



Adult Children of Alcoholic and Dysfunctional Families
World Service Organization, Inc.

2026 ACA Annual Business Conference Minutes



Held via Video Conference on May 16-17, 2026

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM ET

And with online worldwide voting

Submitted by: Karin O. and Trish Irelan (staff), ABC Secretaries

ABC Chairpersons: Carmen B., Marcus H., and Eric R.

Parliamentarian: Charlie H.


2026 ACA Annual Business Conference Minutes

TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Information.....	3
Day 1 - May 16, 2026.....	4
Opening:.....	4
WSO Chair Welcome.....	4
Conference Co-Chairs Introductions.....	4
Ratification of Conference Co-Chairs.....	4
Welcome Delegates.....	4
Introductions of Trustee Servants.....	5
Technology Briefing.....	5
Setting the tone.....	5
Zoom etiquette.....	5
Review Agenda.....	6
Approval of Previous Minutes.....	6
Minority Opinion for the Chair Ruling motion.....	6
Ballot Proposal 24.....	6
Board Ratifications.....	11
Fellowship Group Vote Presentation.....	14
Board Report.....	17
Treasurer and Audit Report.....	23
Closing & Reminders.....	25
Results of World Wide Online Voting Day 1.....	25
Answers to Questions Post ABC.....	27
DAY 2 - May 17, 2026.....	30
Opening.....	30
Technology overview.....	30
Setting the Tone.....	30
Worldwide Online Voting Results from Day 1.....	30
Minority Opinion for Day 1 Motions.....	30
Floor Motions Prioritization.....	31
Procedural Motions.....	34
Prioritization Vote for Remaining Agenda.....	38
Floor Motions on Limiting Ballot Proposals.....	38
Floor Motions to Accept the Name Change Vote.....	46
Floor Motion on Fellowship Group Vote Process.....	54
Ballot Prep. Committee Presentation.....	58
Closing.....	61
Results of Online Worldwide Voting - Day 2.....	62

General Information

Delegates

- 113 Delegates registered for this Conference
 - 113 meetings,
 - 93 Intergroups,
 - and 1 Regions.
- 2026 Delegate Portal Guide - see:  2026 ABC Portal copy.pdf

Observers - 72 registered

Fellowship Information (based on ACA website meeting directory info. as of May 16)

- 2512 unique meeting numbers*
- 2989 meeting occurrences**
- 105 intergroups
- 3 regions

*Unique meeting numbers= unique WSO numbers

**Meeting occurrences = actual number of meetings happening as some WSO numbers meet more than once a week

Day 1 - May 16, 2026

Opening:

- [Serenity Prayer](#)
- [Diversity Statement](#)
- [Commitment to Service Reading](#)
- [Daily Meditation Reading](#)
- Notice: Meeting is Recorded

WSO Chair Welcome

Tamara P.

- I'm so glad to welcome you all to the 2026 ABC. This is something special to celebrate. It is where we look at the business matters of ACA, which are just as important as the recovery matters. Al, our treasurer, often says that the board helps guide the spiritual health of ACA and the financial fiduciary health of ACA. So that's what we're here to do, the business meeting. I'm really excited that at last count we had 112 delegates registered. And last night there were 72 observers registered. So maybe someday the observers will be delegates.

I want to talk a little bit about the history and the future of the ACA. I feel a deep gratitude to those who in the 1980s and the 1990s who built ACA, their service made a difference. They didn't have literature, they had to recover and do the work of going around and getting the message out to all the adult children who needed it, and because of their willingness to show up, many of us found recovery, connection, safety, and hope when we needed it most.


At the same time, I do not see our work as finished. I see this as a very pivotal time. For ACA, we have always been growing and evolving. The needs of adult children continue to exist in the work of building healthy, inclusive and spiritually grounded structures that will continue to be needed for as long as adult children are still seeking recovery. To me, this feels like a really important time in ACA's history. I believe we have the opportunity to make a meaningful difference just as those before us did. We honor the work of earlier trusted servants, not only by remembering it, but by continuing it with the same spirit of commitment, humility, and care for the Fellowship and the still suffering adult child. You will hear my message this weekend that we need to build our future and it's all of us who will build that together, those of us who are present. So thank you!

Conference Co-Chairs Introductions

Carmen B., Marcus H., & Eric R.

Quorum established with 58 delegates present.

Ratification of Conference Co-Chairs

 2026 Conference Facilitator Qualifications Description.pdf

Vote via show of hands

- Carmen - 43 votes in favor; none opposed. Passed
- Marcus - 52 votes in favor; none opposed. Passed
- Eric - 51 votes in favor; none opposed. Passed

Welcome Delegates

Co-Chair - Welcome to all the delegates to this 2026 ACA Annual Business Conference. And a particular welcome to first-time delegates! Glad you're here, and we're glad everyone is here, all the delegates, to participate in this ACA Fellowship-wide group conscience. We have a total of 113 delegates registered worldwide. And I welcome y'all. Thank you for your service.

Chat information and Guidelines

CoChair

Introductions of Trustee Servants

[Link](#) - CoChair

Parliamentarian - Charlie H.

Charlie - The goal of the parliamentarian, and also the meeting chairs, is to balance the rights of individuals and those of the full gathering of delegates. And we do this by trying to apply the conference rules fairly and consistently, and sometimes, in a gray area, what's the spirit of the rules? If there's not an exactly right call, we use a mix of Robert's Rules, OPPM, Traditions, etc. If at any time you think the rules aren't being followed, as we just saw, you may raise what is called a point of order, but I want to clarify three important points on how this is going to work out. First and most importantly, all the points of order must be sent on an online form we've created. I just posted the point of order link in the chat. And we're going to keep posting this link throughout the day. It's very easy to use. We began this in January. You need to click on the link, fill out the form, which has some very simple instructions, and then hit submit. Please don't send points of order through the Zoom chat function. They just get lost very easily.

As parliamentarian, my role is to do a first review if the matter is time-urgent, and if so, we pause the meeting, ask the chair to be alerted. First I provide an assessment. But the final decision belongs to the co-chairs. If you send a point of order you will receive updates and be notified of the final decision. The other key thing is our focus is on whether existing rules are being followed, and especially whether that violation material affects the outcome, in a way that demands intervention. The form requires, therefore, that you identify a rule that you think is being violated, or a specific decision by the chair that you think violates conference procedure. If your complaint is I think they're following the rule, but I just think this rule isn't fair and should be changed. That is really too big an issue to deal with through the point-of-order process. We do have ongoing procedure review, so I would strongly urge any delegate to share that kind of concern with the ABC-CBM Committee. All suggestions along these lines are looked at very closely.

If you have concerns about meeting safety, please send those to the point of safety through Zoom chat, and they will handle that type of concern. Thank you for your service as delegate. And I hope everybody enjoys this weekend's annual business conference.

- Timekeepers- Marion, Gretchen, Mona, Stacey, Rich E., Leela, Melissa and Alex.
- Secretaries - Karin O. & Trish I. (staff)
- Point of Information General (POIG)- William D.B. and Marty
- Point of Information WSO (POIW) - Tamara and Bill D.
- Point of Order (Process) (POP)- Erin D. and Greta AO
- Point of Safety (POS)- Adelina, Jim R, and Dick B.
- Unmute/Mute, Lower Hands- Terry B., Will T., and Diana C.

Technology Briefing

Brad Lewin, IT Manager *(includes practice vote on election buddy)*

Setting the tone

Adelina [Link](#)

Zoom etiquette

CoChair

Establish Quorum [OPPM Process](#)

Quorum established with 70 delegates present.

Review Agenda

CoChair

Approval of Previous Minutes

CoChair See [2026 ABC Delegate Portal](#) (ADP) under *Content/Documents* or <https://adultchildren.org/business-meetings/> under *Archives*

- 2025 ABC Minutes [Link](#)
Hand vote: 52 in favor; one opposed; 16 abstained.
Minority opinion: None
Minutes ratified.
- September 27, 2025, Conference Business Meeting (CBM) Minutes [Link](#)
Hand vote: 50 in favour; none opposed; 12 abstained.
Minutes ratified.
- January 31, 2026, CBM Minutes [Link](#)
Hand vote: 53 in favor; none opposed; 14 abstained.
Minutes ratified.

Minority Opinion for the Chair Ruling motion

[Link to Motion Passed](#) [OPPM Process](#)

- Q: I want clarity about what goes to the delegates and what goes to the group contacts?
- A: To clarify if there is a vote it goes back to online worldwide voting not fellowship group voting.
- No minority opinion so this **motion stands as passed.**

Break

Establish Quorum [OPPM Process](#)

Quorum Established at 61 Delegates.

Ballot Proposal 24

Karin S., BPC Committee Chair; [Full Proposal](#) [Process](#)

 **Proposal 2026-24 ABC Presentation.pdf**

Issue: *We move to adjust the timeline for the ballot process: beginning with the 2027-2028 ballot season, the Call for Proposals will be issued at the Annual Business Conference (ABC); publication of voting results shall occur no later than the end of the year. The Ballot Prep Committee (BPC) shall be authorized to adjust the timeline between start and finish of the ballot process to meet the needs of the fellowship.*

Discussion:

- My question, can you summarize in three sentences what the fundamental intent of this proposal and what you see it would accomplish?
- A: The intent is 2-fold. To adjust the timeline in a way that reduces the stress of ballot preparation leading up to the holidays, a lot of the work falls between Christmas and Thanksgiving so ballots can be published in January. The other part is to allow more time for delegates to consider ballots once they've been voted onto the agenda based on the ballot voting process where the whole fellowship gets to weigh in.
- To add to this motion, I would include limiting proposals to two from a group and also add a process for rebuttal to the proposing group, to the WSO analysis as this has been a point of contention and the proposing group does not have any means to do this currently.
- Q: Can you explain why the whole timeline doesn't continue into January because there were concerns that ballot proposals took a very long time and would it be possible to extend into January and still get the ballot proposals?

- A: I would like to offer for your consideration that if the ballot process ends in December then delegates will have time to review them before the Conference meeting in January. Also, we do not expect any voting to happen over the holidays so it might be a good idea to get it done before the holidays.
- Q: Does it affect the total timeline or any of the individual stages in the process? And if it is affected, then how is the new timeline that is proposed, carried out?
- A: It does shorten the total timeline as it currently starts on August 1st and ends in April. Moving forward, it now goes from May at the ABC and ends in December. So it is a shorter timeline, but with the way the timeline falls, it may be less time intensive because it's not conflicting with other year-end obligations. Groups would most likely have the proposals by October, which would have enough time to consider their votes on the proposals.
- Q: Is this proposal just about the timeline? Not about additions or amendments? Just strictly about the timeline?
- A: This proposal is strictly about the timeline. The committee would welcome suggestions and amendments yet they would need to go through a future ballot proposal based on process rather than be passed as amendments to this motion.
- Q: If the proposal process starts immediately after the ABC, when are the groups supposed to gather up their proposals for the next ABC? That sounds rather crowded to me.
- A: The starting point for the proposal process of the ballot process is the call for proposals. Calls for proposals would go out at the ABC and then groups would have a designated timeframe. Currently they have two months between August 1st and September 30th to come up with a first draft proposal, so we will mirror that which gives groups between 6-8 weeks to come up with proposals. This may be facilitated by the fact that the most recent ABC is still fresh in everyone's memory, and business items arising from the ABC may turn into ballot proposals.
- Q: How does this affect how long the groups have to look at the ballot proposals and would this give groups more time to look at the ballot proposals?
- A: Currently, groups have between mid-January to early April to review ballot proposals and then they have between mid-February and early April to vote. If delegates feel like the proposal we made does not specify the window for ballot publication and review and would like to have that specified, I am wondering if that would be a legitimate amendment to the motion within the context of procedures for this meeting.
- Q: We are in a different time cycle. In Asia, we ramp up service around August to November, then we are down from November to January, when we lose some of our service constituencies. So, I would like to see this pushed forward to November if possible, because we will get a lot more engagement. You won't get a lot of responsiveness from our groups anytime during the holiday season as this is not something we can engage in during that time.
- A: I would suggest that consideration of the timeline is very much a matter for delegate discussion and we welcome feedback.
- I support the idea of building in more time in the process for the groups to review and vote on the proposals, especially when there are a lot of proposals to look at. I think the amount of time the groups actually have to review and vote could be expanded.

Poll to identify the general direction that the conference wants to proceed in.

Proposal 24 Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families

May 16, 2026 10:57 AM – 11:01
(GMT-05:00) EASTERN TIME (US & CANADA)

Ended Administrator Closed Early

71 ballots submitted of 113 eligible voters – 63%
0 notices queued

[Viewer Audit Report](#)

We move to adjust the timeline for the ballot process: beginning with the 2027-2028 ballot season, the Call for Proposals will be issued at the Annual Business Conference (ABC); publication of voting results shall occur no later than the end of the year. The Ballot Prep Committee (BPC) shall be authorized to adjust the timeline between start and finish of the ballot process to meet the needs of the fellowship.

PLURALITY 68.0 votes tallied and 3 abstentions

I support the spirit of the Ballot Proposal and would like a Motion to be crafted for approval at the ABC	57.00 votes 83.82%
I need more information and prefer a motion to be crafted to initiate an in-depth study that will report to a future ABC	7.00 votes 10.29%
I would like this matter to be postponed for discussion at the next CBM	2.00 votes 2.94%
I do not support the Ballot Proposal in any form	2.00 votes 2.94%
I support the spirit of the Ballot Proposal and would like a Motion to be crafted for approval at the ABC wins with 83.82% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.	

- 68 votes tallies with 3 abstentions, which meets quorum. “I support the spirit of the Ballot Proposal and would like a Motion to be crafted for approval of the ABC”. This option received 83.8% of the votes with 57 votes in favour. Therefore move to crafting a motion.

Proposer Motion and Alternative Motions:

[The conference was allotted 3 minutes of silent reflection and delegates were encouraged to submit alternative motions. The parliamentarian, Charlie H., then determined if the proposed alternative motions were distinct from the initial motion and remained within the general spirit of what the proposing group was trying to accomplish]

MOTION from Proposing Group:

We move to adjust the timeline for the ballot process: beginning with the 2027-2028 ballot season, the Call for Proposals will be issued at the Annual Business Conference (ABC); publication of voting results shall occur no later than the end of the year. The Ballot Prep Committee (BPC) shall be authorized to adjust the timeline between start and finish of the ballot process to meet the needs of the fellowship.

ALTERNATIVE MOTIONS:

OPTION A: (CT 1087Joseph)

We move to adjust the timeline for the ballot process: beginning with the 2027-2028 ballot season, the Call for Proposals will be issued at the Annual Business Conference (ABC); publication of voting results shall occur no later than the end of the year. The Ballot Prep Committee (BPC) shall be authorized to adjust the timeline between start and finish of the ballot process to meet the needs of the fellowship including greater time for groups, etc. to consider the proposals if a large number of them are suggested.

Parliamentarian: Difference is last phrasing and remains within the spirit of motion- Yes.
[Note: This option was removed during discussion below based on a challenge to the Parliamentarian's ruling].

OPTION B:(WEB0207 Charity S)

I move that we adjust the time for the ballot process: beginning with the 2027-2028 ballot season, the Call for Proposals will be issued at the Annual Business Conference (ABC); publication of voting results shall occur no later than the end of the year. The Ballot Prep Committee (BPC) shall be authorized to adjust the timeline between start and finish of the ballot process to meet the needs of the fellowship including greater time for groups, etc. to consider the proposals if a large number of them are suggested. WITHDRAWN

Parliamentarian: Fine to include.

Charity - It is the same as Option A; I am fine to withdraw.

Discussing Merits of the Motions:

- Q: Is it just one of the options that we are discussing?
- A: Yes, it's the original motion and Option A
- Q: I was wondering if it's possible for us to be able to see the slides that were presented? Is there a link to it?
- Q: The motion and alternative motion talk about adjusting the timeline between start and finish of the ballot process to meet the needs of the fellowship. How would we determine that it's meeting the needs? For Option A, it's stating that if we have a larger number of ballots to consider that groups have additional time to review in those instances. So what are the parameters and how do we determine what the fellowship at large requires to inform the ballot prep committee's decision to adjust that timeline?
- A: As the ABC determined last year, any changes to the ballot process requires approval by the conference and so if there is a motion before the conference about what the needs of the fellowship are, the ballot prep committee will honour any such motions passed by the conference.
- Q: Is it possible to amend any of these suggestions so the start of the process is 4 weeks after the ABC so delegates have time to report to their respective business meetings?
- A: We don't do that, this is like an amendment thing that would have to be put in the crafting motion section. That's when you do amendments. We can't amend at this point for the OPPM process.
- I support the motion of the proposing group. It feels in line with what was proposed in the call for proposals. I know there are a lot of things that my group would like to change about the voting process, and this feels like the first step as it is the cleanest version of what was originally proposed.
- Q: Both of them say beginning with the 2027-2028 ballot season, does that mean there will be no ballot proposals for the 2027 ABC?
- A: We had this conversation in committee and we did not want to anticipate either ballot voting or the delegate decision on this, so we planned to proceed with the ballot process in OPPM for 2026/27 and then starting for the 2028 ABC, we would follow if this was adopted.
- I support the motion for the proposing group and have a question: When would the ballot prep committee announce the adjusted timeline and will the fellowship have a chance to voice our opinion and our needs and that the timeline will be adjusted as necessary?

