

Proposal 2024-3

Submitted by FL215, Ormond Beach, FL USA, CA1179, Encino, CA, USA, IA029, Davenport, IA, USA, VA092, Falls Church, VA, USA, PA076, Oaks, PA, USA

Yes: 79%; . No: 21%

Yes: 176; No: 47; No Opinion: 9

Issue: We propose that WSO develop an introductory guidebook (about 200 pages long) that focuses on the essential needs of ACA recovery, including for new ACA members, with a proposed publication date of no later than May 2027. This book would include a gentle framework for working ACA's 12 Steps, discuss how the Steps interact with reparenting, and contain shares and perspectives that reflect ACA's diverse global fellowship.

Background: Existing ACA literature is comprehensive, but the program's essence is scattered over four textbooks totaling more than 1,300 pages. It can be overwhelming for members (especially newcomers) trying to practice the program. Many leave without fully understanding ACA's healing message.

This proposal would create an introductory guidebook that can be understood by ACA members of all languages and cultures in their first two years of recovery. This book would use plain, gentle language. It would introduce the basics of ACA—steps, reparenting and essential

recovery skills like boundaries and connecting with others. Practical tools and exercises would aid the reader.

A similar project was promised multiple times at the Annual Business Conference, starting with the 2018 WSO chair report. But it was never put to a Conference vote, and this has caused confusion within the Literature Committee. Approving this ballot proposal would enable delegates to set a clear mandate and publication deadline for ACA world service.

ACA currently has only a trifold and pamphlet for newcomers. Two other projects that originated outside WSO (the Ready Set Go workshop and the New Hope Beginners meeting format) help newcomers in group settings. But these projects cannot replace an introductory guidebook, which all ACA members can use on their own or while working with fellow travelers.

A strong introductory guidebook could literally be lifesaving for ACA members of all languages, backgrounds, and levels of recovery experience. It also could empower sponsors/fellow travelers and therapists to carry the message to those who still suffer.

Resources/Implementation: Numerous volunteers have shown their willingness and ability to develop an introductory guidebook focusing on essential ACA recovery skills, and extensive materials are in development. If WSO commits itself to prioritizing an introductory guidebook, as we hope the Annual Business Conference will support, the proposed literature can be completed on an expedited basis.

There is no significant financial cost associated with developing a specialized introductory guidebook. In fact, such a resource would likely bring new revenue to ACA WSO while better serving the global fellowship.

WSO Analysis:

Response:

We have heard from the fellowship for many years that there is a need for a concise introductory book that includes the ACA Twelve Steps, reparenting, and tools that can be used in working an ACA program and have been working toward that goal.

Factors to consider:

- Such a book would make translation around the world significantly easier and has the opportunity to include more diverse shares and experiences from the lived experience of our fellowship.
- The Literature Committee is currently working on implementing a motion on revising the BRB that was passed at the 2021 ABC: "We move that a new literature subcommittee begin planning a revised edition of the Big Red Book, with new testimonials and updated content, to be more inclusive of all experience of gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion/spirituality, and a broader range of socio-economic and cultural backgrounds."
- Additional volunteers will be required for this project if passed, and timelines will be dependent on resources.
- There are some workbooks that are being used for newcomers such as "A New Hope" and "Ready Set Go." These books are scheduled to be published, however these do not provide the full scope this proposal is requesting.

Resources (for more background information) <https://acawso.org/bpc/>

Optional Comments: (Those that were greater than 50 words, per Ballot instructions, were truncated. Comments that only referred to a group's internal voting percentages were not included.)

- 1) This book would be very helpful to newcomers and should be discussed.
- 2) A purposed publication date of 2027? That alone is a bit demanding and filled with assumptions. A small version of ACA material? The BRB is all we need. Trifolds are very useful in simplifying the vast material in the BRB
- 3) We already have more than sufficient literature. It will be confusing to add an abbreviated version of the program. As it is, newer members are already ignoring the Red Book and Yellow Workbook in favour of only working the Reparenting Book. Prior to recovery, we love a quick fix! Enough literature already!

- 4) Our group is in favor of the WSO developing a specialized introductory guidebook for newcomers.
- 5) It is overwhelming to come in as a new comer and be presented with three different texts. Empower fellow travelers to carry the message to those who still suffer. If a new Big Red bk is proposal it would not cost extra to have the 12 promises done in present progressive.
- 6) Doesn't this exist already?
- 7) The Big Red Book is sufficient. We also would like a chair person training feature to be offered and online links to FREE BROCHURES such as the 25 questions.
- 8) No, the beginner's pamphlet is sufficient and 200 pages is too big.
- 9) Not now. Having another item to do when resources stretched thin. Concerned w/how it would get done. Group vote changed to yes, support. Mtgs focus on different books. As a newer member, it would be helpful to have. Minority: Groups behind this proposal have experienced members, lit committee members providing a synergy to get book done. Curious about why proposal includes date for publication? Having conference support for book beneficial.
- 10)it is already in process and a previous ABC has approved it.
- 11)We understand that such a guidebook is already in the pipeline.
- 12)Too much literature already. KEEP IT SIMPLE
- 13)New Hope is coming soon, it's a beginners book. We also understand a book Essentials was submitted and LitComm asked it to be edited. Follow process.
- 14)We really like the idea of this but feel we do not have the volunteers to make it happen now.
- 15)we all felt 200 pages does not count as an introductory document, that it is redundant and would cannibalize sales from other literature
- 16)Maybe something shorter to safeguard from overwhelm (50 pages). We have enough guidebooks. - Various feedback from members.
- 17)This would be great for newcomers!
- 18)The BRB can be overwhelming, and is not accessible to those with learning differences. There is also a significant need among newcomers. The minority found that we could simply update the BRB instead of adding new literature.
- 19)We felt the existing literature was enough.
- 20)200 pages still seems long. It might be helpful in places where meetings are sparse. It would probably duplicate a lot of the BRB.
- 21)We were also supportive of revising the BRB, as indicated in "Factors to Consider"
- 22)The ACA Fellowship ought to recognize that giving mandates and deadlines to WSO is futile if the Fellowship is not fully self-supporting with contributions of volunteer service.
- 23)We need a gentle introduction for new comers with loving language and the ACA essentials to help get them started. And, can stand alone.
- 24)Much needed
- 25)We believe a Guidebook on how to use and apply the Big Red Book would be a better idea

26) Isn't this the new hope guidebook?