ACA Conference Business Meeting (CBM) Minutes

September 27, 2025, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. ET

Held via video conference/Zoom
Minutes approved at the Annual Business Conference on May 16, 2026.

Opening: Volunteers to read
(55 participants at start- including support volunteers/staff)

- Serenity Prayer
- Diversity Statement
- The Suggested Commitment to Service Reading
- Daily Meditation Reading
- **Notice: Meeting is Recorded**

WSO Chair Welcome - Tamara P.

- Conference Co-Chairs Introductions - Carmen B. & Marcus H.
- Tamara, as the new chair of the WSO board, thanked all delegates and observers, expressed her excitement about serving in this role, and acknowledged the growth in the fellowship. She emphasized that delegates represent the voice of their groups. Then she introduced the co-chairs of the conference, Carmen and Marcus, describing their experience in ACA and their service roles, mentioning that they would make excellent mentors for anyone interested in facilitator roles.

Welcome to Delegates - Marcus
Zoom Chat information and guidelines - Marcus
Introductions - Marcus

- **Parliamentarian** - Mary Jo L.
- **Timekeeper(s)** - Alex, Kyrstel H.
- **WSO Points of Information -** Tamara P., Bill D.
- **Points of Information**- William, Laura
- **Points of Order -** Charlie, Kaz
- **Points of Safety** - Erin, Rich
- **Secretary** - Trish, Kaz

Technology Briefing - Brad L.

- Introduced tech team
- Raised hands/reactions and chat
- Tech help questions
- How to change language in Zoom
- How to save chat transcript
- Election Buddy instructions

Safety protocol Setting the Tone Statement - Erin D.

Review of Agenda -Marcus - see: Agenda for 9 27 25 CDM

Quorum established with 49 delegates present

ABC Committee Chair report - Marcus & Carmen
Presented: ABC Comm. Chair Report and Sustainability Slides - Kaz
No questions.

Minority Opinion - Marcus H.
Reference: Voting Process

1. Motion from Ballot Proposal 1: Group Contacts for Meeting Registration
   We propose that the meeting listing guidelines be changed to allow a single individual only to be the Public or one of the Primary Private Contacts for no more than four meeting registration numbers. We believe that implementing this system will help ensure that meetings are autonomous in accordance with the Traditions of ACA.
   Minority Opinion
   - Proposing group representative: We had a situation where one individual registered 70 meetings, and some reports that some were not in alignment with Traditions. The only point of contact was the one individual, so after investigation, WSO had to delist all 70 meetings, which was unfortunate. This is why this proposal is brought with consultation with IT.
   - I have concerns about the motion limiting individuals to being primary contacts for only four meetings. We run at least five meetings per week (Monday through Friday), plus some unlisted weekend meetings. While I understand they could get someone else to register some meetings, the limitation seemed unnecessary for their legitimate meeting structure, as compared with the problematic case of 70 meetings mentioned earlier, suggesting there's a big difference between their legitimate multiple meetings and the situation that prompted the motion.
   - Q: Is a group the same as a meeting?
     - A: This is about a group number, and a registered ACA group can have up to five meetings. This is about unique group numbers.
   - No further minority opinions.
   - Vote for anyone who wants to change their vote: No one raised a hand.
   - **Motion stands as passed.**

2. Motion from Ballot Proposal 9: Future Changes to ballot proposal process requires Conference vote
   We propose that any future changes to the Ballot process must be approved by the Delegates at the ABC. By adopting this proposal, the ABC

will be directing the WSO to make sure the changes are reflected in any procedural documentation, such as the ACAWSO Operating Policy and Procedures Manual (OPPM).

Minority Opinion

- Proposing group representative: This motion, brought forward by the Ballot Prep Committee, establishes that any changes to the ballot process must be approved by the conference. The ballot process is how member meetings can suggest business items for discussion at conferences. Our committee felt it was important to clarify that the conference is responsible for approving any changes to this process, which opens it up to suggestions from member meetings. As conference procedures are evolving with the addition of new delegate meetings, we are inviting more feedback and input from groups. All process suggestions will be reviewed and decided upon by the conference at one of their meetings.
- Minority Opinion: None
- **Motion stands as passed.**

3. Board motion-Pricing Statement Literature & Products Pricing Policy statement

Motion: We move to approve the following ACA Literature and Products Pricing Policy Statement: To ensure the sustainability of ACA WSO's essential services and operations by responsibly adjusting pricing in accordance with inflation and other cost-related factors; and To uphold ACA's primary purpose—carrying the message to adult children who still suffer—by maintaining affordable and accessible literature through discounted initiatives and a variety of supportive programs.

Minority Opinion

- NOTE: Parliamentarian stated that she made an incorrect ruling at the start of this section. The procedure is to have the minority opinion given first, and then two minutes for the responding group to have time to respond.
- Minority Opinions:
- While I understand and appreciate inflation and this is to address things like this, I think this motion is too broad. If it said up to a 10% increase, then it would go to the Conference, that would be fine. As it says in Concept 6, the Conference has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance.
- As a member of the Concepts Committee, this is not in line with Concept 6. It is reasonable for WSO to make price adjustments, yet there needs to be a certain percentage such as up to 10% otherwise this is a blank check for WSO and not aligned with Concept 6.

- I agree with previous speakers that the motion gives WSO a "blank check" (unlimited authority to change prices). Also, this violates the WSO bylaws, which state that WSO should be primarily funded by contributions rather than book sales. I also want to point out that we are only hearing minority opinions from delegates present at the meeting, not from all people who were allowed to vote in the worldwide online voting.
- Proposing group representative: Board Chair - I acknowledged the concerns raised and emphasized yet Concept 8 gives the WSO Trustees primary responsibility for policy and finance matters. The pricing policy statement is about service, not just numbers, and we want ACA literature to remain affordable while ensuring WSO stability. This policy needs flexibility to address unpredictable future costs related to printing, shipping, staffing, and technology. This motion and topic wouldn't be a one-time conversation and we would return to the conference for feedback to keep the policy fair, transparent, and recovery-oriented.
- Vote to see if delegates want to have a revote at online worldwide vote: 20 voted in favor. This is 41% which meets the threshold so **this motion will go to online worldwide voting again.**

Racial Trauma Service Group Report - presented by Alaska
Q&A/Discussion:

- As a former chair of the Literature Committee, I want to clarify some misunderstandings about the collaboration with the Racial Trauma Group. When we were approving "A New Hope," the book was already far along in the approval process, so we asked the Racial Trauma Group to send any already-written content, which hadn't been created yet. For the "Connections" book about sponsorship experiences, they specifically requested and included many shares from PGM (People of the Global Majority) and LGBTQ communities. I am currently the lead writer of a new book on boundaries and hope to receive individual shares from the Racial Trauma Group to include in this book as they continue to update and respond to questions from the Literature Evaluation Committee.
- Q: Is it possible for me as a delegate to observe a committee meeting for this group or is there some kind of application process to join the committee?
    - A: It is not a committee and is considered a committee of the Conference, even though this is not set up yet. We have not had a meeting since February due to personal matters I had and we

do not generally have open meetings. If you are interested in attending, that can be arranged and we can see if there is anything you are interested in participating in. We work more individually on projects rather than as a committee.

- I want to express our gratitude for ACA literature. I think we could work with you with some people in our group. This is something I can take back to the group and can speak with you later about this.
- Q: Is there a way to include groups that experience institutionalized and socialized discrimination that is not based on race within the scope of the Racialized Trauma Service Group? For example, the Dalit groups in India as an example of people who face discrimination but not necessarily based on race. I wondered if there could be a way to include these other forms of discrimination without diluting the group's focus.
    - A:Yes, I do think this can be included and I am aware of a situation like this with a member in Nigeria.

Quorum established with 54 delegates present

2025 Ballot Proposal 13: Posting of Committee Minutes and Reports
Reference: Voting Process

- Proposing Group: When the proposal was submitted back in 2023, there was a backlog of reports not being posted on the website, with some committees not posting anything since 2021. While the situation has improved since the proposal was submitted, there are still many committees on the WSO website that either don't exist anymore or haven't posted updates in a long time. There are several committees with outdated reports. The OPPM requires all committees to submit periodic reports, and I suggest that the website needs to be cleaned up to address these issues.

