

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND – ABC Study Committee

Opportunities for beneficial changes to strengthen the structure and functioning of the Annual Business Conference have been identified since at least 2017 (see the *Service Structure Committee report* delivered to the 2017 ABC within the [2017 Delegate Binder](#)) see numbered page 65 of the binder.

In the 2022 Ballot Proposal cycle, two separate Ballot Proposals (2022-10 and 2022-12) came to the ABC Agenda for discussion around restructuring of the ABC (see [2022 ABC Minutes](#), p. 46). Delegates opted to combine these two items with a third Ballot Proposal (2022–11, regarding the AWC) into a single motion.

*Passed **motion** from the 2022 ABC: to direct the ABC AWC Committee to coordinate an in-depth and inclusive study regarding possible changes to the ABC and AWC structures. The study will consider all fellowship viewpoints, and all delegates and members of the fellowship will be invited to participate. Findings will be presented to the 2023 ABC, and regular updates will be provided to 2022 ABC delegates and the fellowship.*

The ABC/AWC Committee subsequently created this subcommittee to handle that task.

At the 2023 ABC, the ABC Study Subcommittee gave a presentation (see [here](#), p. 59), and presented a motion to the Delegates, which was approved (see [2023 ABC Minutes](#), p 9-11)

*Passed **motion** from the 2023 ABC: to approve extending the ABC/AWC Study to provide recommendations without limitation, including:*

- *Drafting a charter for the conference, and*
- *recommendations for changes in other areas, depending on availability of adequate resources, and*
- *separating the AWC study from the ABC study, creating an additional study as resources permit, and*
- *that the delegates will receive regular updates until the study is completed.*

Regarding “*recommendations for changes in other areas, depending on availability of adequate resources*” (from the passed 2023 ABC motion) – this subcommittee has identified (as presented in our Report to the 2023 ABC) “other areas” for review for potential changes to include, resources permitting:

- Empower the Delegation to take more responsibility.
- That the WSO Board assist with founding a stronger delegation.
- Shift administration of the ABC and Quarterly Delegate Meetings from the WSO

- to the delegation.
- Review the Ballot Proposal process to create better ways to receive guidance from the fellowship.

### **Progress: 2023 ABC - 2024 ABC**

The following information is from the May 2024 ABC report by the ABC Study Subcommittee (<https://acawso.org/2024/05/07/2024-abc-guidebook-abc-study-subcommittee-report/>)

### **After the 2023 ABC, this subcommittee did the following:**

- Wrote an article for the ComLine Blog (see [Transformations](#)), to describe our task and encourage participation from the fellowship and their delegates.
- Began focusing on developing a draft Conference Charter. To that end we:
  - Heard from a representative of the A.R.T.S. Anonymous 12 Step program about their recent process of developing a conference charter.
  - Assembled a side-by-side comparison of each section of the charters from 8 other 12 Step programs in order to find similar themes which we might include in an ACA Conference Charter.
  - Agreed on a trial process to develop a draft of each section of a Conference Charter, one section at a time.
  - Working from an initial proposal for an ACA Conference Charter and from the spreadsheet of provisions in the charters of other programs, began developing a draft of a charter for ACA.

### **Progress: 2024 ABC - 2025 ABC**

1. Continued work on initial drafts of charter language.
2. Began to identify major areas of lack of agreement among committee members that were holding up progress. Those areas were concentrated in section 3 “Conference Composition”, and include:
  - a. Participation and voting rights of the Board of Trustees
  - b. Participation and voting rights of Senior Paid Special Workers
  - c. Participation and voting rights of WSO Committee Chairs
3. Created a Sustainability Subcommittee to work on those parts of our mandate unrelated to the Charter.
4. Heard regular reports from the Sustainability Study.