

Welcome to Delegate Training

**February 2025 QDM
Updated 1/24/25**



ACA Serenity Prayer

Grant me the serenity,
to accept the people I cannot change,
the courage to change the one I can,
and the wisdom to know that one is me.

Introductions

- ❑ (Re)Naming Convention - Activity
 - The registered group number - ex. WEB0110
 - Your First Name, Last Initial
 - Your Location (optional)

example: WEB0120 Jim R, NY

Introductions

- Presenters (Host/Co-Hosts)
- Delegates (Participants)
- Please include the following when introducing yourself:
 - ✓ Where you are from
 - ✓ Have you attended an ACA ABC or QDM before? as a Delegate?

for training purposes, this session will be recorded

Today's Agenda

- 1) Delegate Preparation & Support
- 2) IT Issues
- 3) QDM Process
- 4) General Background (especially for new delegates)
- 5) QDM Agenda
- 6) Questions

Delegate Preparation

✓ **ACA Conference Website** - Main location for all Delegate information

<https://adultchildren.org/conference/>

- **Registration/Change of Delegates & Alternates:** First-time delegates must register by Jan. 27.
- **Observer Sign-Up** (Available at any time)
- **Essential Resources**
 - Resources for Next Meeting
 - Delegate Orientation
 - Archives
 - Other

Delegate Preparation

✓ACA Conference Website - Main location for all Delegate information

<https://adultchildren.org/conference/>

Brief Tour of Conference Website*

*Check regularly. Updates will occur between now and Feb. 1

Delegate Preparation

✓ **Email.** Watch for email updates, especially in the last 2-4 weeks. Examples:

- Updates from ABC/QDM Committee
- Zoom information
- Election Buddy Log-in
- Worldwide Online Voting link
- Slack.com:
 - [2024-2025 registered delegates](#)
 - locked channel

✓ **Pre-Meeting “Help Desk”:** Join Zoom link at 8:30 am. Process and tech questions will be answered.



Questions & Answers

IT Matters

- Zoom Overview
 - All registered delegates will receive a Zoom link
 - Reactions (raise hand, yes, no)
- Polling & voting/**Election Buddy Video**
- **If connection issues, try turning off video**

Participation Protocol

- Video is optional*
- Delegates are muted/Must be called on
- Communicate digitally, especially “raised hand”
- Chat function

* please turn your video off if you will be moving around; limit nonverbal “commenting” while someone is speaking



yes



go faster



no



go slower



Raise Hand

WHO TO CHAT - for ASSISTANCE

Point Of Order (POO)

If you think the process is not being followed

Point Of Information (POI)

Request for information for yourself or the delegation

Point Of Information, WSO (POI WSO)

Request for information from Board or Committee Chairs

Information Technology Help (IT)

for technical assistance

Point of Safety (POS)

if somebody's conduct (delegate or meeting servant) seems unsafe

Additional Tech Resources

- Contact IT staff
 - Message Marcin C or Brad L on Slack
 - Email ITmanager@acawso.org
- View Election Buddy video at <https://go.screenpal.com/watch/c3i3VwVZjOz>
Or under Delegate Orientation Tab on the Conference webpage <https://adultchildren.org/conference/>
- Come to pre-meeting “Help Desk” on Feb 1st. Tech team will open call at 8:30 am eastern US



Questions & Answers

The QDM Process

- ACA holds a two-day business meeting in May. There also are three Quarterly Delegate Meetings (QDMs), each lasting 4 hours.
- At QDMs, delegates provide input on emerging issues and may be asked to vote on time-sensitive matters.
- **The QDM process is one of group conscience discussion. It's spiritual, not political. We listen and reflect. Minority opinions are heard. All opinions matter—including yours.**

Group Safety & Personal Respect

The Delegate Handbook (the Binder), Pages 20 - 21:

- [Setting the Tone](#): on the conference page under delegate orientation
- Meditations to Read During a Pause



Questions & Answers

General Background: WSO & Conference

What is the World Service Organization?

