

ACA Quarterly Delegates Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2025, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET

OPTIONAL for delegates: Prior to QDM, the ABC committee members and IT were available to answer questions about IT, voting process or agenda

Opening:

- Serenity Prayer – [Link-Delegate Binder p4](#)
- Diversity Statement – [Link-Delegate Binder, p12](#)
- Commitment to Service Reading – [Link-DB, p10](#)

Notice: Meeting is Recorded

Co-Chair Introductions

Introductions

- Parliamentarian
- Timekeeper(s)
- Points of Information
- Points of Order
- Point of Order WSO
- Point of Safety

Technology Briefing - [Link-Delegate Binder, p14](#)

- Introduce tech team
- Raised hands/reactions
- Tech help questions
- Website page
- 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

Establish Quorum- Quorum established at 63 Delegates

Review Agenda

Board Presentation and Q&A

- Reference: [Board Report](#)
- Presentations: [Board Update](#), [Upcoming Book Price Changes](#)

Q&A

- Q: Concept 6 mentioned that the conference has final say on large matters of policy and finance. What happens with books that have been published that are now under fellowship review? What happens to that review? Are they then published at a whole other significant cost? Why not delay and ask for a policy to be approved by the conference?
- A: The trustees are faced with waiting with a projected \$71,000 deficit and that is what happened in 2022 and at that point they said to keep up with inflation. It is our full intention to bring pricing policy in the years ahead to the 2025 ABC.
- Q: I've tried to review the IRS statements and annual budgets and notice that the staff of the office, which I believe is eight people, has an annual budget of over \$600,000 and I'm confused as to how eight people could make that much money. It is also included somewhere that it's \$90,000 to pay for a bookkeeper and I think there may be other ways to balance the budget than increase the book prices. I would like to see the 2025 budget and salaries for the staff in office.
- A: We hired an HR firm and they have done a compensation analysis on all salaries including the general managers. We also asked them to look at percent payroll to ensure that we're looking at it from a sustainability perspective. The answer is that we are in line with other 12 step world services organizations of comparable sizes. The salaries of anyone making over \$100,000 is posted in the 990. We have privacy issues for individual employee salaries.
- Q: Has there been any consideration about incorporating into whatever policy moving forward that has an automatic mechanism in keeping up with inflation so time could be better spent as a conference? If there is something that could be put into a policy that says it will automatically keep up with inflation?
- A: Absolutely we are looking at that and we will put your remarks in the development of that policy.
- Q: I agree that for Concept 6 it would be appropriate for this to go in front of the conference and that could actually happen today. This could be a vote where we approve this proposal. I would make a motion right now that we approve this proposed increase.
- A: Firstly, I am in contact with all the 12 step WSO organizations and I don't know anyone that goes for pre-approval. Yes they post their budgets and as we have done with our audit reports at the conference and they do take questions, but there's no pre-approval of the budget that I'm aware of at this point.
- A: This would fall under a floor motion and at this time there is no process for a floor motion at a QDM. The current OPPM lists floor motions under a two-day conference. So the options are to present a floor-motion at the ABC to decrease the prices and another option is to appeal to the board or work with the WSO committee to bring a motion to the ABC.
- Q: Are there other things that we could sell from the shop? I've looked at other 12-step organizations and there's things like trifold racks and other things that support

the fellowship to give us more income stream other than raising the price of the books.

- A: We do look at other items to sell that are related to ACA and recovery. We haven't found an affordable wire rack in the quantity that we would order, but if we find an affordable one, we'll do it.
- Q: The only objection that was raised in our intergroup was regarding the \$3 price raise for the New Beginners Handbook which is a much smaller publication. We feel that \$3 is a lot for people who are just coming in and maybe only doing a \$2 price increase.
- A: We will take this under advisement, thank you.
- Q: I think it would be good to have a formal thing where it is tied to inflation and it would make sense to be built in. At the ABC it would be good to create a process to raise motions at the QDMs.
- Q: Will orders placed before March 1st, regardless when they are delivered, be honoured with current pricing? I want to make sure that it will be honoured?
- A: Absolutely, we will honour that.