- A: This depends if this motion is adopted following the ABC procedure. If adopted, the groups can submit ballots for their suggestions to adjust the timeline, which would then be considered at the 2027 ABC. We will be following the existing process next year and the new process won't go into effect until we are planning the 2028 ABC.
- A: As the Proposer of Option A, regarding the earlier question about criteria - my motion does not attempt to suggest a criteria that would be included, and it doesn't include any other considerations, but it would trigger the ballot committee to adjust the timelines.
- From the motion it looks like the ballot prep committee sets the specific intervals of the timeline and I wonder specifically how they would consider the needs of the Fellowship other than groups contacting the ballot prep committee chair about problems. It seems like most of the stuff has to be set up ahead of time so the fellowship has a chance to respond and vote. I support the proposal.
- I think this makes sense and it's brilliant to allow the ballot prep committee more time, which is what they need to set things depending on proposals and it gives delegates the ability to be able to talk about these at the CBM. It seems like a great step forward. For clarification, and if we need more changes or alters, we can submit them, which is a win-win.

One of the ABC Chairs announced there is an appeal to Parliamentary ruling stating that the two proposals are not materially different and he thinks Option A should be removed.

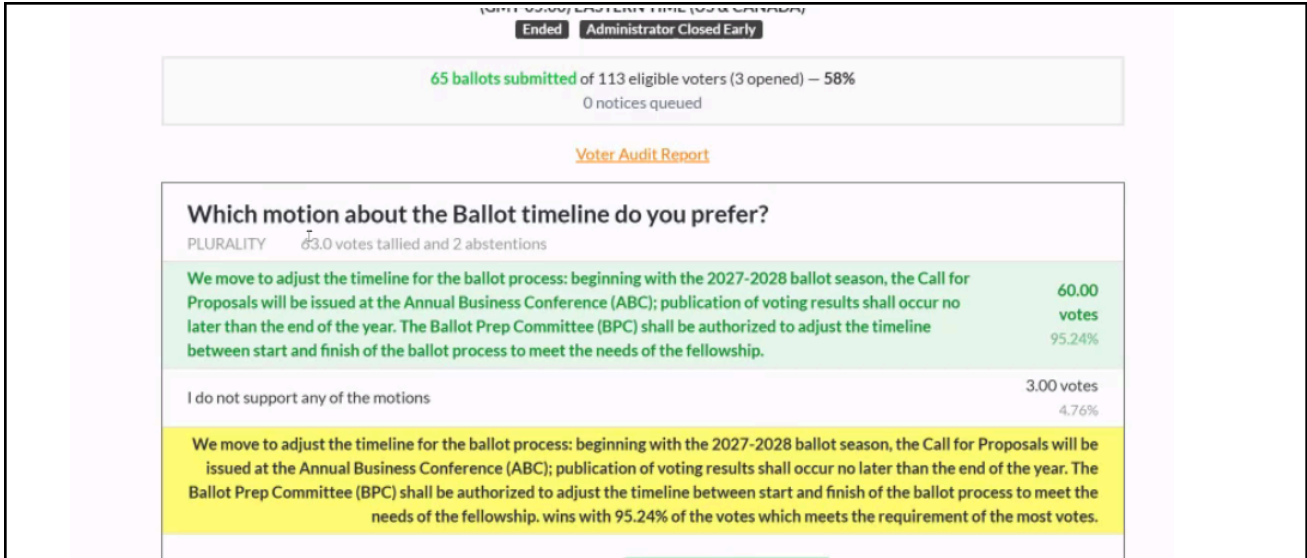
- Parliamentary - Alternative motions have historically had fine differences and this decision is up to the Conference as to which option they prefer.
- Requestor of appeal - The reason I think this (Option A- Alternate Motion) should be removed is that it gives us an example and there could be many examples that go into the original motion. Therefore if you vote option 1, the outcome is the same and the vote will split and time can be used better if we just have the one motion if there is not going to be a difference in the outcome.

POLL by show of hands: To see if the decision of the parliamentarian should be overruled.

Those opposed to the parliamentarian ruling that both of the motions should be included in the vote (favor appeal)

- 33 in favor at 68%
- Those in favor of keeping both motions: 15 in favor.
- **Appeal carries.** (Alternative motion A removed from the list)

Electionbuddy Poll for delegates to vote whether in favour of the motions, opposed to the motion, or abstaining from voting on the Proposal:



63 votes tallied with 2 abstentions. 60 votes in favour with 95.24% and 3 votes opposed. This will now go to World Wide voting at the end of the day.

Board Ratifications

Presenter: Denise R, NomCom Chair; [Presentation](#) [Trustee Biographies](#)

Introduce Trustees alphabetically and each has up to 3 minutes

Q: What is the main accomplishment you've had for the last year and how do you see things moving forward?

- Trustee Al E.- The main accomplishments I was involved in over the last year are two key things: First, was getting reduced pricing for the fellowship's literature for entry into Mexico. This was done while working alongside Bill Dalton, the general manager, and a legal support services firm called Tally. It was more complicated than simply shipping books, as there are tariffs and other legal restrictions that had to be dealt with. Second, he mentioned the onboarding of a new finance committee member who is a CPA with significant nonprofit experience. He said the fellowship now has the benefit of both a hired CPA and a finance committee member who is also a CPA overseeing the world services fellowship finances.
- Trustee Alisa A.- My second year on the board was more intense than the first. There were more business and fellowship issues that took energy to think through and discuss. It was not always easy to stay aligned with the traditions and spiritual principles, especially when under stress, as her old traits could sometimes overwhelm her yet she tried to stay open-minded and friendly even when it was difficult. Also, the challenge of balancing board service with my regular work, as I started going to the office every day, dealt with my dog's health issues, and a lot was happening in my country and in the world, making things intense at times.
My inner perfectionist sometimes made me feel like I was not doing enough, and that I had to work through that internally. I made efforts to participate more in the literature committee and have interest in that area. Thanks for listening.
- Trustee Dove- I am happy that new and returning delegates are present. Over the past year, I was involved in the Health and Safety in Service Advisory Group, helped create a communication agreement for WSO, and worked on the Safety Resources Committee

where I helped develop a service norms document addressing difficulties experienced in local meeting groups. The Safety Resources Committee has responded to over 300 emails requesting assistance already this year. I also enjoyed my involvement in reviewing and updating the OPPM, and supporting the ABC committee.

Looking ahead, I look forward to continuing participation in those same groups and others, as ACA is growing and a key focus for the coming year will be to reevaluate and restructure. I look forward to continuing to be of service to the organization.

- Trustee Rich R.: (*Rich R. was not present at the ABC in person, so he submitted a video message.*) In his video, Rich spoke about the Edovo collaboration, which he described as the most exciting service he had been part of that year.

He explained that Edovo is a company that supplies educational content to incarcerated people through tablets. ACA WSO collaborated with Edovo and uploaded almost all ACA literature in both English and Spanish, as well as audio content from ACA annual conference workshops, onto the Edovo platform.

The most exciting part for Rich personally was the ACA course being developed for the platform. This course is based on the ACA booklet *A New Hope* and includes audio and visual clips, interactive questions and answers, photos and descriptions of the spiritual principles of the ACA program of recovery. He noted this course would also be used on ACA WSO social media platforms.

Rich mentioned that ACA literature is already available on the Edovo platform in over 1,200 institutions in the United States, with the potential to reach up to 1 million incarcerated people. He also encouraged anyone interested to contact the Public Service H&I Committee to get involved, either at the WSO level or personally through sponsorship or being a pen pal to incarcerated ACA members. He expressed his commitment to continuing this work in the coming year.

- Trustee Sue V.: Good day/night to everyone. I am all about Tradition 5, carrying the ACA message, which is at the core of everything I do. Looking back at the past year, I am humble and have pride in having helped support the very first Fellowship Group Vote process. I also helped with literature and publishing, bringing in new innovative procedures and technology to support authors developing written material. It has been 20 years since the Big Red Book, ACA's first piece of literature, was published, and it is important to have translated literature available around the world.

For the upcoming year, I look forward to continuing to support literature and publishing, particularly mentoring a new publishing committee chair named Rivka E. There are also two new co-chairs of the Literature Editing Subcommittee that I will support. I hope to continue helping the board with health, effectiveness, and strategic initiatives to support trusted servants and the world fellowship. There are almost 3,000 groups worldwide and I bring both my heart and my past skills to service. I am in my sixth and final year as a trustee and encourage delegates to consider joining the board, we need more trustees and everyone has a skill to offer.

- Trustee Tamara: The most exciting thing I worked on was co-leading literature assessment alongside Sue, which I found really interesting and fun. We did an assessment of everything, identified gaps, and met with all the writing groups. We are planning to meet with the Big Red Book Working Group right after the ABC.

For the coming year, my focus is on many voices reaching many people. I want to bring in more voices to strengthen the ACA and carry the message to more adult children around the world. The work done through WSO trustees, staff, and committees should carry the

message to adult children around the world. I encourage everyone to go to their intergroups, regions, and meetings, and to tell any friends who might be interested in ACA that there is a space for them, that it is safe, fun, and a place where they will feel encouraged and supported.

Q&A with Trustees

- Q: For one of the new board members- What is one major change or initiative you would like to initiate during your term as trustee?
- A: Alisa - The first year I was in the middle of my other service role and involved too much in previous activities. My second year I am more involved in board tasks and less involved in area service. My plan is to move to another country and represent ACA in that region and bring more international perspective to the board.
- Q: Any board member- With 80% of our funds coming from the sale of print literature and the move to digital, what other funding possibilities is the board considering or researching? What are the other funding possibilities?
- A: Al E. - Thanks for the question and being vigilant that 78% of our revenue comes from literature sales and 22% from 7th tradition donations. We are locked into those two revenue streams and have some very minor funds from credit card reward systems. We are a unique fellowship in that we do not apply for government grants or solicit from large well-endowed individuals with large amounts of money to give. I will be speaking later on the "\$5 ask" as part of this.
- Q: To any board member- AA has 21 trustees, 7 of whom are not alcoholic. Has ACA ever considered having non-ACA members as trustees?
- A: Sue - It is under discussion right now. Unlike AA we do not have that option in our bylaws. We are a young organization and we will do some research and we will come back to our delegates to discuss if this is something we want to do in our world-wide fellowship. We do need trustees and it may be very helpful at this stage.
- Q: On behalf of my IG, I'm seeking clarification on copyright as it relates to literature created by our IG. Recent events have created some within our IG about what constitutes copyright infringement in this context. And who determines when this has occurred? As board members can you help clarify how copyright infringement is determined for literature created by our IG and regions? Is there an appropriate public forum?
- A: Al E. Copyright rests at the heart of our organization. We have created very unique literature and it is controlled by granting copyright to various groups, including printers and various other affiliates under real controlled conditions throughout the world. We need to keep a tight handle on this so we do not lose our revenue stream. If an organization does not enforce its copyright it loses it.
- Q: Any Board Member- Apart from the suggestions to find other ACA meetings for safety concerns. What is the protocol to check the safety in the ACA space? If complaints come in repeatedly, are severe, around traditions being broken regularly, what are the consequences faced by the ACA group in question?
- A: Dove - This is part of what Safety Resources deal with among other places. We do not go in and say "shame on you" yet we do investigate and ask questions. We give whoever sends us the complaint the resources to ask questions. If those questions result in continued violations and we are made aware of that again, then there is the possibility of other consequences for the group or IG.
- Q: Can you envision a trustee with many recovery years, but with a work profile that is simply being a mom and a teacher?

- A: Dove - Yes. I see the qualifications of the mother as the best qualifications for a trustee. You need tremendous patience and communication skills. So put in your application and let's talk.
- A: AI - I have a spouse who suffered a stroke and I am involved in household tasks to support another person so what Dove says is absolutely correct and so I may be a model for that with cleaning up, folding the laundry and keeping up with WSO stuff.
- Q: For AI E., concerning the IRS non-profit tax form 990. What can you tell us about Part 1, Line 6 Volunteers and changes made to Section O?
- AI E. - I will respectfully say that I am a volunteer treasurer and we have CPA's that handle the 990's so if you can forward the question to me, I will get an answer to share with you. (See post ABC response [Answer to Question Regarding Form 990 Disclosure of Compensation](#)).

Ratification votes go to Worldwide Online Voting [Voting Process](#)

Lunch Break

Establish Quorum [OPPM Process](#)

Quorum established with 56 delegates present.

Fellowship Group Vote Presentation

Presenters: Sue V, Brad L, Mary Jo, Mardi, Brian, Bill, Tamara

[Presentation Report](#)

Motions included in the presentation to bring back to groups and vote in September meeting:

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 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 ⅔ % needed for a vote to pass; and

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

Q & A (during various segments of the FGV presentation)

- Q: I'd like to know if it's written out so we can read it in advance as to how we should word this to our groups. For example, is there a choice anymore or are we simply asking either "yes" or "no" kind of voting?
- A: The voting results are clear with over 86% participation, so we are not asking to revisit the vote. We are asking to accept if 41% is good enough and do you have any other concerns that we should be aware of, moving on? It's more process and building because we can't add anything to our fellowship group vote process without delegate approval.
- Q: First of all, I agree that it should be the percent of those that do vote, it makes sense as that's how we generally do it at a conference. The one thing missing procedurally that I think is missing right now, is the meeting listing- how up to date is it because if we are going by what the denominator is in that and how many meetings are still up to date, which is a statistical thing. Is there something bigger than 41% being enough, what should quorum be in a fellowship group vote. If the question is not answered, we're going to run into the same problem with every group fellowship vote. I think we should handle it in a more general way.
- A: IT Manager: The meeting listing is not as polluted as it was after COVID when a clean-up was needed. This year (2026), we are going to an automated method for having groups update meetings annually, which will help identify groups that are no longer meeting. But right now these are the best numbers we have.
- Q: When the 86% of the respondents for the name change were for it, but was only 6% of all the groups that participated, and how is that representative of that? I'm just curious.
- A: It was actually 41% of all registered groups that participated and we have never seen it that high. The average in ABCs is usually around 6-9% when you look at the ABC and ballots, so this fellowship group vote is by far the largest voting we have ever had with over 86% in favor. In the next section we will discuss what the groups said about why they voted yes or no and why they abstained. We have more in common than you actually think right now.
- Q: Our group voted against the name change because they did not like the abbreviation. I wonder if that affected the outcomes and the participation. It was said that this should be brought up at the ABC and I wondered if there was going to be a minority opinion about this vote.
- A: When I looked at the other 12 step fellowships, there's no minority opinion on a fellowship group vote. This is why we took the extra step of making sure that we had a survey with everybody's comments as to why they voted the way that they did. That's why we built in a safeguard that it needs to come back to the ABC because we really didn't know what was going to happen.
- Q: It seems like the motion is another move to recognizing the fellowship and saying that those who are going to vote, like the group contact. It seems like you are saying you are the voice and replace in the concepts where delegates are. Can you tell me if I am wrong about that? When you keep saying over and over the messaging, to me it is one voice, or maybe two or three. It would be easy for me if I had all of IT's budget and we looked at the other \$2 million in the budget, if I had all the messaging or just myself and the committee members had all the control of messaging, what we could do to have an informed group

conscience. I'm sure we could get similar numbers so there's a big discrepancy there. The delegates and the fellowship are not getting the full story.

- A: Concept One is about the collective group conscience of the fellowship and you will be hearing more about Concept Two. This has been done through the fellowship from the very beginning, from a ballot proposal to the motion at the ABC for exploring the name study and then onto a ballot to approve the recommendation onto approving the implementation. We are not the voices, we are speaking on behalf of all the voices that are coming to us.
- A: It started with a proposal at the ABC and then there was a study group for 2 years where anyone could do it, then there were two surveys and two town halls and there were 11,000 participants in those two surveys. That then went to the delegates who voted and then the delegates approved it to go to the fellowship who voted. We have tried to get as much participation from the delegates and fellowship and bring back the numbers. Even though it was 41%, we know it is higher because there are meetings on the list that are no longer active. Every part of this was with the delegates and the fellowship working together thoughtfully.
- Q: I'm wondering about the possibility of having the delegates here at the ABC to vote on the procedure of counting the percentage of results by the percentage of the groups who responded rather than by the number of groups listed on the website? This way we can move forward a little faster as my group is ready to have implementation.
- A: The answer was that it would be better to defer to September because of the time it would take to vote on the motion. When we do the vote in September and then we will have the minority opinion in January, when it can be done at that point. It will have to be for the delegates to decide.
- Q: I want to make sure I'm understanding that the overall group vote passed the name change and what we're now doing is discussing if it's acceptable if the response really represents the fellowship. And then we're deferring the vote here until September, am I understanding this correctly?
- A: In the delegate motion in 2024 it was determined that we would bring back the results to the ABC, which we are doing, and I would think the delegates would honor the vote. This is the first time we have done this and we want to make sure we've got the right checks and balances in place. We want to get an acceptance because it was this conference that sent it out to the fellowship for voting and now it's coming back. Unfortunately because of time constraints, we will have to wait until September to do it.
- Q: The question of a name change is not a new thing in the fellowship and in Appendix C in the Big Red Book, it says that "In the past, questions have arisen about the wording of a fellowship name. There have been discussions on removing or adding words. A few groups have chosen to alter the ACA name in hopes of attracting more members to the fellowship. The results of these well-intentioned efforts are inconclusive and appear to be ineffective. We believe that ACA World Services must honour our original name and roots. We were founded as Adult Children of Alcoholics. To remain credible and to encourage adult children to find value in their past, we must honour our past and its value as well." How does this fit in with what's already in the Big Red Book? This part of our history?

