve Steps, which constitute the recovery program upon which ACA is founded. (See [Bylaw II](#))

The ACA WSO shall do this by using the 12 Traditions and the 12 Concepts of Service in its deliberations and decision-making process and use its best efforts to ensure that the traditions are maintained throughout the fellowship. Rev. Motion No.11149806¹

B. Brief History

In 1983 the Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACA) groups voted to establish a permanent Central Service Board (CSB) to act as trusted servants for the emerging organization. The CSB was responsible for implementing service activities, and was required to report regularly their activities to all affiliated ACA meetings. To support these efforts, the Board established a phone service and central office staffed by ACA volunteers.

At the 1984 Annual Business Conference (ABC), ACA groups voted to formally establish ACA as an autonomous Twelve-Step, Twelve-Tradition organization. The CSB was requested to serve as the interim World Service Office (IWSO). It was agreed that all materials intended for distribution to the fellowship must first be submitted to the CSB/IWSO for review and approval before distribution. Additionally, it was determined that the CSB/IWSO would not create an 'Emeritus Status' for CSB/IWSO Trustees.

The ACA WSO was incorporated in January 1987 as the Adult Children of Alcoholics Central Service Board, subsequently amended in March 1992 as the Adult Children of Alcoholics World Service Organization (ACA WSO).

The ACA WSO Bylaws were first established in 1989 as a legal requirement for governance of the corporation.

In 1989, the fellowship voted by ballot to discontinue the CSB/IWSO and allowed the Trustees to continue to serve under the name ACA Interim World Service Organization (ACA/IWSO).

In 1990, the fellowship voted to remove the term "Interim" and was subsequently referred to as the ACA World Service Organization (WSO).

In March 1992, the Articles of Incorporation were amended to change the name of the

¹ As of the date of this OPPM revision, there are no historical records available that verify what this motion specifically stated. This citation has been retained in this section so that if such records are found at a later date, the relevance can be clarified.

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corporation to Adult Children of Alcoholics World Service Organization (ACA WSO).

The principal office of WSO is located in Los Angeles County, California, and it serves as the organization's primary business location. WSO may establish additional offices as needed within or outside of California, where it is legally authorized to operate.

The Corporate Seal and tax-exempt documentation are securely stored in fire resistant locked files at the ACA WSO corporate office.

C. Non-Profit Corporate Structure

The ACA WSO is incorporated as a nonprofit public benefit corporation under the laws of the State of California. As required by California Corporations Code, the organization shall be governed by a Board of Trustees (hereafter referred to as the Board). The Board shall have all the powers and responsibilities outlined as per the corporate Bylaws, as well as US state and federal laws, which supersede the Bylaws if there is a discrepancy.

Board members function as Trustees of World Services. In accordance with Tradition Two, while the Board is a service body of the ACA fellowship, it shall never perform any acts of government. [See Section II: *Board of Trustees* for more information on the Board's duties and responsibilities].

The ACA WSO may set up new corporate bodies to serve ACA's purpose, provided that ACA WSO retains full ownership of any such corporate entity it creates. New corporate bodies may not be set up without approval of the Delegates at an ABC or an official Conference Business Meeting.

D. Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

The Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are distinct governing documents of ACA WSO and are published separately.

The Articles of Incorporation serve as the official legal document filed with the State of California to formally establish ACA WSO as a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation. The Bylaws define the organization's structure, powers, and governance requirements, providing the governing framework through which ACA WSO conducts its business and fulfills its purpose. The Bylaws, as a legal document, is updated when there is a significant organizational change or new legal requirements.

Links to both documents can be found in: [APPENDIX VI – Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws](#) and on the WSO website.

These documents and any corporate Seal shall be kept in a locked file within the ACA WSO office or a Safety Deposit Box.

E. Purpose of the Bylaws and OPPM

The Bylaws establish the foundational governing framework of ACA WSO, defining its structure, authority, and overall governance principles. The Bylaws also reference the Operating Policy and Procedure Manual (OPPM) for specific policies and procedures that guide implementation. In turn, the OPPM translates the Bylaws into action by providing detailed operational guidance and outlining the day-to-day policies and procedures that define how ACA WSO and the Annual

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Business Conference function in practice.

Aligned with nonprofit governance best practices, the OPPM is a living document—intended to be updated regularly to reflect evolving operational needs, clarify implementation processes, and support effective delegation of responsibilities. This flexibility ensures that ACA WSO’s operations remain responsive, transparent, and consistent with its governing framework.

The OPPM was developed by integrating relevant bylaws and past motions of the Board of Trustees and the ABCs. It was first adopted for use at the 1992 ABC.

By 2002, revisions to the OPPM were referenced by a motion number after each update.

In 2017, the Board established an OPPM Committee, including non-board members, to address updates and revisions more systematically.

Beginning in December 2019, a Change Log was added to the OPPM to record all updates/revisions; it is located at the end of this document. Since then, updates to the OPPM prior to December 2019 have been added to the Change Log as time permits.

In 2024, due to a lack of volunteers, the OPPM Committee was placed on pause. A project team was subsequently formed to help ensure that the OPPM stays up to date. To maintain continuity and consistency, a staff member was assigned, with all work done under the oversight of the Executive Committee, with final approval of all updates by the Board.

F. OPPM Updates

The Board is responsible for ensuring that the *Operating Policies and Procedures Manual (OPPM)* is kept current and accurate. Updates to the OPPM may be initiated by the Board or proposed by a WSO Committee to the Board for approval. When a proposed change affects a Committee, that Committee will be given the opportunity to review and provide feedback before the Board motion is considered.

All additions, revisions, or updates to the OPPM require Board approval through a formal motion. Updates may also arise from motions passed by the Board that impact specific sections of the OPPM. Exception: Changes to the following sections must result from a motion passed at a Conference Business Meeting (CBM) or Annual Business Conference (ABC):

- Annual Business Conference and Conference Business Meeting
- Ballot Preparation Committee, and
- Appendix: ABC and CBM Voting Rules.

Minor administrative updates (such as address changes, corrections to acronyms, or other clerical edits) may be made without Board or Conference approval; however, these changes must be recorded in the Change Log for transparency.

For consistency and historical record, all revisions, additions, and updates to the OPPM must continue to be entered into the Change Log.

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II. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A. General

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

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

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

B. Responsibilities

The general responsibilities of the Trustees are to:

1. Exercise the powers granted to them by the Bylaws and the laws of the State of California and US federal laws, in a manner consistent with the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of ACA, and in keeping with the directives of the ACA Annual Business Conference (ABC) and by extension, the Conference Business Meetings (CBM), except when in conflict with applicable laws.
2. Fulfill all responsibilities and duties required of them by law, the Articles of Incorporation, and the Bylaws, whether collectively or individually. This includes updating the Bylaws as needed to reflect changes in applicable laws, best governance practices, and the organization's ongoing development.
3. Fulfill the following standard duties of a Trustee: *
 - a. **Duty of Care** — Each board member has a legal responsibility to participate actively in making decisions on behalf of the organization and to exercise their best judgment while doing so.
 - b. **Duty of Loyalty** — Each board member must put the interests of the organization before their personal and professional interests when acting on behalf of the organization in a decision-making capacity. The organization's needs come first.
 - c. **Duty of Obedience** — Board members bear the legal responsibility of ensuring that the organization complies with the applicable federal, state, and local laws and adheres to its mission.

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

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

This includes managing the employment of executive level employees, including determining their compensation based on WSO's Compensation Policy and ensuring they are appropriately fulfilling their assigned responsibilities.
5. Contribute the necessary amount of time in order to perform the service required. This is further explained in the "Qualifications for Board Membership" section below.
6. Maintain transparency with the ACA Fellowship regarding large matters of policy and finance.
7. Maintain confidentiality in accordance with the Non-Disclosure Agreement and the established standard operating procedures for board communications.
8. Read and be familiar with the content of this document (OPPM) and, until they become incorporated into the whole, be aware of any policy motions that are passed by the Board that

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impact this document.

9. Ensure that the Board Secretary has current contact information at all times, i.e. address, phone, email, and an emergency contact person.
10. Review and accept/decline board nominees put forward by the Nominating Committee based on specified qualifications (see subsection: *Qualifications for Board Membership* below).
11. Select officers from among themselves to meet the lawful requirements of the State of California and comply with customary corporation terminology.

The Board may, by general resolution, delegate specific responsibilities as needed.

C. Compensation

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

D. ACA WSO Property

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

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

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

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

E. Correspondence

To ensure that necessary records and documents, paper or electronic, are adequately protected and maintained as determined by the Board and in keeping with the laws of the State of California, the issue of correspondence will follow the guidelines of the [ACA-WSO-Records-Management-and-Retention-Policy](#).

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

Trustees must use their WSO trustee and/or officer email accounts when corresponding in their role as a Trustee/Officer and ensure significant correspondence is documented in the board

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repository/share drive. Also, a Trustee should forward any emails they receive that are intended for the entire board to the Secretary for distribution. Any paper correspondence should be forwarded to the Board Secretary who will manage it according to the Document Retention Policy.

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

F. Categories of Trustees and Composition

There are two categories of Trustees:

1. At Large – from the general fellowship,
2. Regional (see subsection Regional Trustees below)

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

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

G. Term of Service

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

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

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

H. Fellowship Ratification of Board Members

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Self-Care

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

2. Vacation

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

3. Leave of Absence

- a) Leave is defined as a temporary separation from the Board.
- b) Where possible, leave plans should be submitted to the Board in writing, and include a beginning and ending date. Those seeking leave are encouraged to give at least a general reason for their request, while respecting the Trustee's need for privacy about specifics.
- c) A Trustee may declare a leave of up to six weeks at one time without Board approval. Additional leave must be requested in writing and approved in advance by a Board vote.
- d) Trustees may take leave more than once. In any given year, maximum allowed leave is 12 weeks, unless the Board approves additional leave time. A maximum of six months' total leave may be granted to a Trustee over multiple years, unless the Board grants additional leave time.
- e) Trustees taking leave should, if possible, make themselves available on a limited basis for up to a week to make sure that all necessary handoffs of duties are completed smoothly. This should include providing the Board (as much as possible) with a list of committees and other projects that the Trustee is currently working on.
- f) Once all major handoffs are complete, a Trustee on leave should be removed from Slack channels accessed only by Trustees.
- g) If a Board officer takes leave, the officer's position is considered vacated for the duration of the leave. In the event of a Board officer's leave or vacation, the Board may choose to appoint an interim officer to perform duties normally assigned to the officer.

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J. Commitment to Service

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

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

K. Board Nominating Committee

1. Origin

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

2. Purpose and Goals

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

3. Committee Membership and Participation

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

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

In the event there are not enough NomCom members available to vet Board and NomCom

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candidates, due to their valued experience with the process, previous NomCom members may be asked to fill-in. However, they will not be considered a voting member of the NomCom during that time.

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

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

4. Membership Qualifications for the NomCom

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

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

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

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

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

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L. Qualifications for Board Membership

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

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

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

M. Regional Trustees

A Regional Trustee can be elected to the Board when a vacancy is available and the candidate has been properly presented to the Nominating Committee for consideration.

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

1. When doing general Board work and committee work, which includes attending WSO Board meetings, the Regional Trustee is serving the entire ACA Fellowship rather than one geographical region. This Trustee is, therefore, directly responsible to the entire ACA Fellowship.
2. The Regional Trustee will represent both the minority and majority concerns of those in their Region to the Board. When they become a Trustee, it is understood that their Region accepts on

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faith that they may have information available to them that perhaps the Region does not have nor will be given, and therefore the Regional Trustee is expected to act in service to ACA WSO to the best of their ability.