Minority Opinion- on 12/7/24 QDM Motion on Fellowship Group Voting Process

Reference: [OPPM -minority opinion](#), [Motion](#), [webpage](#), [February powerpoint](#)

Minority Opinion-

- I thought we needed to take more time to make the decision for a fellowship wide process. I thought it might go to a committee or a working group for discussion. But at least it could come back to the 2025 ABC. In my home group when we have an important decision we take more than one discussion to do a group conscience on it. We usually take 2-3 business meetings to make those decisions.
- Trying to parse out the fellowship-wide voting with the name change is problematic and confusing enough to begin with. This was a board motion presented at the last QDM. I wonder why this didn't go to a ballot proposal for the 2025 ABC like all other groups. It seems like the process was sort of preempted by this particular motion and dropped at the last QDM. It seems rushed and we don't yet have a procedure for these motions and it should go on pause until the ABC.
- I had to vote "no" regardless of how I feel, because as we have heard there is no process established for presenting motions at the QDMs. Which means that there is not sufficient time for delegates to consider the motion at hand and discuss with their groups and come back with a well-informed group conscience about such an important decision. I would feel more comfortable making a decision about this at the ABC where we have established procedures.

Motion Presenter:

- The questions about the name study were an issue related to the process that was approved by the delegates that went forward for a fellowship-wide group. There was wide input on those, whether in the sustainability group or the ABC committee. This was not created in a vacuum. We presented the motion 55 days ago at the December 2025 QDM, and it was accepted by almost 80% of the delegates. We are trying to get the decision making process to our groups. We listened to the delegates and we listened to

the motion in May. We listened to the desire of the conference and we are trying to accomplish that. 80% of the delegates want to continue with the process. So when you want to deal with the charter, issues with our fundamental systems, we have guidelines to go by and we can get the greater consciousness of the fellowship involved. If people want to be involved in running the business, we welcome them. We are trying to get process approval to help move this forward and get the groups more involved.

Would any delegates like a re-vote based on the Information that was just heard? 11 delegates voted for a re-vote which did not meet the 40% threshold and **the motion stands**.

Break

Sustainability Subcommittee

Reference: [Relevant Motions](#)

Presentation [powerpoint](#)

Delegate feedback session

Part One of the Presentation:

- It looks like the ACA has become a bloated bureaucracy. I haven't heard anything about how we are intending to help the individual groups or help the suffering ACA. The exorbitant salaries and the overinflated budget and not talking about reducing spending and only about raising prices. I think it's important not to spend so much money and use the money to help the suffering ACA. This is the way it's worked over the years and a lot of people recovered. It seems like the bureaucracy is keeping the bureaucracy going.
- It's difficult to keep this positive and this is politics. People vote when they get upset. You only have 5% of the people showing up. I think it is time to just stop. I wonder how much this has to do with Zoom. There's always a shortage of volunteers, even at the local level.
- I don't think I will participate in these meetings if we don't vote about WSO business.
- I don't see anything about forming conference committees or anything directly related to helping the conference organize itself and take on its proper role. I don't see anything on providing better education to the groups and the intergroups and the regions about the proper function of the conference.
- A: The next segment of this presentation is all about conference procedure. So I think some of these questions you're raising will come up in the next segment.
- From participating in other 12 step programs, it is pretty disorganized from my experience with other 12 step groups. I want to say thank you to the group who did this study because I think it's important to note where things are going wrong because I feel there is a lot of chaos going on in the meetings. I think a structure that everyone can agree on to follow would be good and we can use the other 12 step programs as a guide. 11:02am
- I am thinking that having committees and subcommittees is a great way to make a lot of decisions. I think as an ACA, we have a hard time putting trust in and want to make these decisions directly. But when we have such a big group there's a bottleneck that makes it hard to get things done. Trying to find balance where people are represented and moving smoothly and making decisions is really difficult. I think part of that comes from how we feel about trusting people in power.

- I like this list of decision making functions ballot proposals. I do agree that we need to figure out a way to put the time-urgent delegate motions for floor motions in the QDMs. I also want to say that all of this stuff addresses what our role is as delegates as helping to provide the methodology by which we're going to help people. Confusion happens when we don't know what we're voting on and it's frustrating to hear people talk about something that isn't up for vote.