- A: We provided that resource in the fellowship group voting webpage and talked about it in town halls. It is not a board or WSO decision. It's a World Service Fellowship decision and over 1,068 groups voted and we have the results.
- Q: I feel like there are two things going on and that both have to do with quorum. First, is 41% enough for the name change? I understand originally it was written out today because of a timeline that didn't happen and now it's getting kicked to the next one. It is almost worth having a floor motion because some might argue that this is a time-sensitive issue. Procedurally, it might make sense to bring this issue of 41% being enough as a floor motion tonight. Secondly, that still leaves the general question of what is quorum for a fellowship group vote, and this might be the bigger issue that I don't think we can handle today as a floor motion. Maybe at the September meeting?
- A: I can't answer whether it's a floor motion or not. That's a parliamentarian and chair decision.
- Chair: We would have to have a proposal and those are submitted this evening, no later than one hour after the closing of the business meeting today.
- The decision of our IG was not to shame groups that do not participate to keep the stance of a loving parent and hope we can do this here too. I would be happy to see the fellowship move in that direction.
- I saw a slide that the vote will be from August to December and you also said it will be in September. This is confusing, can you explain?
- A: We are doing two things. We are finishing off the fellowship group voting #1 - Name and the second thing is a fellowship group vote for the change to Concept 2. There are two separate fellowship group votes and the conference was involved in developing the procedures on how we did all of this. We are going to repeat the group fellowship vote for the concepts because it worked really, really well. We will refine it based on feedback and delegate directions. There are lots of reports and emails on the group fellowship voting webpage: <https://adultchildren.org/fellowship-group-voting/>

Board Report

Presenters: Al E., Alisa A., Dove H., Jim R., Rich R., Sue V., Bill D. and Tamara P.

Presentation Report

Opening - Tamara P.

- The board report is about how ACA WSO serves the fellowship through the Annual Business Conference and through day-to-day work supporting recovery around the world. WSO is made up of the board of trustees, staff, and volunteers who comprise the committees. The key topics the presentation will cover, including organizing conference events, implementing conference-directed motions, supporting literature development and publishing, strengthening communications and fellowship engagement, maintaining financial sustainability, and building systems to help ACA grow responsibly. ACA is still growing and still refining its processes, governance structures, technology systems, literature standards, and communication practices. Delegates will hear about the ACA service structure and the inverted pyramid that places meeting groups at the foundation of ACA service. The shared goal throughout all of this work remains the same, which is to carry the ACA message and support recovery for adult children around the

world. The report is not just about accomplishments, but about stewardship, continuity, and supporting the long-term health and stability of ACA so the fellowship can continue carrying the message for generations to come.

Q & A during various parts of presentation

- Q: We are a small group, we spent a lot of time on the 29 proposals and with the name change. I recognize only about 4% of the meetings are represented here today by delegates and 41% voted for the name change, yet there are reservations about moving forward and stopping things until September, and I'm concerned about that. I feel there is a lot of pressure on individual groups who are doing their share in moving things along and yet here at the ABC, there seems to be reservations about how we move forward.
- A: I don't think there is a reservation. I think it's the first time we have done this and we are trying to figure out everything else. There was a suggestion on process, could it be a floor motion? I don't know. I take your comment very seriously and we just have to figure out the process.
- Q: What is the third region that we now have?
- A: They are in Southern California
- C: The inverted pyramid is a helpful graphic and listening to this presentation and the nominating committee presentation, something has given me pause, which is that ACA is both a fellowship and a non-profit organization. I think this is actually not a true statement as there is a difference between the fellowship and the World Services Organization. The WSO is one piece of the service structure and I think ACA is a fellowship that is different from the service structure. I think this is an important piece of context.
- Q: Many people expressed to me that there were too many ballots and too many proposals and we noticed it from many clusters of groups that were very active. I want to pose something that affects how many proposals a single group could do per year. Would the process be to make a proposal for next year's annual business conference?
- A: Generally we would say to go through the ballot proposal process, but if you feel like it cannot wait for the ABC next year, you can introduce it as a floor motion.
- C: I was looking at the numbers of respondents for the fellowship group voting and wondered if there was something more that could be done to improve participation. Many WSO meeting contacts simply do not respond, and I suggest that perhaps an initial outreach could be made to contacts asking if they are willing to participate in the voting before the actual vote is sent out. Also, many meetings have changed secretaries and are using different email addresses, so they never receive the contact emails. Mary Jo might be able to address this further since she is on the membership committee.
- Mary Jo - The automatic updates of meeting groups that Brad talked about earlier, which will be instituted going forward, will take care of a great deal of the issue regarding non-participating contact persons. Groups will have to be updated annually.
- Q: I acknowledge the work being done and distinguish the fellowship group voting process and the name change as two separate matters. The fellowship group voting process could be very useful, but a concern is that the inverted pyramid presented was missing two integral sections, specifically the districts and the areas. Could someone acknowledge that and how would it work?

- Member of FGV team - So the fellowship group voting came after the names study. The name study was from a proposal that turned into a motion that passed that included fellowship group voting. And it came to WSO to develop a process to fulfill that motion. So, the fellowship group voting process was developed by an advisory group of WSO. And it was brought to the delegates to discuss, and then they approved it. So, that was the involvement, and then, it went out to all the groups to fulfill the motion, and then we're here with the results today.

[During the presentation Brad L., IT Manager, was invited to share a tour of the new WSO website that has been launched with positive feedback, and stated that IT is working to optimize it for mobile devices. Also, study groups will be made available online in the coming months, with searchable listings by workbook, and IT will be implementing automation to help keep the meeting list updated and accurate, following up with meetings that do not respond and removing inactive ones]

- Q - I wanted to ask a follow up question about protecting copyrighted materials. ACA's core recovery concept of "becoming your own loving parent" is a central idea within the Fellowship and not unique to a single text. Many members and service boards are unclear about what would actually constitute infringement, and will there be clear guidance for intergroups and regions on what kinds of literature and recovery materials are permissible to be created, so that they are not operating without proper direction.
- A -(Trustee) ACA literature policies have been evolving and that they are coming back to the conferences for a series of discussions about the current literature policy, to demystify it and look at improvements. ACA literature is by adult children for adult children, and for example, the Loving Parent Guidebook, which started as a ballot proposal in 2016, came to the ABC in 2017, and was published by 2021. If ACA does not enforce its copyright, the fellowship loses it, and that World Service is there to support and protect the World Fellowship.
- Q- I support the idea of presenting what ACA is for incarcerated individuals, noting that they are us and we are them. However, my question was about when the presentation will be proposed for conference approval, since it represents the face of ACA and will be going out worldwide. I wanted to know if or when the conference will have that presentation to approve?
- A -(Trustee) Rich, Chair of the Public Services Committee, who provided this information is traveling and not here to answer. We will bring your question to him and have him get back to you and to the delegates. (See post ABC [Answer to Question Regarding EDOVO Content](#)).
- Q: When will the board's review of the literature committee's structure and roles, and the recruitment of a new chair, be completed?
- A- (Trustee) We are currently restructuring and repurposing the literature committee. The literature committee chair position had become too heavy and needed to be re-examined. We estimated we are at least a year out from having things fully in place, including the structure and unified standards and stylistics. If someone with the right skill sets such as project management comes forward to serve as chair, we would not turn them away, but we want to make sure the position is set up for success since it is a volunteer role and not

a full-time staff position. More details will be shared during the Literature presentation tomorrow and at the open house on July 18th.

- Q- Someone mentioned that the BRB was being translated into Arabic and Arabic is spoken by both Muslims and Christians. And I wondered if that difference had any effect on the way the book was translated?
- A- (Publishing Chair) Thank you for your question. In Arabic, they're in the process of translating the BRB. They finished the Strengthening My Recovery, I believe it's the laundry list workbook first. In answer to your question, the Arabic Intergroup is in many countries in the Middle East and around the world. They have members in the U.S. that speak Arabic and they have been doing the translations taking in exactly what you're saying is, what is the best translation. So it could be Christians reading it, it could be Muslims reading it, but it really is for the Arabic fellowship and the Arabic community. I'm just very excited for them. They just finished having their first annual event with 150 fellowship members. They were doing it online and physically in Egypt, I am really inspired by them.
- Q- What is different about the Anniversary Edition of the Big Red Book?
- A- (General Manager) The 20th Anniversary Commemorative Edition of the Big Red Book has a different cover texture, with the words "20th Anniversary Commemorative Edition" on it. It also includes a letter from the board inside, updating the edition and talking about the history. The content inside was not changed since there were no edits directed by the conference. The hot stamp engraving is silver instead of gold, and it has different language on the cover. The books will be arriving by the middle of June.
- Q -I saw him on the slides that you had initiatives to increase seventh tradition contributions. Could you tell me a little bit about those incentives, please?
- A-(General Manager) We've got about a dozen or more planned giving bequests in our database. And we're expanding that outreach to them, and we're going to expand the outreach and awareness to the fellowship. I know that we don't do donor recruitment, so to speak, but providing materials that we're going to prepare. Talk about planned giving and the steps to take and things like that are on the agenda for this year. And we do have a spot on the website for it, but we're going to do more. And recurring contributions are a way for us to plan our budgets more efficiently, so we're going to do education about that as well.
- Q: Those of you who are attending your first ABC, you may notice that the delegate's opportunity to speak is limited to one 60-second comment or share, or question. Some people call that a dialogue, I don't call it that. I'd like to focus on just one thing. Sue mentioned in one of her responses that we are growing faster than our funding. And I agree with that. In fact, I think there's a time bomb ticking in the bylaws. The bylaws say, "The WSO shall be primarily funded by voluntary contributions of its members," and yet, the Treasurer's report says that WSO continues to have as its primary source of income, the sale of literature. I'd like to know how the board reconciles the conflict between what the bylaws say, and what the Treasury's report says.
- A- (Trustee) Great question, something we're constantly looking at. We're also not wanting to shame our groups either, because groups can give as much as they can give. We have the same problem that the other 12 steps have. AA has had it, Al-Anon has had it, NA,

MA, you just name them. I don't think anyone has the majority of their funds coming from 7th Tradition. So your comment is well placed, but we're in good company.

- A- (General Manager) I would just like to just say, how do we decide which adult children don't get a copy of the book in their language? How do we do that equitably? I don't think we can. So we're creating the books. Yes, we're paying for it out of fellowship funds, but those funds are primarily generated by revenue on the books. And I'm not going to be the one that tells the fellowship members in Egypt that they can't have a book in their language.
- A- (Trustee) I just wanted to comment as well. I think the board is really open to creative solutions on this front as to raising revenue primarily from contributions. And if anyone has some suggestions I mean, aside from charging admission to meetings, we are all ears.
- C- Great job, everybody. I really appreciate this report that I just sat through. I have a difficulty in my meetings with not only contributions, but with service. The fact that this has been delegated and taken care of by so many competent people, makes me feel as if I've seen the service component removed from the actual members of ACA. I kind of feel as if they've been allowed to sit back and not contribute either financially, but more importantly, in their service. If I have to wait 5... 10, 15 seconds for someone to read the solution in a meeting, something's, in my estimation, wrong. So, I don't expect an answer today from any of you, but I'd like to see that thought about. Thank you.
- C- You're doing good stuff, but please delegates do not believe that that's the full story of all the motions have been passed. I'd like to show them the other part, which is that you've done recently, you've been adding things daily but the ACAWSO history overview reference links that our archives put together is really interesting. I'd also encourage all your delegates to go to ProPublica and check out all the tax returns for ACA and look at the breakdowns there. We've been donating over a half a million dollars, I believe so there's quite a few and we're selling all the books and our donations are 100% profit, as opposed to the hardcover, the hard copy book sales. I look at those returns. We were losing 23% in 2015 and up to 2022, we were losing 83% on the cost of the books and getting them out there, that's never talked about. Plus, we have over \$200,000 a year, okay. There's some numbers there that nobody's talking about. Thank you.
- Q: I have two questions. I have really old literature and ones from the Big Red Book, the 20th printing versus the 27th or 28th. I believe the Big Red Book hasn't been changed from what I'm hearing, so maybe there's no substantial differences other than the length of time of the book from when it was printed. Also, there was something much earlier in the day about only one person outside of the US could be on the board and that seemed very US centric. I'm sure it's a legal requirement or something.
- A- (Trustee) I don't know which point it was that made it sound like that, but that's not true. We can have multiple people from around the world on the board, so please, people from other countries, join us.
- A- (NomCom rep.) The Nominating Committee said that they want at least one from outside of North America.
- A- (Trustee) - I would also like to address the comment that we've let people sit back and not participate. A lot of groups don't even know about WSO. They don't even know about Intergroups. So part of our purpose here is to spread that word even further and use the

new vehicles like the social media that we are doing, because when I joined my meeting, I didn't even know who WSO was. And here we are.

- Q - I'd like to be informed about why one of the recent board members was dismissed. I want to be informed about the why so I want to inspire you to be more forthcoming about what happened and please inform us. Thank you.
- A- (Trustee) We can say that he was not removed. The board had been engaged in discussions about his trustee service. We recognize that these conversations can be difficult and sensitive, but we really have to respect his privacy and uphold our duty of confidentiality.
- Q- I have a question regarding translation. We had some translation work started over here in India but then there were some issues with how the money was being collected and being used by the service members, apparently, to pay themselves a fee. Amidst all of the chaos, the conclusion was that the exercise got paused for a very long time and is yet to resume. Wondering if something can be done about that. Thank you.
- A - (Publishing Committee Chair) I am finishing my term of publishing chair, and I also have the translations. It's very normal for service groups, and translations no exception, to have service issues, tradition issues and conflicts. And it did exist in India, I'm not going to go into the details. We offered, once they could sort things through, to get them a translation license, and since then, we've got a lot of improvements now with the translation management systems. So once the group is ready to come, we can help them with the actual translations, the workflow for it. If you're looking for more support we have a safety resources committee that you could reach out to, perhaps Dove could put the link in the chat. It often comes back to our recovery and traditions and the suggested commitment to service. I would just say it's normal, unfortunately, that all our service groups go through this, and translation is not an exception. For those of you not familiar, it's not an intellectual exercise, it's a recovery exercise. It's like taking a step study, and we know how painful those can be. So recovery and translations go hand in hand. And you can reach out to the Publishing Chair, I'll put the link in chat.
- C -I just wanted to comment on a couple of things that were said. So our books are fully audited. There is nothing nefarious going on with the financials. Two, from my perspective, the sale of literature produces almost no net income towards our contributions. We make a little bit of margin on books, but it is not noteworthy, so therefore we do live off of our seventh tradition funds. And lastly, the Finance Committee and the board do just a fantastic job of managing our budgets and our funds. I'm on the Finance Committee and I've been super impressed with Bill and the rest of the team. Thank you for letting me speak.
- ABC Chair Announcement: Today there was a proposal, and also Trustee ratifications. They will go to Worldwide Online Voting, so the same way that you voted today, it'll be open to vote at the end of this meeting to finalize the results. And there is a link for floor motions. I want to remind people that a floor motion should have great significance, require immediate decision, and cannot wait to enact and should take precedence over currently scheduled business - those are some of the requirements.

Break

Establish Quorum [OPPM Process](#)

Quorum established with 51 delegates present.

Treasurer and Audit Report

Presenters: Al E., Treasurer, and Phillip H., Audit Cmte. Chair

[Presentation Finance Cmte. Report Financial Audited Statements 2025](#)

Points from Phillip H., Audit Cmte. Chair (not in presentation)

- The Audit Committee is an all-volunteer committee composed of members of the ACA Fellowship who have decided to do service work at the World Service Level as part of our recovery. The committee currently includes five members, Debbie T, Shirley Kay, Sue V, and Yitz C, and myself. I want to thank the current members, as well as the past members and the previous Audit Committee Chair, Ken R, for their service.

The primary responsibility of the audit committee as defined by the OPPM and California state law is to ensure that a third-party independent audit process takes place annually. The audit for fiscal year 2025 for ACAWSO was completed by the independent third-party auditor, Brett Bradbury, CPAPC, and it's been approved by the board of directors. The approved audited financial statements can be linked to through the ABC materials and also found on the Audit Committee Reports page on the ACA WSO website. I am very pleased to report that ACAWSO received a clean audit with an unqualified opinion, which is the best possible outcome for an audit. There were no findings and no material weaknesses that were identified. I want to thank everyone that contributed to this outcome, including the board, the finance and other committees, and most of all the staff whose effort in their day-to-day work is a large reason for this result.