Discussion:

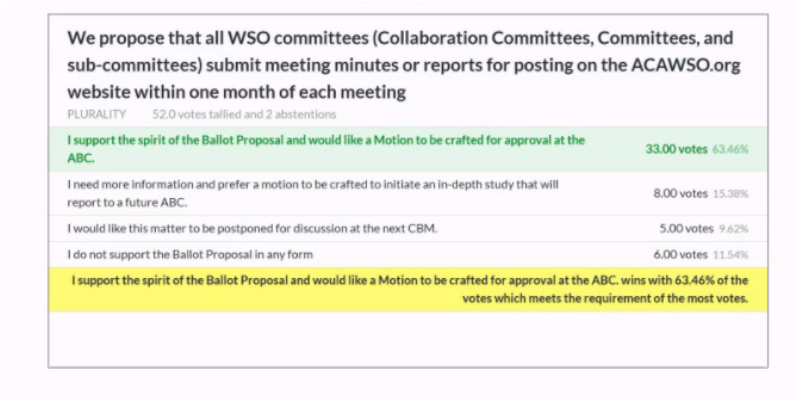
- I think there is confusion here as I know some of the committees are defunct and no longer meeting. I chair a working group which is part of a subcommittee so I don't think there is a place for that. There needs to be some designation when a committee goes away yet still on the website for reference. The website needs to be fixed.
- I participated in the 2020 ACA Annual World Convention, after which I joined the Literature Committee. I joined an authors group for a project initially called "Getting Started" (now called "ACA Essentials") and in 2022 they submitted a manuscript to the Literature Committee. I support this proposal 13 for both regular and ad hoc committees. Based

on my experience with ACA Essentials, I believe it's important to specify literature reporting to ensure clarity, fairness, and inclusion in producing new ACA literature. I am the youngest of seven children who wasn't always kept informed. I value communication as key in healthy relationships, both individually and in groups, including within the fellowship.

- The Literature Committee hasn't been meeting for a year and a half since I stepped down as chair. Some of the Literature Committee's functions have been taken over by a "literature assessment project at the board level," which I believe is not authorized under the OPPM.
- My group supported the motion that committee minutes should be posted although a month might be a short timeframe. It's important that people worldwide have access to accurate, up-to-date, and timely information. She believes this kind of engagement in the fellowship might encourage more people to do service work in the long run.
- Suggest at the minimum to have the meeting transcript and have AI parse it out and summarize it. Dedicate the last 15 minutes to switching it on and summarizing it and that is how business is done.
- This ballot proposal is fundamentally about transparency of WSO (World Service Organization) to the conference and fellowship. The first issue is about posting minutes and reports of established committees and subcommittees, which I support. Some committees like "addressing predatory behavior" are no longer active, which explains why they're not posting reports. The second issue in the delegates discussion channel is about transparency of other WSO entities that are not formal committees. He gave the example of the Racial Trauma group, which had just presented and stated they're not exactly a committee and don't have open meetings.
- The OPPM (Operating Policy and Procedure Manual) requirements about committee accountability state that committees are accountable to the fellowship and must provide three types of written communication: a statement of major goals, monthly business reports, and annual business reports to the ABC (Annual Business Conference). The ABC Committee hasn't submitted a monthly report since September 2023, while there's no requirement for posting minutes (which the committee has done), they haven't provided a monthly report in over a year, and he was asking why this was the case.
- As the chair of the Literature Evaluation subcommittee, most of the things we discuss are not for public disclosure. Also, I do not have the

capacity to provide monthly reports. We meet one or two times a month yet preparing reports - we need more people on committees if this is what people want.

- Doing volunteer work on these committees is a lot, and we fall behind. I do not think it is done intentionally, we just have a lot of volunteer work. I think this is a bit steep for once a month. Also, I think that regions and IG that have minutes on their website, they are registered entities of WSO and they ought to follow the same policy.
- I support this motion and some of the committees Pam read are disbanded. When I hear from Literature that there are some things that are not open to hear this is concerning to me. Sometimes it is tough on a monthly basis yet it can be a short report.
- Transparency in WSO (World Service Organization) is important. As a former board chair and literature chair i am concerned that the motion might get "trapped by a technicality" because the Literature Committee was replaced in May 2024 by the Literature Assessment Project, which functions like a committee but isn't officially designated as one in the OPPM and hasn't issued monthly reports. While the "general spirit" of the proposal covers transparency of activities normally assigned to committees, and mentioned that a conference-authorized project is "very much in danger of collapse."
- I would like to make a point of information for this discussion about committee minutes. I acknowledged that transparency and proper documentation are important. I also know there might be confusion between reports and minutes on the website. Now that the new website is up and has taken up IT resources, the older "Blue website" with WSO information needs cleanup. According to the OPPM (Operating Policy and Procedure Manual), minutes or reports should be posted regularly, which is the goal. Committees are committees of the board that do the fellowship's work, so their activities should be reflected on the website. I also want to mention that literature material will be discussed in the upcoming board report.
- Initial Vote on how to proceed:



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- Vote results: Outlined in green above - to craft a motion.

<u>Drafting of Alternative Motions - Ballot proposal 13</u>

Original (A.): We propose that all WSO committees (Collaboration Committees, Committees, and sub-committees) submit meeting minutes or reports for posting on the ACAWSO.org website within one month of each meeting.

B. That all WSO committees (Collaboration Committees, Committees, and sub-committees), working groups, studies, advisory groups, and assessment projects submit meeting minutes or reports for posting on the ACAWSO.org website within two months of each meeting.

C. Direct the WSO Board to give a full accounting by the next Conference meeting of which committees are still functioning, including any entities performing business normally assigned by the OPPM to WSO committees, and ensure that functioning WSO entities provide regular reporting going forward.

D. That all WSO committees (Collaboration Committees, Committees, and sub-committees), WSO Regions and Intergroups, working groups, studies, advisory groups, and assessment projects submit meeting minutes or reports for posting on the ACAWSO.org website within two months of each meeting.

- Was **Removed** by Parliamentarian since not in the spirit of original motion.

E. That all active Standing/sub committees/ad-hoc / study groups/ advisory groups/ and all other groups working with WSO or under the guidelines of WSO report monthly . If there is a delay please state that with a time TBD.

Discussion:

- On the last motion (Alternative Motion E) there is a confusion in the wording where it says "report monthly" but doesn't specify "within a

month of the meeting." Some groups only meet every other month, so there wouldn't be a need for them to report monthly. She felt this created inconsistency in the motion's requirements.

- D is too prescriptive for monthly and unnecessarily complicated, as it would require groups to provide explanations and timely dates for reports. Alternative Motion B, is too broad in including "working groups, studies, advisory groups" because some of these entities only have a short lifespan, making it impractical to require them to report within 2 months. I suggest focusing reporting requirements on just the top-level committees that report directly to the board, like the IT committee and literature committee, and allowing for more self-responsibility from the committees.
- I think B is most in keeping with the original motion yet I would want to change it to within one month.
- I am concerned that requiring all committees and groups to make reports is too broad, as different groups have different needs. Maybe quarterly reports might be more reasonable than monthly ones, especially for groups like the Literature Committee. Imposing too many reporting requirements might discourage volunteers and cause people to quit doing important work. The work produced (like from the Literature Committee) should be considered proof that the committee is functioning well.
- I don’t believe it takes 2 months to complete meeting minutes as I have been on many committees. Item C is very far from the intent of the original motion because it's giving direction to the board rather than addressing committee meetings. The last line of item C is already present in the OPPM (Operating Policy and Procedures Manual), so there's no need to state it again.
- What is a reasonable timeframe for groups to post reports. And second, more importantly is which groups should be covered by the reporting policy. My alternative motion broadens the scope beyond just committees, because some groups might be "operating in the shadows" by not being labeled as committees and therefore not covered by current policies. These groups should also provide transparency to the conference and fellowship, and why wouldn’t any group be required to be transparent.
- There's a difference between minutes and reports, with minutes being easier to create and reports being harder. The motions say "minutes or reports" which gives committees a choice, but I think this is a bit strange

because they are two very different things. It should be specified whether it should be minutes or reports, not one or the other.

- I would change my vote to support a study group. When I was on the literature committee, subcommittees reported to the main committee, which filed reports for them. Some groups meet less frequently or accomplish little in two meetings a month, so quarterly reports might be better for subcommittees, working groups, and advisory groups. All groups should have contact emails so people can request information directly.

Appeal the ruling of the Parliamentarian.

