

World Service Organization Ballot results for 2013 Annual Business Conference (ABC)

Ballots receiving a 2/3 positive vote are included for discussion at the ABC.

Proposal 2013-1: The sentence "Your will, not mine, be done" be removed from the BRB Meditation.

Motion_01: 34%: **Failed** Yes: 48, No: 94, No Opinion: 11

Proposal 2013-2: Reduce the cost of postage/shipping of red books and workbooks internationally.

Motion_02: Yes = 78%: **Passed** Yes: 108, No: 31, No Opinion: 14

Comments for:

Our group would definitely benefit from that.

Literature is very reasonable but the cost of international postage is exorbitant and sometimes beyond the ability of new members to purchase; makes ordering literature very difficult in countries outside of USA

We are a European group, so reducing the cost will be good for us too.

We have recently experienced a drop in shipping costs due to the work done at WSO already...thank you

The costs are still high for the groups from poorer countries.

We believe this is worth discussing but feel that allowing regional publishers to do so and to charge a royalty seems reasonable as long as we can be assured that other than language localization, no other content will be changed.

Of Course.

Comments against:

We assume the WSO is already handling this

WSO working on it, but oversea shipping is expensive

Seems like a problem that discussion won't solve.

Response by WSO seemed adequate.

Do not see why this needs to be discussed since WSO office and Literature committee are already taking actions. Do not stop actions being taken.

Feel this has been taken care of by WSO

0 yes, 6 no

Proposal 2013-3: Develop and publish a daily reader for ACA.

Motion_03: Yes = 70%: **Passed** Yes: 102, No: 44, No Opinion: 6

Comments for:

It would be a helpful tool.

WSO is working on it

daily reader is important for us.

We look forward to the meditation book.

Yes

We all have been waiting so very long for this. We're excited that it is finally happening!

Do not stop actions already in place.

The Al-anon Hope for Today daily reader was developed specifically for Adult Children.

We will ask members to contribute to the initiative

Please!

In progress so probably will need to discuss

9 yes, 3 no

Comments against:

Already being done.

A Meditation Book is already being written.

Response by WSO seemed adequate.

Agree with WSO analysis

Already in progress. No need to discuss. Look forward to publication.

In development stage already

Use Hope for Today

No need to discuss since there is already a daily reader being produced.

Other Comments:

If this daily reader is like the one at hazelden.org, we think there's no need to discuss this proposal at the meeting. If not, we would like to say "no opinion".

Proposal 2013-4: Want a collective opinion / group consciousness regarding how the meeting is ended; with the serenity prayer or freely chosen by the groups?

Motion_04: 32%: **Failed** Yes: 45, No: 96, No Opinion: 11

Proposal 2013-5: Want a collective opinion/group consciousness about touching in the meetings, i.e. allow hugs or holding hands
Motion_05: 31%: **Failed** Yes: 43, No: 94, No Opinion: 14

Proposal 2013-6: The Steps of the ACA program be reviewed/rewritten to ensure they more accurately reflect ACA principles in the Big Red Book and Yellow Work Book.
Motion_06: 54%: **Failed** Yes: 76, No: 65, No Opinion: 10

Proposal 2013-7: Develop a pamphlet of the Twelve Traditions of ACA from our Big Red Book.

Motion_07: Yes = 84%: **Passed** Yes: 122, No: 23, No Opinion: 8

Comments for:

It would be a helpful tool.

WSO is working on it

daily reader is important for us.

We look forward to the meditation book.

We all have been waiting so very long for this. We're excited that it is finally happening!

Do not stop actions already in place.

The Al-anon Hope for Today daily reader was developed specifically for Adult Children.

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Already in progress. No need to discuss. Look forward to publication.

In development stage already

Use Hope for Today

No need to discuss since there is already a daily reader being produced.

Other Comments:

If this daily reader is like the one at hazelden.org, we think there's no need to discuss this proposal at the meeting. If not, we would like to say "no opinion".

Proposal 2013-8: A pamphlet be created that offers multiple options/ways of using the Workbook, to include it's use in structured Workbook meeting.

Motion_08: Yes = 80%: **Passed** Yes: 111, No: 27, No Opinion: 15

Comments for:

many of us believe that questions and activities for Steps 5-12 will be useful.

Suggestion: Look to a workbook revision over the next 5-10 years.

We use the workbook in our meeting and love it. We do however wonder why only questions in steps 1-4 with a fall off after that.

Is it necessary to create a separate pamphlet? It can be included in the workbooks in the future, can't it?

I have facilitated groups with the new yellow book, and it drops flat after Step Five, after having a great momentum with questions at the end. I then used the questions from Twelve Steps a Way Out. Other groups using the yellow workbook had members drop like flies after Step Five, and I feel it had a lot to do with no questions. I feel very strongly about this.

I have facilitated many groups and acted as a sponsor through Twelve Steps A Way Out...and it had many strengths...how to use it, contracts for the beginning, questions, behaviors when working the steps, behaviors when not working the steps. I LOVE THE CHARTS IN THE YELLOW BOOK! SO POWERFUL!!