Delegates and fellow travelers who are interested in the results of the audit deserve time and space to review it outside of the myriad of information that is the ABC. As such, a virtual session where the independent auditor will present the 2025 audit has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 23rd at 6 p.m. Eastern Time, 3 p.m. Pacific Time. You can find the session information and meeting link on the Audit Committee webpage on the ACAWSO website. And then lastly, a look at upcoming work for the audit committee over the next several months. We will be starting a request for proposals RFP process for identifying the auditor for the 2026 audit, and we are also starting work on an audit committee process manual. And then we will be heading into the 2026 audit at the end of the year. So that is what I have. Thank you.

Q & A's During the Presentation:

- Q- I believe it's all of our responsibility to go in and It's very easy to get a few numbers and not the full picture. So if you could help me out, maybe the others, since you are referencing 2024. I am looking at some of the other things, I don't begrudge anyone who's doing their work, but that was also the year, is it not, that not too recently before that, we didn't have any salaried members, but now we have our general manager with \$160,888 plus \$5,000 for something else and then we got our controller in for \$140,559, and \$4,000. And then we also lost \$10,000 that year to thievery, where somebody sent in an invoice that was a fake invoice. But there's also a lot of other things in there. There's hundreds and thousands of dollars in all these different places. I'm not saying anything that is nefarious, but if you could just comment about those things.

- A: I'm not that familiar at an in-depth level of those finances. I could have a separate conversation with you. What I will say is that many eyes watch the money, funding, and budget. Those eyes consist of Jonathan, our accountant, the general manager, and members of the finance committee. I doubt any large deviations get through the amount of people observing the cash flow of the organization or its expenses. WSO remains committed to balancing responsible financial stewardship while continuing to pursue the purpose of honouring the 5th Tradition.
- Q: I was just looking at the statement of activity and the \$39,000 spent on fundraising and I'm wondering what fundraising is being done?
- A: I don't have an exact answer offhand, but I can tell you that's a very small amount of money based on our overall budget. I would expect it to be moved up quite a bit in the future. I can answer it for you offline one on one. (See Post ABC [Answer to Question Regarding Fundraising Costs](#))
- Q: How much in prudent reserve do you keep in hand?
- A: Ideally, we would like to keep about 3 months of prudent reserve on hand. Currently we have a little over \$160,000 in prudent reserve.
- ABC Co-Chair presented a motion to extend the ABC 15 minutes by show of hands. 43 in favour, Opposed:9. Abstained: 4
No minority opinion - so it was passed to extend the meeting 15 minutes.
- Q: Can you put the last slide about the \$5 ask in the chat so we can bring it to our meetings? I have been treasurer in a few different groups and there is an issue that comes up with Zoom meetings where I'm hearing that we don't need your money, we just want you here. I think it would be great to brainstorm a plan to get more people to contribute.
- A: Yes, I would be glad to provide that in the chat.
- C: As a first time delegate, I found it very overwhelming and a sense of inner circle and those who know, know. I've got plenty to take back to my group. Nothing stands out as overly negative.
- C: For my fellow delegates, please get in touch with me through Slack. I want to speak with you. I may know something because I've been on the committees for the last 5-6 months, so I could learn more. It's our responsibility and that's part of the 7th Tradition. There are other ways to go rather than be dependent on copyright and books. 90% of the world has a cell phone and it could be a possibility to give the PDFs away for free, make it all donations because you lose even on a good year 50% of the cost to goods, when you could just get 100% of the contributions. Thank you.
- C: When I saw the \$5 ask and then I googled and the contribution that was made in 1935 to AA was \$1, the equivalent of that today is \$24, so the \$5 is a bargain folks!
- Q: I forget what year it was, but it was suggested that for whatever year it was, there was an ask for a \$27 contribution, I do not recall exactly what it was. Yet if it is our 50th year coming up, maybe we could put out a pdf suggesting that groups put in a one time \$50 contribution as a one-time extra contribution. If everyone did that, it could really make a difference. And keep doing the \$5 ask.
- A: We have had birthday anniversary requests in the past and we certainly can do that again. Any ideas for bringing people into the 7th tradition. I would like to see the 22% of contributions grow to 30% in 2026.

- C- I agree that the \$5 donation sounds like a great deal.
- Q: For meetings that do not have their own checking account, is there a problem for the treasurer to use his personal Venmo account to collect 7th Tradition funds?
- A: There are guidelines in terms of trifolds and direction in the Blg Red Book regarding finances. I have to revert to the traditions and say that each group is autonomous. Set it up with how you want things done and go from there.
- Q: About extraordinary expenses, especially with defending our copyright, are there any expenses over \$5,000 being spent on this region rumoured conflict about literature?
- A: There certainly are expenses and anytime you engage legal firms you are going to pay well past the \$5,000 figure for advice and consultation. Copyright is linked to approximately 80% sale of copyrighted literature. This is something we take very seriously in terms of protecting our copyright on behalf of the fellowship.
- Q: I appreciate that we move away from shaming as there are certain members and groups that can't afford a \$5 donation. I appreciate that everyone can do what they can. A question about giving anonymously, in in-person meetings you can give cash and nobody knows who you are, but on the platforms listed, they are connected to people's names. I want to know if there are any platforms for non-profits for people to give anonymously?
- A: I do not know of one. My practice as Treasurer for my group is that I removed the names before presenting the bank statement. You are right, through Venmo and other online platforms, full names are disclosed and I don't know a way around that.

Closing & Reminders

- Worldwide Online Voting is now available.
- [Website](#) - information that will be available (recordings and main discussion points about each motion and Board ratifications)
- Reminder about saving Chat and the transcript
- Floor Proposals due within one hour of close of this meeting [OPPM Process](#)
- Preview of Day 2
- Serenity Prayer

Results of World Wide Online Voting Day 1

We move to adjust the timeline for the ballot process: beginning with the 2027-2028 ballot season, the Call for Proposals will be issued at the Annual Business Conference (ABC); publication of voting results shall occur no later than the end of the year. The Ballot Prep Committee (BPC) shall be authorized to adjust the timeline between start and finish of the ballot process to meet the needs of the fellowship.

PLURALITY 71.0 votes tallied and 2 abstentions

I am in favor	66.00 votes 92.96%
I am opposed	5.00 votes 7.04%

I am opposed	5.00 votes 7.04%
--------------	------------------

I am in favor wins with 92.96% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.

Ratification of AI E for the Board of Trustees	
PLURALITY 67.0 votes tallied and 6 abstentions	
I am in favor	61.00 votes 91.04%
I am opposed	6.00 votes 8.96%
I am in favor wins with 91.04% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.	

Ratification of Alisa A for the Board of Trustees	
PLURALITY 66.0 votes tallied and 7 abstentions	
I am in favor	62.00 votes 93.94%
I am opposed	4.00 votes 6.06%
I am in favor wins with 93.94% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.	

Ratification of Dove H for the Board of Trustees	
PLURALITY 70.0 votes tallied and 3 abstentions	
I am in favor	58.00 votes 82.86%
I am opposed	12.00 votes 17.14%
I am in favor wins with 82.86% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.	

Ratification of Rich R for the Board of Trustees	
PLURALITY 69.0 votes tallied and 4 abstentions	
I am in favor	63.00 votes 91.30%
I am opposed	6.00 votes 8.70%
I am in favor wins with 91.30% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.	

Ratification of Sue V for the Board of Trustees	
PLURALITY 68.0 votes tallied and 5 abstentions	
I am in favor	55.00 votes 80.88%
I am opposed	13.00 votes 19.12%
I am in favor wins with 80.88% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.	

Ratification of Tamara P for the Board of Trustees	
PLURALITY 68.0 votes tallied and 5 abstentions	
I am in favor	58.00 votes 85.29%
I am opposed	10.00 votes 14.71%
I am in favor wins with 85.29% of the votes which meets the requirement of 60% of votes.	

Answers to Questions Post ABC

Answer to Question Regarding EDOVO Content

Provided by Rich R., Public Services & Hospitals & Institutions Committee Chair

Thanks for your participation at the ABC and for your question about Edovo. In response to your question, "Insofar as this will be the public face of ACAD in the world, prior to launching this program, when will your committee be submitting this/these materials for Conference Approval?"

There are a few things I would like to clarify:

- Edovo is not worldwide, it is just in the USA.
- The main part of the "course" is a video of an anonymous ACA member reading the booklet "A New Hope" which has already been approved and published. There are audios of numerous ACA members who give their personal responses to the questions at the end of each chapter, and other recovery and spiritual themes/memes to increase user engagement.
- The PS/H+I committee unanimously passed a motion for the Edovo project, and then on July 17th 2025 the Board of Trustees unanimously passed the motion. So many sets of eyes have been on this project.
- Since that time we have been talking about the Edovo project at all the Fellowship and Board meetings and inviting fellowship participation. We have been transparent and encouraging fellowship input.
- The project is about the spiritual principles found in the 12th Step and the 5th Tradition. Concept VI says;
"On behalf of ACA as a whole, our Annual Business Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Annual Business Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most

of these matters would be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the World Service Organization when they act among themselves as the World Service Organization of Adult Children of Alcoholics."

In my opinion, this is not an issue of "large matters of general policy and finance." It is about the implementation of Step 12 and Tradition 5, and thus does not need conference approval.

- When the "Edovo ACA Course" is completed, it will need to pass the PS/H+I committee approval and the Board approval before it is uploaded into the Edovo platform. so there will be another level of approval by "trusted servants" before this project is initiated.

With all the eyes and input we have had on this project you are the only person who has brought up the question. If others chime in that conference approval may be needed we can certainly do that. I would imagine that the process would be similar to literature approval, where it is released for use and goes through a "fellowship review mode" for a period of time before final acceptance.

I hope this is helpful,
Rich R
Chair PS/H+I
ACAWSO

Answer to Question Regarding Fundraising Costs

Provided by the General Manager

Thank you for raising the question yesterday about the fundraising expense shown on the Statement of Activities.

The \$39,801 listed under Fundraising expenses is not money spent on fundraising campaigns. More than half of it — about \$20,500 — is bank and merchant processing fees. These are the fees charged when 7th Tradition contributions are received electronically through credit cards, PayPal, online giving, or similar payment systems.

It is important for delegates to understand that 7th Tradition contributions are not 100% net income. They are much less costly to process than literature sales, but they still carry real costs, especially from financial institutions and payment processors.

The balance of the fundraising expense is mostly allocated staff time and technology costs connected with receiving, recording, acknowledging, and administering contributions. Because ACA WSO has an annual audit and follows GAAP procedures for handling and accounting for contributions, there are also administrative costs associated with transparency, proper recordkeeping, internal controls, and financial accountability.

So the \$39,801 figure reflects the cost of supporting contribution activity, not a large fundraising program or campaign expense.

This is a useful question for the fellowship because it helps clarify that every type of income has some associated cost. Literature has production and fulfillment costs; 7th Tradition has processing, technology, and administrative costs. The net benefit of 7th Tradition is still very strong, but it is not zero-cost income.

Answer to Question Regarding Form 990 Disclosure of Compensation

Provided by the Treasurer

Thank you for your continued support of the Fellowship & WSO and for taking the time to review our financial disclosures on Form 990. We appreciate your dedication to our mission and your desire to ensure your contributions are used effectively.

Transparency is incredibly important to us. The salaries reported on the Form 990 reflect legal requirements, IRS guidelines, and our commitment to hiring the skilled professionals needed to run our programs.

To achieve the results our Fellowship relies on, we must attract and retain employees with specialized expertise. Our Board of Trustees—which is entirely volunteer—reviews and approves all compensation using market data from similarly-sized nonprofits to ensure salaries are reasonable and competitive. We strive to treat employees fairly by targeting the 25th-75th percentile as researched by our Human Resource firm, BPM. We have checked with BPM twice to ensure compensation is fair to employees and stretches the Fellowship's funds in a competitive manner.

By investing in qualified, expert staff, we are able to operate highly effective programs that maximize our impact. We are always happy to discuss programs, financial stewardship, and outreach, as per Tradition 5 with you. Please let me know if I can assist you further.

In addition, I believe the Fellowship may have interest in the following FACTS: 1] the IRS implemented the \$100,000 disclosure rule in 2008 and 2] inflation has eroded the value of that \$100,000 significantly to about 55%-62% of the original dollar value in 2026, making the 2008 \$100,000 worth much less, in terms of purchasing power, in 2026. Thus employee compensation has been adjusted upward, after several consultations with our HR firm BPM, beyond the \$100,000 IRS reporting level, in several cases, to keep pace with inflation and market value of the job.

DAY 2 - May 17, 2026

Opening

- [Serenity Prayer](#)
- [Commitment to Service Reading](#)
- [Daily Meditation Reading](#)
- Welcome by the board chair, Tamara - key points:
 - Delegates are invited to mark their calendars for the next Board Meeting with the Fellowship on June 13th.
 - I want to express great gratitude to all committees, delegates, trusted servants, volunteers, and members for their time and energy devoted to ACA service.
 - Congratulations to our trustees as all six trustees were given the confidence of the fellowship to continue serving in their roles.
 - I want to recognize departing trustees over the past year: Jim R, Ken R., and Kaz S. and recognize them for their many contributions and perspectives.
 - Several committee chairs completed their tenure, including Carmen and Marcus (ABC committee, 3 years), Karen S (Ballot Prep Committee), and Rich R (Public Service Hospitals and Institutions Committee), among others. Most of these chair roles remain empty, reflecting a need for more members willing to step into leadership and service roles. The future health of ACA depends on members showing up and helping carry the work forward.
 - The board may delay approving motions when legal, financial, HR, or other professional guidance is needed to ensure responsible decision-making.
- Notice: Meeting is Recorded

Technology overview

Setting the Tone

Jim R.

Establish Quorum [OPPM Process](#). **Quorum established at 62 delegates**

Worldwide Online Voting Results from Day 1

[2026-ABC-Day-One-Voting-Results.pdf](#)

Trustee ratifications and Ballot proposal (BPC timeline)

- Q: I'm wondering if the delegates could better understand their role, there is always the California tax code and section 501c3 being referenced as the authority for everything that we are doing, the board does. If we could explain to the delegates their roles in the election process.
- A: These are no straightforward answers to that. This is not the time for this question. You can reach out directly to the Parliamentarian for questions in this matter.

Minority Opinion for Day 1 Motions

[OPPM Process](#)

Ballot Proposal Timeline motion

- I listened to the presentation and it's my understanding that the vote and process will be done by December of this year and from my own experience that it's putting more pressure on my own meeting to comply with the tightened timeline, especially when we have 29 proposals to work with and that's why I voted No to the Ballot Proposal motion.
- (No further minority opinions.)
- A delegate asked for a re-vote. A call for a re-vote was conducted by show of hands.
- Who is in favour of having a re-vote on yesterday's motion (ballot proposal timeline?)

- 8 delegates in favour. Since the 40% threshold was not met, there will be no re-vote on the motions and the motion made yesterday has passed.
- All trustees ratified and the motion passed. *[Note: no minority opinion for trustee ratifications as per motion ABC_2025-12]*
- Charlie H (Parliamentarian)- went over the Point of Order Process and how to bring it up during the conference

Floor Motions Prioritization

CoChair; [OPPM Process](#); [Floor-Motion-Outcome-v2.pdf](#)

[Charlie H., Parliamentarian, re-introduced himself and his role. He also explained the process for floor motions that were determined as conforming to criteria leading to vote on time sensitive.]

- The submitter of floor motion #11 appealed the decision that it was non-conforming. *Floor Motion: I move that there be a one-time, temporary adjustment of the threshold for addition of proposals to the next delegate business meeting (CBM/ABC) agenda to >50% yes votes, rather than 66.7% as currently specified in Section XVI.G of the current OPPM for the following 2026 ballot proposals: #10, #14, #17, and #18.*
- It was ruled as non-conforming because it contains the sum of the substance of proposals that were already on the ballot and for which decisions were already made. This would retroactively change the ballots that were already determined.
- Submitter - The purpose of my appeal is because many times during town halls and speaking with fellowship members, a lot of concerns were raised just based on the sheer number of ballots. I felt that this had an adverse impact on the submitting groups for the ballots. There were four that met a simple majority and one approaching 60% so I felt that the fellowship sounded like these were concerns and issues that resonated in the fellowship and they wanted to hear more. But due to the nature of this year's ballots, with 29 of them, some things may have gotten lost in the shuffle. I think this was backed up based on the redundancy of some of the comments. So I just wanted them to be heard. Many of them were not included due to volume of ballots and some were close to 60%
- ABC Chair Conducted a hand poll on;
 - "Should the chair ruling stand? 41 in favour;
 - Should the ruling be overturned? 7 voted in favour which does not meet the 40% threshold, therefore the ruling stands for the floor motion (non-conforming)
- ABC Chair - Now we will vote on the floor motions that are conforming- if they are time-sensitive.
- Q: I'm confused, is it possible to get a link in the chat, to see what the floor motions are?
- A: Link will be added to chat and is on the agenda.
- Q: Can you clarify what specifically we are voting on and the last one, saying that the ruling stands, please clarify actually what will happen when the voting is taking place, to explicitly lay out exactly what it means that we are voting on with the chair ruling.
- A: ABC Chair - So the chair ruling on the floor motions gives anyone the ability to appeal the decision. It requires 60% to overturn. Another way to say it is those who want to affirm the chair ruling. Now for the vote on floor motions time sensitivity.
- Q: You mentioned giving people 3-4 minutes to look it over and is that separate from the time allotted to vote?
- A: We will give 5 minutes to vote and I will check in if more time is needed.
- Q: There was discussion in the January meeting about consolidating proposals that were similar because it took an overwhelming amount of time to go through the ballot proposals. Has there been any conversation about consolidation or using AI to figure out which ones are similar?