- I appeal the parliamentarian's ruling that my alternative motion D (which included WSO regions and intergroups in the reporting requirements) was not within the scope of the original motion. The parliamentarian seemed hesitant in making the decision and I think it should have been put to the delegates for a vote. Alternative motion C was similarly directing something new but was approved, which I think is inconsistent. WSO regions and intergroups are registered entities that must meet certification requirements, and I believe transparency should apply to them as well.
- Parliamentarian - Intergroups and regions are not accountable to WSO (World Service Organization) in the same way that committees are. She stated that WSO cannot dictate how an intergroup or region functions as long as they follow the traditions. If you feel strongly about this proposal (which was about requiring regions and intergroups to submit minutes), you should submit it as a separate proposal rather than as an amendment to the current motion being discussed.
- Vote whether to uphold/agree to the parliamentarian ruling: 33 in favor and 7 not in favor. Results do not meet the 61% threshold - **Parliamentarian ruling stands.**

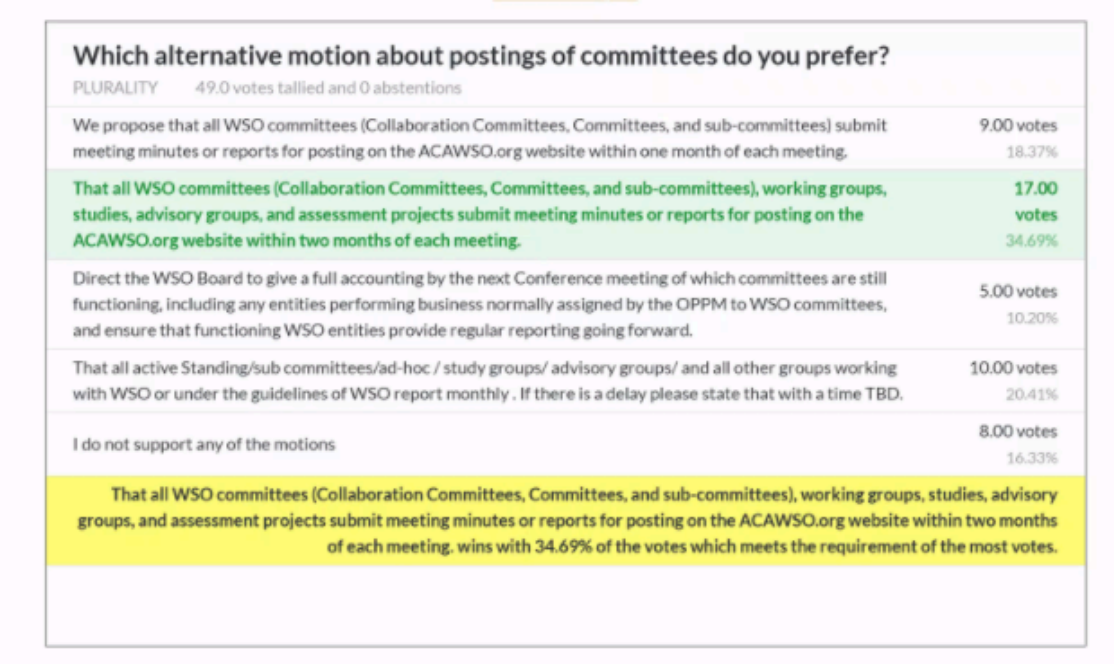
Resume Discussion:

- I want to thank Region 2 for raising the issue about committee reporting, which I consider important. I drafted alternative motion C but I think that motions B and D also accomplish the critical goal of not limiting reporting requirements just to entities that call themselves committees. My alternative motion had suggested including all functioning committees and entities performing business assigned to WSO committees by the OPPM, and ensuring they provide regular reporting going forward. I believe this remaining version addresses several issues mentioned in the discussion, including the problem of committee pages

existing for disbanded committees. “Regular reporting" is more flexible than specifying a one-month timeframe. I also want to emphasize that reporting on literature is particularly critical because the conference has assigned about four different projects for development by the Literature Committee, and having no accounting of those projects creates a significant gap that impairs the conference.

- I want to explain my alternative motion proposal E, as I used the word "active" deliberately to address only functioning committees, not defunct ones as mentioned. “Report monthly" doesn't mean committees that don't meet monthly need to create reports when they don't meet - they would simply state they don't meet monthly. I specifically chose "reports" over "minutes" because minutes contain detailed information like voting and minority opinions that may not need to be on the website. A basic report should just include information like when they meet and what they're working on, without needing to be in-depth.

Vote:



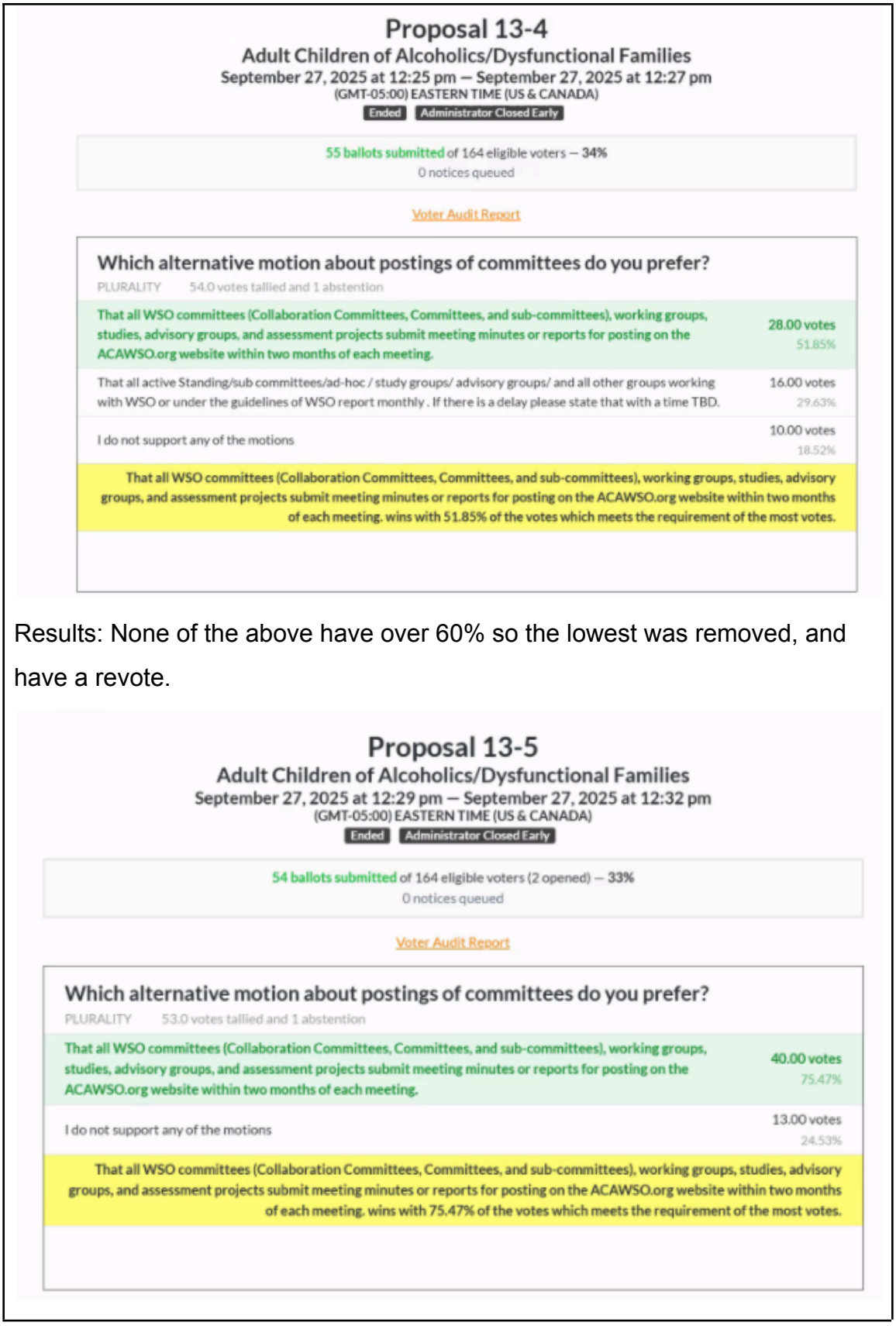
Which alternative motion about postings of committees do you prefer?

PLURALITY 49.0 votes tallied and 0 abstentions

We propose that all WSO committees (Collaboration Committees, Committees, and sub-committees) submit meeting minutes or reports for posting on the ACAWSO.org website within one month of each meeting.	9.00 votes 18.37%
That all WSO committees (Collaboration Committees, Committees, and sub-committees), working groups, studies, advisory groups, and assessment projects submit meeting minutes or reports for posting on the ACAWSO.org website within two months of each meeting.	17.00 votes 34.69%
Direct the WSO Board to give a full accounting by the next Conference meeting of which committees are still functioning, including any entities performing business normally assigned by the OPPM to WSO committees, and ensure that functioning WSO entities provide regular reporting going forward.	5.00 votes 10.20%
That all active Standing/sub committees/ad-hoc / study groups/ advisory groups/ and all other groups working with WSO or under the guidelines of WSO report monthly . If there is a delay please state that with a time TBD.	10.00 votes 20.41%
I do not support any of the motions	8.00 votes 16.33%

That all WSO committees (Collaboration Committees, Committees, and sub-committees), working groups, studies, advisory groups, and assessment projects submit meeting minutes or reports for posting on the ACAWSO.org website within two months of each meeting. wins with 34.69% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.

