

THE ACA WSO ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT for NAME on DATE

Committee:
Name Study

Inception Date	Sunset Date
May 2022	

Chair / Vice Chair (<i>First name, Last Initial; State or Country</i>)		
Brad L. : Maryland, USA		
Members (<i>First name, Last Initial; State or Country</i>)		
Mardi M - Montana, USA	Daren C - California, USA	Eddy M - Minnesota, USA
Gretchen T - Florida, USA	Bryan R - New York, USA	Marcin C - Essex, UK
Dawn G - Connecticut, USA	Jim C - Pennsylvania, USA	

Statement of Purpose
To create an ad-hoc committee to explore changing the fellowship’s name, logo, acronym, and any other identifying marks to include dysfunctional families. This group would meet for a year and then report results during the 2023 ABC committee reports. If the work results in a recommendation, it will appear on the 2023 ABC agenda. (If not ready by the 2023 ABC, then the report and potential recommendation will appear on the 2024 ABC agenda.)

Bullet list of committee activities since the last ABC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Created and deployed two Name Study surveys. 6900+ responding to the first survey while 4000+ responded to the second survey. ● Creation of Survey Results Reports for both surveys ● Conducted two online town halls with about 100 people attending each ● Investigated time and costs related to a potential name change

Tasks Completed
All activities above completed

Detailed descriptions, as needed

Takeaways from the 1st Survey (Presented at the 2023 QDM)

[Complete 1st Survey Results](#)

1. How important to you is it to have a fellowship name that communicates inclusivity for adult children from all types of dysfunctional families? (0 Not important at all –5 Extremely Important)

- Total tabulated results 3.83 (On scale 1-5)

2. Did you delay entering the program due to the name?

- About ¼ delayed
- About ¾ did not delay

3. For those that delayed because of the name. What about the name delayed your entry?

- About 79% reported it was the word “alcoholics”
- About 9% reported it was the words “adult children”
- About 12% reported other

4. Do you know anyone (other than yourself) that delayed entering the program?

- About 1/3 yes
- About 2/3 no

5. Was alcoholism present in your family growing up?

- About 2/3 yes
- About 1/3 no

6. Do you think the fellowship name should be changed?

- About 40% yes
- About 22% no
- About 38% unsure

7. Would you be willing to remove the word alcoholics from the fellowship name to improve inclusivity?

- About 58% yes
- About 23% no
- About 19% unsure

8. Which of the following names best represents the fellowship to you? (rank order 1-6, weighted average, higher numbers in weighted average represent more support)

1. 4.71 - Adult Children of Dysfunctional Families (ACDF) or (ACD)
2. 4.38 - Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families (ACADF) or (ACAD)
3. 3.92 - Adult Children of Dysfunctional and Alcoholic Families (ACDAF) or (ACDA)
4. 2.84 - Recovery From Family Dysfunction

5. 2.76 - Adult Children of Dysfunctional Parenting (ACDP)
6. 2.39 - I prefer to keep Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACA)

9. Write in votes (top 3)

1. Adult Children Anonymous - 2.53% of all survey respondents
2. Adult Children of Alcoholic and Dysfunctional Families - 0.48% of all survey respondents
3. Adult Children - 0.39% of all survey respondents

Takeaways from the 2nd Survey

[Complete 2nd Survey Results](#)

1. The following list contains the 3 most popular names from the last survey. Which of the following names best represents the fellowship to you? (rank order 1-4, weighted average, higher numbers in weighted average represent more support). The preference of acronyms and corresponding percentage of support follows.

1. 2.90 - Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families
 - a. ACAD - 37.25%
 - b. ACADF - 32.57%
 - c. ACA - 30.18%
2. 2.82 - Adult Children of Dysfunctional Families
 - a. ACDF - 54.17%
 - b. ACD - 45.83%
3. 2.42 - Adult Children of Dysfunctional and Alcoholic Families
 - a. ACDA - 60.96%
 - b. ACDAF - 39.04%
4. 1.86 - Keep the existing name Adult Children of Alcoholics

2. Implementation of a new name might take 5 years or more. Changing the name will incur both legal and publishing costs. The cost of implementing a name change is estimated to be \$24,000 annually over the next 5 years, or \$120,000 total. This would require approximately 26% of the available funds not already allocated to such areas as the prudent reserve, international literature fund, or replenishment of inventory. Would this cost be acceptable to you to change the fellowship name to be more inclusive?

- 61.15 % - yes
- 38.85% no

3. The WSO has a prudent reserve as well as savings. If the cost of the name change exceeds WSO annual net income is it acceptable to you for WSO to fund any shortfall from savings?