N. Board Norms of Conduct

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

O. Impeachment/Removal, Resignation, Vacancy

1. Impeachment/Removal

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. Resignations

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

3. Vacancy

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

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P. Board Meetings

1. Meeting Notice

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

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

2. Types of Board Meetings

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

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

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

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

- b. Board Working Sessions: These sessions are held each month, both on a scheduled and as needed basis. These Board member sessions are held for the purpose of conducting Fellowship and Corporate business. Voting may only take place if a quorum of the Board is present. To help ensure well-informed decision-making, when the Board would benefit from having additional information on the topic at hand, key stakeholders may be invited to segments of these meetings. Motions passed from such meetings will be publicly posted on the WSO website each month for the record.
- c. Emergency Executive Committee Meetings: In such cases as may be necessary for the purpose of conducting Fellowship and corporate business, the officers may call an emergency meeting to handle a critical item. All Board members will be invited to attend these meetings as well. Any Board member not present will be informed immediately of any action taken.
- d. Strategic Planning Meetings: As often as is deemed feasible and practical, at least twice a year, the Board will meet for this purpose, according to good governance practices. If feasible and practical, the Board will meet in person. When this is not possible, virtual meetings will be held.

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- e. Executive Sessions: When a matter is considered sensitive/confidential in nature, an executive session will be called that will not be recorded, nor will minutes be required except noting topic and next steps, if applicable. These sessions are only held with at least a quorum of the Board or a quorum of the officers if it is an Executive Committee meeting. Examples of such meeting topics are sensitive personnel matters or discussions about items that may have legal ramifications.

3. Board Meeting Protocol

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

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

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

4. Quorum

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

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

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

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

5. Board Motions

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

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

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

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

6. Voting

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

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

a. Absentee Voting

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

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

b. Substantial Unanimity

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

7. Board Agreements – Group Consensus

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

Q. Board Meetings Recording Policy

Policy Purpose: This policy provides for the making, use, retention, and destruction of recordings of Board meetings.

Policy

a. Board-Only Meetings

Recordings of non-public board-only meetings may be made to facilitate the preparation of the minutes for adoption by the Board and to use as a reference to board members. Any other use of these recordings is prohibited unless authorized by a majority of the Board. These recordings do not serve as an official record of the board meeting.

As per California law, all parties must be notified of and consent to the recording of each meeting. The presiding board meeting chair will announce at the onset of each meeting that it will be recorded unless, in the case of online meetings, there is an onscreen notification that Board members must click on for agreement. If a board member requests at any time during a meeting to stop the recording for a confidential Executive Session or any other reason, this request will be honored.

These recordings, along with computer-generated transcriptions, are to be destroyed after the Board adopts the minutes but no more than 60 days after the recordings are made as per standard practice and the advice of legal counsel. Exceptions will be made if the Board requires retention of the recording of a particular meeting, which may be done for an additional 60 days. If retention is requested for a longer period, a Board motion must be passed explaining the reason and timeframe for this additional retention.

The Secretary is responsible for ensuring that the recordings of board meetings are made, overseeing their use, and ensuring the destruction of recordings, as stated above.

Recordings may not be downloaded or copied to any personal device or computer.

b. Board Meetings with the Fellowship

Audio recordings of Board Meetings with the Fellowship are to be made so they are available to the Fellowship on the ACA WSO website and to facilitate the preparation of the minutes. Any other use of these recordings is prohibited unless a specific use is authorized by the Board.

An announcement must be made at the beginning of each public meeting to notify participants that the meeting will be recorded.

Retention of audio recordings of these Board Meetings with the Fellowship are required to be retained for two years on the WSO website. At that point they may be added to Archives. These audio recordings do not take the place of the official minutes of the meeting.

Video recordings and computer-generated transcripts of public Board Meetings with the Fellowship are to be destroyed within 30 days after the Board adopts the minutes at a Board Meeting with the Fellowship. The audio recordings will be maintain indefinitely.

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R. Advisory Groups, Project Teams, and Implementation Teams

The Board may establish Advisory Groups, Project Teams, and Implementation Teams to engage specialized expertise and support its work through focused analysis, recommendations, or implementation related to specific mandates. The Board retains full authority over all decisions and actions.

When a need is identified, the scope and purpose of the group or team shall be defined by the Board. The Board shall appoint one or more Trustees to serve as members and/or liaisons. The Trustee liaison(s) shall appoint members with relevant skills and experience, subject to Board review.

Advisory Groups, Project Teams, and Implementation Teams have no authority over Board committees or staff. Their role is limited to carrying out tasks assigned by the Board and reporting regularly on progress and outcomes.

S. Professional Services

The Board may retain professional services or delegate authority to the General Manager to do so, for matters requiring specialized knowledge or skills, in accordance with fiscal policies and operational management guidelines.

III. BOARD OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A. General

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

1. Powers and Authority

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

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

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

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

The EC shall schedule at least two meetings each month at an agreed-upon time. Other Board members are welcome to attend if they wish. Minutes of proceedings and actions will be kept.

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Unless the information is covered in the general Board reports, quarterly EC reports must be submitted for posting on the Service website prior to the Board's Meetings with the Fellowship.

Trustees shall select officers from amongst themselves to meet the lawful requirements of the State of California and comply with customary corporation terminology.

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

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

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

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

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

B. Term of Service

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

C. Elections

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

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

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

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

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

D. Replacement of Officers

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

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

E. Resignation or Removal of Officers

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

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

F. Duties of Officers

1. Chairperson

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

Other specific duties are as follows:

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

2. Vice Chairperson

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

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3. Secretary

The Secretary shall perform all duties incident to the Office of Secretary and such other duties as may be required by law, the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws, or the Board.

These duties shall include the following:

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

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4. Treasurer

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

Specific responsibilities shall include the following:

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

IV. GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND AGREEMENTS

A. Archives Collection Policy

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

See: [ACAWSO-Archives-Collection-Policy-Nov. 2024](#) for the full policy posted on the WSO website.

B. Conflict of Interest Policy

The purpose of this Conflict of Interest Policy is to establish the procedures for the identification and resolution of conflicts of interest in the context of transactions or arrangements entered into by "Adult Children of Alcoholics World Service Organization, Inc." hereinafter "Adult Children of Alcoholics" where an Interested Person (defined below) may have a Financial Interest (defined below) in or Fiduciary Responsibility (as defined below) towards an individual or entity with which Adult Children of Alcoholics is negotiating a transaction or arrangement. The determination that a conflict of interest exists does not prohibit the Adult Children of Alcoholics from entering into the proposed

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transaction or arrangement provided that the procedures set forth in Article III below are followed. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state laws governing conflicts of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable corporations.

See: [ACA-WSO-Conflict-of-Interest-Policy-and-Form](#) for the full policy and acknowledgement form posted on the WSO website.

C. Communication Platforms User Agreement

Anyone who uses a ACA WSO communication platform (e.g. Slack and Zoom) must sign the WSO Communication Platform User Agreement. Just as User Agreements are often required by other organizations to help promote a safe environment, this ACA WSO Agreement is meant to do the same: to ensure healthy and safe communications on the online platforms used by our service volunteers and staff.

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

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

D. Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA)

The purpose of WSO's Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) is to safeguard anonymity, foster trust, protect intellectual property, and uphold the integrity of our work. This agreement is a standard practice designed to protect sensitive information, maintain trust with the fellowship, and ensure that all confidential details are handled responsibly and used exclusively to support the organization's purpose and goals.

Signing an NDA is a prerequisite for anyone who may access sensitive information including:

- Special workers
- Volunteers, including:
 - Board members
 - Nominating Committee members
 - Finance Committee members
- Any individual prior to being granted access to WSO IT systems (for example Literature and Translation).

See [ACA-WSO-NDA-Volunteer-Final-2024-12](#) for the full agreement and form posted on the WSO website.

E. Records Management and Retention Policy

Adult Children of Alcoholics World Service Organization, Inc. dba ACA WSO ("Corporation") requires its trustees, officers, employees, volunteers, agents, and other personnel (all such persons are referred to in this Policy as "Corporation Personnel") to observe high standards of business and personal ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities. The purpose of this Records Management and Retention Policy ("Policy") is to ensure that all Records (as defined in sub-section c of the policy) that are necessary for business and compliance reasons will be retained for a specific period of time that will reasonably assure their availability when needed, but for no period

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of time longer than reasonably necessary for the purposes for which the data was collected. This Policy is intended to support the Corporation's endeavors to comply with state, federal, and international laws governing the destruction of documents and records applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations.

See: [ACA-WSO-Records-Management-and-Retention-Policy](#) for the full policy and records retention schedule posted on the WSO website.

F. Policy on Reporting and Investigating Allegations of Suspected Improper Activities (a.k.a Whistleblower Policy)

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

See: [ACA-WSO-Whistleblower-Policy-2024](#) for the full policy posted on the WSO website.

V. LEGAL/INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

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

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

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

A. Logo

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

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

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

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

VI. FISCAL POLICIES

A. General

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

B. 7th Tradition Contributions

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

1. WSO may only accept contributions from ACA groups and members, including contributions from members who choose to contribute anonymously.
2. The maximum annual contribution by an ACA member cannot exceed \$50,000.
3. There is no maximum annual contribution limit from ACA groups.
4. There is no maximum bequest contribution.

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

C. Signatory

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

D. Expenditure Approvals

1. General Guidelines

The Board establishes policies and guidelines for the expenditure of funds to ensure responsible financial management and efficient resource utilization.

The Controller ensures that all expenditures receive the required approvals before disbursement.

Purchases over \$5,000 for goods or services should include at least three competitive bids when possible. The lowest bid is not necessarily required to be the one that is accepted, but the selection rationale must be documented.

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Software purchase requests must first be vetted by the IT Manager to assess program integrity, organization-wide usability, longevity, and cost-effectiveness.

WSO Committees with an approved budget, are authorized to make expenditures that are in alignment with their budget and designated work in accordance with the approvals required in Section 2. below.

Prior to the signing of long-term contracts for annual amounts over \$10,000, such as leases, such contracts must be reviewed and approved by the Board.

All purchases that require the Board or Executive Committee approval, are published in the Annual Book of Motions updated each month.

2. Approval Levels by Expense Type

a. Budgeted Expenditures

1. Inventory purchases for resale:

- Up to \$25,000 – General Manager approval (or Treasurer in GM’s absence).
- \$25,000 to \$100,000 – Executive Committee approval.
- Over \$100,000 – Board approval.

2. Non-inventory expenses (including Committee expenses):

- Up to \$20,000 – General Manager approval (or Treasurer in GM’s absence).
- \$20,000 to \$40,000 – Executive Committee approval.
- Over \$40,000 – Board approval.

b. Non-budgeted Expenditures:

- Up to \$5,000 – General Manager approval.
- \$5,000 to \$20,000 – Executive Committee approval.
- Over \$20,000 – Board approval.

E. Reimbursement

All expenses a Trustee, Special Worker, or other authorized volunteer expects reimbursement for must be pre-approved. Note: The General Manager may approve expenses for Special Workers. The Executive Committee approves all other such expenses requiring reimbursement.

To receive reimbursement for an approved expense, complete and submit an Expense Form (see: [ACA Expense Report Form 2025.xlsx](#)) along with all required supporting documentation to the Controller. The Controller will verify that the form includes all necessary approvals and receipts before processing the reimbursement.

Travel-related expense information is included in Appendix VII - Travel Reimbursement Policy.