None of the above have over 60% so removed the lowest two - option A & C - and have a revote.



Results: None of the above have over 60% so the lowest was removed, and have a revote.

Results: This motion in green with 75% will move on to online worldwide voting.

Quorum established with 49 delegates present

Motion from the Nominating Committee and Concern for Board Fitness Input form link - presented by Denise R., NomCom Chair
Reference: Voting Process
Motion: To amend the procedure in the OPPM to cease the use of the minority opinions on Trustee ratifications at the Annual Business Conference. Instead, for concerns about a Board member's emotional sobriety or qualifications, members/Delegates will instead use the fact based and verifiable "Concern for Board Fitness Input" form to be investigated and addressed by the Nominating Committee. The current Minority Opinion process is not emotionally safe and it has impacted members from applying to the Board of Trustees. This is not sustainable for the survival of our Fellowship.

- Second: IG 630 Stefan

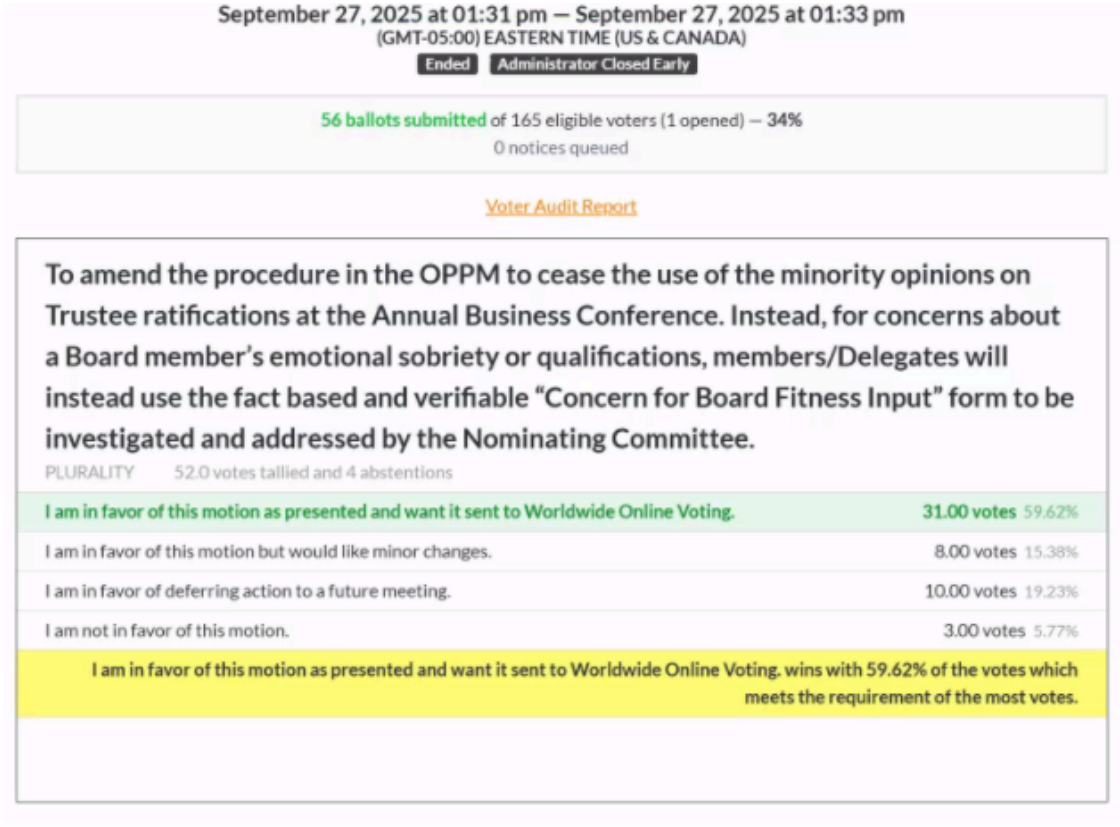
Discussion

- If you are volunteering to serve as a trustee, I think there needs to be an ability for constructive criticism, open to feedback.
- I oppose the motion from the nominating committee. I am concerned that questions now have to go through the nominating committee rather than being asked directly. People volunteering as trustees should be open to constructive criticism and feedback, even when they disagree. My minority opinions come from actual experience working with trustees, which many delegates don't have. Isn't minority opinions required under Robert's Rules when there's a vote. I once offered a minority opinion about a potential breach of tradition that was considered aggressive, though I didn't think it was.
- The nominating committee is doing a very thorough vetting job. The minority opinion process seems like wasted time unless it has been investigated prior to their ratification. I have sat through several minority opinions and often wondered why they do them because they seem personal in a way nothing else is.
- I have concerns about the motion regarding the minority opinion process because it claims the current minority opinion process is "not emotionally safe" and has impacted members applying to the Board of Trustees. Saying this is speculative and opinion-based rather than factual. The correlation (board members decreasing) doesn't equal causation, and that there were likely other factors involved. The minority opinion is a standard part of Robert's Rules of Order. I haven't

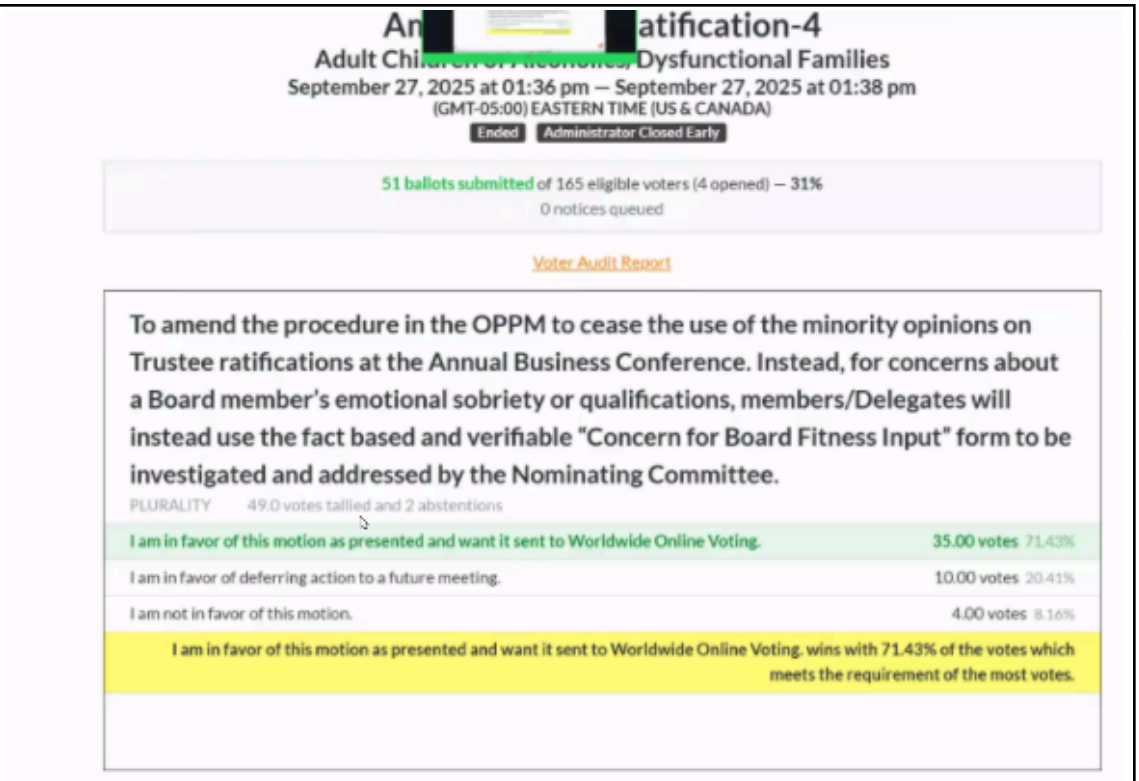
heard anything in minority opinions that seemed "emotionally unsafe" and this might reflect on the emotional maturity of those involved.