Our group uses the workbook in the second half of our Sunday meetings. We also use it for Step work with the sponsor.

We agree with the argument in favour as stated in the submissions

Do not do a pamphlet, instead, update the workbook. This wouldn't require setting up a pamphlet.

Very necessary. Workbook includes extra info not found in BRB. Any knowledge/wisdom is sorely needed!

Would be good to hear what others are doing...

14 yes, 3 no

It's important to add the Workbook with questions for 5-12 Steps and instructions for use in structured Workbook meeting.

Comments against:

We've worked out our way to use the Workbook. Each meeting can decide.

It's irrelevant because the workbook is detailed with guidance and structure already.

Other Comments:

We have never used a workbook in our meetings.

We want to say "no opinion".

Not clear.

We feel this information could be included in the workbook.

Proposal 2013-9: WSO grant the rights to the groups in the Netherlands to print certain sections of WSO literature.

Motion_09: 60%: **Failed** Yes: 80, No: 54, No Opinion: 18

Proposal 2013-10: WSO grant the rights to the groups in the Netherlands to print WSO pamphlets.

Motion_10: Yes = 72%: **Passed** Yes: 99, No: 39, No Opinion: 15

Comments for:

There can certainly be a dialog about this.

It would be good to have at least one printing office in Europe to reduce the shipping costs.

Have a WSO office somewhere in Europe to coordinate a publisher in Europe. It would have the same function as the WSO office in the USA.

no need to print pamphlets if the cost of postage decreases.

They can download.

Discuss and document policy based on stated WSO analysis (revenue and copyright)

WSO should continue to look at ways to print in other countries to reduce costs.

Need to include the rest of the world and their languages, expand for future requests from non-English speaking countries

Greater independence of the national ACA is a good for growth of community.

We feel strongly that the content should be preserved but we voted yes because we think this is worth discussing.

WSO should continue to research ways to print literature in different countries.

12 yes, 0 no

We feel program literature should be made easily and inexpensively available worldwide.

Very important proposal for ACA Community in Russia. We agree with this proposal. From financial point of view it's not efficient. Royalty fee would be much better and convenient for all.

Comments against:

Groups can already download and copy for their meeting's use.

Suggestion: Look to developing more literature on e-readers. Also, work on reducing shipping charges.

We support the current availability of ACA materials available online and consider it healthy to support WSO through literature sales

Buy them

Covered in OPPM

Other Comments:

Not sure what this means.

We have no opinion about this proposal.

Proposal 2013-11: WSO grant the rights to the groups in the Netherlands to print the ACA Big Book and the ACA Step Working guide.

Motion_11: Yes = 68%: **Passed** Yes: 91, No: 42, No Opinion: 16

Comments for:

There can certainly be a dialog about this.

It would be good to have at least one printing office in Europe to reduce the shipping costs.

It is possible for WSO to print internationally using createspace. The service is free, just need to upload a PDF or word version ready for print. People can buy via createspace or amazon. No need to outsource to Netherlands.

Have a WSO office somewhere in Europe to coordinate a publisher in Europe. It would have the same function as the WSO office in the USA.

Same as Proposal 2013-2...if the cost of shipments decrease there is no need to print. Isn't there a possibility to ship the heavier books in large quantities, store it and then distribute throughout the continents.

We don't want to lose the publishing rights nor the control of printing.

Discuss and document policy based on stated WSO analysis (revenue and copyright)

Need to include the rest of the world and their languages, expand for future requests from non-English speaking countries

Greater independence of the national ACA is a good for growth of community.

WSO needs to maintain the copyright to ACA Big Book and ACA Yellow book

12 yes, 1 no

We feel program literature should be made easily and inexpensively available worldwide.

Comments against:

Suggest using the e-book instead

Suggestion: Work instead on reducing shipping charges.

Why is this necessary? The door may be opened to changes that impact the message. Keep the printing central in the WSO.

WSO should continue to look at ways to print in other countries to reduce costs.

We support the current availability of ACA materials available online and consider it healthy to support WSO through literature sales. The postage costs have recently been reduced

Buy them

WSO should continue to research ways to print literature in different countries.

Other Comments:

Not sure what this means.

We have no opinion about this proposal.

Proposal 2013-12: The word "God" be replaced in the literature everywhere with the words "Higher Power" and ensure "Higher Power" is never referred to using the pronouns "he" or "she."

Motion_12: 44%: **Failed** Yes: 64, No: 82, No Opinion: 6

Proposal 2013-13: The WSO have available for sale, 12 Step and 12 Tradition banners.

Motion_13: Yes = 69%: **Passed** Yes: 95, No: 43, No Opinion: 14

Comments for:

There can certainly be a dialog about this.

It would be good to have at least one printing office in Europe to reduce the shipping costs.

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Have a WSO office somewhere in Europe to coordinate a publisher in Europe. It would have the same function as the WSO office in the USA.

Yes

Same as Proposal 2013-2...if the cost of shipments decrease there is no need to print. Isn't there a possibility to ship the heavier books in large quantities, store it and then distribute throughout the continents.