Reimbursement requests should be submitted with accompanying receipts within 60 days of the expenditure. Expense forms submitted after 60 days will require approval from the Executive Committee for volunteers, and from the General Manager for Special Workers.

The claimant should receive reimbursement within 30 days of submitting the completed

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expenditure form.

F. Records/Reports

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

G. Committee Budgets and Reimbursement

Each committee of the Board will be asked to submit their annual budget requests for all anticipated expenses, including those of any subcommittees, to the Finance Committee for approval for the upcoming fiscal year.

Any proposed expenditures exceeding the approved budget must follow the approval process outlined in the Expenditure Approvals Section above. Unused funds do not carry over to the next fiscal year.

H. Accounting Policies

1. Capitalization Policy

All cumulative purchases of Fixed Assets or Intangible Assets made by the WSO of \$1,000 and over will be capitalized and depreciated or amortized; any cumulative expense under \$1000 will be expensed in the monthly income statement.

2. Cost Allocation Policy

The purpose of this policy is to document the methods and procedures that ACA WSO uses to allocate costs across its three primary functional areas:

- a. Program Services
- b. Management & General (M&G)
- c. Fundraising

This policy ensures accuracy in financial reporting, promotes equitable allocation of shared costs, and supports responsible stewardship of organizational resources. Though ACA WSO does not receive government grants, this policy is consistent with the Direct Allocation Method as described in [OMB Circular A-122 \(now codified as 2 CFR Part 230\)](#) and supports the appropriate classification of functional expenses in accordance with nonprofit accounting standards.

For the full policy - see: [ACA Cost Allocation Policy-2025-06-05.pdf](#) posted on the WSO website.

I. ACA WSO Prudent Reserve Policy

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

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

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

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short period of time.

For the full policy - see: [ACA WSO-Prudent-Reserve-Policy 2022](#) posted on the WSO website.

J. Compensation Policy

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

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

See [ACA-WSO-Compensation-Policy_2024](#) for the full policy posted on the WSO website.

K. Special Worker Salaries

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

L. Audit Committee Purpose and Audit Policy

1. Mission Statement of the Audit Committee

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

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

2. Audit Policy Objectives

- Ensure the Organization's compliance with relevant laws and regulations.
- Enhance the reliability of financial auditing.

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- Promote good governance and risk management.
 - Prevent, detect, and address any irregularities or fraudulent activities on a timely basis.
3. Audit
 - a. Frequency of Audits

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

M. 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.

VII. OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

A. General

To support ACA's purpose, the World Service Organization (WSO) employs special workers (staff) responsible for overseeing and carrying out day-to-day operations and providing essential services. These key functions may include, but are not limited to:

- Office and Administrative Support: Staff manage incoming phone/email inquiries, respond to correspondence, and provide current information on ACA meetings and recovery

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resources. They also carry out a broad range of administrative functions, including maintaining personnel records and organizing legal and archival documentation.

- Publications and Merchandise Support: Personnel facilitate the formatting, sale, and distribution of ACA literature and merchandise. This includes managing online storefronts, handling inventory, processing shipping and returns, coordinating translations, and international distribution hubs.
- Information Technology Support: The IT staff oversees ACA's digital infrastructure, including website management, communications systems, and essential operational software. Routine data backups and record safeguarding are also maintained to prevent data loss.
- Financial Operations Support: Professional staff oversee budgeting, accounting, donation processing, and the preparation of accurate, timely financial reports. They also ensure full compliance with all established financial policies and procedures, ensuring all records are audit-ready.
- Communication Support: Helps ensure clear and consistent dissemination of information across the organization both internally and externally and manages ACA's social media presence for outreach.

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

B. Management

The WSO board is responsible for appointing a General Manager to oversee the Office and WSO operations. To manage the recruitment process, the Board may establish a Search Committee as needed. With Board approval, the committee may engage an external search firm to assist in identifying and screening qualified candidates. Following the evaluation process, the Search Committee will recommend finalists to the full Board. The appointment of a General Manager shall be subject to Board approval by formal vote. The Board Chair, or a designated representative, will be responsible for negotiating the terms of employment. All recruitment procedures must comply with applicable laws and adhere to best practices in nonprofit leadership hiring.

The General Manager is accountable to the Board of Trustees and provides regular updates at the Executive Committee meetings. Some of the main responsibilities of this position include:

- Demonstrating dependable leadership by following through on commitments, mentoring staff, resolving conflicts constructively, and fostering a positive, collaborative environment for both staff and board engagement.
- Providing overall supervision and support to WSO-employed special workers, ensuring they have the resources needed to perform effectively.
- Collaborating with the Board to develop strategic plans, staffing structures, and organizational goals.
- Overseeing daily operations, including publishing, procurement, global sales and distribution of ACA literature and merchandise.
- Establishing, maintaining, and enforcing policies, procedures, and agreements to ensure legal and financial compliance (e.g., Employee Handbook, signed policies for employees and contractors).

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- Oversees the maintenance and protection of ACA's intellectual property and initiates copyright and trademark actions when warranted.
- Supporting overall financial operations, including budget preparation for the Treasurer and Board review and approval.
- Negotiating and executing contracts, registrations, and transactions within authorized parameters.
- Providing clear communication and regular reporting on operations-related activities.

The General Manager has the authority to:

- Authorize expenditures in accordance with fiscal policies - see: Section V. Fiscal Policies, subsection D. Expenditure Approvals.
- Register for licenses, permits, registrations, accounts, enter into agreements, and other related activities as needed for WSO to establish international print and sales accounts. This excludes setting up accounts with financial institutions or opening an office. (*Motion 2024-08-03*)

C. Global Distribution Operations

ACA WSO is committed to making all ACA publications available through its official websites and appropriate third-party sellers, with the General Manager and staff determining appropriate sales channels and market regions. They also evaluate global opportunities for printing facilities and fulfillment hubs for the most cost-effective and efficient distribution of literature for the worldwide fellowship.

D. Closures

Should funds not be available to maintain WSO operations, including a physical office and/or distribution centers, the General Manager shall present to the Board:

1. A restructuring plan for continuing the outreach efforts of ACA.
2. A plan of how to close the Office and/or Distribution Centers, including any layoffs and appropriate handling of special workers, storage of records, and disposal of equipment.

Should the above plan be unworkable due to lack of funds or trustees, the remaining Officers and Trustees shall dissolve the corporation in keeping with [Bylaw Article XII](#). Any actions taken should meet the criteria set by the IRS in keeping with WSO's not-for-profit tax-exempt status.

The Fellowship/Conference will be consulted throughout the process. A letter describing the final determinations will be mailed to all registered Groups and Delegates.

VIII. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

A. Websites

ACA WSO currently maintains the following websites:

1. www.adultchildren.org – our main website that provides information to members, prospective members, and the public, including the therapeutic community. It has information about ACA literature, a list of registered meetings, Intergroups and Regions, as well as other resources.
2. acawso.org – a site that supports the volunteer service structure of our fellowship.

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3. www.acawsoec.org – a site that supports our European Committee.
4. shop.adultchildren.org – our shopping cart for literature sales and other items.
5. shop.adultchildren.ca or adultchildren.ca – the shopping websites in Canada

All WSO websites include a privacy statement.

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

In accordance with ACA Traditions, WSO websites:

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

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

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

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

B. IT User Access Policy

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

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

Any policy or access recommendation is meant to:

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

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

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

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

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

IX. CONFLICT AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

A. Introduction

ACA WSO values its volunteers and special workers as essential contributors to its mission. WSO and the Board are committed to fostering an environment of mutual trust, respect, and open communication. To support this commitment, an Open-Door Policy has been adopted that is designed to be an informal problem-solving process. To help resolve issues constructively and collaboratively, WSO encourages volunteers and special workers to raise questions, concerns, suggestions, and complaints with the appropriate individuals/groups for resolution.

It is recommended that the first step in addressing a concern is to communicate directly with the individual or group using the [ACA Suggested Service Norms](#) and [The Suggested Commitment to Service](#). If this is not possible, does not feel safe, or does not resolve the issue, the next step is to approach someone who is best positioned to help. Typically, this would be a volunteer's Committee Chair or the special worker's supervisor. If an individual is uncomfortable approaching

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the Committee Chair or supervisor - or if their concern remains unresolved, they are encouraged to communicate with a Board Member or the General Manager, either verbally or in writing.

If a Committee member determines that an unresolved issue is impacting their ability to remain on the Committee, it is suggested they contact the Committee Chair to discuss the matter, and perhaps request that the matter be discussed at a group meeting for resolution through group conscience. If this may not seem to be feasible, they are encouraged to contact the Volunteer Resources Committee for help in finding a more comfortable Committee for them to work with.

B. Formal Resolution Processes

The purpose of these processes is to establish a foundation for fair, compassionate, and effective frameworks for assessing and resolving complaints. These processes also help to ensure safety and accountability, in alignment with ACA's Traditions, Concepts and The Suggested Commitment to Service.

The key principles of these processes are:

1. **Scope, Fairness and Due Process:** A consistent, accessible, and transparent complaint process ensures fairness for all WSO volunteers, including Trustees, and also special workers.
2. **Good Faith and No Retaliation:** All complaints are filed based on the individual's accounts of what has transpired. There can be no retaliation for submitting a complaint.
3. **Confidentiality:** Confidentiality will be maintained throughout the process and afterwards.
4. **Support:** Volunteers experiencing mistreatment are encouraged to request short-term support, such as a sabbatical, during the assessment process.

If an issue cannot be resolved informally, the following formal resolution processes are available:

- **Standard Complaint Process** – Used to address concerns regarding the conduct of one or more volunteers or special workers when informal resolution is unsuccessful. (See: Appendix X: Standard Complaint Procedures.)
- **“Whistleblower Policy”** – Provides a mechanism for reporting suspected significant violations or illegal activity involving any special worker, volunteer, or Board member. This policy ensures protection from retaliation for those who report in good faith. (See: Section: General Administrative Policies and Agreements subsection: Policy on Reporting and Investigating Allegations of Suspected Improper Activities).
- **Communication Platform Concern Process** – Designed to address concerns about violations of the WSO Communication Platform Agreement (e.g., inappropriate posts on Slack or Zoom chat messages). (See: [Slack-Chat Concern Form](#)). These forms are received and processed by the Safety Resources Committee.
- **Right of Petition** – Allows ACA groups to formally petition the Board for reconsideration of an action (or inaction) by WSO, including Board or Committee decisions.

The following may file a Right of Petition:

1. WSO Committees
2. The Fellowship – may be submitted by the following:

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- i. Four or more registered meetings, or
- ii. One or more registered Intergroups that each represent at least four meetings or
- iii. One or more registered Regions.

For the procedures to File a Petition, see: Appendix I: Right to Petition.

- **Concerns for Board Fitness Input** – A process for submitting concerns related to a Board member’s ability to fulfill their duties. For more information, see this topic on the: [Nominating Committee's webpage](#) or contact ChairNomCom@acawso.org.
- **Regions Complaint Process** – Covers Region-specific complaints. (See Appendix II: Region Certification Process subsection C. Complaint Process).

C. Scope & Limitations

These resolution processes apply exclusively to service-related situations among WSO volunteers (including Board members) and special workers. They do not extend to personal or interpersonal relationships. ACA WSO maintains a neutral stance on matters outside of its direct oversight.

X. SERVICE STRUCTURE AND GROUP REGISTRATION

A. Service Structure of ACA

The service structure of Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACA) is represented by an inverted pyramid, a model commonly used in 12-step programs. This structure highlights the flow of service and accountability within the organization. It emphasizes the foundational importance of meeting groups and ensuring that the broader ACA community’s needs help guide decisions and actions at every level of the organization.