Part Two of the Presentation:

- The current process is unsustainable. In other 12-step programs the conference of delegates does not consider proposals that come directly from the groups. It should go through a vetting process where a conference committee vets all of those proposals before they go to the conference. And only those that truly affect ACA as a whole get to the conference agenda and delegate education takes place at intergroups and regions. There is no reason for the entire delegation to research what a committee can do and make recommendations to the delegates so they can make an informed decision.
- There should be division of responsibilities on carrying out the business meetings and not all under the WSO committees. This is not a new idea as there have been a few ballot proposals in the past two years that have requested delegate driven committees of the conference which are separate but work parallel with WSO and they did not pass. The current system isn't working. I was very confused when I heard that the QDMs are non-ABC meetings of the conference.
- A: QDMs are all business meetings of the conference.
- I have been serving at the conference level for 4 years now and every time I have made a suggestion how to improve and how to contribute to the improvement of the conference procedure. It just seems like another WSO committee was established which leads more to what another member called a bloated bureaucracy. I would suggest we go back to the by laws of ACA WSO and look at what the bylaws are suggesting and requiring for the conference and build on that.
- For me what contributes to burnout is a lack of efficacy. For example, when the QDM's are primarily reports and less opportunities for delegates to actually engage with each other, that has improved. The last QDM was fantastic. My participation is what makes it worthwhile for me here.
- Regarding participation in the Los Angeles area, we have three meetings that don't even want to register with WSO, they just want to be completely independent and I wonder if too much stress has been put on meetings being autonomous. There are many other meetings that I'm having trouble getting involved in an intergroup. They just want to order books and have their meetings and be left alone. I'm wondering if we are putting too much on top of the boat and it's going to flip because we don't have the resources. We need to go back to the meeting and membership levels to figure out why people don't want to participate.
- A: Regarding top-heavy, I think there are certain functions in world service that are best handled in a centralized fashion and other functions that might be handled in a decentralized fashion. This idea of the conference coming into its own and having conference committees might be better organized in a decentralized fashion and the centralized stuff may be better handled by WSO, in my personal opinion.
- A: I think the whole trend over the last two years with these studies and sometimes they

feel slow, has been to move in the direction of a true fellowship voice through the conference. I think all these efforts are moving in the right direction. What we are trying to do is make sure the conference is an inviting place that people want to come to and share their thinking, that we truly have a global group conscience.

- I feel the fundamental question on sustainability and the problem of service of the 7th tradition is that we're self-supporting through our own voluntary contributions. Participation will solve all of these problems. If we as delegates are participating, we can participate on every single one of these committees. If you want something on the agenda, come to the ABC committee. You can join the ABC committee or any of these committees and that is going to be what sustains this.
- It is all about participation. We have a board of trustees and all of our committees are short members. It is important to participate. You can't expect a few people to do everything and then criticize. It takes all of us. Also, when I got to vote for a QDM, it was to extend the meeting because we had so many proposals that we didn't have to discuss or vote on them all. So, for me, voting in the quarterly, it's like we haven't really fulfilled what we agreed to do.

Non-binding straw Poll for Committee instruction

- Question#1: Should there be voting at non-ABC meetings of the conference?
 - For (71) Opposed (4)
- Question #2: There should be new business at the QDMs/non ABCs?
 - For (55) Opposed (9)
- Question#3: Suggestion of one ABC + 2 non-ABCs at 6.5 hours/each for non-ABCs?
 - For (36) Opposed (21)

Conference Policy & Procedure: Greater Exercise of Delegate Authority

Reference: [ABC Motions in Relation to Changes in the Conference 2](#)

Presentation: [Conference Policy & Procedure: February 2025 QDM Presentation](#)

Delegate feedback session

- The following questions were asked from the presenters to the delegates:
 - **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!)**
- The work that is done in every political organization is done in committee work but not the full meeting of the congressional body. So I think the formation of a conference committee to study a transition plan would be the way to go. A conference-led conference committee to develop a current transition plan and present it to the conference for adoption.
- There are two ways to transition. One is to do an entire comprehensive plan and implement it. The other is to start a conference committee and let the conference and the delegates work with the model so they can create what is needed to stand up a conference committee and thereby stand up the entire conference.
- It sounds to me that we are getting into the minutiae. If anyone wants to do the work, they should just go ahead and do it, because I know not all ACAs have the capacity to

be volunteering on multiple levels. I think the plan should be developed by the sustainability committee as it already exists. If y'all want to transition that over to a conference committee vs. a WSO committee that sounds good too.