Background on the Conference and ACA delegates

Commitments to Service

What Is the ACA World Service Organization (WSO)?

It is a not-for-profit service corporation (in CA) that:

- 1) Publishes books, other literature in many languages
- 2) Operates a website and meeting directory
- 3) Supports meetings, IGs, etc., upon request
- 4) Conducts an annual business meeting.

WSO is accountable to the Conference; it does not govern ACA groups or members.

Where do Delegates fit within the ACA Organization?



Meetings, Intergroups,
& Regions

Conference

WSO

General Delegate Information

- Delegates listen, provide input, vote, and in some cases, introduce motions. They should report back to the group they represent.
- Adhere to the Twelve Concepts for ACA World Service and the Twelve Traditions of ACA

Right of Decision: Delegates may vote their conscience, based on what they hear at ABCs and QDMs

4 Special Authorities of the Conference

- “Voice of the fellowship” (Concept 2)
- “Final decision on large matters of policy & finance” (Concept 6)
- Can issue directives to WSO
- Ratify trustees (WSO bylaws and policy manual)

Suggested Commitment to Service

ACA Suggested Commitment to Service from page 601 of the ACA Fellowship Text:

I perform service so that my program will be available for myself, and through those efforts, others may benefit. I will perform service and practice my recovery by:

1. Affirming that the true power of our program rests in the membership of the meetings and is expressed through our Higher Power and through group conscience.
2. Confirming that our process is one of inclusion and not exclusion; showing special sensitivity to the viewpoint of the minority in the process of formulating the group conscience so that any decision is reflective of the spirit of the group and not merely the vote of the majority.

3.Placing principles before personalities.

4.Keeping myself fit for service by working my recovery as a member of the program.

5.Striving to facilitate the sharing of experience, strength, and hope at all levels: meetings, Intergroups, Regional committees¹, service boards, and World Services.

6.Accepting the different forms and levels of service and allowing those around me to each function according to their own abilities.

¹Regions

7. Remaining willing to forgive myself and others for not performing perfectly.
8. Being willing to surrender the position in which I serve in the interest of unity and to provide the opportunity for others to serve; to avoid problems of money, property, and prestige; and to avoid losing my own recovery through the use of service to act out my old behavior, especially in taking care of others, controlling, rescuing, being a victim, etc.
9. Remembering I am a trusted servant; I do not govern.

Feb 1st Agenda Preview

Tour of Online Agenda

*The Feb 1st agenda is available at “Resources for Next Meeting,” at the Conference web page, <https://adultchildren.org/conference/>

Feb 1st Agenda Preview

Before QDM: Optional Help desk (30 min)

Session 1: Introduction (30 min)

Session 2: Board report (Q&A) (30 min)

Session 3: Minority opinion on fellowship group voting (vote) (20 min)

Session 4: Sustainability sub-sub committee (delegate input) (45 min)

Session 5: Conference policy & procedures (delegate input) (45 min)

Session 6: Concepts committee (informational) (15 min)

Session 7: ABC study-charter group (informational) (15 min)

Session 8: 2025 ABC (informational) (15 min)

Session 9: Closing (10 min)

After the QDM: Optional Open forum (45 min)

Board Report

- There will be discussion about the plan to increase book prices

Recommended to review before QDM: [Letter on 2025 Price Adjustment for ACA Literature.](#)

Fellowship Group Wide Voting

- Presentation of a motion to approve a process to conduct the vote for the Name Change decision
- Process can be used in the future for anything that needs requires fellowship wide approval such as charter, changes to foundational documents.
- Motion to approve a new proposed process for Fellowship Group Voting to carry out the approved ABC Motion 2024-06 (Name Study) *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.”*

The Proposed Process is that: Group votes to follow BPC format w/enhancements

1. Only Registered Groups have a vote
2. Voting period 12/09/24 to 04/09/25
3. Substantial unanimity (>67%) needed (Abstentions excluded from the Total Votes)
4. Record rationale/comments section along with the vote itself
5. Unique link provided for each registered group..
6. Have a landing page to explain the issues, including an FAQ information section.