This structure functions in alignment with the Twelve Concepts, the Twelve Traditions and The Suggested Commitment to Service.

1. Meeting Groups, Intergroups, and Regions **(Red)**
 - At the broadest tier of the inverted pyramid are the meeting groups, intergroups, and regions.
 - These entities form the foundation of ACA's service structure by directly serving the ACA membership.
 - Meeting groups provide a safe space for members to share their experiences, while Intergroups and Regions coordinate activities and support on a larger scale.
2. Conference **(Green)**
 - The middle tier of the pyramid represents the Conference, which brings together

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- Delegates from meetings, Intergroups, Regions, and WSO representatives.
- The Conference meetings are the Annual Business Conference (ABC) and other Delegates meetings (CBMs). A Delegate is an elected representative of a registered ACA Group (Meeting, Intergroup, or Region). Their role is to communicate the voice of their group to the Fellowship during the Conference. Delegates are entrusted with the autonomy to vote in alignment with their group's conscience while also considering any new information presented.
 - An individual may only serve as a Delegate for one registered group, whether it's a meeting, an Intergroup or a Region. Delegates can register on the [Conference webpage](#).
3. World Service Organization (WSO) **(Blue)**:
- The narrow tier includes the Board of Trustees, Committees, and Special Workers.
 - The WSO oversees the day-to-day operations and maintenance of the organization and ensures fiduciary responsibilities are met while providing essential support, resources, and guidance to uphold ACA WSO's purpose on a global scale.
 - As per the bylaws: To achieve its purpose, ACA WSO shall:
 - i. Provide public information, meeting locations, educational material and such other services as may be deemed necessary.
 - ii. To organize and provide support service to those Meetings, Intergroups, and Regions that are registered with ACA WSO and are guided by the Twelve Steps and follow the Twelve Traditions of ACA.
 - iii. Convene an annual conference where consideration regarding the business of ACA WSO occurs and priorities for the coming year are discussed and implemented when/where feasible.

B. Group Registrations

All ACA Twelve-Step, Twelve-Tradition affiliated Meetings, Intergroups, and Regions (Groups) are eligible to register with ACA WSO to be listed on the ACA website ([Bylaw III 2](#)).

All groups are encouraged to update their information at least annually to ensure the accuracy of their listing. This also ensures that they receive information sent from WSO, including the ABC Ballot Proposals and ABC Registration, as well as other announcements that may be sent out from time to time.

The use of the ACA trademark, as shown on the cover of this document, shall be limited to only those groups registered with ACA WSO for the purpose of identification for meeting listings, names, notifications, locations, etc. For specific information about using the ACA trademark see: [ACA Logo Standards](#)

1. Meeting Registration

The following should be included when registering a meeting group:

- a. Type of meeting, i.e., in-person or virtual
- b. Location, when applicable
- c. Time and day of meeting, including time zone
- d. Public contact information to be published with the meeting listing

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- e. Primary private contact information, including an email address, which is kept confidential by WSO and used solely to communicate with the group.
- f. A single individual may only be the Public or one of the Primary Private Contacts for no more than four meeting registration numbers.

When a meeting registers on the ACA WSO website, they must indicate their agreement to abide by the ACA 12 Traditions. Groups that do not align with the Traditions will be encouraged to make necessary adjustments. If the issue remains unresolved, the listing may be removed from the WSO website to uphold the integrity of our fellowship.

2. Intergroup Registration

The following should be included when registering an Intergroup:

- a. Name
- b. Country or Online only
- c. Public contact information
- d. Intergroup meeting details
- e. Primary private contact information, including an email address, will be kept confidential by WSO and used solely to communicate with the IG.

3. Region Certification and Registration

a. Certification

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

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

Developing and certified Regions are encouraged to send a representative to the meetings of the Regions/Intergroups Subcommittee of MSC (Member Services Committee). Certified Regions are eligible to nominate a Trustee to the WSO Board of Trustees as per Nominating Committee procedures.

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

See Appendix II: for the Region Certification Process.

- b. After a Region is certified, the following information is included in the Region listing on the website:
 - a. Name
 - b. Country or Online only

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- c. Public contact information
- d. Region meeting details

XI. COMMITTEES

A. General

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

B. Annual Board Review of Committee Structure

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

C. Trustee Participation

Trustees may join any Committee as a member.

Trustees may attend any Committee’s meeting(s) without becoming a member of that Committee,

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provided prior notice is given to the Committee Chair before attending. In such cases, they should discuss participation guidelines with the Committee Chair.

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

D. Committee Leadership

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

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

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

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

1. Continuous attendance at ACA meetings for at least the previous two years.
2. One year or more of combined service to an ACA intergroup, region or WSO committee, with at least six months of active participation on the WSO Committee they would be chairing.
3. Attendance on at least three WSO Board Meeting with the Fellowship within the 12 months prior to becoming chair.
4. Working knowledge of ACA's Steps, Traditions and Concepts of Service.
5. WSO committee chairs and vice chairs may not hold a similar position in another 12-Step Fellowship.

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6. Demonstrated skill at working in a group setting and completing projects.
7. Ability to meet all committee meeting requirements, attend Board Meetings with the Fellowship, and comply with all OPPM guidelines related to committee officer service.
8. Willingness to sign both the Commitment to Service and a WSO Conflict of Interest Statement.

E. Committee Membership and Operations

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

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

F. Responsibility/Accountability

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

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

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

G. Reports and Notifications

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

1. The Committee's top three strategic goals for the coming 12 months should be drafted and updated at least once a year and submitted to the Board for periodic review. Major strategic goals should clearly align with the Committee's statement of purpose and directives transmitted to the Committee by the Board. They should be posted on the Committee web page, and prominently listed in all monthly and annual reports.
2. A monthly report must be submitted for posting on the WSO service website. This report should include the committee's statement of purpose, a brief list of strategic goals, major activities of the previous month, and major decisions by the committee and its subcommittees.
3. All WSO committees (Collaboration Committees, Committees, and sub-committees), working groups, studies, advisory groups, and assessment projects submit meeting minutes or reports for posting on the ACAWSO.org website within two months of each meeting.
4. Annual: a report of each committee's activities that covers the past fiscal year (January 1 through December 31) with an addendum to cover significant actions after the first of the year and prior to the Annual Business Conference. This report must be submitted to the

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ABC Committee Chair, or designated alternate, within the timeframe required. All annual reports should include the committee's statement of purpose, top strategic priorities for the year completed and the year to come, and a list or chart of major work in progress.

5. Meeting recordings and minutes: Committee meeting minutes will not be stored on the WSO service website. If a committee chooses to keep such minutes, it is responsible for storing them or turning them over to the Archives Committee. If recordings are made of committee meetings, such recordings should be deleted within three months.

H. Proposals/Motions

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

I. Correspondence

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

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

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

XII. LITERATURE

A. ACA WSO Literature Policy

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

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

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

B. Literature Development

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

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

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

C. Submitting Literature Proposals

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

1. How is the proposal different from existing ACA literature?
2. What fellowship recovery need does the proposal address? And is there any specific audience that the literature is intended to reach?
3. Is it best described as a tri-fold, a small booklet, a textbook/workbook, a workshop guide, or something else?
4. Who is the author or team of authors?

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

D. Evaluating Literature Proposals

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

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

E. Literature Evaluation and Approval

1. General

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

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

2. Fellowship Review and Revisions

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

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

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

3. Final Conference Approval

Each year, the Board of Trustees will determine by the January Board Meeting with the Fellowship what literature it is forwarding to the ABC for final Conference approval. Electronic access to each publication will be added to the ABC web page, and to the ABC delegate binder, so that delegates may access the publication at no cost. WSO will give delegates no-cost access to each publication

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in advance of the ABC. The Literature Committee and Board of Trustees will submit a statement of the publication's purpose to ABC delegates, along with a report documenting fellowship at large feedback and resulting revisions.

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

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

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

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F. Logo Use for Literature Projects

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

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

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

resemble the distinct labeling authorized for publications that have met these standards.



<i>ACA WSO Conference Approved</i>	
Literature bearing this logo has been approved prior to use of the new approval process. It has gone through the previous process of writing and review by the Literature Committee, the Board of Trustees and the fellowship. It was approved for publication as Conference Approved at an Annual Business Conference.	
<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 10px;"><i>Publication Cover</i></p> <div style="border: 2px solid black; width: 80%; margin: 0 auto; padding: 20px; text-align: center;">  <small>© Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families World Service Organization</small> </div>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 10px;"><i>Publication Introduction</i></p> <div style="border: 2px solid black; width: 80%; margin: 0 auto; padding: 20px; text-align: center;">  <small>Approved by the 20XX ACA WSO Annual Business Conference. ©DATE Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families World Service Organization. Signal Hill, CA</small> </div>

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

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

<p><i>Publication Cover</i></p> <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 20px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;">  <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">This Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families World Service Organization publication is under fellowship review, with a goal of eventual Conference approval. Fellowship comments are invited.</p> </div> <p>(Text below logo: This Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families World Service Organization publication is under fellowship review, with a goal of eventual Conference approval. Fellowship comments are invited.)</p>	<p><i>Publication Introductory Page</i></p> <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 20px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;">  <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px; font-size: small;">This ACA WSO publication is under fellowship review, with a goal of eventual Conference approval. Fellowship comments are invited. To submit feedback, please visit http://www.acawso.org/link. [And other relevant information about the development process.]</p> </div> <p>(Text below logo: This ACA WSO publication is under fellowship review, with a goal of eventual Conference approval. Fellowship comments are invited. To submit Feedback, please visit http://acawso.org/link. (And other relevant information about the development process.))</p>
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ACA WSO Fellowship Reviewed and Conference Approved

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

Publication Cover



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

Publication Introductory Page



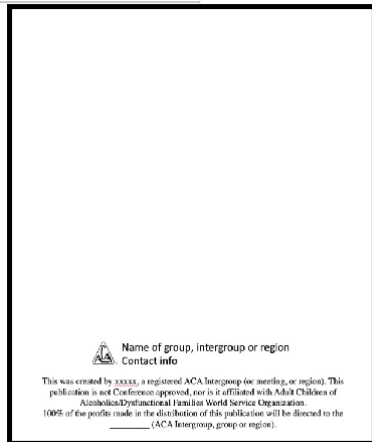
(Text below logo: Fellowship Reviewed between Date and Date. Approved by the 20XX ACA WSO Annual Business Conference. ©DATE Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families World Service Organization)

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Service Entity Publications

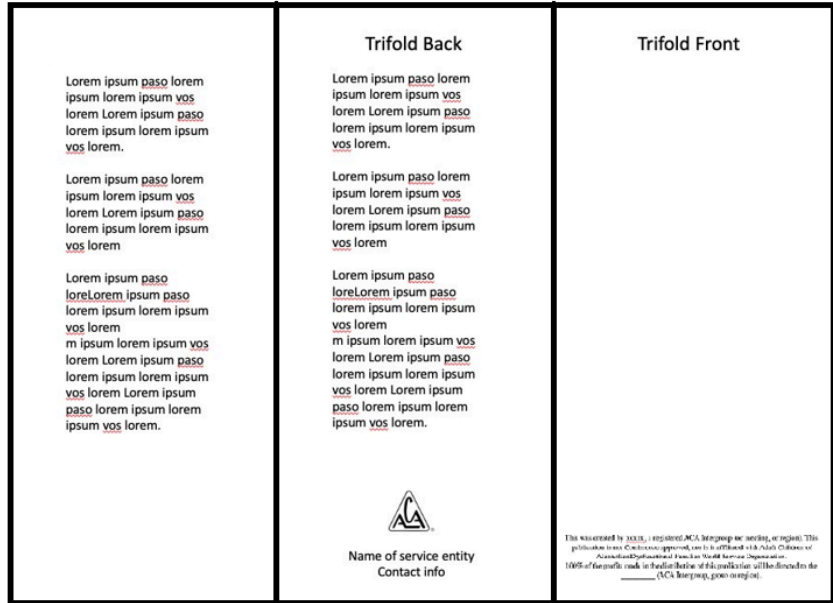
Use of the ACA logo on publication covers and the front of trifolds is reserved for ACA WSO publications only. ACA service entities (such as an ACA Region, Intergroup, or individual Meeting Group) that are registered in the ACA WSO database may identify local literature projects with the ACA WSO logo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

Introductory/Inside Page of a Booklet



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

Trifold Use



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

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

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

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G. ComLine

1. Purpose

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

2. Approval/Oversight

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

3. Budget

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

4. Submissions

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

5. Committee

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

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

XIII. PUBLISHING

A. Digital Literature

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

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

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

This policy provides general guidance regarding this topic.

