

# August 17 2024 QDM Agenda

## Quarterly Delegate Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2024

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM ET

Meeting held via video conference/Zoom

### Opening:

- Serenity Prayer [Link-Delegate Binder. p4](#)
- Diversity Statement
- Commitment to Service Reading

*Notice: Meeting is Recorded*

### Introductions

- WSO Co-Chair Introductions: Edmundas and Carmen
- Parliamentarian
- Timekeeper(s)
- Points of Information
- Points of Order
- Point of Safety

### Technology Briefing

- Introduce tech team
- Delegates rename themselves (group #, first name and last initial, location)
- Raised hands/reactions
- Tech help questions
- Website page
- Election Buddy polling: all Election Buddy polls will also be posted in chat so that they can be translated
- Worldwide online voting
- How to change language
- How to save chat transcript

### Setting the tone

Zoom etiquette

- [Safety protocol](#)
- Zoom etiquette
  - Minimize distractions
  - Neutral Zoom background
  - Renaming yourself

### Quorum Established at 54 Delegates

### Review Agenda

### Board Discussion with Delegates

Reference: [2024-08-17 QDM-Board-Update Report.pdf](#) & [Mid-year budget analysis](#)

- Sue V., Chair, gave a presentation including a mid-year budget update by Bill D., General Manager, see: [QDM-Board-Presentation](#)

### Q&A

- Q: Finance committee, are you looking for members and are members from the Fellowship welcome?

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- A: Yes, fellowship members are welcome. Please contact Tamara or Bill. Also the audit committee could use support.
  - Finance committee email - [finance@acawso.org](mailto:finance@acawso.org) and website - [Finance Committee | ACA WSO](#)
  - Audit committee email - [auditchair@adultchildren.org](mailto:auditchair@adultchildren.org) and website - [Audit Committee | ACA WSO](#)
- Q: Can someone explain the discrepancy between the number of delegates at the QDM quoted by Sue V and the number of delegates at Quorum.
- A: Delegates can register, but not everyone shows up.
- Q: The General Manager said there was a \$29,000 reduction in expenses and that there was no reduction of services, so why was that \$29,000 in the budget? To begin with, associated services with it?
- A: We planned to hire a supervisor for the warehouse, and we have one employee. Our shipments have increased by 20% this past year over what they used to be, and it is just one guy handling them. We were going to hire a supervisor if the revenue supported it, and unfortunately, the revenue did not. The 7th tradition was down a little bit compared to what we forecasted.
- Q: For delegates to be informed, it would be helpful to have all reports in advance in one place so people could come informed.
- A: We are operating at breakneck speed, and it was very important to bring the budget analysis to the August QDM. We aim to do everything in advance as we can, but sometimes, it just can't happen. Hopefully, we will improve in the future with more resources, and we want to make it easy for the delegates to find information. We are looking to centralize everything in one place.
- Q: Do we actually employ people on the payroll, do we keep people on a salary basis? And how is the board different from trustees?
- A: The board is all of the trustees and the trustees are individual ACA members that serve on the board. No board members are employees or take a salary.
- Q: In order to serve on the finance committee, does one have to be a delegate or just a member of the fellowship?
- A: You don't have to be a delegate, you can be a member of this fellowship at the meeting level and you don't need to have any finance experience.
- Link to 2023 Audit Report: <https://acawso.org/2024/04/29/2023-audit-info/>

### **Minority Opinion on Two Motions Passed at ABC** [Link](#)

#### International literature fund

- No minority opinions - Motion stands as approved.

#### Social media

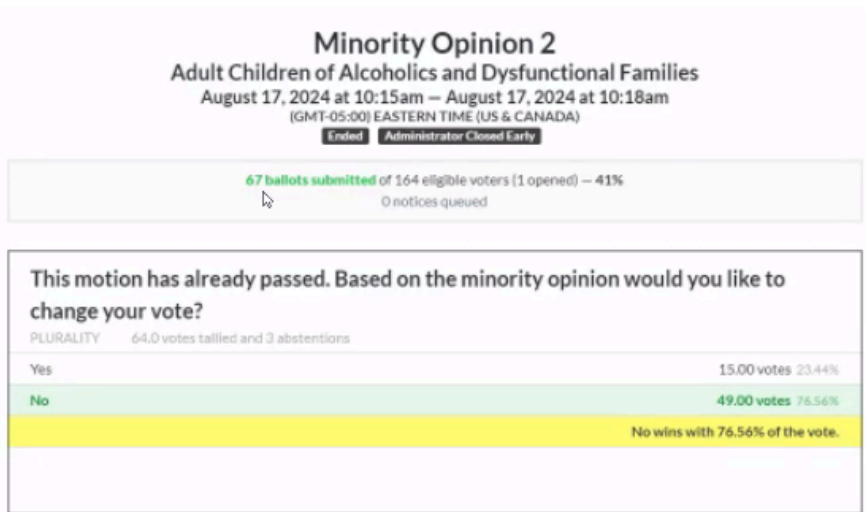
- I thought we were a program of attraction rather than promotion and does this social media presence go against this?
- Which social media in particular will be used and what guidelines will be enforced to make sure whatever we post stays within the guidelines of the program?
- What is the minority opinion? Who is the minority here?