- I witnessed the minority opinion process as an observer and thought it was very harsh and not helpful at all. Since other 12-step programs don't use this minority opinion process, I support the motion to do away with it. Watching the process made me think "holy cow, I would never want to be in that position" where someone could "so brutally attack me," and that the experience did not inspire me to serve.
- This sounds like a safe way to have feedback given if there are real concerns about someone by filling out a form and asking for investigation, and if you have facts, it seems like a safe way to check on something that's a real concern to someone.
- I disagree with the interpretation of numbers presented and the cause-effect relationship claimed (regarding minority opinions causing fewer trustee applications). I believe the nominating committee is doing a good job but thinks their vetting process is "overkill" - even comparing it to being more intensive than high-level U.S. government security clearances for embassy personnel. If ACA had a proper service structure in place where service boards were automatically represented on the WSO board, regions could put forward trusted people who already have their backing.
- I am torn about the motion. I was one of the trustees in 2022 and 2023 who experienced the minority opinion process, which was uncomfortable. There was damage because many people told him afterward that they would never put themselves in that position. I believe there was a cause and effect relationship between the minority opinion process and people not wanting to serve. The process has improved in recent years, becoming more modulated, with possibly no minority opinions expressed last year. Yet I am confused about the new proposed process and do not fully understand how it works. I suggest that the Nominating Committee provide a fuller report on the process.
- My intergroup agrees with [the person's above] comments about how people wouldn't want to go through the trustee ratification process because it feels punitive. I have been on both the nominating committee and was a board member who experienced the process myself. I agree that more information is needed and to present how other 12-step organizations handle this process. Some other organizations vote in the board as a whole entity rather than as individual members. Having more information presented for clarity about how the process could work would be helpful.

- I support the motion from the nominating committee to cease the use of minority opinions on trustee ratifications. When I was a trustee many years ago, they didn't have the minority opinion process. Robert's Rules state that minority opinions are usually for motions and issues that need to be debated, not for ratifications or elections, which he considers this to be. I support the nominating committee's proposal because it provides a way for dissenting voices to be heard without putting people "on the spot" or "chastising" them, which creates a barrier for adult children who might not want to face public criticism.
- I have mixed feelings on the nominating committee motion. I have been both a member of the nominating committee and a region representative, and have experience with the vetting process. I believe regions need more education about how to properly vet prospective trustees. Until ACA delegates can practice more "emotional sobriety" and bring their "loving parent" into delegate meetings, minority opinions will continue to be difficult to handle. Developing this maturity is the responsibility of the delegates.
- Election buddy poll on this proposal:



Results: None of the options received 60+% so the lowest one - "I am in favor of this motion but would like minor changes" was removed for a revote:



The one in green has 71.4%- motion will go onto online worldwide voting.

Board Report Presentation at CBM - presented by Tamara P., Bill D., & Sue V.
Reference: link
Q&A/Discussion:

- I have a concern about the numbers Bill mentioned during his presentation. While Bill was speaking about "billions" of people, the chart shown displayed figures in "millions". Which is correct - millions or billions?
    - Bill clarified that the chart showed 1,352 million, which equals 1.352 billion when you change the decimal point.
- I am in a group with the former chair of the Literature Committee. She has written a proposal that my Intergroup is about to discuss. Her proposal seems different from what I just heard from the board presentation. While the board presentation suggested there are many volunteers, she is saying there weren't many volunteers and a chair is needed. I want to understand so I can offer to my intergroup to help them make a good decision about this proposal.
    - Sue, as Publishing Committee Chair, mentioned that ACA currently has 7 published English books, 4 English booklets, 30 translated books, and 1 translated booklet in 16 languages. There are also 72 licensed publications in development across

37 languages worldwide, with 6 about to be published in the next 6 months. Also the Literature Assessment Project Team (LAP) that was formed in May 2024 when the Literature Committee was left without a chair. There are currently two active subcommittees: Literature Evaluation (chaired by Alaska) and Literature in Development (chaired by Chris H). We know the importance of literature in carrying the ACA message globally, noting that the Big Red Book (BRB) is now available in 12 languages, representing 1.35 billion people. ACA is in over 68 countries and ACA World Services is on a journey of growth, transformation and healing, just like its members.

- In the statistics about donations, I see that for staff 100 people in AA, those are just for North America, while ACA has only 12 people dealing with the whole world. In AA, groups donate twice as much as individual members, whereas in ACA, groups donate less than individual members. How can we better educate members about the importance of supporting the organization through regular monthly donations rather than occasional appeals, to create a more sustainable financial situation.
- In regards to Seventh Tradition challenges, my meeting has many international participants, and they've struggled to find tools to collect contributions across different countries while maintaining anonymity. Many payment platforms require personal information disclosure, at least for the person registering. It would be helpful if there were easy-to-understand methods for international meetings to handle this. In regards to literature, I appreciate new literature but have concerns about the balance between investing in new translations versus creating new literature. Is there a policy on using AI for automatic translations to reduce translation costs, which could free up funding for developing new literature.
    - We have invested in a translation management system that will make the process faster and smoother for translators while being less costly for World Services. We can't use general AI tools for translations because they would lose copyright, but the new translation management system has AI built into it.
- As a member of the Literature subcommittee and LAP, we are making significant progress in establishing new policies and procedures that weren't previously in place. While a Literature Development Committee existed before, it wasn't very active, but now they have all the writing

teams under WSO and are providing them with support. For Literature Evaluation, we discovered the process wasn't fully complete. The Loving Parent Guidebook will be the first publication to go through the post-fellowship review process.

- We are using a shared leadership model currently with Tamara, herself (Sue), Chris, and Alaska working together on literature matters. We are accomplishing a lot and working on strategic initiatives that we will present in the future, yet we still need volunteers.
- I am excited for literature development in ACA. In the 1990s when we only had photocopies to share, I really appreciated the Big Red Book and other publications. I am also enthusiastic about the new communications committee. However, there seems to be a disconnect between delegates and the meeting level. I started an Intergroup roundtable to improve communication between intergroups, help them reach out to meetings, and create community. When meetings moved to Zoom, this created some communication challenges.
    - Yes, there is a disconnect between delegates and the meeting level and acknowledge we are working on this in our communications. The volunteer initiative with the ComLine blog failed after a while, and the traveler newsletter had to be taken over by the WSO office to ensure it went out on the first of every month. For critical jobs, they need staff (special workers) to do them rather than volunteers, as volunteers tend to burn out or have other priorities. We have invested time and resources into addressing the communications issues.
- I think it's exciting to see how ACA has progressed with literature. When I started ACA 40 years ago, they had no literature and just shared about a step each meeting. We need to educate groups about how they're all part of WSO, not just supporting rent at church meetings but supporting a larger organization. I sent an image to Member Services and the Board that could be a useful tool to help educate meetings about this.
- The literature is amazing, particularly the Loving Parent Guidebook. I have concern about donation approaches, and shaming groups or members for not giving enough money isn't effective, especially in ACA. If the program is working well and delivering recovery effectively, donations will naturally follow. I suggest making everything donation-based rather than using shame tactics. If anyone could

comment on groups developing their own literature in-house, as some groups have done this.
    - There are two different ways to develop literature for ACA: Submit a ballot proposal (deadline September 30th for the 2026 ABC) - this is how many pieces of literature with ABC Motions were created. Or develop materials independently, but be careful about copyright issues: Need to ask permission if using. You can send it directly to the literature queue marked as "new literature" for review and guidance.
- My view is that when a group or service entity publishes a book about ACA on its own, it's harmful to the program because it dilutes the ACA message and takes away revenue from the WSO (World Service Organization). This practice is not in conformance with Tradition 4, in my view.

Motion for ABC Committee/Sustainability/Charter Restructuring - Josh W.
PowerPoint Presentation, Motion, Charter-Cmte-Minority-Report-CBM.pdf
Reference: Conference motion history related to the ABC Study, Voting Process

Motion: Rename the ABC Study Subcommittee to be the Charter Committee and make it an ad hoc committee similar to the Concepts Committee. It will report to the Board and the conference. The balance of what the ABC Study Subcommittee was tasked with is assigned to the ABC Sustainability Study. All 3 committees (ABC Committee, ABC Study, ABC Sustainability) have independently agreed to this change through group conscience.

