

Quarterly Delegate Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2023
10:00 am - 2:00 pm ET

Meeting held via video conference/Zoom

I. Opening

A. Readings

- a. Serenity prayer
- b. Traditions 1-12
- c. Concept I & Concept II
- d. Diversity statement from 2019 ABC - "ACA is an inclusive organization and open to all affected by family dysfunction. We strive to create an atmosphere that reflects the diverse communities we serve and where everyone feels empowered to be their full, authentic selves."

B. Introductions - Liz C., ABC/AWC Committee Chair

- a. Secretary - Brad H. and Assistant to Secretary - Trish I.
- b. Time-keeper - Edmundas
- c. Point of information – Erin D. and Sue V.
- d. Point of Order - Marcus H.
- e. Parliamentarian: Lawrence C
- f. Tech team - Brad L, Mary Jo and Marcin

C. Tech information

- a. Practice Election buddy vote
- b. Chat guidelines
- a. Start recording.

II. Procedural Votes

A. Quorum is established at 66 delegates.

B. Agenda Review - Delegates vote to approve the agenda.

- a. Note: Topics for this agenda were taken from the survey following the 2022 ABC and November QDM.
- b. Agenda approved with 90% of the vote affirmative via Election Buddy.
 - i. Minority opinion:
 - Point of Order - I understand from Robert's Rules that items can be added to the agenda.
 - Parliamentarian - We are not using the standard order on Roberts Rules of Order - due to the time restraints we are using modified rules for the ABC/QDM to ensure courtesy is given to all to promote the orderly exchange of ideas.
 - I did not receive an agenda and there was none posted on the screen so I did not vote on it.
 - It was posted on Slack, the website and sent by email.

- The process for how delegates get items on this agenda is a survey that goes out after each ABC and QDM to elicit topics for upcoming agendas.
 - No further minority opinions.
- C. Minority Opinion for the motion passed by online voting following the November 12th Quarterly Meeting.
- a. The motion stated: To set the following voluntary guidelines for 7th Tradition contributions by groups, Intergroups and Regions that have surpluses beyond a prudent reserve effective November 13, 2022 and provided the delegates to the quarterly business meeting concur with the motion.
 - i. For Group Meetings that have an Intergroup and Region: 50% (of contribution) for the IG, 25% for the Region and 25% for WSO
 - ii. For Group Meetings that have an Intergroup but not a Region: 50% for the IG, 50% for WSO
 - iii. For Group Meetings that do not have either a IG or a Region: Entire contribution to WSO
 - iv. For Intergroups that have a Region: 50% for the Region, 50% for WSO
 - v. For Intergroups that do not have a Region: Entire contribution to WSO
 - vi. For Regions: Entire contribution to WSO

The results of the vote were:

 - Votes tallied: 72
 - Abstentions: 4
 - The motion past with 88.9% of the vote
 - b. Minority Opinion:
 - When I shared this motion with my group we were new and did not know if we had an intergroup and since this vote we are now supporting it.
 - There was no forewarning that this motion was going to be on the agenda. It seemed rushed so I could not vote for it.
 - There were no further minority opinions
 - c. There was a “hand” vote and fewer than 40 percent of the delegates requested a revote so the original vote is final.

B. 7th tradition Sustainability Discussion

- a. Treasurer - Finance Committee message summary:
 - We sent out a special appeal message to the contact person for each registered ACA group and Intergroups asking for increased seventh tradition donations, and the Finance Committee is pleased to report that donations for the first half of February have increased significantly as a result. We express our deep appreciation to all those individuals, members, groups, intergroups and regions that have responded so quickly.
 - If this increased level of donation is sustained over the following months, it will make a substantial difference in our ability to continue adding literature in native languages, for ASA members and groups in other nations and to allow WSO to expand its services to the fellowship. We are encouraging donors to

consider selecting recurring monthly donations to support WSO. Each of us is equal in responsibility for contributing to WSO.

- There are often obstacles to collecting contributions from members, especially for online meetings, as we learn from groups about ways they have found to overcome those obstacles, we will pass their experience onto every group. We are also working on an update.
 - We are your partners in fulfilling our joint primary purpose of carrying the ACA message of recovery to adult children who still suffer, and we really thank you all for supporting the growth of ACA.
- b. A delegate shared their experience with difficulty getting donations in their group and the challenges of giving donations digitally and suggested that there is somewhere to share difficulties and solutions for making donations.
- c. Volunteer Resources Presentation on “Consider Service” and how to serve as a Volunteer now – Jim R., CoChair of Volunteer Resources Committee

- Here is a link to the presentation
[Volunteer Res. Committee Presentation.pdf](#)

