

A stylized world map in a light blue color, centered on the Atlantic Ocean, serving as a background for the text.

# QUARTERLY DELEGATE MEETING

DEC. 7, 2024

## TOPIC:

*Location of and Authority & Responsibility for*

*Conference Policy and Procedures*

# What is the currently in place?

The Conference policies and procedures are in the Operating Policies and Procedures Manual (OPPM) of the ACA World Service Organization (WSO).

# Why could it be problematic for the OPPM to include policies about the ABC (Conference) ?

- The OPPM currently includes the internal operations of both WSO and the fellowship's Annual Business Conference (ABC, or the Conference). However, the Conference and WSO are related but separate service bodies - ***WSO is a service arm of the Conference.***
- The Delegates have clearly identified a desire for the Conference to be more Delegate-driven and Delegate-organized. WSO wishes to support the Conference in its journey to becoming more independent and self-organizing, in line with the 12 Concepts. It has been recognized that the Conference policies and procedures being part of the OPPM could be problematic along that journey, in that the OPPM is governed by the WSO Board, and ***for the Conference to truly be self-governing, the Conference would need governance of its own Policies and Procedures.***
- The Board recognizes that it is important to adjust things to be more in-line with the 12 Concepts. But first some questions need to be answered about the location and maintenance of the Conference policies and procedures - and ***what path to take to get there.***

# The Operating Policies and Procedures Manual (OPPM):

- Was accepted into use at the 1992 and 1995 Annual Business Conference.
- Contains the day to day operating guidelines by which the Board and Annual Business Conference functions.
- Updates/revisions to the OPPM currently are proposed by a WSO Committee/Group or a motion, approved by the Board, incorporated into the OPPM and posted on the WSO website. ([Status Report -Project to Update OPPM - Nov. 2024](#) )
- Updates/revisions of the ABC sections are not submitted to the Conference for approval

# The Operating Policies & Procedures Manual

- After the 2024 ABC, refinements to the ABC Voting procedures were proposed by the ABC Committee. Normally changes would have gone to the Board for approval and the OPPM would be amended. ***But the question of who should approve the ABC procedures was raised on the Board.***
- Therefore, the Board asked the ABC Committee to consult with the delegates about making changes to the OPPM as it relates to the Conference.

# The Operating Policies & Procedures Manual

**Is currently 95 pages with 13 Sections plus appendices:**

## **WSO Operations**

➤ **80 pages 11 Sections** contain WSO operational areas such as:

- Board of Trustees
- WSO Office and IT
- Publishing and Literature
- Committees
- Legal and Fiscal Policies
- Bringing Issues to the Board/Right to petition

# The Operating Policies & Procedures Manual

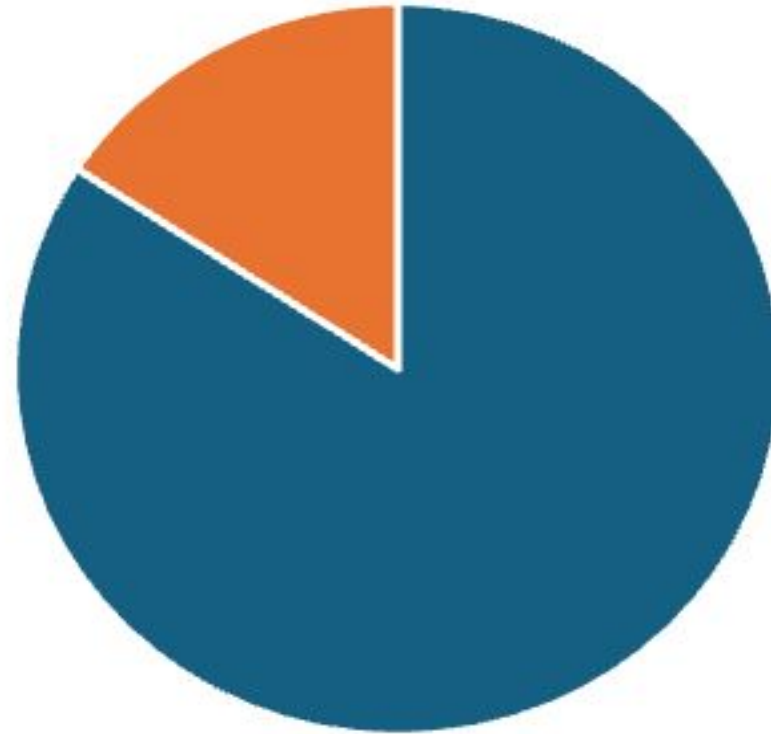
**Is currently 95 pages with 13 Sections plus appendices:**

## **ABC (Conference)**

- **15 pages with 2 Sections** and one Appendix contain Conference related info.
  - Annual Business Conference
  - Ballot Preparation Committee
  - Appendix with ABC/QDM Voting Rules

Reference: [Link to OPPM on website](#)

## OPPM Content ACAWSO vs conference



■ ACAWSO ■ conference



# Conference Policies and Procedures Discussion

## The Long-Term Solution:

There is a WSO-internal discussion that

- Ultimately, the solution is to separate out the Conference Policies and Procedures into a to-be-created independent document, similar to other 12 Steps.
- The WSO Board could manage the administration of a separate document with staff resources at the direction of the Conference.
- The Conference itself would hold authority and responsibility for the governance and maintenance of that new document.

# Conference Policies and Procedures Discussion

## The Short-Term Path:

How do we get “there” from “here”? Here are some options:

(A) Leave these Conference -related sections in the OPPM for now, with Board commitment to not change those Conference-related portions of the OPPMs without Conference approval?

(B) Move to a separate new document for Conference Policy and Procedures now?

(C) Something else we haven't thought of yet?

# Conference Policies & Procedures Discussion

- ❖ We are ***starting a discussion*** on how and who approves the Conference policies and procedures in a delegate driven Conference.
- ❖ There will be ***no vote*** at December QDM.
- ❖ We ask the delegates to bring this discussion to their groups and provide feedback to the February QDM.
- ❖ Do you think a vote at the 2025 ABC would allow reasonable time to adequately discuss?

# Questions

## First Question

As we evolve to a more delegate-driven Conference (ABC/QDM), how do the delegates want to approve changes to the Conference related sections of the OPPM?

## Follow Up Questions

How do we get “there” from “here”? Here are some options:

- (A) Leave these Conference-related sections in the OPPM for now, with Board commitment to not change these Conference-related sections without Conference approval?
- (B) Move these sections to a separate new document of Conference Policies and Procedures now? This could be developed with support.
- (C) Something else we haven't thought of yet?

Final Thoughts - We are at an exciting stage in our global fellowship journey- Gently does it...

