



2026 ANNUAL BUSINESS REPORT (ABC)

SUPPORTING THE FELLOWSHIP VOICE ON THE PROPOSED NAME CHANGE

Purpose

This report provides a summary of the Fellowship Group Voting (FGV) process, including participation, results, and proposed next steps for vote on the name change.

Initiating Motion:

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.”

Motion Passed at Quarterly Delegate Meeting on Dec. 7, 2024

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

The Proposed Fellowship Group Vote 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 (>67%) 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 agenda.**
- **Revisions to this process can only be made with Conference approval.**

Voting Results

Vote	Number	Percentage
Yes	915	86.65%
No	141	13.35%
Total:		1,056

Abstentions: 12

(not included in Yes/No totals)

Total participating groups: 1,068

Countries Represented



Meeting Groups:

1,031 across **45** countries



Intergroups:

35 across **12** countries



Regions:

2 (North America)





Total: 1,068

Global Participation Overview

Region	Groups	Intergroups (IG)	Regions	Total Votes (Participation)	Countries
Africa	16	+1	-	17	3
Asia	26	+2	-	28	7
Canada	42	+5	-	47	1
Europe and Russia	106	+5	-	111	27
Mexico and S. America	6	+1	-	7	4
Oceania	28	+0	-	28	2
UK	34	+1	-	35	1
USA	773	+20	+2	795	1
TOTAL	1,031	+35	+2	1,068	45

Note: Participation figures reflect input from meeting groups, intergroups, and regions. Countries with more than 30 votes are presented separately.

Meeting Type Insight

Meeting Type	Percentage (%)
 In-person	61%
 Online and hybrid formats (combined)	39%
Total: 1,068	

FGV Compared to Prior Processes

Participation, Voting, Voting Outcome and Countries

Process	Participation Level	Voting Method	Voting Outcome	Countries
FGV (2026)	1,068 of 2,596 groups (41%)	Direct group voting	Yes: 86.65%	45
Name Change - 2024 ABC	141 of 2,349 groups (6%)	Delegate voting	Yes: 79.45%	Unknown
Tradition 11 - 2014 Survey	108 of 1,397 groups (7.7%)	Fellowship consultation	Yes: 92.2%	12
Tradition 11 - 2015 ABC	26 delegates out of 1,397 groups (1.9%)	Delegate voting	Yes: 96%	Unknown
Ballot - 2024	232 of 2,349 groups (9.9%)	Direct group voting (3 ballots)	Varies by ballot	17

Refinement to Fellowship Group Voting Process

Vote Count based on All Groups

- Used in some fellowships (e.g., Al-Anon)
- Non-response counted as “opposed”
- Requires more groups to respond to “pass”

Vote Count based on Responding Groups

- Used in some fellowships (e.g., MA)
- Non-response not counted
- Passes based on votes received

Concept 1: The final responsibility and ultimate authority resides in the collective conscience of the fellowship.

RECOMMENDATION:

To continue having the Vote Count based on Responding Groups as used for the first Fellowship Group Vote.

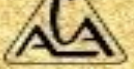
Fellowship Group Voting and Conference Responsibility

2026 ABC Motion:

That the Fellowship Group Vote be recognized as reflecting the voice of participating meeting groups, intergroups, and regions across the global fellowship;

That results be calculated based solely on votes cast by responding registered groups with 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ % needed for a vote to pass; and

That the Annual Business Conference (ABC) receive these results and determine appropriate next steps for implementation.



The Heart of the Vote: Emotional Patterns Across the Group Conscience Vote

Differences in voting align more closely with how risk and responsibility are emotionally framed than with the disagreement about fellowship values.

YES VOTE:
Urgency of Hope
and Inclusion

*urgency, responsibility,
care, compassion*

Taking action to remove barriers, help people reach recovery sooner

NO VOTE:
Stewardship
and/or Protection

*respect traditions,
responsibility, stability,
protectiveness*

Unease about unintended consequences, resources, responsibility to protect fellowship's identity

ABSTAIN VOTE:
Respect All Voices
and Protect Unity

unity, fairness, respect, views

Uncertainty, preserve unity, avoid harm when consensus was not present

MINORITY VOTES:
Impact of Decision
Commitment to Fellow-
ship Unity & Principles

*honest, courage to speak,
loyalty, respect*

Higher emotional intensity and a desire not to block group conscience

Process Feedback: What Worked Well

- ★ The **process was clear and accessible**
- ★ Communication was effective, with **79% reporting communication was “about right.”**
- ★ The process supported **meaningful group conscience**
- ★ **Voting was technically accessible**, many describing it as “easy” and “clear.”

Process Feedback: Opportunities for Improvement

- **Process Length:** A majority (57%) felt the 4-month voting period was appropriate
- **Clarity and Understanding:** Clearer explanations of the proposal, voting terms, and overall process.
- **Voting Structure:** Requests for clarification of voting rules for groups or members associated with multiple meetings.
- **Feedback Opportunities:** Some expressed interest in opportunities to provide input alongside voting (e.g. comments)

YouTube: Group Conscience Video

ACA World Service YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/@ACAWORLDSERVICE>

Next Steps for Name Change

What is changing?

- The Fellowship Name to *Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families*
- ACA acronym (abbreviated name) to *ACAD*

What is not changing?

- The Legal name on business contracts, of Adult Children of Alcoholics®
- ACA WSO copyright, logo etc.
- Medallions with logo

Implementation Approach

Costs are expected to be managed through a **gradual implementation over 5–10 years**, guided by the principle of *“One step at a time.”*

This approach:

- Aligns with the fellowship’s capacity and resources
- Supports coordination across countries and languages
- Integrates with existing service structures and workflows

Expenses & Reduction Factors

Expense Factors:

Trademark registration

Website updates

Publishing and Literature updates

Audiobooks, as resources allow

Cost Reduction Factors:

Using our existing attorney

Support from volunteers and staff

Integrate with current literature, publishing, translation workflows, and budget using volunteers and staff

Use existing systems, including the Translation Management System (TMS)

Estimated Cost Range

Costs will be actively managed and refined over time, while remaining subject to external pricing conditions.

Implementation can be managed within a structured, multi-year plan with **estimated costs** as:

- Annual: **\$12,000 (over 10 years)** or **\$24,000 (over 5 years)**
- Total: **\$120,000**

ACA Literature Impacted By Name Change

- 7 English books published
- 5 English books in development
- 35 translated books published in multiple languages
- 90 translated books in development

2026 ABC Motion (Name Change Acceptance & Implementation)

To accept the Fellowship Group Vote (FGV) results regarding the proposed change to the functional name of the Fellowship to Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families (ACAD), and;

To approve the implementation plan over a 5–10 year period, taking into account financial and other resource considerations.

Fellowship Group Vote Process for Concept II

Context Motions:

ABC_2024_03: Proposed New Wording of Concept II

CBM_2025_02: New Version of Concept 2 to Fellowship Group Vote

Voting period is planned for August 3 - December 3, 2026

Email questions for:

Concepts: conceptstudy@acawso.org

Fellowship Group Voting Process: fgv@acawso.org

Acknowledgement and Appreciation

- Fellowship Participation
- Delegates
- Volunteers
- IT and Data Analysis Committees
- Global Collaboration