- I feel that there is a lot of minutiae and I want to bring back thoughts and share with my meeting and get the group conscience so I can share it with you. But I don't feel that the process as it is currently is set up that way.
- I am curious that the term conference committee has not come up in the presentation. I think it would be great if one of you could really explain what that means, that it's a group of delegates operating alongside the WSO, but not under the same organizational structure. A conference committee can start with 5 people just as a starting point.
- A: The conference committees are a thing in other fellowships. The basic idea is just like the WSO has its own committees, the conference itself can have its own set of committees. There can be corresponding committees from both the WSO and the Conference and they don't work in isolation and can interact with each other. Each has their own committee systems.
- I feel that the fellowship and delegates have spoken several times on this and that's what we are developing in the ABC study. Essentially they're a conference committee as far as the structures that we have right now to support it. We develop a separate conference committee and there's no structure for support of that at this point. That's part of what we are developing in the ABC and sustainability studies. Please come to these committees and we can develop procedures out of the existing situation.
- I want to remind everyone of Tradition 9. The conference has the ability if the vote is brought before the conference and there are volunteers stepping up to form a conference committee and the conference has the ability to establish such a committee with a very simple vote. It does not require any kind of overhaul or structural decision making ahead of time.
- I'm in favour of continuing the existing committees with keeping the goal in mind of creating conference committees in the future when we have more resources and more capacity and volunteers. Recruiting can be done during that time. Can we try to apply more recovery principles to our business meetings by removing the intense time pressure and the urgency factor. We can take our time to explore issues and maybe we are trying to do too much.
- It is very confusing to me as I joined a couple of committees to do some volunteer work and somehow these are all being downgraded. The so-called WSO committees are doing the work of the conference as most of the volunteers are delegates at the meeting today. It concerns me that we are talking about creating duplicate committees and will have conference and WSO committees that might work together.
- I am saying this out of frustration. It constantly seems like we are trying to reinvent the wheel. We will not have a perfect organization. Can we identify whatever the irreconcilable differences are and maybe deal with those.
- I'm hearing the frustration and what comes up for me is that there's like a heaviness in that we have to do this but there is no fun. Can we bring what is working for you in your group and expand within the WSO?
- I hear frustration. There are major things that need doing and we need to get through them and I feel after May, delegates will be able to start voting on things and start

resolving these issues. I'm looking forward to the discussion on committee structure in May. The kind of committees that we have now have to be accountable to the conference and they have to be transparent. I think the growth of the conference has been fantastic. We will make sure whatever we do is accountable to this body and will ultimately serve the fellowship.

- There is no friction between the conference committee and the WSO committees as they provide different functions in relationship in support of one another. For instance if you wanted to divide literature and it would be between the two committees as to who takes what on. For example the WSO has money and personnel so they could take on publishing and distribution while the conference committee can get input from the fellowship, evaluate the literature and make recommendations. You can split the load of work that is already stressing the WSO committee.
- Anything we can do to simplify and streamline the process will help.

Charter

- [Presentation](#)

Q&A

- A point of clarification is that the thing is one person, one role is not so much whether one person can represent multiple groups or a group and an intergroup. I believe that is already not possible today. We have delegates, board members, and paid staff, committee chairs that are considered different categories of possible voting membership. The idea that one person, one role is that you couldn't have one person both be a delegate and be on the board and then have a vote by both of those. Like one person, one vote.
- I'm not familiar whether or not the trustees or paid senior staff, are the trustees paid? I'm confused about the organizational structure on the WSO side.
- A: Trustees are not paid.
- I resigned from being chair of the subcommittee because progress was so slow and I decided that I was not the right person to lead that committee. Despite working on it for several months, we only completed preliminary work on two sections. At this rate it's going to take 2-3 years to develop a conference charter which I think is far too long. I think a conference committee would be helpful in completing this task in a timely manner.
- For context, the need for a conference charter was identified by the WSO service structure in 2017. Nothing happened between 2017-2022... A number of groups submitted a ballot proposal to create a conference committee to accomplish this, which did not make it onto the ABC agenda. The WSO took it on and incorporated it into the ABC study group which is huge progress. In eight years working on this WSO has not made any progress on this issue and I wonder if this would be more effectively addressed by a conference committee.
- First off, I was part of the report suggesting this in 2017. We really got back to it in 2023 and the conference authorized the committee that's working on it. Has it gone as fast as it should? No. We have recently changed our format and we are dealing with the fact that we don't have unanimous agreement on every point. So we have come up with a more effective way to see what each side thinks about specific questions. I believe you will get a much more meaningful report in May that will indicate this committee is moving at a much more rapid pace than we have been.
- A: Trustees at the moment do not vote, unless they are delegates appointed by a group or