#### Answers

- If people can't see us, they can't find us, so we use social media as a tool to make ourselves public and increase our visibility. We have looked at other 12 step programs and they're all using social media. So it's not about promotion, it's about attraction and visibility.

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- Regarding policies of using it, we set up strict guidelines in the pilot, about how we would monitor it and not allow some posts on some items and some platforms, but just allow likes and followers. To date there have been no negative comments that the moderator has had to respond to.
- We have a consultant who is doing some of the work here for us getting our page built and doing the moderation. We had a budget approved in 2023 to do that and put it in again for 2024 to have someone to manage the social media platforms.



**Voting to Election Buddy:** PASSED, will not go to a revote.

**Quorum established at 55 delegates**

**Introduction to breakout rooms**

**Breakout rooms** [Link](#)

These were the questions that participants in the breakout rooms were asked to answer:

- a) Are there ways to improve the ABC/QDM voting process (during delegate meetings)?
- b) What do delegates need in order to be informed and to be involved?
- c) How do delegates want us to develop topics for ABC/QDMs? Reference [Link](#)

**Breakout Room Notes:**

**Quorum established at 55 delegates**

**Breakout Room Reports**

- One person from each breakout room gave a short summary of their group's discussions. See:

[w](#) Aug. 17, 2024 QDM - Notes Sent to Secretary Email from Breakout Rooms ...

**Large Group Discussion about Breakout Room Topics**

Discussion:

- Regarding how do delegates want to develop topics for ABCs/QDMs that are submitted. The ones that get presented are those with the most votes, however marginalized committees represent a very small percentage so they will never be considered statistically significant and not be chosen topics. I would like to see factors such as inclusion and representation be valid reasons for presenting a certain topic.
- When presenting reports like financial reports, talk to me like I'm a 5 year old - keep it simple. Concerns about the voting process going against our spiritual unity - call out to delegates as we only have 2% at this moment to show the description of the service, the training, the observer opportunities to motivate people to be the delegate for their own group. And lastly, having motions at least one month ahead so I can represent my group's voice instead of my own.
- As we log into the delegate meeting, there is a welcome in the chat with a checklist so we aren't scrambling and can get organized for the meeting and have all the info available for the meeting
- Something that stuck out for me is that we don't use an international meeting format so people who aren't in the US are struggling with the format and how we conduct our business and we need to provide more support for the international community.
- We talked a lot about the survey and how few people fill it out at the end of the QDM. Maybe let new delegates know that they will be participating in a survey at the end of this meeting to bring about new topics forward so I would have time to go to my group. Also, maybe an email to new delegates directly about what will be happening and what the expectations are.
- I'd like to see more spiritual direction discussion as opposed to a very

business-oriented about the cost of taking the decisions that one does for recovery and the money will come if there is a good call collectively for us. For Recovery topics to come organically and a separate business section where we talk about monetary implications.

- Rather than links, sending out emails with full documentation prior to the conference, so everyone would have all the relevant information in front of them.
- I did appreciate the breakout room as it gave me the opportunity to reveal some of the fears about being on this meeting for the first time. Part of the process needs to be breaking down the social barriers within the meeting itself. When I see only certain people speaking to each other and not addressing the actual meeting, that causes a bit of confusion and separation for me. Something to keep in mind for the officers as you are speaking.
- Question: Did people find the breakout rooms to be valuable?
  - 50 delegates raised hands
- The ability to organize the delegates separate from WSO and not wait for WSO to do it as with this meeting. To be able to fund and receive funds independently such as in other organizations. Intergroups receive their own funds and organize independently and each group contributes not just to the main organization but to the intergroup so the delegates can vote for people and so not look at WSO paternally. I would like to hear what delegates think of this idea.
- Vote for full amount of time for this section which will extend the conference 15 minutes: 33 in favour, 20 opposed.
- Minority for opposition:
  - I appreciate efforts being made to keep things on track and I have another service commitment and unable to go over time
  - I am in Australia and its already 3am
  - I would like to respect the time and the agenda and have the extra 15 minutes after the session
- Revote to extend conference 15 minutes: 11 in favour, Rest not in favour.  
Conference not extended

#### Charlie Informal Polling Topics:

- I heard a lot about prioritizing advanced sharing of documents and simplifying topics. How many people generally think that is an idea that should be prioritized in conference planning: 38 in favour, none opposed.
- How many people generally agree with newcomer experience need for support be prioritized: 34 in favour.
- Informal ways for delegates to gather - is this something that should be prioritized? 39 in favour.

#### **Proposed Topics for Future QDM/ABCs**

1. Ask the conference (ABC/QDM) to discuss the role of Intergroups within the service structure of the fellowship.
2. How to make the Conference be more Delegate-driven and Delegate-organized?