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

NOTE: Sections of WSO-sanctioned translations in development may be reproduced for use

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within a meeting. Such copies must have a watermark that says property of ACA WSO and may not be sold to anyone or distributed outside of meetings.

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

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

2. **Tri-folds:** WSO tri-folds are available for free download from the adultchildren.org website. Reproduction is authorized for use in ACA groups as well as for general outreach purposes. Counseling and related facilities are also authorized to reproduce our tri-folds for free distribution to their patients and their extended practice.
3. **ACA Booklets:** Reproduction of these items in whole or in part is not authorized except as described below for use within ACA meetings.

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

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

C. Translations of WSO Books and Literature

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

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

XIV. ACA WORLD CONVENTION (AWC)

A. Purpose

The ACA Annual World Convention (AWC) exists to highlight the many ways adult children approach and live their recovery. Hosted by the fellowship, for the fellowship, the Convention brings fellow travellers together worldwide to celebrate, educate, share, and grow in their ACA recovery. The AWC is an annual event, primarily held online to ensure accessibility worldwide. The Convention may, at intervals, include in-person events, as directed by the Board and/or Conference.

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B. History

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

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

In early 2017, the WSO Board passed a motion that moved the ABC from Friday and Saturday to Thursday and Friday so that the AWC could be extended an extra day – from Friday night through Sunday afternoon. However, since the pandemic of 2020, the AWC has been held virtually, independent of the timing of the ABC.

C. Procedures

The virtual AWC is organized by the AWC Planning Team (“Team”), composed of ACA members from around the world. Since 2023, the Team has reported directly to the WSO Executive Committee.

The Team surveys the fellowship for the theme of each Convention. They recommend the Convention dates, program, speakers, and schedule. The Board approves the dates and final program schedule.

Speaker & Presentation Selection Process

The selection of AWC speakers follows a structured process designed to ensure high-quality, relevant, and tradition-consistent presentations:

1. Qualified ACA members are invited to submit an application form.
2. The Planning Team reviews all written applications.
3. Selected applicants are invited to participate in an interview with the Planning Team.

Selection Criteria

Presenter Requirements

- Is an active ACA member, preferably with a registered meeting group or home group.
- Has prior ACA presentation experience at Intergroup, Region or meeting group levels or a previous AWC (e.g., workshops, panel discussions, speaker meetings).
 - If not, applicants are encouraged to gain ACA presentation experience and reapply in the future.
- Practitioners, authors, or other professionals must commit to honoring Tradition Six (no self-promotion).

Presentation Requirements

- Aligns with the Convention theme.
- Provides a variety of ACA recovery tools.
- Is interactive, experiential, and engaging for participants.
- Abide by copyright laws (e.g., May not use Tony A.’s steps or portions of his copyrighted literature).

Application Form Information

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Applicants are asked to provide the following details:

Presenter Information

- Names and contact details of all presenters
- Summaries of ACA recovery and service experience
- Presenters bio
- ACA and other workshop presentation experience
- Feedback received from previous presentations

Presentation Info./ Logistics

- Workshop style, focus, and description
- Title and session plan
- Key learnings and takeaways for participants
- Preferred date and time
- Language and interpreter needs (if any)
- Handouts to be used

Speaker Agreements

All speakers/presenters must sign the following agreements:

- Agreement not to promote themselves/their work (observe Tradition 6)
- Speaker Release for Audio Recording (separate document and also included in the application form)
- Agreement to Adhere to Proposed Workshop.

Post-Convention Recordings

Once the audio recordings of the AWC are processed and ready, which may take several months, they will be made available on the ACA website.

XV. ANNUAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE (ABC) and CONFERENCE BUSINESS MEETINGS (CBM)

Important Note: Any proposed changes to Conference-related sections of the WSO Operating Policy and Procedures Manual (OPPM) must be approved by a motion of the Conference, and added to the OPPM. Such information is currently contained in this Section as well as in the APPENDIX entitled: ABC and CBM VOTING RULES.

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

There are many groups and individuals that work together to ensure successful events. Along with the Host Committee that ensures that logistics and facilities are managed on the ground, there are also many roles at the Board and Committee level that are associated with these this event.

- Board Liaison – a member of the Board who serves as the conduit for information between the Board and the main event Chairs and Committees for the ABC and AWC
- Finance Liaison – a member of the Finance Committee who helps ensure that the financial aspects of the two events are monitored closely
- Technology Liaison – a member of the Website and Database Committee who helps ensure

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that the venue, the technology vendors and the event Committees understand the needs of WSO for both events

- Host Committee Chair – a member of the Host Committee who is responsible for ensuring that the needs of both events are managed
- Facilities Coordinator – a member of the Host Committee who helps ensure that the needs of both events are honored

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

A. Brief History and Purpose

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

At the 2022 ABC, a motion passed to schedule quarterly delegate meetings (QDMs) 2-4 hours in July/August, Nov., and February. The July/August will handle spillover business. [ABC-2022-03]

Also, at the 2022 ABC, a motion passed to coordinate an in-depth and inclusive study regarding possible changes to the ABC and AWC structures. [ABC-2022-04]

At the December 2024 Quarterly Delegate Meeting, a motion passed to approve the new process for Fellowship Group Voting (see below) starting with the approved ABC Motion 2024-06 (Name Study).

The Fellowship Group Vote Process:

- The Conference (ABC) will direct the board when to conduct a Fellowship Group vote via approved motion.

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- A dedicated webpage with information and instructions about a vote will be created and sent to all groups.
- Each Registered Groups has one vote - with a unique link for voting.
- Groups will be given a minimum of four months to vote.
- Each vote will include a section for groups to state their reasons for why they voted one way or another.
- Substantial unanimity (>67%) is needed for a vote to pass.
- The results of the vote will be posted within two weeks after the voting closes and also emailed out to all groups.
- The voting results and next steps will be added to the next ABC agenda.
- Revisions to this process can only be made with Conference approval.

[Motion QDM-2024-10]

At the 2025 ABC, two motions were passed related to the ABC structure:

- One: To replace the current yearly Conference Business Meeting schedule with a new yearly schedule consisting of the existing 2-day ABC plus two additional 1-day Conference Business Meetings, each with a duration of 6 to 8 hours. [ABC 2025-03].
- Second: With regard to voting, debate, introducing new business, and addressing old business, other than as required under California law for the ABC, all Conference Business Meetings will have identical rights and authorities. [ABC 2025-04].

B. Required Roles, Committees and Responsibilities

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

- a. ABC Committee Chair
 - i. Candidates for this role shall be selected from those who either volunteer or are identified for their abilities. If possible, this person should have prior experience in some major role associated with a recent ABC, preferably as the Vice Chair. They are ratified by the ABC delegates. An ABC Committee shall be formed if one does not already exist.
 - ii. The term of service is one year with a maximum of two consecutive terms. After a hiatus of two years, an individual may again serve in this role.
 - iii. The ABC Committee Chair works with the Host Committee as needed.
 - iv. One or more WSO Special Workers may be utilized as they are available.
 - v. Responsible for ensuring that the Delegate binders are completed, provided online before the ABC, and also printed for distribution to all on site registered delegates. An abbreviated version of the binder is given to guests. Two extra copies of the Delegate binder should be produced for the WSO archives.
 - vi. The ABC Committee Chair is responsible for the following:
 - a) Ensuring that the ABC is held in accordance with the ACA WSO ByLaws and this document.
 - b) Preparation and distribution of notifications to the Fellowship about the ABC, both through email blasts and information in the Traveler Newsletter
 - vii. The ABC Committee Chair is responsible for ensuring the following reports are submitted:

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- a) A monthly written report for the Board Meeting with the Fellowship to be filed with the Board Secretary at least three days prior to the meeting.
- b) A written summary of all results of the Ballot Proposals included on the ABC agenda, including a very short synopsis of the discussions, resultant motions, amendments and outcomes of same – within one week after the ABC.
- c) A written summary within one week of anything from the ABC proceedings that require action by the Board.
- d) A written summary within one week of additional items brought before the ABC body for discussion and potential action.
- e) A written summary of recommendations to the Board for future such events – to be prepared after hosting a meeting that includes the ABC Committee including the Vice Chair, current and future Host Committee Chairs and pertinent sub-committee chairs, Delegate Training Sub-Committee Chair, Ballot Prep Chair, Board, Finance and Technology Liaisons, the Conference Chair and Secretary, and any WSO Special Workers involved in planning and executing the events(s).

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

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

The basic requirements for the minutes are:

- Who was present, including Delegates, Trustees, non-voting attendees, and other individuals who fill pertinent roles.
- A listing of meeting segments and what reports were given during those segments. Reports that are included in the Delegate Binders will be referenced but not repeated

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within the minutes.

- Motions made, who made them, seconded them, pertinent discussion (names of speakers are not required), votes and outcomes.

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

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

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

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

C. Delegates

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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D. The ABC and Delegate Voting

See Appendix VIII – ABC and CBM Voting Rules

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

E. Board Ratification

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

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

As of September 2025, the Conference voted to cease the use of the minority opinions on Trustee ratifications at the Annual Business Conference. Instead, for concerns about a Board member's emotional sobriety or qualifications, members/Delegates will instead use the fact based and verifiable "Concern for Board Fitness Input" form to be investigated and addressed by the Nominating Committee. See: [Nominating Committee webpage](#) and [Concerns-for-Board-Fitness-Process.pdf](#)

XVI. BALLOT PREPARATION COMMITTEE (BPC)

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

These tasks include:

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

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

- August 1st – Call for Proposals
- September 30th – Proposals Due
- Month of October – with the help of the BPC and/or relevant WSO Committee(s), submitted Proposals may be revised through October 31st.
- November 30th – WSO Analyses Due
- December 31st – Translations due
- January 8th – Ballot published to all groups via email

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- January and February – Town Halls to review Ballot Proposals; Proposal Authors (Groups) invited to introduce their Proposals and answer questions
- February 15 – Ballot Voting Opens
- March 31st – All Ballots due
- April 3rd – Publication of Ballot results

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

Any future changes to the Ballot process must be approved by the Delegates at the ABC or any Delegate Business Meeting and should be reflected in any procedural documentation, such as the ACAWSO Operating Policy and Procedures Manual (OPPM) or any manual that is prepared as guidelines for the Policies and Procedures of the Conference.

A. Information and Education

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

B. Call for Proposals

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

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

C. Proposal Submissions

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

The following information must be included with the Proposal:

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

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There are three (3) sections of a Proposal:

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

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

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

Groups must submit their final proposal by October 31.