- A: Please send your suggestion to the point of order as we are now doing floor motions.
- Q: We want to be really clear on what we are about to vote on. My understanding is that we are voting on the fact that they are time sensitive and NOT in favour of the floor motions.

Results of vote on time sensitivity of floor motions - reference: [Floor-Motion-List-v2.pdf](#)

Voter Audit Report

Is the floor motion 1 time sensitive?	
PLURALITY 60.0 votes tallied and 4 abstentions	
Yes	52.00 votes 86.67%
No	8.00 votes 13.33%
Yes wins with 86.67% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.	

Is the floor motion 2 time sensitive?	
PLURALITY 60.0 votes tallied and 4 abstentions	
Yes	53.00 votes 88.33%
No	7.00 votes 11.67%
Yes wins with 88.33% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.	

Is the floor motion 3 time sensitive?	
PLURALITY 57.0 votes tallied and 7 abstentions	
Yes	41.00 votes 71.93%
No	16.00 votes 28.07%
Yes wins with [redacted] e requirement of the most votes.	

Is the floor motion 4 time sensitive?	
PLURALITY 55.0 votes tallied and 9 abstentions	
Yes	38.00 votes 69.09%
No	17.00 votes 30.91%
Yes wins with 69.09% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.	

Is the floor motion 5 time sensitive?	
PLURALITY 59.0 votes tallied and 5 abstentions	
Yes	44.00 votes 74.58%
No	15.00 votes 25.42%
Yes wins with 74.58% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.	

Is the floor motion 6 time sensitive?	
PLURALITY 57.0 votes tallied and 7 abstentions	
Yes	40.00 votes 70.18%
No	17.00 votes 29.82%
Yes wins with 70.18% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.	

Is the floor motion 7 time sensitive?	
PLURALITY 60.0 votes tallied and 4 abstentions	
Yes	46.00 votes 76.67%
No	14.00 votes 23.33%
Yes wins with 76.67% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.	

[Results of vote read aloud. They were all deemed time sensitive]

- ABC Chair - We have five hours left today and we now have 12 hours of business. A member of the ABC Committee is going to present a motion to combine the floor motions that are similar. We have two on limiting ballot proposals, four on the name change and two on the fellowship group vote. Currently the floor motion procedure in the OPPM does not allow for consolidating floor motions.
- ABC Committee member - I would like to make a motion to suspend the rules or procedure governing debate and floor motions to allow a different set of OPPM rules to guide the process. The second motion- I move to apply the process for combining ballot proposals on page 78 of the OPPM to today's conference discussion of floor proposals that are similar.
- ABC Chair - So the first motion is to suspend the rules, and the second motion is to apply the combining ballot proposal section to floor motion, so that we can vote whether we want to combine them. Because all floor motions were deemed time-sensitive and the OPPM says that if there is not enough time to process all time-sensitive floor motions then they will be referred to the board.
- I suggest the two motions are combined into one.

- Parliamentarian - I was trying out of caution to follow the exact Roberts Rules process, but I think for our purpose that would work to combine similar ones rather than debate each floor motion separately.
- Would it be easy to ask each group whether they want to withdraw their motion now that they have seen the others?
- ABC Chair - We asked and the answer was “no.”
- If we suspend the rules, we could also leave ourselves in a parliamentarian quagmire of not having the normal rules to guide us as to what happens if we get into some endless loop of discussing it or something like that.
- I suggested suspending the rule governing debate and voting on floor proposals and to allow a set of OPPM rules to guide the process.
- Parliamentarian - We already have an existing process in the OPPM for doing this kind of combined discussion when several proposals talk about the same thing. But it only right now applies to ballot proposals. So, in essence, what this is doing is suspending our normal rules on floor proposals, and then in the same motion, based on a suggestion. It would allow us to do a combined discussion process, so we can have one discussion for the name change issue and one for the ballot proposal issue. We're just simply extending from one context to another.
- ABC Chair - So it's amending the rules so that the ballot proposal combination process can apply to floor motion, so it's very specific. I will put the motion in chat so it is clear what we are voting on.
- So if the proposing group doesn't want to take down their proposal, or combine them, why don't we do it for them so we can vote for the proposal closest to what we think.
- I am going to suggest that anytime with this constant going to OPPM references, and nobody knows what's in there, that they be put on the screen so every section can be looked at. If it is too complicated or takes too long, we accept that and then we use a different method. The same with Robert's Rules.
- ABC Chair - Good suggestion. Let's take a break and resume.

Break

Establish Quorum- **Quorum established** at 63 delegates

Procedural Motions

Presented by William GB, ABC committee

Procedural Vote:

We move to temporarily suspend the procedure governing debate and voting on floor proposals, to apply the process for combining ballot proposals, on Page 78 of the OPPM, to today's Conference discussion of floor proposals that are similar in nature.

Those in favour: 55; opposed: none, Abstained: 4. Therefore motion passes

Voting to Combine Floor Motions

2026 ABC Floor Motions Conforming to Criteria

A. TOPIC: Limiting Ballot Submissions (2 motions submitted)

1. **Motion:** We move that, beginning with the 2026-2027 ABC Ballot, the online Ballot submission process limits annual submissions to no more than two Ballot Proposals from any registered ACA group and no more than two Ballot Proposals submitted by any ACA member, regardless of how many groups they attend. These limits will be applied before the Ballot is sent to groups for voting.

Background: The Ballot process is meant to give all groups the opportunity to have a voice in the fellowship. However, when 29 ballots are submitted, the process is difficult. Groups must hold many prolonged business meetings. If all items had passed, they could have filled all conference/business meetings, possibly carrying into the 2027 ABC. This motion needs to be addressed now so the limit can apply before the 2027 Ballot is published. It will keep the process manageable, limit the effect of a small group of people controlling the process, and protect and preserve access to shared time.

(Submitter: Brad L; WSO Group Number: PA105)

2. **Motion:** In the interest of having balance in Fellowship voices, and a more manageable Ballot Proposal cycle

We move that the Ballot Proposal process be updated immediately such that there is a limit of *no more than 3 Ballot Proposals per proposing entity (Group, Intergroup, or Region) per Ballot Proposal cycle.*

Background: There were 29 Ballot Proposals this past cycle, most from a small subset of groups. Many members reported feeling overwhelmed by this, and that the voting process felt unmanageable.

(Submitter: Adelina, Josh W, Matt K; WSO Group Number: IG558)

- ABC Chair - The two motions we are considering combining on limiting ballot submissions are #1 and #2.
- I motion to combine these two (Denise TX)
- Second (Crissy WEB02)
- Hand Vote: All in favour of combining these two: 59 delegates; Opposed: none; Abstained: 3. Motion passed to combine these two floor proposals.
- ABC Chair- The next ones are regarding acceptance of the name change vote.

B. TOPIC: Acceptance of Name Change Vote (3 motions submitted; one includes implementation)

1. **Motion:** I move to have the results of the ACA world wide fellowship voting results (86% yes) of the responding groups for the name change from ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholics) to ACAD(Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families) be effective immediately .

Background: The history of the name change includes a process since 2024 of a name study group proposal that turned into a motion that WSO developed through an advisory

group process which was then brought to the worldwide fellowship to discuss with their groups and then vote was taken with 86% of 41% of responding groups voting yes to change the name from ACA to ACAD. This vote was then brought to the May 2026 ABC to take steps to move forward.

(Submitter: Liah H; WSO Group Number: HI0045)

2. **Motion:** I move that we have the name change of the fellowship be voted on tommorrow.

Background: It is important because the people that are still suffering that they don't know if they are welcomed in this fellowship because they probably think it is for only children from alcoholic homes that it is in the name. This issues has been put off so long.

(Submitter: Charity S.; WSO Group Number: WEB0207)

3. **Motion:** 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 associated phased implementation plan over a 5–10 year period, taking into account financial and other resource considerations.

Background: When the fellowship passed the procedures for the FGV process, they were told that the results would be voted on by the delegates at the 2026 ABC. This floor motion will fulfill that commitment to hold a vote.

(Submitter: Mardi M.; WSO Group Number: WEB0334).

- Motion to combine these three (Stefan, IG630)
- Seconded (Veronica IL172)
- Hand vote: Those in favour: 53; Opposed: none; Abstained: 4. Motion passes.

C. TOPIC: Fellowship Group Vote Process (2 motions submitted)

1. **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% % needed for a vote to pass; and

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

Background: Since a new FGV process is starting before the next CBM, the delegates should confirm now that FGV results are going to be calculated solely on votes cast by registered groups.

(Submitter: Mardi M.; **WSO Group Number:** WEB0334).

2. **Motion:** In order to not have to wait until September to tackle the question of Quorum for the Fellowship Name Change,

we move that the Conference approves the 41% participation rate in the Name Change Fellowship Group Vote as sufficient to meet quorum for Fellowship Participation for the Name Change FGV vote.

Background: All registered groups were given sufficient opportunities to participate over a suitable period of time. A delay does not align with Tradition 2, where supporting the member's voices that chose to be heard is honored. We propose to move forward in the spirit of our Traditions and Concepts and in accordance with the experience of the Delegates and Fellowship over the past 3 years.

(Submitter: Josh W, Caterina S, Rick E, and Jess A; **WSO Group Number:** Region 5)

- Motion to Combine the FGV Process motions (Dee WEB 0766)
- Seconded (Veronica IL172)
- Hand Vote: Those in favour: 50: Opposed: none; Abstained: 6. Motion passed.

The Chair introduces the next step as Prioritization Vote on Topics for Today's Agenda

- As part of the proposing emergency floor motion team, I ask that we hold back on motions we are proposing today because this has brought a wrinkle. I think we should do the presentation, but not do the proposals today and bring them up at the next conference business meeting with the idea that we'll have to include this combining aspect into the revised motions which will help save us some time.
- A: I think the combining motions is a separate issue, and yet the two motions should be done together so it may be better to postpone it to September.
- Q: Can we take a second and summarize where we are at and what we voted for?
- A: (Chair) So there were seven floor motions submitted and we are combining them into three motions under topics. The first topic will be on limiting ballot submissions. The second topic will be acceptance of name change vote and the third will be on the fellowship group vote process. We have seven hours of work to fit into 5 hours left today. The next vote is about prioritization and will include both the items on the agenda and the floor motions and the delegates will decide which ones we act on first. There are a series of agenda items already scheduled for day 2 and we want the delegates to prioritize all of them and decide how we should do them. So floor motions aren't necessarily given precedence over business already on the agenda. It's up to the delegates to decide how they want to fit them in.

Prioritization Vote for Remaining Agenda
Via Electionbuddy

Vote Again & Share

Prioritize the remaining items for the Day Two Agenda	
<small>INSTRUCTIONS: Select the remaining agenda items you want to see on the Day Two agenda.</small>	
Floor Motions about finding ballot submissions	451 points
Floor Motions about approving acceptance of Name Change Vote	425 points
Rules/Prep Presentation	330 points
Floor Motions about FOV Process	317 points
Motion about Emergency Floor Motions/Motion about Time Sensitive Floor Motions/Floor Motion Task Force Report	306 points
Literature Presentation	287 points
Concept Two Presentation	267 points
Charter Presentation	251 points
Sustainability Presentation	211 points
Floor Motions about finding ballot submissions wins with the highest preference	

- Chair - We will not proceed in the order based on poll. A team behind the scenes will rework the agenda

Floor Motions on Limiting Ballot Proposals

- Each proposer will have 3 minutes to speak on their motion and following that we will have 30 minutes of delegates discussion.
- Q - I thought we had already voted to combine the motions so why aren't we presenting new motions?
- Parliamentarian - We're trying to adapt, so there may be some imperfections, but basically, the idea is this. When these things are discussed, and this is true of any kind of floor proposal, or ballot proposal, each presenter says why they think this is an important thing to do. And then it goes to the conference to discuss, where delegates can talk about the issue. When we are done, there'll be a decision on how to handle the actual motions process. And then the conference will figure out what's the final motion we're going to approve to go to worldwide online voting..

Floor Motion 1 (under Limiting Ballot Submission)

1. **Motion:** We move that, beginning with the 2026-2027 ABC Ballot, the online Ballot submission process limits annual submissions to no more than two Ballot Proposals from any registered ACA group and no more than two Ballot Proposals submitted by any ACA member, regardless of how many groups they attend. These limits will be applied before the Ballot is sent to groups for voting.

Background: The Ballot process is meant to give all groups the opportunity to have a voice in the fellowship. However, when 29 ballots are submitted, the process is difficult. Groups must hold many prolonged business meetings. If all items had passed, they could have filled all conference/business meetings, possibly carrying into the 2027 ABC. This motion needs to be addressed now so the limit can apply before the 2027 Ballot is published. It will keep the process manageable, limit the effect of a small group of people controlling the process, and protect and preserve access to shared time.

(Submitter: Brad L; WSO Group Number: PA105)

Presenter (Brad L. PA 105)

- Recovery in ACA is about recovering in community and coming to the conference is about working in community and having a shared space and we can co-operate together. When we have 29 ballot proposals, it's overwhelming for everyone who helps put it on. The idea is to limit each individual group to submitting 2 ballot proposals. And if it needs to go beyond that, it goes to the individual ACA member who can only submit 2 ballot proposals also. We want to encourage people to come and participate and when there are 29 ballot items, it doesn't encourage them. There is a lower participation in people that have shown up to the ABC this year. We have 113. Last year, we had 155. I feel if we were not overwhelmed with these ballot items, we could have more voices. I think we're stronger with more voices.

Floor Motion 2 - (under Limiting Ballot Submission)

2. **Motion:** In the interest of having balance in Fellowship voices, and a more manageable Ballot Proposal cycle

We move that the Ballot Proposal process be updated immediately such that there is a limit of *no more than 3 Ballot Proposals per proposing entity (Group, Intergroup, or Region) per Ballot Proposal cycle.*

Background: There were 29 Ballot Proposals this past cycle, most from a small subset of groups. Many members reported feeling overwhelmed by this, and that the voting process felt unmanageable.

(Submitter: Adelina, Josh W, Matt K; WSO Group Number: IG558)

I

Presenters - Adelina & Josh

- Our ballot proposal is similar to Brad L's in trying to limit the number of proposals in the spirit of fairness, inclusivity, and balance at the fellowship, recognizing the amount of proposals, the total amount that were received this year. Having a few clusters of proposing entities submitting a large number of proposals created an atmosphere of overwhelm, unmanageability, and imbalance in the process. We did acknowledge the fact that any particular group or ACA member could associate in different combinations and permutations with other ACA members and other groups and entities could propose a larger number of ballots yet not necessarily with a solution to this, but we did acknowledge that this is a problem. I appreciate that Brad's group has come up with a solution to it.
- Basically, these two things are coming at the same problem, there's too many ballot proposals coming from two different groups, and the differences between these is what

are the two things. Brad proposes the limit on 2 per group and ours is 3 per group. The second thing is Brad's one says, not just limit per group, but also per submitting member. I think it's two ways of getting at the same thing. We chose not to combine them so as to leave it up to the delegates which approach they felt was more appropriate.