Summary of Delegate Discussion on this Topic

- I find that I contribute when I hear what I will get out of it - emotional, psychological benefits - rather than hearing that the organization needs this.
- Can I get a copy of the presentation to share with my group? Also, I suggest collating what you will get out of volunteering such as e.g. getting to know people, and this will help - people want to know. In my group there is no concept of the broader structure.
- I have been part of an online meeting for 12 years, 7th tradition is announced at each meeting. For those who do not want to deal with electronics, there needs to be a way for people to write a check. Also, if there are so many organizations out there these days asking repeatedly for money so to express it in a way that is not such a grand push is a little more appealing.
- I have been a delegate for the last four meetings and I find being part of a committee helps me to be informed about what is happening so I can share with my group and advocate.
- I give service by driving around to see if meetings are back in person and letting WSO know.
- Challenges in service are not unique to ACA WSO and are across other programs. However volunteering is weaker in ACA so we need to look at prioritization based on what we have which we can do at the ABC.
- We have a blog called “ComLine” and we are asking those who offer service to write one paragraph about what service has done for me. I suggest we use ComLine as part of our outreach for volunteers.
- Our home group takes two minutes for silent meditation or to make digital donations and we have seen a significant increase in giving back.
- I share that I have experienced that service exponentially supports my recovery.

C. ABC and Quarterly Meeting Guidance

a. Request delegate approval of a proposed 2023 delegate meeting calendar:

- QDM: Aug. 5 (4 hours)
- QDM: Nov. 4 (4 hours)

Future ABC - QBC Dates

Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families

February 18, 2023 at 11:16am – February 18, 2023 at 11:17am

(GMT-05:00) EASTERN TIME (US & CANADA)

Completed

57 ballots submitted of 192 eligible voters (6 opened) – 30%
0 notices queued

Do you accept these dates for the 2023 ABC and QBCs PLURALITY

Yes	50 votes 92.59%
No	4 votes 7.41%
Yes wins with 92.59% of the vote.	
54 votes tallied and 3 abstentions	

- Vote above approved with 92% affirmative.
- Can we hone in on one name for this meeting?
 - Yes, going forward it is Quarterly Delegates Meeting (QDM).
- Shouldn't there be discussion before a vote is taken?
 - Yes, I propose going forward we have discussion before a vote.
 - There was not a motion put forward and seconded so I took this vote as a poll.

Minority Opinion

- Doing this four times a year is crazy - we need to slow down so we do not get burned out.
- When we voted to have quarterly meetings I thought it was to finish the 2022 ABC - not to have them ongoing.

b. ABC/AWC Chair

- ABC will be on May 6 and 7, 2023.
- The study subcommittee is looking into planning strategies for future Annual Business Conferences. Meanwhile, the ABC AWC Committee is planning delegate events for 2023 and would like delegate guidance on possible interim procedures. These topics include:
 - a. After reviewing feedback from the post-2022 ABC survey, the ABC AWC Committee suggests limiting the time for ballot proposal discussion to a maximum of three hours per day, or two to three proposals per day. If more than six proposals meet the 66.7% threshold, those proposals would be moved to future quarterly meetings.

- b. Possible changes in how to select Conference chairs and other ABC/QDM officers
- c. Possible changes for adding “new business” or floor proposals to ABC/QDM agendas
- d. Possible adjustments to the minority opinion process.

C. ABC/AWC Study Chair Update Jim R.

- See presentation at: [ABC_AWC Study Update - Jim R..pdf](#)

Discussion Points

- I am glad that the conference charter is a ballot proposal and support that it is not folded into the ABC study.
- I think the study already has permission to do a charter if they think it necessary.
- I do not support a charter at all.
- I support that the Study expands one year. I do not think the motion passed last year included a charter.

No polls or votes were taken at the end of this discussion.

BREAK

D. Report and Discussion: Literature and inclusive language

- a. Topic introduced by Christine B, Literature Committee Chair

Presentation - See: [ACA Delegate Mtg.- Spiritual inclusion.pptx.pdf](#)

Discussion Points

- I do like those working definitions and was surprised at how well they were worded. Now I have some concerns and that is the language is gender biased too.
 - I do not see anything in there about a higher power or God, and if that's the point, I object to that since it is not inclusive.
 - I was wondering if you'd thought about a discussion guide or a worksheet that we could actually take back to our groups and try to find some group conscience that we could take back. I think it might be more meaningful than me telling you all my preferences around language because I know I'm the huge minority.
 - Thank you, we will make this Powerpoint presentation available on the Literature Committee webpage.
 - For me terms like “spirit” and “wisdom” can be “othering” - referencing something outside of oneself - in many ways, and so you want to be cautious about the language.
 - It is offensive to me that I have to have this faith in God to recover.
- b. Representative from Literature Evaluation subcommittee

Question: What suggestions do you have for evaluation of literature for spiritual inclusivity? Response points:

 - They can be presented similar to an emotions wheel so people can define their own spirituality since it is undefinable. Do it your way and trust your inner self.
 - We all have different levels of experience of this and I'm not sure that at some

levels we totally understand what will really guide us through this path. .