D. Proposal Analysis

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

E. Translations

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

F. ABC Ballot

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

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

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

G. Validate and Publish the Results

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

The BPC will provide the ABC Committee with the final voting totals by April 3rd,

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indicating which Proposals should be included on the ABC Agenda. The results of the Ballot will also be published on the WSO websites and publications.

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

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I — RIGHT TO PETITION

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

A. Who may File a Petition:

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

B. Guidelines for Filing Petitions:

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

C. Responsibilities of WSO Secretary

The Board Secretary will

1. Submit the Petition to the Board.
2. Send an email to the Petitioners indicating receipt of the Petition and pointing out that the clock has started ticking and each party is responsible for adhering to their respective timelines as outlined in this Right to Petition procedure
3. Place the petition on the agenda for the regularly scheduled Board Meeting with the Fellowship (TC) no more than 90 days after receipt of the petition. NOTE: Petitions with their original submission date will remain on the Board Meetings with the Fellowship agenda along with a progress report made by the Secretary until a resolution has been determined and announced. The petition and resolution will remain on the agenda for one

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additional meeting as reference.

D. Submitted Petition Process

The Board may

1. Decide that they are in favor of the Petition and pass a motion to make the requested change.
2. Reject the Petition, with an explanation, if they determine that implementation would violate the ByLaws or any other part of the legal structure of WSO.
3. Pursue a mutually agreeable solution with the Petitioner(s). If this is not obtainable, move to (4) below.
4. Engage an Intermediary, as described below.

E. Intermediary Process

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

F. Deadline for Board Action

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

G. Further Recourse for Petitioners

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

APPENDIX II – REGION CERTIFICATION PROCESS

A. Requirements to Establish and Certify an ACA Region

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

- a. Notify the Regions/Intergroups Subcommittee (regions@acawso.org) of your intent to become certified as a Region.

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

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

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

B. Recertification*

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

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

The recertification process is as follows:

- 1. Each certified Region must present updated certification documents annually by July 1st to the Member Services Committee (MSC) and copy the Board Secretary. If all is in order,

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MSC will inform the Board Secretary, who will inform the Board. The Region is then presumed recertified for the following year, unless the Board has questions about the recertification information within two months of receipt.

2. If there are issues with the recertification documents that need to be addressed by the Region, a notice will be sent to them before the end of the two-month review process explaining the issues. If a meeting is necessary, it will include at least two Board members (one of whom should be a Board Officer) and the Officers of the Region.
3. If the result of this meeting is a determination that the Region needs to take corrective action(s), they must respond to the Board within 90 days with evidence that those action(s) have been resolved or are in the process of being resolved with a date of when it will be completed.
4. If the issue(s) is not resolved, the Board may decide to decertify the Region, or place them on suspension. The suspension will be in place for up to six months (“Suspension Term”), at the end of which time the Region will either be reinstated because matters have been resolved, or they will be decertified. During the Suspension Term a note will be added to the Region’s listing on the WSO website that the Region is in suspension but not decertified.
5. If a Region is decertified, it will no longer be listed on the WSO website. The Region may have up to two years to apply for recertification.

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

C. Complaint Process

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

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

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

APPENDIX III – NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A. Accountability and Cooperation Statement

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

B. General Duties and Process

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Review written applications of Board candidates to first determine if they meet the list of Board qualifications shown in OPPM Section II.K, Qualifications for Board Membership.
2. Interview those candidates who appear to meet the qualifications.
3. Interview references and others who have knowledge of them/interactions with them.
4. Conduct additional evaluations, such as examining committee attendance and considering feedback from those who have served with the candidates. This may include observations of their interactions on Slack and Zoom chats.
5. Submit qualified nominees along with the nomination packet to the Board. This packet will inform the Board how the nominee meets the Board qualifications, plus stating other strengths and opportunities for growth.
6. Schedule and conduct a Q&A meeting with the Board and the candidate to give each the opportunity to ask clarifying questions. The Board may not contact candidates directly about their candidacy before discussing next steps with the NomCom. Instead, the Board will contact NomCom if they want more information about the candidates.
7. After the Board deliberates, they will either:
 - a. accept the NomCom recommendation, in which case the NomCom notifies the nominee, who has up to one week to accept the position or not.
 - b. does not accept the NomCom's recommendation, see Disputes section below.
8. Notify the Board of the candidate's response.
9. If the candidate:
 - a. accepts the position, the Board will pass a motion.
 - b. does not accept the position and the NomCom thanks them for applying.
10. For candidates that accept the position, schedule a "Meet and Greet" between the Board and the new Board member.
11. At the conclusion of the "Meet and Greet" meeting, the Board officially announces the new Board member to the fellowship and schedules orientation sessions.

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C. Disputes

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

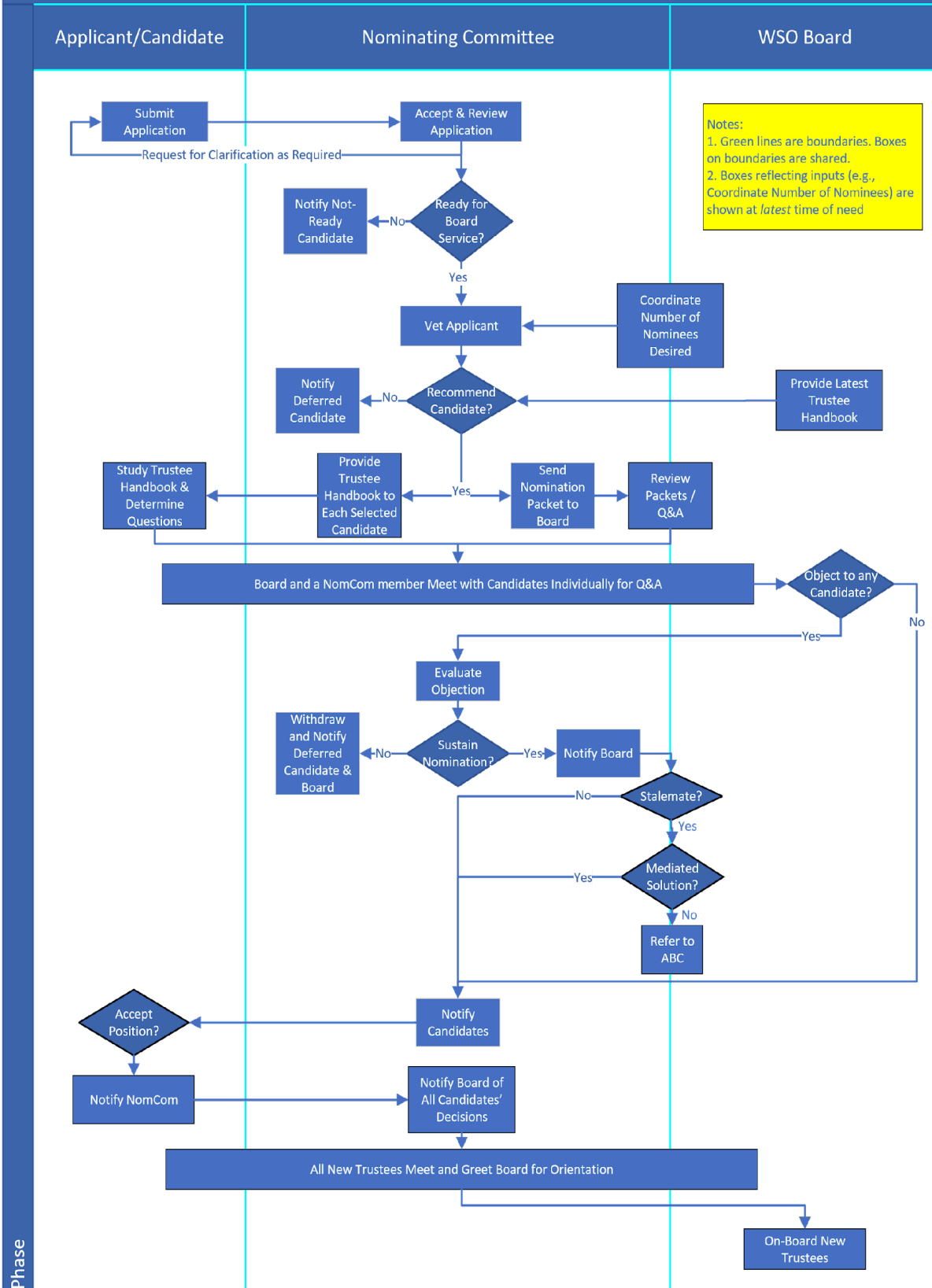
Additional Information on the NomCom and Board Selection Process:

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

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

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WSO Nominating Process



Phase

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APPENDIX IV – HISTORICAL DATES AND EVENTS

This appendix contains historical dates and events.

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

APPENDIX V – ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS

A. ACA WSO Articles of Incorporation

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

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

B. ACA WSO Bylaws

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

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

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

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

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

APPENDIX VII – TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY & PRE-TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION FORM

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

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

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

A. Transportation to the Destination:

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

The following transportation costs are reimbursable:

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

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

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

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5. Other Travel Alternatives, such as Bus or Train: Guidelines should be treated the same as noted above for Driving vs. Flying.

B. Transportation at the Destination:

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

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

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

C. Food, Incidentals, and Entertainment:

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

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

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

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

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

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ACA WSO PRE-TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION FORM

All travel on behalf of ACA WSO requires authorization prior to confirming the travel arrangements. This form should be completed by the person traveling and submitted as follows:

- **Special workers** send the completed form to the General Manager for approval.
 - Note: If estimated cost is over \$5,000, it also requires board approval.
- **Volunteers**, including trustees, send the completed form to the the Treasurer for board approval.

Traveler _____ Date of Submission _____
First Name Last Name

Destination _____

Date of Departure _____ Date of Return _____

Purpose of the Travel and Goals to be Accomplished _____

Estimated Funds Required _____ Budgeted or Unbudgeted? _____

Cost Center (Committee or Account #) _____

Submitted by _____
Committee Chair, Trustee or Special Worker Printed Name

Signature _____ Date _____

APPROVAL

Name:

Position/Entity:

Date:

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APPENDIX VIII – ABC and CBM VOTING RULES

Important Note: Any proposed changes to Conference-related sections of the WSO Operating Policy and Procedures Manual (OPPM) must be approved by a motion of the Conference, and added to the OPPM. Such information is currently contained in this Appendix as well as in the Section entitled: Annual Business Conference (ABC) and Conference Business Meetings (CBM).

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

A. Introduction

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

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

1. To accommodate all global time zones, worldwide online voting will be conducted outside of the actual ABC and CBM hours to make decisions on motions and Trustee ratifications.
2. Formal rules for discussion have been kept to a minimum. There will be some flexibility around time. Except where noted, delegates should limit their comments to about a minute. But speakers always will be given a small amount of additional time to complete a thought, and the Chair will give up to 90 seconds to those who do not speak English as a first language. If the Chair feels additional discussion time may be warranted, they may ask for a show of hands to see if the Delegates agree - within the context of timing of the full agenda.
3. The Conference Chair has the discretion to call on Delegates out of order so that those who have not been heard previously will be given an opportunity.
4. Delegates are highly encouraged to not repeat points that have already been made.
5. The Parliamentarian is entrusted to make decisions about process and order. In the case of submission of alternative motions (described below) the submitting Delegate may appeal the Parliamentarian's ruling to the Chair. The appeal must be seconded by another Delegate. The Delegate who appeals will have up to 90 seconds to voice their appeal. The Chair will then ask for a raised-hands poll of the Delegates to determine whether the Parliamentarian's decision stands or not. If 60% or more wish to overrule the Parliamentarian, the alternative motion will be added.