Delegate Discussion:

- Either one of these is fine. The problem is that both of these are band-aids. We don't have the inverted pyramid that is actually implemented in this program. There are no Intergroups or region reps. on the WSO board and as a result there's no communication from bottom to top and no checks and balances.
- I am sensitive to control and I was outraged with groups voting 3 or 4 times the previous year where they were trying to control the agenda. This year was ridiculous with one group having 8 or 7 of them and it completely shut down the system so I support both of these.
- Delegate numbers have dropped from the past two years by 30%. What we are hearing from the ballot prep committee as well as our Pennsylvania intergroup is that people were overwhelmed and so a lot just chose not to vote and this is detrimental to the process of participation and community. I also think of Concept 4 and our service structure that we maintain at all responsible levels, a traditional right of participation. I don't believe the current guidelines help promote a responsible level of participation when groups are overwhelmed. I suggest going with a limit to two proposals and if something is that significant, another group would pick it up.
- Q: I support a limit of two, yet I am not knowledgeable of the inside workings of the ballot process. For limiting a fellow traveler to two submissions - can the person be part of a larger group? How will this be executed?
- A: (IT Manager) What IT can do is not allow the individual to submit more than 2 ballots and then another individual would have to submit with their name on it and that individual would need to interact with the ballot prep committee.
- Thanks to all who brought these forward. It was overwhelming. I am in favor of the first one since it limits individuals since many people will think about whether they want to interact with the Ballot committee.
- My question is that any group across the world can submit a proposal and there is no cap on how many proposals can be submitted to the ballot prep committee. So while I understand that it sounds like the concern from the fellowship is the number of 29 proposals and so can't we have no more than 10 to consider? Is it the time that it takes to consider the ballots themselves is the issue? Why can't we have a cap as to how many ballots there can be?
- I recall at one of the last quarterly business meetings some of the ballots were voted on and put down and yet re-submitted by a small group of folks. I like motion #1 since it is a smaller number and addresses the individual.
- My group shared the overwhelm by having so many ballots to consider and I felt that there were some worthwhile topics within these ballots. It was overshadowed by the sheer number so I think we lost the opportunity to deal with some important issues because of that. I lean towards Motion #2 because I like the wording being specific about what we mean by who can submit and that's an important nuance. I also like the limit of the number to two.
- I support limiting ballot submissions. I felt uncomfortable with the number we had this year and struggled with my group to get together to discuss. Yet it plays into the

narrative that the committee is making decisions independent of the larger body.

- In motion 1, can the individuals in any way be policed? And is there a way of validating that the same motion is not being brought up regularly? Are these a concern, people putting in motions by proxy and repeatedly putting in the same motions?
- I want to limit the number of proposals and I am concerned about the tone this is taking that we are trying to control. The ballot committee can generate a survey of the proposals with links to them to prioritize them. Someone who submits many proposals may have one good idea and the ballot prep committee seems more than capable to do this.
- I am in favour of Motion 2, but my question is when are we going to be able to say I prefer motion one or two or prefer combining them?
- Chair - If we say we want to combine the motions, then we will have time for people to craft new motions.
- I appreciate the recommendations and I appreciate the first motion that mentions the submitter because that person is an identifiable individual and I had thought it would be easy for one person to maybe get a sign off from multiple groups for multiple things and submit multiple proposals even if limited to a group. They could go shop around for another group.
- I also support limiting the number by an entity and motion 2 clarified how this could be enacted.
- I like Motion 1 because it is comprehensive because it limits the number of proposals and it curbs those individuals who may try to get around these rules to force their will on the fellowship. I'm also concerned about the health of a group that would allow an individual to submit proposals when they know that they had submitted in other groups and I think this could be easily handled by the submitting group needing to verify that the motion was not submitted by someone who has submitted another one as part of the proposal form.
- I cannot believe how often I am hearing the desire to give away personal power, to give away the group's voice, to give away the fellowship's voice. All these proposals were valid. These people have been villainized and they cared deeply about the fellowship and should not be villainized. It takes time and these are the people I want to work with. We have to get more involved as delegates. When you talk about one voice being in control is comical as some board members have been there for 30 years and in IT, money and with all the money, and controlling fellowship group voting. I suggest delegates look deeper into this issue.
- I prefer the first one because it addresses the number of proposals by members and groups to two. What came up for me is Tradition 2 that says our leaders are but trusted servants and they do not govern. For me the process of evaluating or reviewing the 29 ballot proposals seemed like governance to me, rather than a trusted servant. The whole process implied that a position was being pushed, rather than attraction to an idea or a motion.
- I support the idea of limiting the number of proposals that groups can submit. If groups or individuals have additional proposals, they can go to different groups to submit them, which would encourage group interaction and potentially help grow the intergroup movement. Limiting proposals is not as democratic as letting everyone propose as many as they want, but the practical limitation is necessary. Encouraging group interaction is a good consequence of this approach, and therefore I support the idea of limiting ballot

submissions.

- I support the idea of limiting the number of proposals that the groups can submit. Speaking for my group I can tell you that 29 was over and above what we felt comfortable doing, but we did do it. It took several weeks. I am in favor of limiting it to two. We are working on our individual program and we had 29 proposals to get through. This is more than what we are willing to do in the future.
- Q - Is it possible to add something to this motion in the crafting process to ensure that the underlying problem is addressed. We want the whole ballot proposal not to be overwhelming.
- A: People will be able to submit alternative motions which will need to have the same spirit and direction of these motions
- I don't like motion 1 or 2. I don't understand, as you say, that all the proposals and ballots have to be filtered through the 12 traditions. Only the proposals that respect the traditions can be brought to the board. That's how I see it.
- I like to refrain from the language of individuals and focus more on groups. Also to support recurring child connection from Intergroups and Regions. As we move forward as an organization I would like to see proposals submitted more from IG's and Regions because that's the challenge of convincing others that a proposal is necessary to bring to the WSO.
- I support Motion 2 as our group was completely overwhelmed with 29 proposals and we did take it seriously because we think these things need consideration. But another delegate raised the issue, and I want to reiterate it. My concern is how do people get ideas discussed without having to go to the point of creating a ballot proposal. In other words, what I'm looking for is some way to create a forum where suggestions and thoughts and ideas from members of the fellowship can get kind of tossed into a bucket and discussed without necessarily building a ballot proposal. So, what I'm looking for is a mechanism to communicate thoughts and ideas before they have to get crafted into this and create so much work, both for WSO and for the membership.
- I'm on a couple meetings, and both meetings it's so hard to get people to do service in meetings. It is understood the importance of voicing our thoughts, like, voting, but it was just too much work. It was so overwhelming having 29, and we just decided to send in a letter to the ballot prep committee because also part of recovery is knowing balance. We can't spend that much time, going over 29 proposals. I really liked the first one, but again, I don't agree with other people who shared about limiting and putting in more rules, and there's got to be some kind of balance that we can find between an overwhelming number of proposals and having some quality of life. Thanks.

Parliamentarian presents options on how to proceed - suggested a vote to see if delegates are ok with identifying a general direction for these motions.

- Hand Vote: In favour of proceeding with vote :52; Opposed: none; Abstained: 8.
- Therefore we will proceed with an election buddy vote.

[Voter Audit Report](#)

Limiting ballot proposal submission floor motions	
PLURALITY 61.0 votes tallied and 2 abstentions	
I support the spirit of the Floor Motions and would like a Motion to be crafted for approval at the ABC	49.00 votes 80.33%
I need more information and prefer a motion to be crafted to initiate an in-depth study that will report to a future ABC	4.00 votes 6.56%
I would like this matter to be postponed for discussion at the next CBM	3.00 votes 4.92%
I do not support the Ballot Proposal in any form	5.00 votes 8.20%
I support the spirit of the Floor Motions and would like a Motion to be crafted for approval at the ABC wins with 80.33% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.	

- Chair - We will move ahead with crafting the motion after our break

Quorum established at 36 delegates

- Point of Safety Team Member - we would like to acknowledge that some comments today have moved to personal opinion and criticism. And would like to ask all delegates to please help keep the discussion respectful and focused on the topic at hand. As well as, when you are sharing, please ensure that all information you provide is accurate and factually supported. So this is on behalf of the point of safety team. Thank you so much everyone.

Crafting Motion on Limiting Ballot Proposal Submissions

CoChair - The original proposers of the motions will re-submit the original motion or the one that they amended. Alternative motions will also be submitted by the delegates.

Proposer Motion #1 (Brad L): Motion: We move that, beginning with the next ballot proposal cycle, the online ballot submission process limits the submissions to no more than two ballot proposals from any registered ACA entity (meeting, intergroup, or region) and no more than two ballot proposals submitted by any ACA member, regardless of how many groups they attend. These limits will be applied before the Ballot is sent to groups for voting.

Proposer Motion #2 (Adelina, Josh and Matt) In the interest of having balance in Fellowship voices, and a more manageable Ballot Proposal cycle,

We move that the Ballot Proposal process be updated immediately such that there is a limit of no more than 3 Ballot Proposals per proposing entity (Group, Intergroup, or Region) per Ballot Proposal cycle.

Alternate Motion #1, (Patricia Y): We move that, beginning with the 2026-2027 ABC Ballot, the online Ballot submission process limits annual submissions to no more than *than 2 Ballot Proposals per proposing entity (Group, Intergroup, or Region) per Ballot Proposal cycle. In addition, the online Ballot submission process would limit annual proposals to no more than 2 Ballot Proposals submitted to the BPC by any one ACA member, regardless of how many groups that person attends. These limits will be applied before the Ballot is sent to groups for voting. (Withdrawn)*

Parliamentarian: There are no meaningful distinctions, as this looks very similar to Motion #1. The delegate was asked to withdraw motion as it is.

Alternate Motion #2, (Padmini) We move that the Ballot Proposal process be updated immediately, limiting *Ballot Proposals to 2 per proposing entity (Group, Intergroup, or Region) per Ballot Proposal cycle*.

Parliamentarian: This is different and meets the spirit of the conference and has meaningful distinction so it is accepted.

Alternate Motion #3 (Melissa): We move that, beginning with the 2026-2027 ABC Ballot, the online Ballot submission process limits annual submissions to no more than two Ballot Proposals from any registered ACA group/meeting, intergroup, region; and no more than two Ballot Proposals submitted annually by any ACA member, regardless of how many groups they attend. These limits will be applied before the Ballot is sent to groups for voting. (Withdrawn)

Parliamentarian: There are no meaningful distinctions and the delegate was asked to withdraw motion.

Alternate Motion #4 (Veronica R): We move that, beginning with the next ballot proposal cycle, the online ballot submission process limits the submissions to no more than two ballot proposals from any registered ACA entity (meeting, intergroup, or region) and no more than two ballot proposals submitted by any ACA member, regardless of how many groups they attend. These limits will be applied before the Ballot is sent to groups for voting. (Withdrawn)

- Parliamentarian: There are no distinctions and so the delegate was asked to withdraw the motion.
- Proposer #4- The difference is the ballot proposal cycle. I do not limit it to annually. This leaves room for if the conference decides to have more ballot proposal cycles than annually for the conference business meetings
- Parliamentarian - I think you are trying to deal with something in the future that may be outside the scope of this proposal right now.
- Proposer of Motion #1 - I am willing to change ours to a ballot cycle instead of an annual cycle.
- Parliamentarian - OK. So we will proceed with the three motions.

Discussion of the three Motions:

- In the interest of limiting the proposals, I would be willing to subtract mine, If proposal #2 is willing to change their limit of ballot proposals from 3 to 2. I am interested in principles and concerned with the wording that focuses on individuals. I'm not here to govern or control and operate on the principles of inclusivity. Limiting proposals is self-care and I would like to limit per proposing entity.
- I like the language of proposal #2 and would prefer to keep track of groups, intergroups, and regions as it sounds difficult and personal to keep track of individuals. This pushes the decisionmaking down to the groups in terms of which proposals in their opinion meet the criteria to elevate to the ballot process instead of throwing them all in and letting the ballot prep group and the fellowship deal with it.
- I'm having a hard time distinguishing between the nuances between each of these and I

hear some confusion about trying to sort out the differences. I wonder if there is room in the procedures to have a summary note beneath each that distinguishes from each other. I wonder if there is a more efficient way to distinguish what's different and what stands out to make better use of our time.

- A (Co-chair Marcus): Maybe we can make that suggestion for the next time to state the differences when they submit alternate proposals.
- I see that all 3 have the substance of what we are trying to accomplish here and my concern is that some of the language we are using is kind of shaming and wanting to warn others not to do something. I think Motion #2 is balanced and sounds safe and there is nothing about it to make a point to someone and to make sure the ballot proposal process is as functional as can be.
- Proposal #2, by specifying intergroup or region leaves individuals unlimited and the problem is we all agree there should be some limitations. My questions are should we specify the limitations applying to individuals as well as a group, intergroup, or region? Should we have the limits at 2 or 3? I think if we just put that down and vote on that, we could reduce the amount of time we're using for discussion.
- As a proposer for motion #2, I would agree to keeping the ballot proposals to 2 and still want to avoid identifying ACA members or individuals, I'd refrain from that.
- Boundaries are tough and I think the boundary is about groups submitting too much. Often in the group, there is one person that brings it and is the energy and I'm trying to think about what is a proper boundary without shaming. I think a proper boundary involves the groups and an individual that can't jump from group to group. It's not about pointing them out. It's about setting up a proper boundary so that it can't happen and that makes the shared space for everyone much safer.
- Historically for any of us who've been delegates in the process of voting on these motions and that it has shown up in recent years that the numbers have continually increased. I am for proposal #1 because I've seen repetition of the same thing happening over and over again and as a delegate trying to get people to vote in my meeting, it's so arduous that it's chasing delegates away and it's overwhelming.
- For me, having these guidelines isn't about having control and it's about having boundaries in order to have a healthy ballot process. I know it can seem like control, but for me it's about boundaries and I'm in favour of including individuals because it's letting them know what the guidelines are. At the same time, I know there is no way to enforce them, nor should we try to. In another program it's called "Obedience to the Unenforceable", where individuals are influenced by the traditions and the group conscience. This encourages a willingness to honour the traditions and principles of the program. I'm in favour of the first motion, but I wonder about removing the phrase "regardless of how many groups they attend" as it doesn't seem necessary to me and it's a bit shaming although I trust that was not the intent.
- The proposal submitted by any ACA member to me is not calling out any individual. It's not naming anyone and it's simply telling them what the guidelines are.
- I hear that it's about someone wanting to place boundaries on someone else to limit and silence the individual. Please join the committees, the board and all the committee members should be on the board. Everybody is so desperate for board members. If one has a comprehensive plan with the amount of problems that have been identified that we have in our fellowship structure, they might need to make several proposals to get anything done. I hear a lot of resentments. It's obvious that people have one or two

people in mind and they are going after them and they are using the fellowship. I can't believe the delegates are allowing themselves to be used in silence. If there are too many ballots, I don't have to look at all of them, right? There are other solutions than just silencing.

The Co-Chair gave a gentle reminder to the delegation about setting the tone, being gentle with language, being patient, using "I" statements, being honest and clear and remaining compassionate. Acknowledge any problem, focus on the intentions and the solution, to listen and learn, be willing to be uncomfortable and challenged, and to be mindful as many attendees have experienced social and structural inequality.

Co-Chair: The delegation was asked to vote on all the motions including the option not to support any of the motions. If any motions receive 60% or more it will go to world wide voting. If no motions receive 60% or more they will be placed in a second poll, and if one has less than 20% it will be dropped off. This process will repeat until one is chosen with 60% or more.

Voter Audit Report

Which alternative motion do you prefer?	
PLURALITY 56.0 votes tallied and 1 abstention	
We move that, beginning with the next ballot proposal cycle, the online ballot submission process limits the submissions to no more than two ballot proposals from any registered ACA entity (meeting, intergroup, or region) and no more than two ballot proposals submitted by any ACA member, regardless of how many groups they attend. These limits will be applied before the Ballot is sent to groups for voting.	35.00 votes 62.50%
In the interest of having balance in Fellowship voices, and a more manageable Ballot Proposal cycle We move that the Ballot Proposal process be updated immediately such that there is a limit of no more than 3 Ballot Proposals per proposing entity (Group, Intergroup, or Region) per Ballot Proposal cycle.	8.00 votes 14.29%
We move that the Ballot Proposal process be updated immediately, limiting Ballot Proposals to 2 per proposing entity (Group, Intergroup, or Region) per Ballot Proposal cycle.	8.00 votes 14.29%
I do not support any of the motions	5.00 votes 8.93%
We move that, beginning with the next ballot proposal cycle, the online ballot submission process limits the submissions to no more than two ballot proposals from any registered ACA entity (meeting, intergroup, or region) and no more than two ballot proposals submitted by any ACA member, regardless of how many groups they attend. These limits will be applied before the Ballot is sent to groups for voting. wins with 62.50% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.	

Results from Electionbuddy: 56 votes tallied and one abstention. The first motion “ *We move that beginning with the next ballot proposal cycle, the online ballot submission process limits the submissions to no more than two ballot proposals from any registered ACA entity (meeting, intergroup, or region) and no more than two ballot proposals submitted by any ACA member, regardless of how many groups they attend. These limits will be applied before the ballot is sent to groups for voting.* ” passed with 62.50% and will go to World Wide online voting. The minority opinion will be heard at the next CBM if it passes.

Floor Motions to Accept the Name Change Vote

TOPIC: Acceptance of Name Change Vote (4 motions submitted; one includes implementation)

1. **Motion:** I move to have the results of the ACA world wide fellowship voting results (86% yes) of the responding groups for the name change from ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholics) to ACAD(Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families) be effective immediately.
(Submitter: Liah H; WSO Group Number: HI0045)
2. **Motion:** I move that we have the name change of the fellowship be voted on tommorrow.
(Submitter: Charity S.; WSO Group Number: WEB0207)
3. **Motion:** 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 associated phased implementation plan over a 5–10 year period, taking into account financial and other resource considerations.
(Submitter: Mardi M.; WSO Group Number: WEB0334).
4. **Motion:** In order to not have to wait until September to tackle the question of Quorum for the Fellowship Name Change,
we move that the Conference approves the 41% participation rate in the Name Change Fellowship Group Vote as sufficient to meet quorum for Fellowship Participation for the Name Change FGV vote.

