

Conference Policy & Procedure

February 1st 2025

December QDM discussion of Conference policy & procedures

- The current policy and procedures that govern the conference are housed in a document known as the WSO OPPM which stands for Operating Policy and Procedures Manual.
- This document contains the operations for the board and the annual business conference.
- Currently per the bylaws changes to the WSO OPPM including conference policy can only be done by the board.
- Ultimately similar to other 12 step programs the conference should have a separate document for conference policy and procedures that is managed and operated by the conference itself.

Board Commitment

- Board stated that any changes to the conference policy and procedures sections of the WSO OPPM need Conference approval.

Breakout rooms were held at the December QDM asking the following questions:

- *Delegates have suggested that the Conference should be more delegate-driven, and the WSO Board is recommending that delegates should approve any changes to Conference procedure. Do you agree that the Conference should be consulted, and have the final say, before any changes are made to Conference policies and procedures?*
- *One possibility is removing Conference procedures from WSO's policy manual and creating a separate Conference Policy & Procedures Manual. Do you agree with this idea? And if so, what role should delegates play in maintaining and updating such a manual?*
- *Should any changes be implemented right away, or should the ABC/QDM?*

Notes from breakout room discussions

- Delegates want more ownership over the conference policy and procedures
- Delegates discussed various ways to take more ownership over the conference policy and procedures.
- Many delegates felt the conference policy and procedures should be a separate document from the WSO OPPM but this was NOT unanimous.

Notable comments from secretary notes from breakout rooms:

“Before we make big changes we need to focus on capacity and consideration of how many volunteers we have and coordinate all of that.”

“Form a conference committee at the February QDM and let them work out the details. Separate the documents and let the WSO committee and the conference committee work together on the details.”

“A separate document would just be duplicating work”

“There was overwhelming agreement that Conference should be consulted, and have the final say, before any changes are made to Conference policies and procedures.”

Summary:

Delegates want more ownership of conference
policy and procedures

So.....Where do we go from here?

Relevant motions passed by the Conference

Prior group conscience decisions have tasked the ABC study with studying and recommending changes to the conference.

- **ABC_2022_04: In Depth Study of ABC and AWC Structures created ABC committee to coordinate an in-depth and inclusive study regarding possible changes to the ABC and AWC.**
- **ABC_2023_03: To approve extending the ABC/AWC Study to provide recommendations without limitation, including:**
 - Drafting a charter for the conference, and
 - Recommendations for changes in other areas, depending on availability of adequate resources, and
 - Separating the AWC study from the ABC study, creating an additional study as resources permit, and
 - that the delegates will receive regular updates until the study is completed.
- **ABC_2024_05: Quarterly Delegate Meetings tasked ABC study to report to the 2025 ABC on an appropriate number of delegate meetings, strategies for maintaining volunteer support, and models to optimize the meetings' value and delegate experience.**

Past Conference decisions can be changed by motion – the Conference can change its mind.

Guiding principles

1. Any changes in Conference policy and procedures should be approved by the Conference
2. Any procedures should align with Traditions and Concepts.
3. Process to develop Conference policy and procedures should be transparent to the Conference as a whole.

Ownership <=> Participation

Authority <=> Responsibility

Greater Conference ownership of Conference Policy and Procedure raises lots of questions:

What does the Conference want?

How do *WE* (Conference + WSO + Fellowship) get there?

What is the *transition* plan?

Who develops that plan? (This is the question for today!)

Given already passed Conference motions, absent a passed alternative Conference motion, by default the ABC Study (currently via the Sustainability Study) will continue to study transition planning. We look forward to further Conference guidance in May 2025 and participation from within the Conference to achieve this transition.