The ABC honors the minority's right of petition (Concept 5) by including the opportunity to request a re-vote on motions through the minority opinion process. An exception to this process for Board Trustee ratifications was made by a motion passed by the Conference in September 2025 (See motion ABC_2025_11).

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

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

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

B. Worldwide Online Voting

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

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

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

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

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

C. Quorum

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

Quorum counts will be taken near the beginning and mid-point of each session, as well as about an hour before the completion of each business day.

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

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

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

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

Ballot Proposals

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

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

Initial Assessment. When consideration of a Ballot Proposal begins,

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

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

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

Note: If the purpose of a Ballot Proposal is to call for a long-term study, Option A will be reworded to reflect this, and Option B will be eliminated.

Polling Results

1. If the poll indicates 60% or more support for any one option, the Conference Chair will direct the proceedings to the next stage in the process ("crafting a motion"). Exception: if

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

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

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

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

Discussing and selecting a preferred motion.

1. All alternative motions are posted on the screen and Delegates may discuss the merits of the motions for a total of up to 15 minutes. A time warning will be given at five minutes.
2. Delegates will then be polled to determine the preferred motion as follows:
 - a. First poll: will include all motions, plus, “I do not support any of the motions.”
 - b. Following the first poll (if no motion gains 60%): the chair will identify all motions that received 20% or more. Those motions will be placed in a second poll, along with “I do not support any of the motions.”
 - c. Following the second poll (if needed): The chair will identify the top two motions, and place them in a third poll, along with “I do not support any of the motions.”
 - d. Following the third poll (if needed), the chair will place the top remaining motion, along with “I do not support any of the motions” in a final poll.
 - e. Fourth and final poll: If the remaining motion receives 60%, it is added to the worldwide online voting Ballot. If it receives less than 50%, it is defeated. If the

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motion receives a simple majority, but less than 60%, it will be referred to the ACA World Service Organization, where an appropriate committee will give the issue further study.

Combined Discussions of Multiple Ballot Proposals

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

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

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

Study Group, Board, and Time Sensitive Floor Motions

Motions at the ABC may be presented by Study Groups, although the number of such motions will

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be limited due to their time sensitive nature as well as the amount of time available. This section also covers Board Motions that may emanate from Delegate discussion and are the wish of Delegates to pursue. Such Motions must have been published in the Delegate Binder before the ABC.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Alternative motion process:

Delegates may submit alternative motions that do not substantially change the general direction set by the motion presented.
Alternative motions must be seconded by another Delegate.

 - a. Start with 3 minutes of quiet reflection.
 - b. 10 minutes will be allotted for presentation of alternative motions.

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- c. The group that presented the original motion may present its own alternative motion, based on the discussion.
 - d. Delegates who have alternative motions will raise their hands and be called on.
 - e. The Delegate will read their alternative motion and post it in Chat.
 - f. The Secretary will copy and paste it onto a slide on the screen.
 - g. The Parliamentarian will advise whether the language meets the requirements of maintaining the integrity of the original motion.
 - i. If yes, the Chair calls on the next Delegate
 - ii. If no, the Secretary removes it from the listException - per the information given at the start of this Appendix, the Delegate may challenge the Parliamentarians ruling and the Chair will process the objection.
6. Delegate discussion: up to 15 minutes on the merits of the alternative motions.
 7. Voting on alternative motions:
 - a. The first poll will include all alternative motions plus “I abstain from voting.”
 - b. If none of the choices gains 60%, depending on the number of alternative motions submitted, anything that received less than 20% will be removed and another poll will be taken that includes “I abstain from voting”
 - c. Following the second poll (if needed): the top two motions will be placed in a third poll, along with “I abstain”
 - d. Following the third poll (if needed), the chair will place the top remaining motion, along with “I abstain” in a final poll.
 8. Final results:
 - a. Any motion with 60% of the votes is sent to Worldwide Online Voting.
 - b. If the final vote results in a simple majority but less than 60%, it will be referred to the ACA World Service Organization, where the Board will give the issue further study.

Trustee Ratifications (Day 1)

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

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

1. Trustees may each speak up to three minutes.
2. At the end of all individual Trustee introductions, Delegates will have a total of up to 15 minutes to ask questions of Trustees.
3. Trustees will have up to one minute to respond to questions asked of them. More time will be allotted if needed.
4. Trustee ratifications will be placed in Worldwide Online Voting.

Announcement of Voting Results and Minority Opinion

At ABCs and CBMs, Delegates may express a minority opinion following any vote submitted to

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Worldwide Online Voting. For a two-day ABC, the voting results will be posted on the website two hours prior to the beginning of Day 2.

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

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

Delegate Floor Motions Requirements

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

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

Delegate Floor Motions:

1. May not contain the sum and substance of any Proposals that were on the Ballot sent to groups in January, whether they are on the ABC Agenda or not. They may also not be similar to motions that are presented on Day One or expected to be presented on Day Two.
2. Must be submitted in writing to the Conference Secretary within an hour after the official close of ABC business on Day 1.
3. Should be written in the form of a motion (“I move that . . .”) with a background that includes reasoning and why it is time sensitive, e.g., it affects a decision that is in the process of being made about an upcoming WSO event.
4. Should include the resources that will be needed to accomplish and who that might be.
5. Should be brief – not to exceed 75 words for the Motion, with up to 100 words for the background.

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6. Indicate the best way that the submitters may be contacted before the start of Day 2.

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

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

E. Committee and Board Presentations

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

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

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

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APPENDIX IX – BOARD NORMS OF CONDUCT

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

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

1. Communication/Potentially Contentious Issues

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

2. Board Unity/Mutual Respect

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

We agree to keep the following in mind:

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

2. Resolving Conflicts/Enforcement of Norms

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

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

ADDENDUM:

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

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

APPENDIX X – COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Standard Volunteer Complaint Procedures

Before submitting a formal complaint, volunteers are encouraged to reach out to a service sponsor or fellow traveler for support. It is then suggested that you try to address the matter directly unless you feel doing so would put your safety at risk. If you think the situation constitutes a violation of criminal law, or creates an immediate danger to the health and safety of one or more individuals, you should report it to law enforcement officials and notify the WSO General Manager and/or Board Secretary.

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Note: Special Workers should follow the reporting procedures outlined in the WSO Employee Handbook.

1. **Filing a Complaint**

- Complaints about volunteer behavior can be submitted via a form posted on the WSO website or by email to the Secretary at Secretary@acawso.org or Board Chair at Chair@acawso.org. See: [Volunteer Complaint or Concern Intake Form](#)
- The complaint will be acknowledged in writing within 14 days.

2. **Initial Steps**

- An initial assessment is conducted to determine the type of complaint and the group that will administer the process. If a complaint involves a trustee or special worker, outside professional services may be used.

3. **Assessment Process**

- **Review Complaint:** The team evaluates whether the complaint—if true—warrants further action.
- **Secure Evidence:** Collect relevant documentation (emails, Slack messages, Zoom recordings, etc.).
- **Maintain communication** with the parties involved throughout the process.
- **Conduct Interviews** with all parties involved including potential witnesses to gather relevant facts. Inform them of the complaint specifics and emphasize confidentiality and non-retaliation.
- **Report the findings to both parties.**

4. **Possible Resolutions**

- Education and training.
- Voluntary time away from service for personal recovery.
- Written advisories, facilitated discussions, or amends-making.
- Formal actions, such as suspension or dismissal from WSO service, for severe or repeated misconduct.
- Note: Resolutions for special workers will be based on the Employee Handbook.

5. **File a Summary Report:** Present facts and provide suggestions or recommendations for resolutions.

6. **Communicate resolution decisions** and next steps to all parties.

7. **Appeals**

- A decision can be appealed to the Executive Committee.
- If circumstances warrant, an independent panel may be appointed to review the appeal to help ensure fairness and accuracy of the summary report. If needed, new interviews or research may be conducted.

8. **Ongoing Review**

- The Executive Committee will review these procedures periodically, ensuring continuous improvement and alignment with ACA principles.

Policy Framework

This process is grounded in the following:

- **Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws:** Mandate ACA WSO's responsibility to ensure a safe environment for volunteers and comply with California law.

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- **Traditions, Concepts and Suggested Commitment to Service:** Support harmonious, respectful interactions and empower the Board to manage service affairs and uphold safety standards.
- **Big Red Book and ACA Literature:** Emphasize the importance of addressing dysfunctional behavior in service settings with compassion and accountability.
- **OPPM:** Authorizes the Board to oversee committee conduct, and take action to ensure committees serve the fellowship effectively.

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CHANGE LOG

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

Dates of the Motions reflect the Board's Meeting with the Fellowship (formerly TC) when said Motions became part of the official record. Actual Motions may have been passed by the Board at an earlier time and then included in the OPPM prior to that Board Meeting. Starting in 2024, the motion numbers reflect the month and year they were passed by the Board of Trustees. For reference, please see the [Annual Books of Motions webpage](#).

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

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- Section XXI INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, but then known as ACA WSO WEBSITE, revised
- 10. March 28, 2019
 - Section X COMMITTEES updated
 - Section XIX WSO EVENTS: ANNUAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE (ABC) AND ACA WORLD CONVENTION (AWC) revised
- 11. August 1, 2019
 - Section XIX WSO EVENTS: ANNUAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE (ABC) AND ACA WORLD CONVENTION (AWC), sub-section A.4.g – Changed to 60% threshold to pass an ABC motion
 - Section XX BALLOT PREPARATION COMMITTEE, sub-section G. Change to 60% Yes votes on Ballot to be added to ABC Agenda
- 12. November 21, 2019
 - Revision of Appendix I – Right to Petition
- 13. December 12, 2019
 - Section III WSO BOARD OF TRUSTEES, sub-section D ACA WSO Property, 3rd paragraph
- 14. March 29, 2020
 - Added Appendix X – ABC MOTION PROCEDURE, including Modified Robert’s Rules of Order
- 15. August 31, 2020
 - Section XX BALLOT PREPARATION COMMITTEE – pertinent dates for Proposals and Ballots
- 16. September 24, 2020
 - Appendix II REGION CERTIFICATION PROCESS revised
 - Section XII ACA WSO LITERATURE, sub-section E revised
 - Addendum to Appendix XI BOARD NORMS OF CONDUCT
- 17. October 16, 2020
 - Section XII ACA WSO LITERATURE, add new sub-section I referring to logo usage
- 18. November 16, 2020
 - Section XIX WSO EVENTS: ANNUAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE (ABC) AND ACA WORLD CONVENTION (AWC) Added remote access to ABC Delegates in Section XIX.A.1
 - Renamed Section XXI from ACA WSO WEBSITE to INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY and also added the IT User Access Policy
 - Section X COMMITTEES - added new sub-section B, replaced sub-sections C (now D) and F (now G).
- 19. March 18, 2021 Revision
 - Section X COMMITTEES: changes to sub-section D - Committee Leadership.
 - Section VI FISCAL POLICIES changes to C.2,3,4 – Expenditures Approvals
 - Section X COMMITTEES, sub-section D - addition of an introductory statement about rotation of service
 - Revised Appendix X – Robert’s Rules. Motion 2021_0410_01
- 20. September 11, 2021 Revision
 - Appendix IV NOMINATING COMMITTEE, under “Other notes” added protocol for Board contact with Trustee candidates. Motion 2021_0313_01.