Motion Presenter #1 (Liah H):

Motion: *I move to have the results if the ACA world wide fellowship voting results (86% yes) of the responding groups for the name change from ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholics) to ACAD (Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families) be effective immediately.* (Withdrawn)

- I submitted this motion because of the timeliness of the nature of this motion. I'm happy to blend that with the immediacy with the other motions as well. I like the immediacy so when I go back to my group I can say we are now ACAD, even though I know there is a 5-10 year process of implementing the whole thing. Being able to feel like my group's voice was heard is very important.

Motion Presenter #2 (Charity):

Motion: *I move that we have the name change of the fellowship be voted on tomorrow.*

- The presenter asked for their motion to be withdrawn.

Motion Presentation #3 (Mardi/Brian)

Motion: *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 associated phased implementation plan over a 5-10 year period, taking into account financial and other resources considerations.*

- The reason for this motion is that it's about the group fellowship voting process. There was a comment in the CBM in December 2024 that we had to bring this back to the ABC to vote on it by the registered groups. So it wasn't a vote with all meeting groups, just with the registered groups. It had to be brought back, and there was a comment in a presentation that AA, when they count their votes, the people who abstained are counted as no votes and included in the vote count.
- This is a proposal that has clarity with what was exactly being planned with the 5-10 year period being phased in. It's got the specificity of what we really need to manage this.

Motion Presentation #4 (Josh):

Motion: *In order to not have to wait until September to tackle the question of Quorum for the Fellowship Name Change, we move that the Conference approves the 41% participation rate in the Name Change Fellowship Group Voe as sufficient to meet quorum for Fellowship*

Participation for the Name Change FGV vote.

- These 4 motions touch on different aspects of this and the big push to go ahead and accept the results of this fellowship group vote as enough information to say let's proceed. This particular one specifically talks about quorum. Like basically, were there enough meetings who voted in the fellowship group vote for it to count? For instance, you could hold a fellowship group vote and 100% approve, but only 10 meetings voted. Someone could say that's really not enough. It's the same way we do quorum at a conference now. There is a larger question of what quorum should be in general for fellowship group voting, which is a separate, more general item which we'll probably tackle at some point in the future. For this specific one, the intent is to say, look we got 41%, can we say that is enough meetings? To say it has cleared quorum and enough meetings participated in this vote and we're good to proceed here on the quorum aspect.

Co-Chair asked Liah (Motion #1 Proposer), if the wording was changed to "immediately accept the fellowship group-wide vote" in #3, would she accept withdrawing your motion. The Co-Chair Carmen also asked Mardi and Brian (Motion #3 Proposers), if they agreed to change this wording in Motion #3. They agreed and Liah agreed to withdraw her motion.

Discussion on the Two Remaining Motions:

TOPIC: Acceptance of Name Change Vote

1. **Motion:** To immediately 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 associated phased implementation plan over a 5–10 year period, taking into account financial and other resource considerations.
(Submitter: Mardi M.; WSO Group Number: WEB0334).

2. **Motion:** In order to not have to wait until September to tackle the question of Quorum for the Fellowship Name Change,
we move that the Conference approves the 41% participation rate in the Name Change Fellowship Group Vote as sufficient to meet quorum for Fellowship Participation for the Name Change FGV vote.
(Submitter: Josh W, Caterina S, Rick E, and Jess A; WSO Group Number: Region 5)

- We had proposals and we had a 67% pass rate and the proposals are miniscule compared to the name change, so what we are proposing here is that we are going to accept 41% participation? That flies in the face of everything I can think of and I'm against this all together.
- Q: My understanding is that the fellowship voted and it's going to be implemented over 5-10 years if we do nothing, so why are these proposals necessary? I'm confused.
- A: (Board Liaison to FGV Team): The bottom line is that we have a process in December 2024 that the delegates voted on. The fellowship made their decision with 86.65% of responding groups saying yes to the name change. The 41% is the total of the registered groups that actually participated and that is frankly, quite high. Compared to the ballot proposals, we only get 6-9% of the fellowship voting. It's the same in the ABC, it's the same in the group fellowship vote, yes plus no. The moment you accept the fellowship results, you have made precedent. If you don't want to have 41% in the actual wording of it, that's fine and it doesn't take away from the results. 4% of the delegates are representing the fellowship right now making decisions and you had 41% of the

fellowship group saying we want this.

- I'm for Motion 1. We voted on it and spent a lot of time on it. I believe that Motion 2 is dangerous and we don't want to put a 41% precedence to change future matters of such importance as that is just below half. It was a choice for every group to vote or not on the name change. The fellowship has spoken loud and clear.
- Q: Is the difference between Motion 1 and 2, is that number 2 specifies a 41% participation rate and not dealing with quorum and otherwise. I don't really understand what the difference is between the two of them. Both are immediately wanting to accept the fellowship group vote. Is that correct?
- A (Board Liaison to FGV Team): The second motion does not have the participation and that's the big difference. We want you to accept the results, this is what we asked yesterday and we want you to accept the implementation plan as we have recommended the gradual phase, the financially responsible one. You could take out the 41% if it's making you uncomfortable, but it doesn't change the actual result of participation.
- These need to be tabled because it's quite clear that the majority of delegates I believe don't actually understand what's here. The idea of quorum and understanding what is going on here. The motion for the name change was put forth by the board long ago and they got the delegates to say in order to do that you need fellowship group voting. They didn't define it and all the aspects of what it means before we started the process.
- A: (Point of Info.) This is not accurate. The board is not putting the motions forward. The fellowship through a ballot proposal put it forward to the 2022 ABC to explore the name change. It became a motion and got approved. In 2024 the name study came forward to the ABC and said here's our recommendation based on all 11,000 members in 67 countries and the delegates agreed and wanted it to go to group fellowship voting because it was so large. The board has simply been the trusted servant helping the fellowship and delegates to do what is being asked of us. We're not dictating anything here.
- I support the first one. I think it is very clear. It is saying that the presentation that we were given yesterday basically says that we've already approved this as a fellowship and now there is a 5 to 10 year plan to actually implement that. I like that because I feel if I wasn't at this meeting, I would have been confused if I received another group vote about this issue. I think moving forward makes it easier for everyone who's participating to just keep the conversation moving forward and it's important to note that voting is a right, not an obligation. We can't force people to vote on things that they either don't have time or it isn't a priority for them to do. Lastly, I find the second one confusing around the 41% participation. It sounds like we are getting into a conversation about quorum, which is a different conversation.
- I'm in agreement with motion #1. It's clear, specific, and understandable. I believe the process that we've gone through the last four years was valid, very complete, and inclusive in every way possible in my opinion. I think it's time to implement this and validate that the vote was valid.
- I think both of these motions are accepting the fellowship group vote. However the first one talks about what was presented as the implementation. So I think it's clear. The second one talks about how it approves the participation rate. I don't think if that one passes it's going to say the 41% is what we have to do from now on. I think the 41% was a very high mark because we had a lot of groups participating. The important thing is

that 86% of the fellowship groups that participated said they want to move forward with this. I think if we want to address minimum group participation, we should do that in a separate discussion.

- I don't see this as an either or. The quorum issue hasn't been defined in the fellowship group vote process at this point. What I don't want to happen is a year from now, people will say we don't know if we had a quorum or not because we hadn't defined it. I'm not opposed to number one and I would suggest trying to pull these together to cover all the bases.
- I think the spirit is the same in both and we do want to respect the fact that based on the information we have and the only way we can do that is by the fellowship vote that just took place. The majority wants to move forward with this change. I think both motions contain critical information and I would like to look at what things have been done and things that have been decided when we're making decisions moving forward. I love the idea of integrating the two motions.
- I like both of these motions and I am a little concerned about the 41% participation rate and I think the conference should have a consensus about what it wants to see as an acceptable substantial unanimity on a vote and not really compare our fellowship to what is acceptable or good enough because we can expect the best and get it. With the name change, I would have liked to have seen the true voice of our fellowship included in the results in the comment section of our ballot proposals. This came up before in 2019 when there were proposals 3 and 5. In 2021, there was a proposal on the name change, so I know there has been an issue with the name change over the years.
- About the 41% participation rate, while it seems low, this figure is taken from all registered groups regardless of whether they are active or not. There are some numbers that suggest that as many as 50% of registered groups are inactive, which would propel this number from 41% of all total groups to something like 80-90% of all active groups. I would be a little cautious about this number and have some kind of consideration that a 100% of group participation is not possible because we don't have an accurate idea of how many groups are active in the fellowship.
- I think it is a different conversation about what quorum is and it should be discussed but as a separate proposal. That discussion should take place as a separate proposal. I'm a little uncomfortable with including the 41% figure in Motion #2 as it could be misconstrued as a bar that's been set. I appreciate the clarity of the first motion as it addresses the vote that has passed and also the implementation plan.

Vote for general direction:

- The delegates were asked to identify the general direction for the motions proposed.
- The choices were *"I support the spirit of the ballot proposal and would like a motion to be crafted for approval at the ABC"*, *"I need more information and prefer a motion to be crafted to initiate an in-depth study that will report to a future ABC"*, *"I would like this matter to be postponed for discussion at the next CBM"*, and *"I do not support the ballot proposal in any form"*.

0 notices queued

[Voter Audit Report](#)

Accepting FGV Name Change

PLURALITY 62.0 votes tallied and 1 abstention

I support the spirit of the Floor Motions and would like a Motion to be crafted for approval at the ABC	55.00 votes 88.71%
I need more information and prefer a motion to be crafted to initiate an in-depth study that will report to a future ABC	3.00 votes 4.84%
I would like this matter to be postponed for discussion at the next CBM	4.00 votes 6.45%
I do not support the Ballot Proposal in any form	0.00 votes 0%

I support the spirit of the Floor Motions and would like a Motion to be crafted for approval at the ABC wins with 88.71% of the votes. [redacted] meets the requirement of the most votes.

Results from Electionbuddy: 62 votes with one abstention. 88.71% voted for *“I support the spirit of the floor motion and would like a motion to be crafted for approval at the ABC”*.

Moving to crafting a Motion and Submitting Alternative motions for Name Change
 Delegates were asked to submit alternative motions to be considered. The parliamentarian will assess whether the motion accomplishes the general spirit of the ballot proposal.

Proposer Motion #1 (Mardi) To immediately 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 associated phased implementation plan over a 5–10 year period, taking into account financial and other resource considerations.

Proposer Revised Motion #2 (Josh W, Caterina S, Rick E, and Jess A): *We move to immediately accept the participation rate in Fellowship Group Vote (FGV) regarding the proposed change to the functional name of the Fellowship Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families (ACAD) as Quorum for this specific FGV; with the larger issue of general FGV Quorum to be decided as a separate issue at a future date and to approve the associated phased implementation plan over a 5-10 year period, taking into account financial and other resource considerations*

Alternate Motion #1: Kelle (TEL 0341) - *To accept the FGV results regarding the proposed change to the functional name of the Fellowship and its proposed implementation process, and to approve the 41% participation rate OF the same to meet quorum of the participation for the Name change FGV.*

Parliamentarian: It is my belief that it melds the two proposals in a way that distinguishes them from the other two motions and it fits the general spirit of what we are trying to achieve here.

Discussion of the 3 motions:

ALTERNATIVE MOTIONS: Acceptance of Name Change Vote

1. **Motion:** To immediately 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 associated phased implementation plan over a 5–10 year period, taking into account financial and other resource considerations.

(Submitter: Mardi M.; WSO Group Number: WEB0334).

2. **Motion:** We move to immediately accept the participation rate in the Fellowship Group Vote (FGV) regarding the proposed change to the functional name of the Fellowship Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families (ACAD) as Quorum for this specific FGV; with the larger issue of general FGV Quorum to be decided as a separate issue at a future date, and to approve the associated phased implementation plan over a 5-10 year period, taking into account financial and other resource considerations. (Josh & group; Region 5)

(Submitter: Josh W, Caterina S, Rick E, and Jess A; WSO Group Number: Region 5)

3. **Motion:** To accept the FGV results regarding the proposed change to the functional name of the Fellowship and its proposed implementation process, and to approve the 41% participation rate OF the same to meet quorum of the participation for the Name change FGV. (Kelle TEL0341)

- The second motion doesn't seem to include the immediacy of putting into effect the name change. It does have the immediate acceptance of the participation rate and I'm just concerned that that's getting lost in there. The very first one is clear and easy and the second motion is watering it down. I'm more concerned with the name change right now than quorum.
- I have to admit that I have been doing this delegate stuff for quite a few years and I'm taken aback that the intricate system that we used and the voting and the participation was not a done deal. I approve of number 1 as it states the name was voted on and overwhelmingly approved and there will be a 5-10 year period.
- This quorum language is not in ACA's OPPM language and it doesn't make that much sense and the 66 and $\frac{2}{3}$ is in there and that's what we should be aiming at. That's part of our system and the way we approve things.
- There is obviously some confusion over the quorum. The quorum being the body that is there at the beginning that's used to determine what is 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ % of what number. Delegates who are here, because delegates are elected by their groups and that has to be explained and understood. The original name change vote in '92 said that it should only be changed by a total group vote. There were seven people who voted on that.
- Two things I have learned in recovery are keep it simple and first things first. I think we should get it started and we are overcomplicating things and eating up a lot of our precious time. Let's get it started so we can move on to other things, it's all there and we are just here to put a stamp on it.
- When I think about the process of the name change, this started a long time ago and we should be wrapping up. So this is not just starting because we have been doing this and at this point let's just go. I think quorum should have been worked out before we got here and we do have another motion going into fellowship group vote as soon as possible. This is a learning process and let's do some kind of quorum on this so we aren't talking about it at the CBM.
- In the ABC, we establish quorum 7 times over 2 days because it fluctuates even though we have a fixed number of delegates. The same thing applies with the vote we took; we

had a fixed number of groups, intergroups, regions. Those who wanted to take the opportunity to vote made themselves available to do that. I think we are trying to combine two different things into one motion. Quorum should have been established at the outset or if we want to define it differently, at the outset of adopting this FGV process.

- I support the first motion and I find the issue of quorum confusing as we set a quorum at 33 delegates at the beginning of the session and we were going to be able to vote, even if just 33 of us were here. It seems strange to me discussing quorum when the participation is well over anything we have ever had at an ABC. It feels more inclusive. TO me, quorum is whoever actually submitted.
- I support Motion #1 and I think it clouds things to include the 41% and talk about quorum. I agree with keeping it simple, which the first one does. We're approving votes that were done in the fellowship group vote and we're approving an implementation plan. I like the simplicity of it and I think quorum is a separate issue.
- I am very excited about the name change, yet it is important to have data in the actual motion, however limited it may be. I do believe we are saying there are quite a few, 59%, who did not participate, and that is their right not to. There are people that may not be okay with the change. So if we say accept the fellowship group vote results regarding the proposed change without reflecting that it was only 41% of the total groups that were registered with the WSO and I think it could be a little misleading. I think that there are some folks who are not in agreement.
- I think we have to leave the percentage off. Yes 41% showed up and that's a great number and we can't compare that to how many could have showed up. Why pay attention to what we could have, and pay attention to what we have. Let's not worry about a quorum and I will vote for Motion #1.
- I appreciate the work that went into all these motions and I support Motion #1 yet I concur with including the 86% that voted in favor yet right now I support motion #1.

Co-Chair: The delegation was asked to vote on which of the motions they prefer the most or if they do not support any of them. The first poll will include all the motions, including the alternate ones. If any motions receive 60% or more, that will be the motion that passes. If no motions receive 60% or more, they will be placed in a second poll, and if one has less than 20% it will be dropped off.

Voter Audit Report

Which alternative motion for accepting the FGV about the Name Change do you prefer?

PLURALITY 65.0 votes tallied and 1 abstention

To immediately 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 associated phased implementation plan over a 5-10 year period, taking into account financial and other resource considerations. 57.00 votes 87.69%

We move to immediately accept the participation rate in the Fellowship Group Vote (FGV) regarding the proposed change to the functional name of the Fellowship Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families (ACAD) as Quorum for this specific FGV; with the larger issue of general FGV Quorum to be decided as a separate issue at a future date, and to approve the associated phased implementation plan over a 5-10 year period, taking into account financial and other resource considerations. 5.00 votes 7.69%

To accept the FGV results regarding the proposed change to the functional name of the Fellowship and its proposed implementation process, and to approve the 41% participation rate OF the same to meet quorum of the participation for the Name change FGV. 2.00 votes 3.08%

I do not support any of the motions 1.00 votes 1.54%

To immediately 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 associated phased implementation plan over a 5-10 year period, taking into account financial and other resource considerations. wins with 87.69%

- Results from Electionbuddy: 65 votes tallied, with one abstention. 87.69% voted in favour for the first motion: *“To immediately accept the Fellowship Group Vote (FGV) results regarding the proposed changes to the functional name of the Fellowship to Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families (ACAD), and to approve the associated phased implementation over a 5-10 year period, taking into account financial and other resource considerations”.*
- This motion will go to world wide voting at the end of day.