Want more info: Go to [fellowship group vote webpage](#)

53 ballots submitted of 188 eligible voters (1 opened) – 28%

188 emails sent - 0 notices queued

Voters

Results

Graphed Results

Vote by Vote

Voter Audit

Admin Audit

Export Results 

To approve the new proposed process for Fellowship Group Voting (see below) starting with the approved ABC Motion 2024-06 (Name Study).

PLURALITY 53 votes tallied and 0 abstentions

Yes	42 votes 79.25%
No	11 votes 20.75%

Yes wins with 79.25% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.

Purpose of minority opinion.

- Concept V: Throughout our structure, a Right of Petition prevails, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of grievances will be carefully considered.

Guiding Principles

- Informed group conscience: The term “informed group conscience” implies that pertinent information has been studied and all views have been heard before the group votes. It implies a willingness to listen to minority opinions with an open mind.
- Right of appeal: “recognizes that minorities frequently can be right; that even when they are in error they still perform a most valuable service when they compel a thorough-going debate on important issues. The well-heard minority, therefore, is our chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority.”

Recommended documents to review: BRB pages 594, 601; [Commitment to service](#), [Concept V](#)

Minority opinion process

1. If there is no minority opinion on a vote, the result of the voting is final.
2. If there is a minority opinion,
 - a. Up to three members of the minority may seek to persuade the majority to reconsider their initial vote.
 - b. Each such minority voice will have up to one minute to speak.
 - c. 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:
 - a. 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 or ratification, the original 60% or more vote will be called into question. The original motion or ratification will be resubmitted to Worldwide Online Voting at the first opportunity along with an explanation that the Delegates requested a revote.
 - b. b. If fewer than 40% request a revote, the original vote is final.

Recommended documents to review: [OPPM Minority Opinion](#);

ABC sustainability study

The 2024 Conference authorized a fast-tracked study on how to make delegate meetings more sustainable. ABC study created the sustainability sub-sub committee to study this and create a report for the 2025 ABC.

This sub-sub committee will be asking delegates about the purpose of the conference, voting at the conference and length and frequency of the delegate meetings.

Purpose

group conscious of the fellowship

Oversight of WSO

Direction and priorities of word services

Question to consider: are there other purpose of the Conference as a service body or meeting?

Recommended documents to review: [Concepts I, II, VI, VII, XII](#), [ACA WSO bylaws article II section 3.3, article IX](#), OPPM section XII, [Roles and Purpose of the ABC and Delegates](#)

Voting

Historical votes taken at the QDM: vote of agreement for racial trauma group formed by ABC floor motion, Minority opinions from the ABC, Fellowship group voting process for to complete name study motion from the ABC.

Prior votes have related to spillover business from the ABC

Question to consider: Should there be voting at business meeting?

Length & frequency of QDM: currently 3 meetings, 4 hours each. Per IT and ABC committee this is NOT sustainable

Option: Increase resources

Option: Decrease meetings to 2, 6.5 hours each

Other Options: ?

Question to consider: How long and how many QDMs should there be per year? What resources to make that length and frequency sustainable?

Summary from Dec QDM breakout rooms and discussion

- 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 OPPM but this was NOT unanimous.

Relevant prior group conscience from 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: Extension of ABC/AWC Study extended scope of ABC committee to include Motion: To approve extending the ABC/AWC Study to provide recommendations without limitation, including: Recommendations for changes in other areas, depending on availability of adequate resources.

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.

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

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Questions to consider:

What do you want?

How do we get there?

What is the plan?

Who develops the plan?

Recommended documents to review: [Prior conference motions passed related to the conference](#)

Post QDM Open forum- Committees that will be present

Board

Concepts study

ABC committee including delegate engagement sub committee

ABC study including sustainability sub-sub committee

Hospital & institutions (H&I)

Safety resource committee

AWC planning

Archives/oral history

Member services Committee

Literature committee

Nominating committee

9 pm: slides 1-2 Carmen, 3-10 Kaz,
11-19 Marcus, 20-27 Charlie



Questions & Answers