- Second: CAF003 Marion

Discussion:

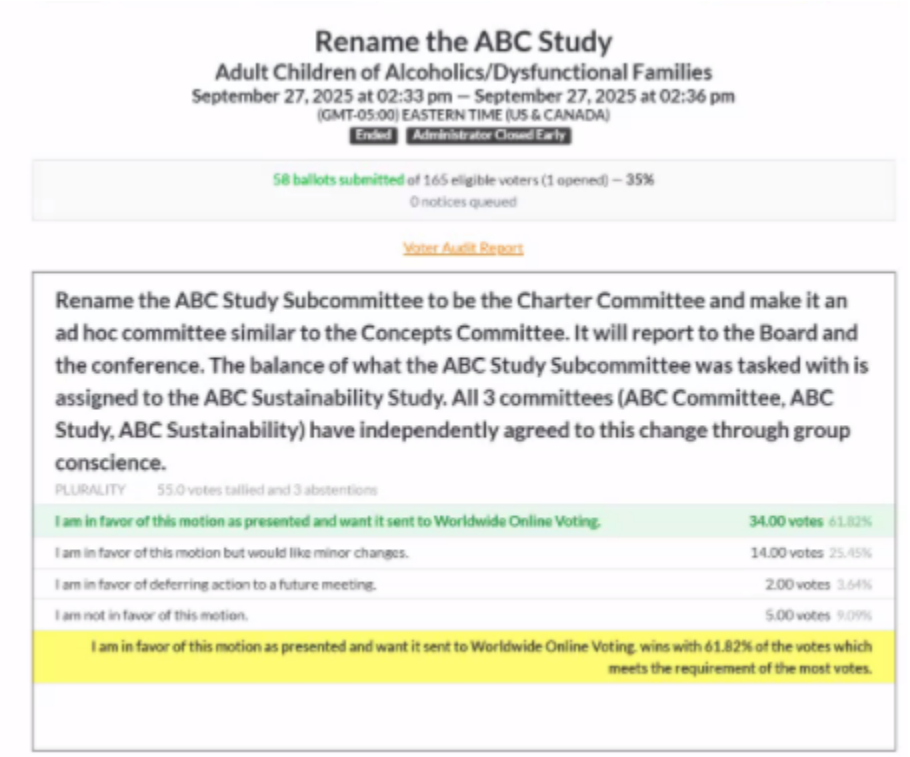
- Will the Charter Committee and ABC committee still communicate since we do not want to silo things?
    - The Charter Committee and ABC Committee would still communicate, but it would be more of an indirect communication. As compared to how the Charter Committee would benefit from communicating with the Concept Study Committee. The Charter Committee would also benefit from communicating with the ABC Committee and through them, with the ABC Sustainability subcommittee. Changes in the Charter could have implications for how conferences are conducted, but those matters would probably go to the ABC Committee.
- I am on the Charter Committee and observed that when the Sustainability Committee was created as a subcommittee of the ABC

Study Committee, it took on a much larger role than anticipated. I kept bringing up Concept 10, which requires a clear definition of responsibilities and authority within committees. Among these three committees (Charter, ABC Study, and Sustainability), there was confusion about roles, with significant overlap and "enmeshment" in their work. A major purpose of the proposed restructuring is to clearly delineate which committee does what and who reports to whom, as I found the current structure confusing even as a committee member.

- I have invested a lot of time in these various committees but am currently on an "unexpectedly cheerful hiatus." These committees have done valuable work, but the lack of clear structure was a burden on everyone. The proposed changes would allow the Charter Committee to focus solely on developing the charter while the Sustainability Committee can continue with other tasks that the conference asked to be studied about how meetings run. While these committees report to the board and board members attend meetings, in practice the committees have had freedom to work out issues on their own and latitude to report directly to the conference.
- I am concerned about the proposed restructuring of committees. I have been part of the Charter Committee for almost 3 years and feels there's "enmeshment" between the committees. I am concerned that the Sustainability Committee wants to take on duties originally assigned to the Charter Committee by the ABC. I would support the proposal if there was a clear list of duties rather than vague language about "absorbing the balance of the directives." I prefer the previous structure where all committees reported in the same manner and believe the ABC committee needs to hear about the conference charter development.
- I am on the Charter committee and the Charter is a book of directions about how ACA is supposed to work, such as the U.S. Constitution which explains how the U.S. government works. I invite everyone to join the committee because we are building the foundation of how ACA works now and for the future.
- I like the idea of better accountability. I specifically wanted to emphasize that she feels more information is needed about where things are going and who's doing what.
- Presenter than presented the history of the motions related to this topic - see: Conference Motions Related to ABC Study.docx and stated

that basically everything in these motions except the charter will go to Sustainability Study.

Initial Vote on Proposal:



Results: The option in green with 61.8% will go to online worldwide voting.

Quorum established with 49 delegates present

Motion to send Revised Concept 2 to Fellowship Group Voting - presented by Kelle and Josh, Concepts Committee; See: Background & Context for Motion and PowerPoint slides

Motion: The Concepts Study Group hereby MOVES that the version of Concept 2 approved at the 2025 ABC be placed into a Fellowship Group Vote process, so as to allow it to be approved and confirmed by the whole Fellowship, with the explicit understanding that a Conference decision not to initiate a Fellowship Group Vote here today will serve as a decision that the revised Concept 2 language already approved by the Conference at the 2025 ABC is final.

Second: IG9- Marilyn

Discussion:

- I guess what I'm hearing is that this did not go to fellowship review after it was approved at the ABC, is that correct?"
    - Yes. After the 2024 approval, it was sent out for groups to discuss further, and they held two town halls to gather feedback

before bringing it back for a final vote at the 2025 ABC. This year-long period was when it was available for fellowship review.

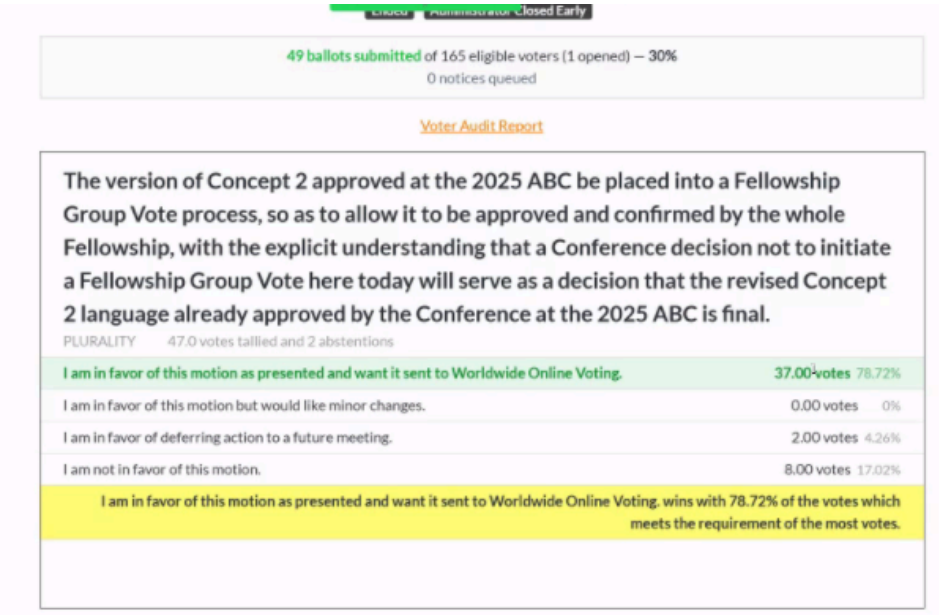
- Groups have sent representatives to vote on these things and I don't think the membership needs to vote on this. I would vote against this motion, which means it would pass without having to send it out for a group vote.
- A change to a concept would go for a vote to all of the groups? Because this was started in 2024, and then went to 2025 ABC. This process had started before the fellowship group vote was in place. This vote is really whether we would like to grandfather it in, or we would like to go with the new path. I would prefer that we grandfather it in and not extend the process by another year.
    - When the Concept Study Committee started their process in 2022, the original plan was that the conference would have final approval on Concept 2. Until the fellowship group voting process was created, the procedure would have been to present to the conference for final approval, and that would have been the end of the process. The situation changed when the fellowship group voting process came into existence.
- While the conference is generally empowered to speak for the fellowship, there's a compelling reason why Concept 2 specifically should go to the conference vote. He explained that the rewritten Concept 2 states "the fellowship delegates the authority to the conference to speak on its behalf." If we give the fellowship a chance to vote on this proposition, then the conference would be properly authorized for the future. If we just approve it without fellowship input, we would be assuming the delegation rather than actually receiving it. This is a common issue across 12-step fellowships, and I encourage getting at least this concept in front of the fellowship so they can truly participate in authorizing the conference as their representatives.
- Point of safety, the point seemed to be requesting respect for the order of the meeting. Her statement was brief and somewhat unclear, but appeared to be requesting that participants follow proper meeting procedures.
- I think any change to the steps, traditions, or concepts needs to go to the fellowship. The process changed in the last year, and I believe it would show good faith to use the new process now, even though there is an option to grandfather it in.
- I am concerned about the readiness of groups in Connecticut to engage with the concepts being discussed. We're currently focused on

introducing our groups to the new name of ACA, and many members are either uninterested or feel that decisions are already finalized without their input. There would need to be educational efforts to inform group members about what the concepts actually are before they could make an informed vote on them, as many don't currently understand what the concepts are.