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

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- Section X COMMITTEES, sub-section C. Board Participation. Amended and sub-section heading changed from Board Communications, Oversight and Participation. (Motion Feb 10, 2023)
 - Section XI. ACA WSO OFFICE, sub-section B. Group Registrations. Added that meetings that do not follow the ACA 12 Traditions will be delisted. (Motion Feb 10, 2023)
26. April 30, 2023
- Adjustment to Section IV. ACA WSO BOARD OFFICERS, General and Term of Service, to conform to the ByLaws changes in the September 24, 2022, version of this document.
 - APPENDIX II. REGION CERTIFICATION PROCESS amended. (Motion April 27, 2023)
 - Section XIX. WSO EVENTS: ANNUAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE (ABC) and ACA WORLD CONVENTION (AWC); remove the outdated voting rules from sub-section A.4 as well as a paragraph about Floor Motions – both of which are in APPENDIX X. (Removed as a result of updated information that is in Appendix X.)
 - APPENDIX X. ABC and QDM VOTING RULES amended. (Motion April 29, 2023)
 - SECTION XVI. ACA WSO COMLINE amended. (Motion April 29, 2023)
27. October 3, 2023
- a. APPENDIX IX. TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY amended. (Motion September 28, 2023). Note: A correction was made to Section C.1. The first paragraph said “Food and Incidentals per diem, herein referred to as M&IE (Meals and Incidental Expense rate). WSO has adopted U.S. Government General Services Administration (GSA) meals and incidental expenses (M&IE) per diem rates.” The phrase “herein referred to as M&IE (Meals and Incidental Expense rate)” was removed as it is inconsistent with the remainder of the policy.
28. April 3, 2024
- SECTION VIII. BOARD MEETINGS amended. (Motion April 3, 2024). Note: Corrections were made throughout the document to change “Board monthly Teleconferences” to “Board Meetings with the Fellowship.”
29. May 22, 2024
- SECTION III.J Board Nominating Committee, SECTION III. K Board Qualifications, and APPENDIX IV - NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Motion 2024_05_10)
30. July 8, 2024 – NOTE: many of the changes going forward are part of reorganizing the flow of the OPPM into more logical sections and combining redundancies.
- Changed SECTION I. to INTRODUCTION. Moved the following previous sections under this new section as sub-sections: SECTION I. PURPOSE OF ACA WSO, SECTION II. BRIEF HISTORY, SECTION XIII. ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION, SECTION XIV. BYLAWS, and SECTION XV. ACA WSO OPERATING POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL. Former APPENDIX III. OPPM DEVELOPMENT was moved into this last new sub-section.
 - Moved SECTION VIII. BOARD MEETINGS to be a subsection under SECTION II. WSO BOARD OF TRUSTEES.
 - Moved original SECTION XVII. LOGO and XVIII. LEGAL to new SECTION V. LEGAL/INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.
 - Moved SECTION XI. WSO OFFICE after VI. FISCAL POLICIES to become new SECTION VII.
 - Amended SECTION VII.D Records Management and Retention Policy and added new APPENDIX III. Records Retention Schedule (Motion 2024-05-02)
 - SECTION XXI. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY revised and moved after WSO OFFICE

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to become new SECTION VIII.

- Subsections of SECTION XII. ACA WSO LITERATURE that apply to Publishing were moved to new SECTION XIII. ACA WSO PUBLISHING.
- SECTION XVI. ACA WSO COMLINE was added as a subsection of SECTION XII. ACA WSO LITERATURE
- A link to the Articles of Incorporation was added to APPENDIX VI, which is now labeled ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS. The actual ByLaws were removed and a link added to the most recent copy on the WSO website.
- APPENDIX VII – the Steps, Traditions and Concepts are now available via links to them on the WSO website.

Chart of Reorganization of Sections

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

31. Sept. 4, 2024

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

32. Nov. 22, 2024

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

35. January 21, 2025

- Added the new Board Meetings Recording Policy to SECTION II: WSO Board of Trustees, new subsection Q: Board Meetings Recording Policy (Motion 2024-12-01).
- Added a new section called SECTION IV: GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND AGREEMENTS
 - Moved the following policies and agreements to this section:
 - A. Archives Collection Policy - from Section VI. ACA WSO OFFICE, previously subsection G.
 - B. Conflict of Interest Policy - referenced in various sections of the OPPM and in Appendix VIII.
 - C. Communication Platforms User Agreement - from Section VIII. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, previously subsection C.
 - D. Non-Disclosure Agreement - referenced in various sections of the OPPM and added a copy of the agreement as Appendix XIV.
 - E. Records Retention and Destruction Policy - from Section VI. ACA WSO OFFICE, previously subsection D.
 - F. Policy on Reporting and Investigating Allegations of Suspected Improper Activities (a.k.a Whistleblower Policy) - previously Section VII.

36. April 15, 2025

- As per Motion 2025-03-01:
 - Added new section: IX. CONFLICT AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION (formerly Placing Issues Before the Board). This new section consolidates all conflict and dispute resolution information into one section for easy reference. The new content in this section is the addition of: *Communication Platform Concern Process* and *Concerns for Board Fitness Input*.
 - Updated APPENDIX I — RIGHT TO PETITION to align with quarterly Board

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- Meetings with the Fellowship in place of monthly TC's.
- Updated APPENDIX XII – COMPLAINT PROCESS (simplified the procedure as written) and changed the title to STANDARD COMPLAINT PROCEDURES.
- As per Motion 2025-03-04
 - Added new section X. SERVICE STRUCTURE AND GROUP REGISTRATION
 - (Note: Group registration subsection moved from WSO Office Section)
 - Removed references to FPE CC in Appendix II: Region Certification.
- Clean Up of Title Page by removing:
 - *Includes the Corporate ByLaws*
 - *Note: Revisions to this document made since the October 2012 update are either footnoted or are referenced in the Change Log at the end of this document.*
 - *Board of Trustees*
 - And added “& Dysfunctional Families” to the title of organization.
- Updated Section IV. FISCAL POLICIES (Motion 2025-04-01)

37. September 6, 2025

- Added “Cost Allocation Policy” to SECTION VI: FISCAL POLICIES under H. Accounting Policies (Motion 2025-06-01) including a link to the full policy posted on the WSO website.
- On June 12, 2025, the main WSO policies and agreements were posted on the WSO (blue) website so they were more easily accessible to the fellowship. In addition, instead of maintaining two copies of these policies/agreements - one on the website and one in the OPPM, a decision was made to remove the full copies from the OPPM and replace them with links to the full policies/agreements posted on the WSO website. Therefore, the following changes were made:
 - Under Section IV. GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND AGREEMENTS:
 - Under A. **Archives Collection Policy** - removed full policy and added a link to the full policy on the WSO website.
 - Under B. **Conflict of Interest Policy** - removed a link to an Appendix with full policy and added a link to the full policy posted on the WSO website. As a result Appendix VIII: Conflict of Interest Policy was removed.
 - Under C. **Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA)** - removed link to the Appendix with full agreement and added a link to the full agreement posted on the WSO website. As a result Appendix XIV - Non-Disclosure Agreement was removed.
 - Under E. **Records Management and Retention Policy** - removed link to an Appendix with Records Retention Schedule and added a link to the full policy and retention schedule posted on the WSO website. As a result Appendix III: Records Retention Schedule.
 - Under F: **Policy on Reporting and Investigating Allegations of Suspected Improper Activities (a.k.a Whistleblower Policy)** - removed the full policy and added a link to the full policy posted on the WSO website.
 - Under Section VI: FISCAL POLICIES:
 - Under I. **ACA WSO Prudent Reserve Policy** - removed the full policy and added a link to the full policy posted on the WSO website.
 - Under J. **Compensation Policy** - removed a link to an Appendix with full

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- policy and added a link to the full policy posted on the WSO website. As a result, Appendix XIII – Compensation Policy was removed.
- Based on the above referenced changes to appendices, the revised numbering of appendices is as follows:
 - APPENDIX III – NOMINATING COMMITTEE (was IV)
 - APPENDIX IV – HISTORICAL DATES AND EVENTS (was V)
 - APPENDIX V- ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS (was VI)
 - APPENDIX VI- ACA 12 STEPS; 12 TRADITIONS; 12 CONCEPTS (was VII)
 - APPENDIX VII – TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY (was IX)
 - APPENDIX VIII – ABC and QDM VOTING RULES (was X)
 - APPENDIX IX – BOARD NORMS OF CONDUCT (was XI)
 - APPENDIX X – COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (was XII).
 - Renamed **Section VII. Office** to “**Operations and Management**” and updated this section (Motion 2025-08-04).
 - **NOTE:** As of August 2024, the Board of Trustees made a verbal commitment not to make any changes to the Conference Section and Voting Rules Appendix without delegate approval. Then in 2025, this was formalized by a motion- see: ABC_2025_11.
 - Separated Section XIV. EVENTS: ANNUAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE (ABC) and ACA WORLD CONVENTION (AWC) into two sections:
 - **XIV. ACA WORLD CONVENTION (AWC)**
 - **XV. ANNUAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE (ABC) and CONFERENCE BUSINESS MEETINGS (CBM)**
 - Note: CBM was added as per motion ABC 2025-03.
 - Added the following motions under **Section XV. ANNUAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE (ABC) and CONFERENCE BUSINESS MEETINGS (CBM)/ABC Purpose and History:**
 - ABC-2022-03
 - ABC-2022-04
 - ABC-2024-06
 - QDM-2024-10
 - ABC 2025-03
 - ABC 2025-04
 - Removed QDM sub-section and changed all references to “QDM” to “CBM” including in **APPENDIX VIII – ABC and CBM QDM VOTING RULES** (Motion ABC 2025-03).
38. November 5, 2025
- Updated Section XIV. **ACA WORLD CONVENTION (AWC)** (Motion 2025-10-03)
 - Added F. under **Section X. SERVICE STRUCTURE AND GROUP REGISTRATION/B. Meeting Registration/1. Group Registration** - that allows an individual only to be the Public or one of the Primary Private Contacts for no more than four meeting registration numbers (Motion ABC-2025-07)
 - Added to **Section XVI. BALLOT PREPARATION COMMITTEE (BPC)** a sentence stating that changes to the Ballot process must be approved by the Delegates at the ABC or any Delegate Business Meeting (Motion ABC-2025-08).
 - Added to **Section VI. FISCAL POLICIES** the ACA Literature and Products Pricing Policy

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Statement (Motion ABC-2025-09).

- Updated **Section I. INTRODUCTION** (Motion 2025-10-05)

39. April 2, 2026

- Updated Subsections A & B in **Section II: BOARD OF TRUSTEES** (Motion 2026-01-01)
- Added two new subsections to **Section II: BOARD OF TRUSTEES** (Motion 2026-01-02)
 - R. Advisory Groups, Project Teams, and Implementation Teams
 - S. Professional Services
- Updated **Section XI: COMMITTEES**, subsection G. Reports and Notifications (Motion ABC_2025_11).
- Removed from **Section XI: COMMITTEES**, subsection J. Professional Advisory Groups (Motion 2026-01-02)
- Added in “Important Note” at the beginning of **Section XV: ANNUAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE (ABC) and CONFERENCE BUSINESS MEETINGS (CBM) Section and APPENDIX - ABC and CBM VOTING RULES** (Motion CBM_2025_03).
- Updated **Section XV: ANNUAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE (ABC) and CONFERENCE BUSINESS MEETINGS (CBM)** subsection E. Board Ratifications and **APPENDIX - ABC and CBM VOTING RULES** subsection Introduction and Announcement of Voting Results and Minority Opinion (Motion ABC_2025_12).
- Updated **ACA WSO Pre-Travel Authorization Form** under **APPENDIX VII – TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY** (2026_03_01).