- My spirituality is wholly connected to my racial inclusion - so need for racial inclusivity as different from ethnic - to invite BIPOC people to be included.
 - It is scary as an ACA to have language that is “all nice - lovey-dovey.” Anger is rarely discussed in spiritual communities. I embrace those dark areas on my recovery and I would like to see some language rather than all about love.
 - I think everything is already built into the Traditions and it is dangerous to try to define something that is already included in our program - sometimes ambiguity is better as it allows growth.
 - You need to encourage people to experience spirituality rather than define it. I suggest in future Quarterly meetings we do breakout rooms on these topics that are being worked on by a committee.
 - Some people push back and say, “don't take God out of my program.” I say nobody is taking God away. We want to be all inclusive and we want to have neutral language so everyone feels welcome.
 - We need literature to expand more on the emotions and we would like to have more about spirituality.
 - My home group wanted to know if it has to be a spiritual inclusion, can it be recovery inclusion?
 - When writing literature, inclusivity is very important yet it is difficult to write the 12 steps without it. In the original 12 steps they wrote “God as you know God.”
 - Since the pandemic many minorities have found ACA so we need to be inclusive of those who have a “higher power” that is different from ours.
 - I felt excluded from the opening vote since the color yellow was not in the opening ballot (in levity)- how can we possibly include everybody in everything we do?
 - What procedures and practices are in place so that any changes in language are not made by a majority vote of white people?
 - We are making a concerted effort to have readers that include the diversity of our fellowship. The revised *Loving Parent Guidebook* is out for fellowship review- we want to hear from you.
- c. Alexandra, Chair of Language Sub-committee gives a personal sharing regarding the ACA Diversity Statement
- d. Erin, Chair of Literature in Development gives a sharing regarding inclusivity.


Comments

- Many of us have deep seated feelings about spirituality and inclusion. The Loving Parent Guidebook made the decision to use “higher power” and explained it in the beginning of the book. The Connections book has made decisions to use some alternating choices and is under review. These are the things the Literature Committee are grappling with and we are evolving. [*Shows slide on how to get involved in this topic*].
- I could not tolerate being in another 12 step program since they referred to God as male. I appreciate this in ACA. For inclusivity, I encourage you to participate and do

service in the fellowship.

- Any dogmatism is away from the program and we need to be wary not to get lost in the weeds and get distracted from our program.
- I am saying that racial inclusivity must be in the literature - it is part of spirituality.
- My spirituality requires a non-hierarchical approach.


E. Updates and info on study groups formed from 2022 ABC Motions

- a. Concept II & VI study- Charlie H.
 - See:  Concepts 2&6 Study Report at 2.18.23 QDM.pdf
- b. Data Analysis committee – Brian, Chair
 - We produced the ABC survey and the QDM survey. We are also supporting other committees and study groups to assist with consulting on surveys. Also looking at privacy in regards to surveys.
- c. Name Change Study – Brad L, Chair
 - We are evaluating all the costs including copyright and legal fees to do this. We are working on a survey to send out to you with broad questions and to gather your suggestions on this topic. We will be doing a Town Hall. We expect to be completed by 2024 ABC and will present the survey results at the 2023 ABC.
- d. ABC/AWC study - Jim R., Chair
 - There is a report on the Delegate channel on Slack on what we are doing that you can read.

Comments

- I would like to make a motion for the conference to discuss the two items that Jim R. raised earlier since he was asking for input - that we take a vote on them right here today as the conference.
 - Parliamentarian - We need to determine if the body chooses to look at a motion we need to set a quorum.
 - Chair - Do delegates think this is a time sensitive issue that we need to vote on now, if so, would you please raise your hands.
 - Results of hand vote: 10 delegates voted affirmative; 32 voted opposed; 13 abstained.
 - The Chair ruled the motion out of order as a result of the vote that it was not a time sensitive issue..

F. Social media Bill D.

See presentation at:  Social Media for 12 Step Programs V5.ppsx

Discussion Points

- I think it is a great idea. Yet I saw that it displays your email address so how do we keep our anonymity?
 - This was for presentation purposes. It will be the ACA logo. This will be for outreach purposes - no comments as phase one.
- I suggest that each person receives a chat to welcome them when they go on the Facebook page so they feel seen.
- I am a member on three ACA facebook and moderator for one where people can

share. They do have your last name. If ACA has a main Facebook page then maybe there can be subgroups for people to have discussions.

- I am concerned about privacy with Facebook and wanted to bring this up.
 - This will be an outreach Facebook presence - one way to share the message.
- I like the idea of having a central place where ACA reaches out to the world and having one direction which makes a lot of sense.
- I appreciate the quarterly meetings and feel more connected. What is Slack? I feel lost and frustrated since it is referred to a lot and we do not know what it is. When delegates are trained are they given information about this?
- The quarterly meetings are for business, like the ABC, so I think they are QBM. Also, if delegates cannot vote on things at a QBM, then it is premature to raise these topics.

G. Closing - thanks to delegates for time and service

- a. Future meetings: May 5/6 for the 2023 ABC; QDM Aug 5th, Nov 4th
- b. Serenity prayer