intergroup. So the question is if we change who can vote? Delegates, staff, committee chairs then that raises the issue of whether you can vote with more than one position and the consensus is no.

- A: We have made a substantial amount of progress in the last year and a half. Is it slow? Yes, Do I wish it were faster? Yes.

Concepts

- [Presentation](#)

Q&A

- I want to comment on Concept 2 and the wording should have ACA groups actively delegate to the world service conference the authority. I would like to see some kind of summation of the report of the feedback so we know what people have said at the town halls.
- Could you comment on what the big idea is in the change to concept 2?
- A: The current concept reads that authority for the active maintenance of our world services is delegated to the actual voice, the effective conscience for our whole fellowship. So who is the actual voice? The conference of delegates, not the conference as an event, but the service body of the delegates. The groups delegate to the world service conference and get the authority to vote on the issues. The conference is the authority and they are representing the groups in ACA and they are representing the groups in ACA.
- A: An added thing to note that it says in this proposal is hereby delegated, which is to say that by virtue of the concept itself. Which is at all times active. This delegation is effective at all times. We're not looking back to a past decision that might have been made at one time and might be subject to criticism. This is an ongoing delegation to go forward without end unless the concept itself is changed.
- A: As a member of the concept study, this is very important and foundational in our relationship between the fellowship, the conference, and World Services. We are doing these town halls and trying to find a way of simply putting these concepts together so that they are easily understood and easily translated. Here is the link to add your information if you can't attend the town halls or the committee because we want to hear from you: <https://acawso.org/concepts-study-ad-hoc-committee/>
- Even though ACA is 47 years old, I know 10 years ago the conference was still a very small part which meant there was an organization operating and there was a fellowship out there, but not a lot of connection. On a world level, every trusted servant should be able to say "what's my authority and who gave me that authority?" So the changes will say that the groups are basically authorizing the conference to be their spokesperson. Hopefully by the time the concepts get cleaned up, it will build trust and we will know who gave you the authority.
- I think it is important for delegates to recognize that the 12 concepts for world service ACA is foundational. It needs to precede the conference charter. The 12 concepts are to the ACA as a whole what the 12 traditions are to the groups and what the 12 steps are to the individual ACAs seeking recovery. It's very important that the delegates and their groups understand the purpose of those concepts.

Preparation for 2025 ABC

Closing

- Announcement from Nominating Committee Chair:

NomCom would like to introduce to all Delegates our "Concern for Board Fitness Input" process. This process provides members to present their concerns about a Board member to the Nominating Committee.

By providing specific details throughout the year but at least 2 months prior to Trustee Ratification, it will allow us sufficient time to investigate. An investigation will be done using the factual information provided in the "Concerns" form and, if needed the investigation will be expanded.

The Nominating Committee believes that our Concerns process of vetting factual information is superior to the current process of a Minority Opinion. After researching 4 of major 12-step fellowships: AA, Al-Anon, Narcotics Anonymous, and SLA - Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, we found that none of them have a minority process.

We will post in chat the Concern for Board Fitness Input, our research, and our webpage address. On our webpage, you'll find our current Trustee's Board Service Bios who will need to be ratified at the 2025 ABC in May, the desired qualifications and applications for Board Service and the Nominating Committee.