- This is an important turning point for ACA. I feel all groups should have the opportunity to vote on this matter and speak. There's a conflict of interest when the conference gives itself power without a group vote.
- While there is a broader issue about whether any changes to steps, traditions, or concepts should go to fellowship voting, that's a separate larger issue that hasn't been decided yet. The current discussion is specifically focused on the particular issue of Concept 2 and whether it should go to fellowship group voting, rather than the more general principle.
- I feel fellowship group voting on Concept 2 would provide more input since not many people attend the meeting as informed delegates. People who are active in other fellowships and understand concepts and traditions don't come to this meeting. I believe there would likely be many abstentions if it went to fellowship voting because the fellowship is young and uninformed. Overall I am more in favor of sending this to fellowship group voting rather than just having the conference decide.
- Other 12-step organizations use fellowship group-wide voting for all changes to concepts, so ACA would be in alignment with them if they did that as well. The implementation could be built in stages - currently the name change is going through fellowship-wide group voting where people are learning about the process before voting. Concept 2 vote could be second in line and could come up for discussion at the February CBM, as it doesn't have to be decided immediately, but I felt it was important for everyone to know that other 12-step groups use this process.
- This is my first delegates conference/business meeting, representing her online group as she doesn't have groups in her area. I attend many online meetings and am in multiple fellowships with years in recovery. If we brought the issue (about Concept 2) to the fellowship voting process, it would help increase awareness about what happens behind the scenes, including the fact that there are delegates. I brought this up at a couple of online meetings I regularly attends.
- At the group level, we tend to focus on newcomers. In ACA, there's importance placed on being heard and participation. Regarding the

decision at hand, I would lean toward putting this out for a fellowship vote, but would be comfortable with either outcome based on the group conscience.

Initial Poll on Motion:



Results: Option in green receives 78% - The motion will proceed to online worldwide voting.

Conference Scheduling Principles; presented by William, ABC Committee - see: Agenda Prioritization Presentation and Report

Discussion

- I disagree with the assumption that all old business should take priority over any new business. This approach is not effective.
- Even though a topic might be submitted for the meetings, it may not actually make it to the final agenda because of the prioritization process. I appreciate hearing about what goes into the prioritization process, why it's complicated, and why such a process is necessary.
- I appreciate the attempt to include delegates in prioritizing items, but that the last email that was sent out was confusing. She checked with a couple of groups and people didn't even understand what the items to prioritize meant. More details need to be explained about these items if I am going to vote on what's the priority.
- When the conference votes on something, it should be given priority in future agendas. If there's no priority to bring voted items back to future agendas, then delegates would have wasted their time voting on things that don't get addressed. When delegates vote on items, they are "giving the voice of the conference to that. Since we now have three

meetings per year instead of just the May meeting, we have three opportunities to address business that was previously handled only in May. It is a misconception to think that if something doesn't happen in the May meeting, it won't be on the agenda at all - it's just being pushed to a later session.
- I have concerns about committees including motions in agendas that take up significant time. While additional meetings beyond the ABC are meant for spillover business, committees with extensive work scopes keep adding to their responsibilities, claiming conference mandates. This creates a "never-ending flow of committee motions" that prevents catching up, and suggests these motions need to be "parsed out" rather than continuously creating overflow business.
- Did we get through all the proposals we needed this year?
    - Yes.

There was no motion related to this presentation.

Motion - Conference-related changes must be approved by the Conference link; presented by Josh, since ABC Committee rep. was not able enter [break] into the ongoing floor conversation to present).
Motion: Any proposed changes to Conference-related sections of the WSO Operating Policy and Procedures Manual (OPPM) must be approved by a motion of the Conference, and added to the OPPM. Such information is currently contained in the Section entitled: ANNUAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE and CONFERENCE BUSINESS MEETINGS and in the APPENDIX entitled: ABC and CBM VOTING RULES.

- While the board had already made a commitment not to change conference-related portions of the OPPM without conference approval, the sustainability group recommended that this should be formalized as a conference-approved motion rather than just a board commitment that could change with future boards.
- Second: WEB381 Pamela

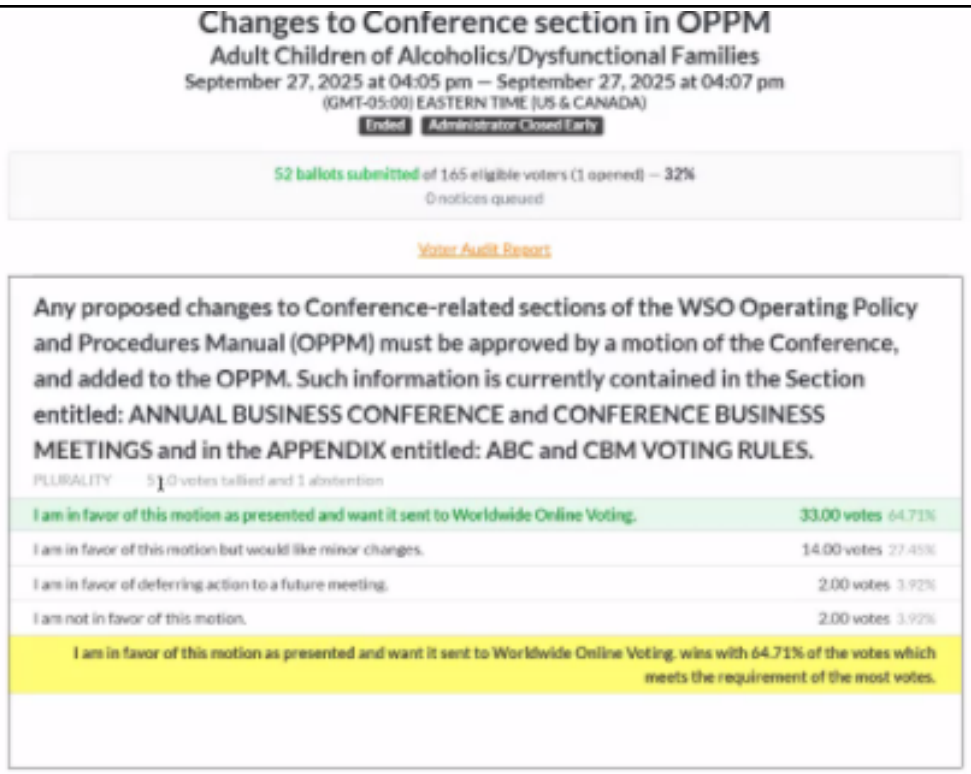
Discussion

- I think it is a good idea to codify this as a conference-approved motion, but I feel the motion is too limited. The ballot prep process (what happens in the ballot prep committee) is related to conference and agendas, so it should be included in this motion although a similar motion already passed requiring ballot prep process changes to be conference approved, but I think it should be included in this particular motion as well. Also, based on the "kerfuffle" about not allowing floor motions at CBMs (Conference Business Meetings), something about that should be included in this motion too.
- Where did this motion come from?
    - While the board had previously made a commitment not to change conference-related portions of the OPPM without

conference approval, the Sustainability Study group recommended formalizing this through a conference motion. This would ensure that the policy couldn't be changed by a future board. The motion proposes that any changes to conference-related sections of the WSO Operating Policy and Procedures Manual must be approved by the conference, rather than just relying on a board commitment that could change over time.

- I find it difficult to follow the administrative language used in proposals. I suggest that these proposals need simpler names or identifiers and perhaps even cartoon characters to make them easier to understand and remember. With the current format, I tend to "tune out" because of the complex administrative language.
- This motion being discussed, which is about requiring conference approval for changes to conference procedures, has been discussed before, with strong support from the conference. In February, when we presented this concept, about 90% of people agreed with the idea that the conference should vote on things related to conference procedure. Then in May, there was a ballot proposal specifically about ballot preparation that received about 92% support. The conference has consistently supported the principle of "don't change rules that affect our world without asking us first." This motion would ensure that any changes to the ballot preparation process or conference processes would need conference approval.
- While my group generally supports the motion under discussion, I have some hesitations. The term "ABC" is used approximately 182 times throughout the OPPM (Operating Policy and Procedure Manual) and appears in various sections, including the section about the Annual World Convention, which is now a separate entity. I am reluctant to support the motion without more specific information about which areas of the OPPM would be included or excluded in this motion.
- I have concerns about the motion regarding conference-related changes requiring approval. I like the intent of the motion, but a potential issue: while the motion specifies "conference-related procedures in the OPPM," there are some conference procedures that exist but aren't currently in the OPPM. I have heard people argue that if procedures aren't in the OPPM, they wouldn't be covered by this motion, which I feel goes against the spirit of the motion. I would support alternative language that would cover all conference procedures, not just those already in the OPPM.

Initial Vote:



Results: With 64.7% in support of: Motion will move onto online worldwide voting.