- 61.53% - yes
- 38.47% - no

FAQ

Question:

1. Why was I not allowed to choose any other names other than the top 3 from the first survey when answering questions on the second survey?

Answer:

•1st Survey's Purpose – to collect and rank names proposed by the Fellowship and the Name Study Committee

1. Open name submissions: members can submit any name
2. Goal: collect and tabulate fellowship input on names

•2nd Survey's Purpose – To narrow down the top 3 choices from the fellowship on the 1st Survey to a single choice (and acronym) for the delegates at the ABC to consider.

1. It was not intended as a platform to propose additional choices or select "none of the above." Rather, it posed the question: Do you prefer any of the top fellowship choices or prefer to keep the existing name? As this is the exact question that the delegates will need to consider.
2. The 1st survey was like a fellowship meeting or a first group conscience where everyone's voice is heard; the 2nd survey was more akin to a business meeting, aiming to decide among the top choices determined by the first survey.
3. It is understandable that people wanted to continue to express their personal favorite name choices on the 2nd Survey, regardless of whether they were in the top 3 preferred by the fellowship on the 1st Survey. However, it was decided in collaboration with the Data Analysis Committee, that it is necessary to limit the choices when the goal is to get to a single choice that can be presented to the delegates to consider.

Question:

2. What about Adult Children Anonymous? Why was it not included on the 1st Survey?

Answer:

•Adult Children Anonymous was not included as a listed choice in the first survey because the purpose of the committee, as set out from the 2022 ABC delegates, was to communicate inclusion of dysfunctional families.

•The genesis of the name study was to address the problem that some adult children disqualified themselves after simply hearing the name because they came from a dysfunctional, but not a family with alcoholism. These adult children never made it to a meeting or the website where this notion might have been dispelled. Consequently, the study was undertaken to find a name that would communicate inclusion to someone from a

dysfunctional but not an alcoholic family by simply hearing the name without any further explanation.

- The committee discussed the Adult Children Anonymous name 4 times over an 8+ month period with different members present at each discussion and the group conscience always came to the same conclusion. The addition of anonymous indicates it is a 12 step program, but the removal of all other descriptive information that might explain what adult children are, does not communicate inclusion of those coming from dysfunctional families or alcoholic families. Consequently, the potential newcomer would need to understand the adult child concept or do research on what adult child means in this context in order to truly understand the Adult Children Anonymous name.

- It is understandable some very much wanted Adult Children Anonymous because it preserved the ACA acronym and assumed the newcomer can just do some research on what an "adult child" means. However, the potential newcomers that already disqualify themselves have shown they don't do research such as check the literature or go to the website. This is because adult children tend to be rigid thinkers and have been quickly disqualifying themselves their whole lives.

- The purpose of the name study was to find a name that would communicate this inclusion to the potential new member, because if they don't disqualify themselves by hearing the name, that gives them the best chance to take the next step on their road to recovery.

- Each group conscience concluded that Adult Children Anonymous did not address the newcomer disqualification problem (described previously) nor did it meet the purpose set by the delegates to communicate inclusion. Consequently, Adult Children Anonymous was not included on the surveys.

- We are a group of volunteers who gave our time to do our best on the name study. We know we cannot please everyone but did our best to follow the traditions and conduct and trust multiple group consciences that any fellowship member could participate in that came to the committee. That is why it was discussed so many times as new members to the committee brought it up.

- Adult Children Anonymous did receive some write in votes on the first survey, but they only amounted to 2.53% of all respondents.

Name Committee Recommendations and Motion for the 2024 ABC

- The Name study surveys have enjoyed an unprecedented response from the fellowship

- It is understandable that not everyone in the fellowship will get their first choice in names

- In this fellowship, we recover in community, and abide by the group conscience

Recommendation from the Name Study:

Delegates to decide whether to submit the following to all ACA registered groups for approval: to change the functional name of the fellowship to Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families (ACAD), the top choice by the fellowship from the name study surveys.

Motion: To submit to all ACA registered groups (meetings, intergroups, and regions) for approval, “to change the functional name of the fellowship to Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families (ACAD), the top choice by the fellowship from the name study surveys.”

Important Information: The functional name and/or acronym is intended to be used on WSO websites, literature, WSO signage, communications, and merchandise (recovery tokens, medallions, bookmarks, etc.). The legal name, Adult Children of Alcoholics World Service Organization, is not to be changed and is to be used wherever the legal name is required. Implementation to be determined by WSO. If motion received substantial unanimity by groups, (66% of voting groups approve) the implementation process of the new name and acronym will begin development.

Goals for the year ahead

Report survey results to the 2024 ABC.

WSO Website - Repository URL of meeting minutes / reports

<https://acawso.org/name-study/>

Committee Contact information

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