Break

Quorum established at 60 delegates.

Due to time constraints, a vote was conducted to prioritize finishing up the group fellowship vote and leave the rest of the agenda for a subsequent meeting: 37 in favour. Passed.

Floor Motion on Fellowship Group Vote Process

TOPIC: Fellowship Group Vote Process (1 floor motion submitted)

1. **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 66⅔ % needed for a vote to pass; and

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

Background: Since a new FGV process is starting before the next CBM, the delegates should confirm now that FGV results are going to be calculated solely on votes cast by registered groups.

(Submitter: Mardi M.; WSO Group Number: WEB0334).

79 unassigned participants

- Motion presenter (Mardi) -We just talked about quorum and all of this and at the ABC in 2022 it was proposed that we have a 66 2/3% voting for yes. The other 12 step programs don't have a quorum as far as I know. The presentation earlier that AA counted abstentions as a no vote and marijuana anonymous is doing it differently and I think that's the format we have been following. It has to be decided now because we have other things coming up in the future and this will get more awkward if we put it off.
- Point of Info. - To make it clear to the delegates, the fellowship group vote process motion that was done in December 2024 is already set and established for 66 2/3% needed to pass and that's not new. It's also not new that the ABC received these results and determined appropriate next steps for implementation. We deliberately asked delegates to do that to protect and ensure there was a guardrail in place. Assuming that they were going to honour the fellowship group voting results, such as the one we just went through. What's new is we are putting in writing the process. We've already established that's what we did with the fellowship group vote and the results calculated based solely on votes cast by responding registered groups. It's what we do with ballots, we only take the yes plus the no votes.

Co-Chair Eric R: We have had the motion presented and now we need a second for the motion to proceed.

- Josh/Region 5 - Second the motion.

Discussion on Proposal:

- I want to point out that this doesn't have any impact on the name change as we already approved it and it's moving onto world wide online voting. This is about future fellowship group voting. I appreciate this is intended to mathematically define how to calculate whether the percentage was met. There are three ways you can vote: yes, no, abstain. Quorum is generally defined as the sum of those three and maybe the really important difference is when you calculate the percentage of yes, whether or not the abstentions are included in the denominator, or whether it's only yes or no votes. That's not clarified here.
- Q: Am I correct in assuming one fellowship group vote that's taken can be held as binding on a later ABC meeting? If that's true it doesn't make sense and it's like starting everything anew and I don't think the earlier fellowship group vote should be binding what the business conference can do later.
- A (Mardi): This is more about registered groups. If you are voting from a registered group we are counting your vote, if you are not in a registered group, you will not be able to vote.
- I think we are overcomplicating this and there is nothing different about this. If people choose not to vote, it doesn't mean we lower the percentage, which does not make sense to me. I believe 66 2/3 is standard and it's very fair. Everybody that can vote that wants to can put out their yay or nay.
- I think it is normal to do voting based on groups that participate and basically services done by those who show up. The approach of considering abstains as no votes seems restrictive. This does not say the question of quorum and how the percentage of all of our groups that represents the fellowship sufficiently, which is another question. I don't like the word "implementation" because it suggests that every vote is successful and

there may be votes that the fellowship decides against, and maybe the ABC has to make a decision on whether a particular fellowship group vote has failed or should be rephrased. We probably can't amend the motion, but there should be some flexibility there.

- I think the first paragraph is clear and the second one is complicating it as the 66 2/3% has already been established. The other line about implementation after it is presented to the group and it seems a little redundant to have to go over the results that it has to be done again. Just focus that the fellowship group be recognized as reflecting the voice of participating meeting groups, intergroups, and regions across the global fellowship. The vote based on the responding registered groups, 66 2/3% is needed. I would edit it out so it is more clear.
- I just want to echo that if my group votes yes or no it is clear or doesn't vote it is clear, if my group doesn't vote, that's clear. Yet if they vote to abstain, this is not clear as effectively being a no vote. I'm not sure about the denominator. I would vote that only yes's and no's should matter, and if you voted to abstain, it's just like you didn't vote at all.
- I agree that it needs to be clear that if you are counting stuff and say 66 2/3% yes votes and you do need to put the abstentions in there because it's not counted. In all fairness that's been unclear with previous votes I've done in ACA as it isn't stated right up front that if you abstain you're counted as an abstention and doesn't change the outcome at all. It doesn't change the denominator. So I think that it needs to be in there if we're doing this.
- The question of abstentions was dealt with in 2016 in the ABC in Delray, Florida. There were no motions that passed the threshold because the abstentions were counted as no votes. This was corrected by the ballot prep committee when it was pointed out that it was suppressing the opportunity for delegates to have that opportunity to talk about the motion. The following year in San Diego, there were a healthy number of motions or proposals to discuss and this has gone on to this day. The ballot prep committee calculates percentages from yes's and no's and the abstentions are not included in that. Maybe it should just say, reflecting the ballot prep committee method that's defined.
- I'm in favour of this and we need to clarify our business and it has not been clear whether or not abstentions are counted. I have asked and the answer was that abstentions are the same as not voting. We've been expressing and reflecting that in our presentation of votes that the fellow delegates have been doing. It does need to be clarified and written. This is very necessary.
- A quorum should be represented by those showing up to do the work and at a group level, that would be those who vote as far as abstentions, I agree if they abstain, it doesn't count and that's been established in our fellowship for some time.
- I represent the Colorado intergroup and we did abstain because we did not get the group conscience because we couldn't come to the conclusion using the 66 2/3% vote needed to pass. I saw you did not count our vote and I think that's appropriate. I think this motion could be a little bit more clear and could be addressing it more directly.
- We should not confuse the issue of quorum and how votes are counted which is what is being addressed in this motion. We are just addressing how votes are processed. I agree that abstentions are the opinion of the group to express when a consensus cannot be made and therefore cannot vote. I think my HOA and certainly my intergroup works in a way where there has to be a minimum number of members present in order for

business to be voted on and I believe this is how fellowship business should be handled as well. We need to make sure that we have adequate representation, but that is not what this motion is addressing.

- I think abstentions may not count as the overall vote, but I think they are important to discover what a minority opinion is and why that group chose to abstain. Whether they didn't have enough information, time, or whatever and I think it's important for the overall question being voted upon. Why did a group abstain?
- It was clarified how the ABC deals with abstentions and it's also in Robert's Rules of Order that abstentions aren't a "no". Abstentions are just participation and I don't think we need to write it down in a motion because it's already handled. This motion sets up that it is 66 2/3% of registered responding groups and basically it removes the idea that we have a quorum. It simply says that those responding 66 2/3%. I trust any time we have a fellowship group vote, we're going to have enough participation because it's a big deal.
- Regarding abstentions, for this vote, it was 12 groups out of 1,068 and it was 1% of the total and even if you included them, it would actually not change the result at all.
- I agree that the abstentions need to be clarified because I could understand how someone would think I abstained and responded and that is basically being counted as not a yes. I don't see it on the website and don't see it mentioned in the OPPM about whether abstentions are included, so I think it would be helpful moving forward to show it in writing so we won't have questions about it again.

Voting on Floor Motion:

Voter Audit Report

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 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.

PLURALITY 59.0 votes tallied and 1 abstention

I am in favor of this motion as presented and want it sent to Worldwide Online Voting	29.00 votes 49.15%
I am in favor of this motion but would like minor changes	24.00 votes 40.68%
I am in favor of deferring action to a future meeting	2.00 votes 3.39%
I am not in favor of this motion	4.00 votes 6.78%

I am in favor of this motion as presented and want it sent to Worldwide Online Voting wins with 49.15% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.

Another poll was conducted because the 60% minimum was not met on any of the options. The option that received the least amount of votes, "I am in favour of deferring action to a future meeting" will be dropped on the next vote.

Voter Audit Report

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% % needed for a vote to pass; and That the Annual Business Conference (ABC) receive these results and determine appropriate next steps for implementation.

PLURALITY 59.0 votes tallied and 1 abstention

I am in favor of this motion as presented and want it sent to Worldwide Online Voting	32.00 votes 54.24%
I am in favor of this motion but would like minor changes	24.00 votes 40.68%
I am not in favor of this motion	3.00 votes 5.08%

I am in favor of this motion as presented and want it sent to Worldwide Online Voting wins with 54.24% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.

Minimum 60% not achieved will go to a re-vote again after the option “ I am in favour of this motion, but would like minor changes” options is dropped.

Voter Audit Report

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% % needed for a vote to pass; and That the Annual Business Conference (ABC) receive these results and determine appropriate next steps for implementation.

PLURALITY 62.0 votes tallied and 1 abstention

I am in favor of this motion as presented and want it sent to Worldwide Online Voting	44.00 votes 70.97%
I am not in favor of this motion	18.00 votes 29.03%

I am in favor of this motion as presented and want it sent to Worldwide Online Voting wins with 70.97% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.

Passed with 70.97% in favour of the motion as presented and it will be sent to World Wide Voting.

Ballot Prep. Committee Presentation

Karin S. [Link](#)

Q&A

- Q: I appreciate the clarity and the work done. Is it possible for the ballot prep committee to coordinate with ABC in terms of each conference how much open time there is and be entrusted by ABC to distill proposals down to what can fit? Can there be a prioritization? Can we give clear guidelines so the whole fellowship is not inundated and we are recognizing the limits of what we can consider?
- A: That is a good suggestion and I have been involved in the ABC planning and the ballot prep committee and the collaboration between the Ballot prep committee and the ABC committee is a work in progress. Right now we are bound by the OPPM regarding the role and responsibility of the ballot prep committee and that does not include ABC planning other than facilitating the ballot process itself. If there are suggestions for how to change that moving forward, I suggest you discuss submitting a ballot proposal with your group.
- Q: I learned a lot today regarding how ballots and motions can be very similar. From your understanding and looking at the OPPM, when you are facilitating this process, do you reach out to the submitting groups and share information that certain ballots seem to be similar and facilitate the submitting groups, communicating with each other, or asking for clarification about their individual ballot?

- A: Right now the process does not include facilitating collaboration among groups with similar proposals. As we learned today with respect to applying the process to the floor motion process, that has been something that was presented to the delegates once proposals were voted onto the agenda. We coordinate with the submitting groups and help facilitate clarity of proposals, translatability and also concerns about proposals, while being consistent with the traditions and concepts. We don't feel it's appropriate in the ballot revision stage, to even disclose who's submitting what to any other party than just dealing with the submitting group directly.
- C: Since the ballot submission is the final step in the entire process, I think it might be worthwhile to have a place where the submitting groups can comment on the process and offer creative solutions to some of the challenges they face.
- A: After this year's experience, I was going to elaborate on that a bit more, but given the nature of this year's proceedings, it didn't feel necessary as we got a lot of process comments. Throughout the comments on individual ballots, I think it's something the ballot prep committee will consider having a general comment section for process-related feedback moving forward.
- Q: It would be helpful if all the proposals were put into something like a SurveyMonkey or something like that which we could put out to our members and they could take their time and put in how they want to vote. Then you could get a good representation of the group because not everyone has hours to spend after a meeting to go through them all at once. It's a lot of work to put them into a survey, but it would be helpful to have some kind of platform so the members can go through them at their own pace.
- A: I believe there was a template for a Google Form that was shared on Slack at some point. This is not something the ballot prep committee has traditionally done, yet I can see with my group a survey is helpful to streamline ideas and so far the ballot prep committee has not taken the lead to put that together.
- Q: Where do you find the OPPM?
- A: It's on acawso.org. We will also put a link to the current OPPM in the chat.
- Q: I am confused about your answer about connecting groups who have similar proposals. To me, it doesn't make sense to have 3 groups who may have similar proposals to then discover once proposals are out there that they have the same idea. It would make sense for them to be able to work it out with themselves. If they have totally different perspectives, then they can still put out their own proposal. Are you saying that we need to submit a proposal to have to instruct the proposal committee to connect the groups so they can talk about their proposals?
- A: This has not traditionally been a practice of the ballot prep committee and yet it could be something they could explore moving forward as there may be non-complicated ways to do this.
- Q: I'm wondering if a layman's summary in two to three sentences could be written up on the different ballot proposals for the non-representative ACA member? In reading through the ballots, someone who isn't familiar with the process may not understand what they are voting on.
- A: We have talked about this and the problem is that the proposal format is very specific and constrained which contributes to the fact that proposals get very dense in the information they are relaying. In one of my meetings we went off what the members knew and felt comfortable with digging into and that was our approach when discussing proposals. If it goes straight over everybody's head or if they don't feel like they have anything to say about it, then we are just going to vote on it and if it's interesting or if someone in the meeting can relate to it, then we can discuss it.
- Q: I looked at the work involved, especially this time, and it occurred to me that operating in silos as the groups tend to do is probably not optimal. Is there a way to set

up a system where people can check their ideas into a basket where people can see that this is a thing coming up for some groups? Then groups can communicate with each other prior to actually crafting a proposal. Trying to cut down the duplications and rather working together as a little task team for an issue that's coming up. Unfortunately Slack is not something used all over the world, but perhaps via the website there could be a place for people to bring up suggestions before it actually reaches the ballot prep stage?

- A: Great suggestion. I would say it's outside of the scope of the ballot prep committee if it's something that needs to happen before it reaches the ballot prep stage. The ballot prep committee's current responsibilities can always be reconsidered. Short of Slack, there are other platforms that delegates use to organize on. I would always encourage delegates to network with other delegates for that purpose.
- Q: I wanted to bring to your attention the discussion today in the delegates channel about the potential, like in other fellowships, they leverage either the service structure, intergroups or regions or even delegates themselves to pre-vet ballots. Maybe that could turn into a conference committee one day, but has there been any thought from the ballot prep committee to avail themselves of the resources available through regions, intergroups, and other delegates to help with this whole process?
- A: That's an interesting idea. It has surfaced in the time I've served on the ballot prep committee. As I was saying earlier, it's outside the scope of the ballot prep committee's current responsibilities, which is of course always up for re-evaluation and re-negotiation. But given the challenges the current service structure has, like not enough intergroups, hardly any regions, it seems a bit premature to rely on a service structure that is underdeveloped for any kind of meaningful support in the ballot prep process.
- I appreciate all the work and I can appreciate the difficulty in 29 proposals not only from the committee standpoint, but also from the fellowship and the groups trying to figure out what they mean. I just want to say that there are a lot of members that just aren't interested in the business-side of the organization. So there is a set of a lot of people that have been here a while and they see certain concerns and issues and this is the only way to bring them forward. I don't necessarily blame groups that brought a lot of ballots and I see a lot of groups getting shamed for bringing forth things that were repetitive.
- Thank you for going above and beyond and for letting me feel taken care of and emotionally safe at the open house.
- Q: I want to mention that there is a real importance with the current service structure of intergroups and regions. I don't know how many more regions we could have than 5 as the United States is only so big. There are certain ways we're getting together like the intergroup roundtable and I think encouraging people to do that could be really helpful. I'm pretty sure we can go to the meetings even if we aren't part of the committee?
- A: I do agree that we can lean more into the service structure and I serve as chair on the West Great Lakes ACA intergroup and I am very interested in networking with other intergroups. I think it's through intergroups and regions working together that we can gain momentum for a service structure that is more strongly coordinated and can serve to strengthen the conference, which is our goal. I am stepping away as chair on the ballot prep committee as a service position. I try to set a term limit, because I believe in rotation of service and I think the fellowship and the committee will be stronger as they establish their new leadership moving forward. You are welcome to join a ballot prep committee meeting anytime. I really encourage all of you to submit your ideas for the ballot process moving forward and maybe we will see a few more proposals about the ballot process in this upcoming ballot season.

The Co-chair asked the delegates for permission to extend the meeting by an extra 10 minutes to do the closing of the meeting. This passed by with a show of digital hands. Passed.

Closing

- Worldwide Online Voting
- Website - information that will be available (recordings and main discussion points about each motion)
- Reminder about saving Chat
- Post ABC Survey
- Service Recognition and Appreciation
- Promise 7 - Play and Have Fun - Post Dance Party (optional) [Flyer](#)
- Serenity Prayer

Results of Online Worldwide Voting - Day 2

We move that, beginning with the next ballot proposal cycle, the online ballot submission process limits the submissions to no more than two ballot proposals from any registered ACA entity (meeting, intergroup, or region) and no more than two ballot proposals submitted by any ACA member, regardless of how many groups they attend. These limits will be applied before the Ballot is sent to groups for voting.

PLURALITY 75.0 votes tallied and 1 abstention

I am in favor 65.00 votes 86.67%

I am opposed 10.00 votes 13.33%

I am in favor wins with 86.67% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.



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

PLURALITY 74.0 votes tallied and 2 abstentions

I am in favor 71.00 votes 95.95%

I am opposed 3.00 votes 4.05%

I am in favor wins with 95.95% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.

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 66⅔ % needed for a vote to pass; and That the Annual Business Conference (ABC) receive these results and determine appropriate next steps for implementation.

PLURALITY 74.0 votes tallied and 2 abstentions

I am in favor 64.00 votes 86.49%

I am opposed 10.00 votes 13.51%

I am in favor wins with 86.49% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.