Charter Group Report and feedback Report presented Josh, the ABC Study Subcommittee

- We will be asking for input on the question of who has a vote in the Conference and to speak on issues - the delegates and whether the WSO trustees and senior staff should have a voice and vote at the Conference. We will bring this question to the next meeting.

Discussion:

- When you present on this next time can you include what other 12 steps do in this situation?
  - Yes.
- As a member of the committee, I do not support the report and request to submit a minority report.

Vote on whether to accept a minority report as requested: Only 6 were not in favor, - so a minority report can be submitted to the Conference.

- I have confusion about the procedures being followed during the conference and request a more systematic process. Also, how many presentations can one individual member make? “I did not come to XX’s conference" but came to the ACA conference, implying that one person was dominating too much of the meeting time.
- I am confused about the process being followed at the meeting. I would like to hear from the parliamentarian about whether the procedure being

used was allowed at a CBM (Conference Business Meeting) as opposed to an ABC (Annual Business Conference), noting that they don't have the same procedures. I would like clarity on what we are doing and want to see where in Robert's Rules this procedure (accepting minority report) was allowed. If certain things can't be done because it's a CBM, then other things probably can't be done either, suggesting this might be one of them.

- Parliamentarian expressed discomfort about a new process being included without any discussion with her, despite that being her role. She was concerned about what was happening but was okay with the fact that it would be moved to the next presentation. She hoped the issue would be resolved before the next presentation, but overall stated she was "not comfortable with how this went."
- According to Robert's Rules, when a committee is appointed, the committee usually presents a majority report to the Assembly, and if one or more members disagree, they may submit a minority report. These reports would be done at the same time. Getting more information first would make the process easier.
- Meeting Chair: I suggest that we follow up after the meeting regarding the minority report process. I propose that we document what Robert's Rules says about minority reports to ensure everyone is comfortable with the procedure. I suggest holding off on making a decision right now to give the parliamentarian enough time to review Robert's Rules, and then they can present an update on it before the next CBM (Conference Business Meeting).
- I think we "ran roughshod over the parliamentarian" who is saving them about $9,000 for her job today. She expressed that the parliamentarian should be respected and given her proper due. I am not voting for or against the proposal at that moment but commenting on how the meeting was being conducted and showing concern for how the parliamentarian was being treated in the process.
- Meeting Chair: I propose that we hold on processing the Minority Report until we can properly document the process so that everyone understands and agrees to it, and then provide this information before the next business meeting.

VOTE on holding on minority report decision: 17 in favor. Vote on those who would like the minority report to stand: 25 in favor.

See: Charter-Cmte-Minority-Report-CBM-9.27.25.pdf

- I am confused by the procedural inconsistency in the meeting. Typically the chair and parliamentarian make decisions during conference business meetings, but in this instance, the decision was put to a conference vote. It's difficult to make informed group conscience decisions when there's so much confusion around procedure, which is

why I wanted to hold the minority report vote until there's more clarity and time.

Chair: The vote will stand for the minority report to be submitted to stand.

Vote: To adjourn early with only 20 minutes left: - 31 voted in favor; none opposed.

Conclusion:

- Worldwide Online Voting (will be available within 2 hours for 24 hours)
- Website - information that will be available (recordings and main discussion points about each motion and Board ratifications)
- Reminder about saving Chat and the transcript
- Serenity Prayer

APPENDIX - Results from Online Worldwide Voting following this Conference Business Meeting

World Wide Online Voting Sep 2025 CBM

Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families

September 27, 2025 at 05:15 pm — September 28, 2025 at 05:15 pm

(GMT-05:00) EASTERN TIME (US & CANADA)

Ended

65 ballots submitted of 164 eligible voters (1 opened) — **40%**

164 emails sent - 0 notices queued

We move to approve the following ACA Literature and Products Pricing Policy Statement: To ensure the sustainability of ACA WSO's essential services and operations by responsibly adjusting pricing in accordance with inflation and other cost-related factors; and To uphold ACA's primary purpose—carrying the message to adult children who still suffer—by maintaining affordable and accessible literature through discounted initiatives and a variety of supportive programs.

PLURALITY 62.0 votes tallied and 3 abstentions

I am in favor	46.00 votes	74.19%
I am opposed	16.00 votes	25.81%

I am in favor wins with 74.19% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.

That all WSO committees (Collaboration Committees, Committees, and sub-committees), working groups, studies, advisory groups, and assessment projects submit meeting minutes or reports for posting on the ACAWSO.org website within two months of each meeting.

PLURALITY 63.0 votes tallied and 2 abstentions

I am in favor	54.00 votes 85.71%
I am opposed	9.00 votes 14.29%

I am in favor wins with 85.71% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.

To amend the procedure in the OPPM to cease the use of the minority opinions on Trustee ratifications at the Annual Business Conference. Instead, for concerns about a Board member's emotional sobriety or qualifications, members/Delegates will instead use the fact based and verifiable "Concern for Board Fitness Input" form to be investigated and addressed by the Nominating Committee.

PLURALITY 60.0 votes tallied and 5 abstentions

I am in favor	48.00 votes 80.00%
I am opposed	12.00 votes 20.00%

I am in favor wins with 80.00% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.

Rename the ABC Study Subcommittee to be the Charter Committee and make it an ad hoc committee similar to the Concepts Committee. It will report to the Board and the conference. The balance of what the ABC Study Subcommittee was tasked with is assigned to the ABC Sustainability Study. All 3 committees (ABC Committee, ABC Study, ABC Sustainability) have independently agreed to this change through group conscience.

PLURALITY 56.0 votes tallied and 9 abstentions

I am in favor	53.00 votes	94.64%
I am opposed	3.00 votes	5.36%

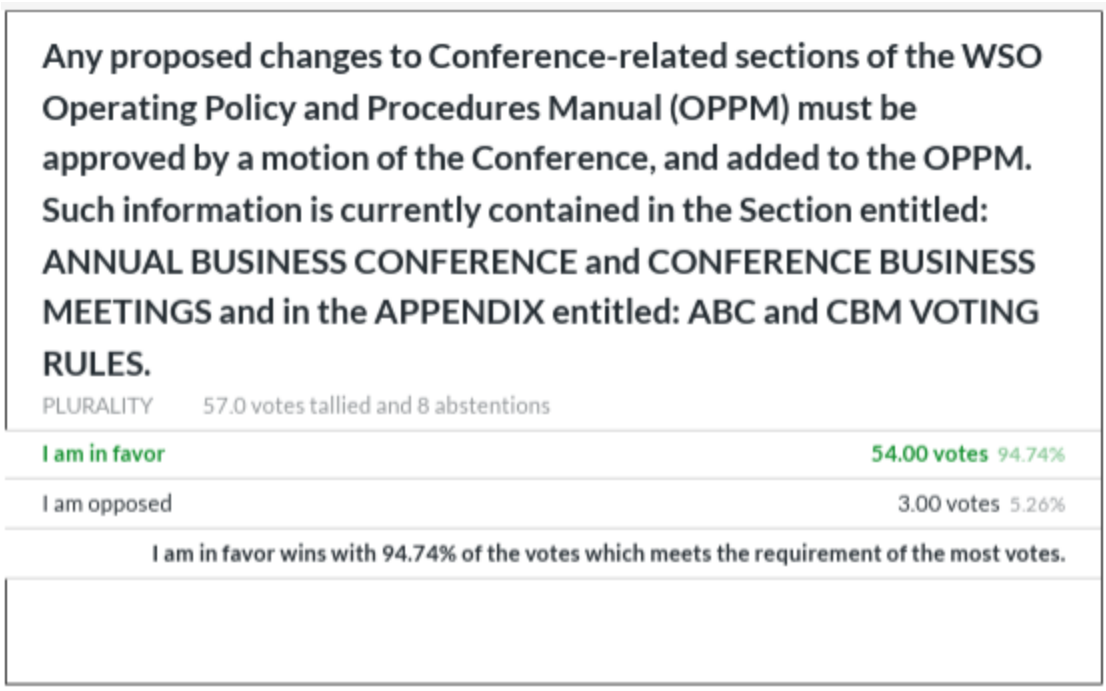
I am in favor wins with 94.64% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.

The version of Concept 2 approved at the 2025 ABC be placed into a Fellowship Group Vote process, so as to allow it to be approved and confirmed by the whole Fellowship, with the explicit understanding that a Conference decision not to initiate a Fellowship Group Vote here today will serve as a decision that the revised Concept 2 language already approved by the Conference at the 2025 ABC is final.

PLURALITY 58.0 votes tallied and 7 abstentions

I am in favor	46.00 votes	79.31%
I am opposed	12.00 votes	20.69%

I am in favor wins with 79.31% of the votes which meets the requirement of the most votes.



[Meeting Minutes approved at the 2026 Annual Business Conference]