

MSC - Virtual Meetings Subcommittee
Final Report - June 2019

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Formation Background

- 2017 ABC Ballot Proposal 8 passed - "We propose that a Telephone Conference Meeting Committee be created, since telephone conference meetings have issues unique and separate from face to face meetings."
- Motion passed at 2017 ABC
 - **Motion** - "To create a standing WSO Board committee as a liaison between Telephone Conference Meetings and Intergroup, and the WSO Board of Trustees. The committee will be responsible to get answers to the telephone community about their questions and concerns. Issues of importance include autonomy, anonymity, safety, donations, sanctions, delisting and clarity of messages between the telephone community and WSO. Ultimately a trustee could represent this group on the Board."
 - **Discussion** - The virtual meetings do not currently have a specified voice within the ACA Service Structure, or a way to consistently make their 7th Tradition Donations to the fellowship. In addition, the MPS Committee has been receiving requests to help solve problems which should be solved by autonomous meeting decisions. Designation of a Board liaison will provide more awareness to these groups while guiding them to organize in ways that will facilitate problem solving.
- May 2017 - Member and Public Services Committee (MPS) was tasked with forming a Virtual/Telephone Meetings Subcommittee
- June 2017 - Virtual Meetings Subcommittee was named - David McB became Board Liaison to the Subcommittee

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Disposition of Concerns Raised

- Meeting Safety
 - No consensus reached on safety in meetings or during "fellowship time" (citing group autonomy)
 - No consensus reached on dashboard vs non-dashboard meetings (citing group autonomy)
 - Various members joined the Addressing Meeting Safety channel in Slack
 - Various members joined the Addressing Predatory Behavior WG for issues that rise to the level of predatory behavior
- Rotation of service for dashboard operators
 - Intergroup to come to consensus
 - Group autonomy
 - Information on how to petition the Board
 - Information on creating an ABC ballot proposal
- 7th Tradition Contributions - groups can register multiple meeting days under one WSO number to streamline contributions
- Meeting List Concerns - Meeting registration form, multiple meeting days, inactive meetings, and meeting contact update security addressed by Website/DB Committee
- Development of literature specific to Virtual Community
 - Forming an Intergroup for mutual support
 - WSO Literature Committee
 - ACAWSO.org "Best Practices" page
- No communications from WSO
 - Group Primary and Secondary contact information updates
 - Traveler Newsletter
 - Information on various WSO committees and their contact information
 - Monthly Board Teleconference
- How to communicate with WSO
 - MSC - Members Subcommittee
 - MSC - Intergroups Subcommittee
 - Information on petitioning the Board
 - Monthly Board Teleconference
 - WSO Office contact information
 - Information on creating an ABC ballot proposal

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Subcommittee Work Flow Summary

- June 2017
 - Outreach to meeting contacts for phone, skype, and internet meetings for subcommittee volunteers
 - Began identification of challenges faced by each type of meeting that need to be addressed by subcommittee
 - First meeting held
 - Volunteers began going through meeting list to identify which groups were still meeting
- July 2017
 - Meeting list challenge - meeting information can be changed online by anyone, causing misinformation - need better meeting list security
 - Meeting may lose a "leader" but continue with no one overseeing them
 - Sent out email to all meeting contacts to update their meeting information
 - Began verbal announcements at meetings about updating meeting information and the Virtual Subcommittee meetings
- Aug 2017
 - Challenges identified (possible solutions)
 - Not all meeting contacts are actual people (meeting contact needs to be an actual person, accountable to the meeting or the meeting will be delisted)
 - Phone meeting formats are too varied (possible unification)
 - Reports of phone meetings feeling like "Wild West" - meetings must be a safe place per our 1st Tradition
 - For some meetings - the "After Meeting" uses the same line doing open-ended fellowshiping after the meeting. Some members are talking about the shares, from the meeting, of other members.
 - Moderators are not able to mute one offending member, can only mute all members and do BRB readings
 - Members running dashboards may not be safe people - they have access to members' phone numbers
 - Goals for Virtual Community to come to consensus and find solutions to their problems of unity and safety during meetings
 - MPS Committee suggested that meetings close their "meeting list" phone lines after meetings, rather than leaving them open
- Sep 2017
 - Subcommittee needs more participation from member groups
 - Discussions on establishing a safe place with consistent policies and developing best practices for WSO