The form is available on the NomCom webpage: <https://acawso.org/nominating-committee/>

- Final thoughts from delegates
- Thank you to volunteers
- Next ABC May 17th-18th EST

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

Open forum with Board & Committees immediately following the meeting - [List](#)

- Regarding literature, looking at the literature page there is no literature chair and the board is looking into an assessment of processes and it feels like it kind of fell over and I'm trying to figure out what needs to happen to get it up and running again. In the report there's a number of things because of these challenges that are on pause? Like the BRB revision? Is there information for people who want to get involved?
- A: (Sue V): There is no chair yet. There is a burnout, and before passing the burnout off to someone else, the board said to put a small project team together that is being led by Tamara. We are looking at why we have a burnout? We are lining up all the books that have been approved by the ABC under Literature Evaluation and now reviewing.
- A: (Tamara): Chris H., the chair of the Literature Development team, is working with all the writing teams and some may be paused. We're going to meet regularly to see how they're doing, is the scope statement matching the motion that they're writing, and do they need any resources. It's been really positive and we're making plans with each of the teams to go forward.
- Q: If someone is looking at getting involved into the BRB revision, how can they get involved?
- A: (Sue V): brb.revise@acawso.org We took a deliberate pause to find out what we need to do to avoid burnout and we have some organization and planning in it. Progress not perfection. We plan on bringing a full report to the 2025 ABC.
- A: (Alaska): There aren't any projects on hold in literature right now. The BRB revision is meeting and they are wanting people to join the team. You can contact them on

Slack.

- A: (Erin): The BRB revision is meeting on Saturday evenings at 8pm EST. What they are doing despite not having a chair, is working on a motion about planning the BRB to be much more diverse and inclusive. They are working on how to send a survey out to the entire fellowship. You can attend and observe at first.
- A: (Zoe): The information when we are meeting is on the committee calendar on the acawsw.org site.
- Q: Is there any intention to have an in-person option to the annual business meeting?
- A: (Sue V): We went 100% online because of Covid. I think it's really important to start looking at when we can meet in person/hybrid. We will need to cost and budget it out. I'm sure the studies will start to look at sustainability.
- A: (Charlie): We are going through a global phase and it is hard and unrealistic for people to come from around the world. The sustainability or the whole ABC study authorized in 2022 and that's something we're going to reference in the sustainability report. At the very least we need a hybrid option going forward. If we can meet in person, that would be a phenomenal reconnection that we haven't been able to do in recent years. I don't think we can make it off limits for people to attend because of financial issues.
- A: (Al): Planning an ABC even in a small venue can be a formidable task. I agree that we should meet in-person and I would caution people against raising their expectations too high. It does take a lot of work.
- Q: Where can I find the intergroup meeting list and information on the regions?
- A: (Sue): We recognize that and we have a new website that is coming this year which we will be bringing to the conference. There is a place where you can go to find out what regions and intergroups exist: <https://adultchildren.org/intergroup-listing/> and <https://adultchildren.org/regions-listing/>
- Q: Regarding the BRB revision, the time that they are meeting is not an hour that the rest of the world can make. Particularly the people from South Africa want to provide feedback as the language is confusing for people who speak english as a second language. How can we get involved with having dialogue?
- A: (Erin): When the BRB revision started, they had 2 meetings to try to make it global (8am and 8pm), but no one attended. I would email them and ask.
- A: (Sue): Maybe this is something we bring back to the literature project team and maybe set up a link to provide feedback.
- A: (Zoe): I will take your concerns back to our next committee meeting
- Q: Is it not possible to have an open Slack channel where people can put their concerns or reservations up to have a dialogue and then it doesn't matter on the time of day.
- Q: I want to ask about the price increase and if there could be some discount for larger orders of books?
- A: (Sue): There is a 30% discount for Intergroups. There is additional support that we give for translated literature for first time publication. The first publication for translated copies sells at 60% for the first 300 books which will help emerging fellowships. There is also a 10% discount for a certain volume. It's all posted on our website. <https://adultchildren.org/international-literature-fund/>

publishingchair@acawso.org, <https://acawso.org/publishing/>,
<https://acawso.org/translations/>