3. I would like to see the 20% rule discussed and possibly changed to better consider all suggestions.
4. Delegate planned and presented ABCs and QDMs
5. Create a statement card that states in simple language a description of the service structure with stress on the fact that the power of our fellowship is within our groups/meetings.
6. Discuss using a more international meeting format.
7. General Consensus - Spiritual Principle of Unity opposed to a political system (Robert's Rules of order)
8. Formation of Conference Committees, specifically an Agenda Committee to work with the ABC Committee in the development of the agenda for each delegate meeting.
9. How to make QDMs and ABCs more accessible to non English as first language delegates.
10. Strengthen Sponsorship in ACA - fellow traveler idea is not working well
11. People give more service to more things since COVID, and they are stretched too tight
12. Seat Region Representatives onto the WSO Board without vetting by WSO - have already been vetted by their service board
13. On what opportunities for public information outreach are working well in different parts of the world
14. Discuss ways of getting the word out about what's happening at the WSO/ABC to the general membership/meetings
15. educational forum to understand the importance or impact when delegates self organize and how it works in other 12 step organizations

Election Buddy: Will Take the top 5 out of 15 options

The list below represents suggested topics for future Quarterly Delegate Meetings.

Please choose up to five topics.

PLURALITY – 5 VACANCIES 278.0 votes tallied and 0 abstentions

Ask the conference (ABC/QDM) to discuss the role of Intergroups within the service structure of the fellowship.	25.00 votes 8.99%
How to make the Conference be more Delegate-driven and Delegate-organized?	31.00 votes 11.15%
I would like to see the 20% rule discussed and possibly changed to better consider all suggestions.	11.00 votes 3.96%
Delegate planned and presented ABCs and QDMs	19.00 votes 6.83%
Create a statement card that states in simple language a description of the service structure with stress on the fact that the power of our fellowship is within our groups/meetings.	17.00 votes 6.12%
Discuss using a more international meeting format.	27.00 votes 9.71%
General Consensus - Spiritual Principle of Unity opposed to a political system (Robert's Rules of order)	19.00 votes 6.83%
Formation of Conference Committees, specifically an Agenda Committee to work with the ABC Committee in the development of the agenda for each delegate meeting.	14.00 votes 5.04%
How to make QDMs and ABCs more accessible to non English as first language delegates.	24.00 votes 8.63%
Strengthen Sponsorship in ACA - fellow traveler idea is not working well	14.00 votes 5.04%
People give more service to more things since COVID, and they are stretched too tight	3.00 votes 1.08%
Seat Region Representatives onto the WSO Board without vetting by WSO - have already been vetted by their service board	4.00 votes 1.44%
On what opportunities for public information outreach are working well in different parts of the world	13.00 votes 4.68%
Discuss ways of getting the word out about what's happening at the WSO /ABC to the general membership/meetingsChoice 1	30.00 votes 10.79%
Educational forum to understand the importance or impact when delegates self organize and how it works in other 12 step organizations	27.00 votes 9.71%
How to make the Conference be more Delegate-driven and Delegate-organized?, Discuss ways of getting the word out about what's happening at the WSO /ABC to the general membership/meetingsChoice 1, Educational forum to understand the importance or impact when delegates self organize and how it works in other 12 step organizations, Discuss using a more international meeting format., and Ask the conference (ABC/QDM) to discuss the role of Intergroups within the service structure of the fellowship. win with 11.15%, 10.79%, 9.71%, and 8.99% of the vote each.	

Electionbuddy - Second Poll - Ranking of top 5 choices, most important to least important:

**Conference Topics Ranked**  
**Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families**  
 August 17, 2024 at 1:00pm – August 17, 2024 at 1:03pm  
 (GMT-05:00) EASTERN TIME (US & CANADA)

Ended Administrator Closed Early

60 ballots submitted of 164 eligible voters (3 opened) – 37%  
 0 notices queued

The list below includes topics that received the greatest support in the previous poll.  
 Please rank them according to your personal preference.

PREFERENTIAL – 5 VACANCIES 60.00 ballots tallied and 0 abstentions

**Round 1**

Ask the conference (ABC/QDM) to discuss the role of Intergroups within the service structure of the fellowship.	7.00 votes 11.67%
How to make the Conference be more Delegate-driven and Delegate-organized?	22.00 votes 36.67%
Educational forum to understand the importance or impact when delegates self organize and how it works in other 12 step organizations	11.00 votes 18.33%
Discuss ways of getting the word out about what's happening at the WSO /ABC to the general membership	14.00 votes 23.33%
Discuss using a more international meeting format.	6.00 votes 10.00%

After round 1, Ask the conference (ABC/QDM) to discuss the role of Intergroups within the service structure of the fellowship., How to make the Conference be more Delegate-driven and Delegate-organized?, Educational forum to understand the importance or impact when delegates self organize and how it works in other 12 step organizations, Discuss ways of getting the word out about what's happening at the WSO /ABC to the general membership, and Discuss using a more international meeting format. were elected for reaching the quota of 0 votes each.

Do we want to have a Revote? As the results were weighted incorrectly: 22 hands for, 18 against. Will go to a revote.

Due to technical difficulties setting up the revote, it was sent to overnight voting.

**Closing**

- Survey
- Thank you to the volunteers

Serenity Prayer [Link-Delegate Binder. p4](#)

[NOTE: These minutes were approved at the 2025 ABC on May 17, 2025.]