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- Problem with meeting list software - need to migrate to new software to implement meeting contact requirement
- Oct 2017
 - Things are settling down with telephone meetings as far as safety issues
 - Subcommittee drafting WSO guidelines for telephone meetings who wish to be listed on the WSO website
 - Discussions continue on creating meeting policies
- Nov 2017
 - Safety conditions continuing to improve
 - Discussions continue on creating guidelines for telephone meetings who wish to be listed on the WSO website meeting list
- Dec 2017
 - Working to come to a consensus on a safety policy - group conscience to be held in Jan.
 - Final plan for the Virtual Intergroup to bring suggestions to the board as to what meetings should be listed on the WSO website
 - Board Telecon Dec 2017 - the intention is for the virtual community to form an Intergroup with a board liaison
- Jan 2018
 - No resolution on "fellowship time" between meetings - group autonomy
 - Discussions continue on drafting WSO guidelines for telephone meetings who wish to be listed on the WSO website
 - Discussion held on consistent methods for locking someone out of a meeting, reinstatement, repeat disrupters, and group conscience
- Feb 2018
 - Discussions on safety policies and time between meetings, known as "fellowship" continue.
 - A glitch in meeting list software has been discovered that was repopulating the meeting list with meetings that had been delisted or changed
- March 2018
 - Continuing to discuss safety procedures
- April 2018
 - Addressing Predatory Behavior Working Group formed
 - Began modeling appropriate "business meeting" guidelines by instituting meeting guidelines for the subcommittee
 - We ask that everyone on the call to introduce themselves.
 - This is a business meeting. If you have personal complaints about other individuals or meetings, please contact information@acawso.com.
 - Just like in meetings, speakers will be timed. Whether it's 2 or 3 minutes may depend on the topic and the number of people on the call. We can

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decide about that. But in all cases, we'll ask people to not speak again until everyone, who wants to, has had a chance to speak.

- May 2018
 - Addressing Meeting Safety group formed on Slack
 - Discussion held on how to list safety policies/guidelines on the meeting list
- June 2018
 - Discussions on how to deal with disruptions and safety problems
 - New meeting software now in place where only registered meeting contact can do an online update
- July 2018
 - Continued discussions on meeting safety and meeting list issues
 - Committee was given contact information for the Addressing Predatory Behavior working group for assistance and sharing the virtual experience
- Aug 2018
 - Began discussions with Website Committee for a meeting registration form better geared toward virtual meetings
- Sept 2018
 - Informational email sent out to meeting contacts regarding changing the subcommittee into an Intergroup
 - More progress is being made with updates to the WSO meeting list
 - Meeting list database for virtual meetings changed to reflect information related to those types of meetings (for example, they have no physical address, handicap access, etc)
 - Discussion held on rotation of service for dashboard - groups encouraged to utilize process of either petitioning the Board or ABC Ballot Proposal for this issue
 - MSC Members Subcommittee email given for meeting list update issues, meeting concerns, or inactive meeting information
 - MPS Committee informed of concerns of dashboard issues
- Oct 2018
 - Groups encouraged to utilize the Traveler
 - Meetings report doing well, safety wise, with only minor glitches
 - Discussion held on various methods to address the rotation of service for dashboard (petition board, group conscience meetings, ABC ballot proposal)
 - Meeting list now has capability to have multiple meeting days and times under one WSO number
- Nov 2018
 - Continued discussions on dashboard rotation of service - no groups had decided to pursue a ballot proposal or petitioning the board at this time
- Dec 2018

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- MSC asked the committee to consider beginning a series of discussions on mentoring members in the virtual meetings on connecting with others, in their local areas, in order to form face to face meetings where there are none - interested members can contact MSC or mpseditor@adultchildren.org
- Remote voting delegates for groups unable to send delegate to ABC
- Subcommittee to become an Intergroup
 - Ability to share resources, adding consistency, support for new meetings
 - Finding solutions to common problems
 - Being a resource for the acawso.org "Best Practices"
 - Creating documents/pamphlets for "suggested" formats, safety policies, etc
- Jan 2019
 - Discussion held about formation of Intergroup with help of MSC Intergroups Subcommittee
 - Virtual Subcommittee will no longer exist
 - Groups are autonomous and aren't required to form an Intergroup
 - Groups can designate Intergroup representative
 - Slack can be used as a workspace between meetings
 - Intergroup independent of WSO
 - Groups can work together as far as membership, public outreach, development of newcomer packet and other literature helpful to telephone meetings
 - Motion made and 2nd to form a Telephone Intergroup - tabled to next meeting
- Feb 2019
 - MSC - Virtual Meeting Liaison will end; virtual meetings urged to form Intergroup
- Mar 2019
 - Only 2 representatives attended scheduled meeting - motion to form an Intergroup failed
 - Other meeting representatives contacted acting chairs to express that they may be forming Intergroup on their own
- Apr 2019
 - More contacts made from groups expressing desire not to become part of a Telephone Intergroup
- May 2019
 - June meeting cancelled due to lack of interest. Any virtual or telephone meetings that would like to continue meeting to offer support and share ESH with group issues are encouraged to form an Intergroup. If help is needed for this process, please contact the Member Services Intergroup Subcommittee.
- Jun 2019
 - Final report drafted

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