



ACA WSO
Fellowship Group Vote
Process

Informational Sessions: Name e

(03/29-30/2025)

Purpose of this Session

We're here to provide information and answer questions about the voting process for the proposed new ACA name, which is “Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families (ACAD)”.

Our goal is to help group contacts share this information with their groups so they can make an informed decision.

We're not here to debate specific names or the approved motion. We are here to support groups in the new fellowship group voting process.

Fellowship Group Vote Process

STEPS - Are for **individual personal recovery**

TRADITIONS - Are for personal recovery and for members **when working together
in service**

CONCEPTS - Are for personal recovery and for groups working together
in world service

*The Twelve Concepts keep our world services and groups focused on carrying a consistent
ACA message,*

(BRB, page 615)

WHAT is a Fellowship Group Vote?

- ❖ This is a vote across all registered Meetings, Intergroups, and Regions that was initiated by a Conference (ABC) approved motion.
- ❖ As guided by Concept I: *The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for ACA world services should always reside in the collective conscience of whole fellowship.*

WHY do we need Fellowship Group Vote process?

- ◆ Delegates at the 2024 ABC recognized that the matter of changing the fellowship's name required fellowship-wide voting.
- ◆ This is because there are certain matters that may fundamentally impact the future of ACA and therefore will benefit from a comprehensive fellowship vote.
- ◆ ***The Name Change is just the first one.*** There may be other items that will need to go beyond the Conference and directly to the Fellowship for review/approval. For example, approval of a Conference Charter or any updates to "Foundational Documents" such as Traditions, Steps, and Concepts.

Fellowship Group Vote Process

The Board is responsible to follow through on motions passed by the delegates

Prior to December 2024, ACA had no approved process to conduct a fellowship vote so the Board worked with the ABC Committees, other 12 Step World Services & our delegates

All of us are working together to create a fellowship process, and this is the beginning of the journey

Dec 7 QDM Results for Process to Implement Fellowship Group Voting

The delegates at the Dec 7 Quarterly Delegate Meeting (QDM) approved the fellowship worldwide online group voting process:

79.25 % in favour (42 in favour out of 53 votes)

Quorum was met.

Feb 1 QDM minority opinion was heard and no re-vote was required

Approved Fellowship Group Voting Process

- The Conference (ABC) will direct the board when to conduct a Fellowship Group vote via approved motion.
- A dedicated webpage with information and instructions about a vote will be created and sent to all groups.
- Each Registered Groups has one vote - with a unique link for voting.
- Groups will be given a minimum of four months to vote.
- Each vote will include a section for groups to state their reasons for why they voted one way or another.
- Substantial unanimity (more than two-thirds) is needed for a vote to pass.
- The results of the vote will be posted within two weeks after the voting closes and also emailed out to all groups.
- The voting results and next steps will be added to the next ABC/QDM agenda.
- Revisions to this process can only be made with Conference approval.

ABC Motion 2024-66 (passed by 79%)

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.”

Current ABC Consideration of Names

- 2022 ABC Motion approving a study on exploring a “Name” change.
- 2024 ABC Motion approving a “Fellowship Group Vote” on an approved ABC Motion
- 2024 QDM Motion approving a process for the “Fellowship Group Vote”
- 2025 Fellowship Group Vote on “Name Change” planning starts
- 2025/2026 Results of voting is brought back to the delegates for review for next steps

Historical Use of Terms

- ◆ Website starts using “Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families” **in 1998**
- ◆ The “Big Red Book (BRB)” uses “Adult Children of Alcoholics / Dysfunctional Families” **in 2006**
- ◆ There have been proposals to change the fellowship name in other years
- ◆ “In the past, questions have arisen about the wording of our Fellowship name. There have been discussions with adding or removing words. BRB, page 645

Name Study Motion Background

2022 Motion approves a study to explore a “Name Change”

- ◆ **Surveys/Feedback: 2023 & 2024**
 - Two surveys and two town halls were conducted with the fellowship
 - Over 11,000 individual member responses, 67 countries, 10 languages

- ◆ **Vote: 2024 ABC determined a Fellowship Group Vote was required for a world group conscience of a change to the name of ACA**
 - Over 2,400 registered groups representing over 40,000 members, 68 countries, 30 languages

Fellowship Group Voting Website

Fellowship Group Voting: <https://adultchildren.org/fellowship-group-voting/>,

email: fgv@acawso.org

Fellowship Group Vote Process

Next Steps:

Recap of the approved fellowship group voting process at 2025 ABC

Q and A

Website for more information

<https://adultchildren.org/fellowship-group-voting/>