- Q: Is the 60% discount on first translations only available for intergroups or for other groups also?
- A: (Bill): It's the first 300 that are sold. It's usually an intergroup that places that order.
- I want to second the idea of offering a form for a BRB revision. Not everyone has access to Slack. I think the forum was open-ended enough in a way to allow good conversation and input that could be given that way. We have this great way to have fellowship input on books that are under fellowship review. But when a book is under revision, it would be nice to hear from people in the fellowship and the hard working committee members.
- Open slack channel for publishing: publishing_open_forum
- I want to say that the literature projects that are going on do need people to join them. The literature development and evaluation subcommittees are being revamped and bringing all the writers and projects under the WSO. It's a lot of work and there is only one person kind of in charge right now, so if anyone has any interest visit the literature committee webpage: <https://acawso.org/literature/>
- People need to be aware of fellowship review and what it is. This happens before conference approval. It is the opportunity for the fellowship to be able to use the literature and read it and then be able to comment on it and send in reviews and feedback. The fellowship review period is the time when we are looking at feedback and comments from the fellowship before it goes onto the conference for approval. Right now A New Hope is in fellowship review. The Loving Parent Guidebook just came out of fellowship review and we will be doing a post-fellowship review evaluation where we take all the feedback comments we've received and incorporate them or not before it goes to the conference for approval.
- Sue: Connections was an ABC motion to look at sponsorship and how we do it in our fellowship. It should be out for an ebook and print book in the next few months.
- Bill: Connections is in the very final typesetting phase and it's about sponsorship and the role it plays and fellow travelers in ACA. The Strengthening My Recovery audiobook has been 100% reviewed as of yesterday. All the files have been listened to and the deficiencies noted. And we have that on our website. IT has developed a form online that has allowed people to click on it, access the audio file and listen to it, then note the deficiencies in the form. The form is now being handed to the editing engineer who will decide if they can fix the deficiencies or if they need to be rerecorded. We are moving at lightspeed to get this audiobook out. It costs a lot to create an audiobook, at least \$5,000.
- C: As the chair of the ballot prep committee, the ballot prep process is a well-established process for each meeting to bring business that they consider relevant to the fellowship upon which the fellowship gets to vote about which item to add to the agenda. This year's ballot has been published and it went up about a week ago. I encourage you to go to the ballot prep committee website to download the ballot to review. There are 13 proposals. Bring to your meetings to discuss and we have some ballot proposal presentations coming in February (8th, 9th, 21st, and 22nd). All members of the fellowship will have the opportunity to ask the proposing groups any

questions. All of it will be on the website: <https://acawso.org/bpc/>.

- Regarding the audiobooks. I think there is a pretty significant model called LibriVox and they are a non-profit and may be able to do it for less than \$5,000. They have a huge number of audiobooks.
- [LibriVox | free public domain audiobooks](#)
- Bill: We did contact one non-profit firm that does audiobooks and the issue was that they don't do the recording where they fully turn it into an audiobook. They didn't provide that service.
- Sue: When we looked at ebooks in 2021, we knew that we didn't have the budget to do all the books in a year, so it took us 3 years to get everybody an ebook. Now we are at audiobooks and we only have one audiobook, the BRB and now we will have SMR. We are looking at creative solutions to do this because I don't think we want to wait 30 years to make it all happen, so new ideas are welcomed.
- One of the common things I keep hearing is that we need more volunteers across the board and we need outreach to the individual meetings. I would like to invite everybody to the intergroup roundtable we are having tomorrow. The information is on the Slack channel (intergroup roundtable) <https://acawso.slack.com/archives/C080DFR5VD2>
- Sue: The meeting group's first priority is ACA recovery. I think our service structure needs to be reviewed and assessed on how it's serving or not serving us, so we can provide the support that they need. We are at this pivotal moment in history that we will shift and I believe more volunteers will come in. We have almost 3,000 meetings in 69 countries in over 30 languages. We are growing and we are becoming a one world fellowship together.
- Literature is a core function of WSO. I am concerned because even though I read the reports, the information is not clearly laid out. If all the information could be collected in a digestible format that shows what the status are, service opportunities, meetings in one place,, I think it would help get the information out to the fellowship and you might get more volunteers as more people would know about it.
- A couple of years ago I gave you a referral to a guy who does voiceover, who's got his own studio, if you'd like I could send you the information again.
- I am having a lot of conversations about the challenges to find service volunteers. I think it would be worth creating some literature to look at that. Page 583 in the BRB talks about old timer sharing and giving service six years and up. My recovery did not stop after six years and I would love to collaborate with some fellow travellers on developing some literature that can break down the progress that it's possible after six years and how it might affect the willingness to step up for service.
- One of the things we are looking at is that teens want a booklet just on teens and we are going to take the copyright material right out of the chapter. It's a smaller booklet and has already been approved and copyrighted. Just like our free literature, there may be places we can get things in the trifolds and the small booklets.

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