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Discuss and document policy based on stated WSO analysis (revenue and copyright)

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Suggestion: Work instead on reducing shipping charges.

Why is this necessary? The door may be opened to changes that impact the message. Keep the printing central in the WSO.

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We support the current availability of ACA materials available online and consider it healthy to support WSO through literature sales. The postage costs have recently been reduced

Buy them

WSO should continue to research ways to print literature in different countries.

Other Comments:

Not sure what this means.

We have no opinion about this proposal.

Proposal 2013-14: The ABC improve page-number-based navigation in all eBook formats of the Big Book

Motion_ 14: Yes = 72%: **Passed** Yes: 98, No: 38, No Opinion: 16

Comments for:

The technology is there and may be cheaper very soon.

Very important and very simple to do. I just published an ebook and it took less than a day to do - I'm not sure where the estimated costs came from.

Just put more bookmarks in the ebooks. You can't do page numbers because ebook readers can change the font and size to suit the person reading.

We feel that electronic books will become more popular as time moves forward. It may even help to solve the postage dilemma, however easy of use and currency of information is key.

Yes

User friendly eBooks are much needed. EBooks presently are difficult to use in group settings.

This would be convenient; it's a sign of the times. It would also encourage additional sales of eBooks. Most people would have a hard copy AND an eBook. Searching function is invaluable.

EBooks presently are difficult to use in group setting

It will be useful, so "yes".

Pages need to be same number for eBook as BRB.

We need page numbers really badly to be able to use the ebook in meetings! Otherwise it is too difficult to use there!

We really need these and I have search strings set up for about 300 pages of BRB. I'll help to get this done!

Comments against:

Built-in search function in e-book works well

WCO Analysis shows a simpler and cheaper way.

Neither of the formats used is well suited for this. It is a waste of effort and funds.

Agree in principle but do not think it is a priority due to the costs

Is this asking too much of our volunteer WSO?

We believe that it is prudent to wait until technological advancements render this exercise less expensive (perhaps another year).

0 yes, 11 no

Other Comments:

Never had a trouble like that.

There was a tie here Yes = 3 No = 0 No opinion = 3 I hit "No opinion" button, I can't find a way to delete/unselect; please revise so that no button is selected

Lack of information.

Proposal 2013-15: Need a guide on how to help the development and growth of ACA groups.

Motion_ 15: Yes = 74%: **Passed** Yes: 104, No: 37, No Opinion: 12

Comments for:

Our group suffer from that as well.

I can work on this

we think that it is very important for all post-Soviet countries.

We have made our own pamphlets, but would appreciate an official copy.

Yes to translate ACA Is

Yes

This would definitely provides options to consider--many are not knowledgeable in marketing and outreach.

It should contain instructions on how to retain members and build a healthy group. It is an extremely tough program as is and few ACAs can handle it.

We feel like we're small and unknown too, so it will be really great for us if ABC discuss this proposal at the meeting.

My group has a high number of homeless, severe mental illness- some untreated and we would like help growing our meeting

Belarusians need our help!

11 yes, 4 no

It's very important proposal for Russia. We have many problems with sponsorship and service on group and upper level of Service. We still don't have Regional Service Committee in Russia. We have only one Intergroup in Moscow and that's all for whole biggest country in the world with 140 million of people. We need support from World ACA Community, especially from Europe and neighbor countries as Poland, Finland, etc. to develop our ACA Community and sharing experience. It would be great to organize European ABC or Convention for this issues.

Comments against:

Material in BRB and guidelines on the web site.

Build it, they'll come. Starter Kit is great.

BRB covers this. Also, the meat of this information is on the web site at the ACA Literature Page. While the site is well organized, perhaps a different solution to the issue would be to change the name of the ACA Literature page (which is very misleading since the path to literature for sale is via the shopping cart) and add a menu item to something like Fundamentals for Newcomers

We agree with the WSO analysis and suggest that the groups use the AA PI guidelines as a valuable source for PI
This guide is the traditions of the fellowship

Proposal 2013-16: Would like some guidelines on how ACA can be on Facebook. How can we be on Facebook without violating our traditions?

Motion_16: Yes = 77%: **Passed** Yes: 110, No: 33, No Opinion: 7

Comments for:

It should be brought up only as to clarify how this violates traditions.

We need some guidelines - this is only going to become more of an issue.

We find it threatening as well.

Facebook is unreliable, banned from many workplaces and not secure. Since many come to meetings direct from work, Facebook should primarily refer to a traditional website as a means of updated info.

A guideline is important. We also need to follow up with people that violate the guideline to ensure the ACA program is not confused with these Facebook groups.

We are NOT in favor of ACA being on Facebook as it violates Tradition 11 of public promotion.

we need a guidance.

This one is a controversial topic given social media is so popular.

All discussion should be aimed at protecting our 11th Tradition.

Definitely. Anonymity is critical.

We are particularly concerned about how Facebook pages (including ACA UK's page) can preserve anonymity.

Protect 11th Tradition always.

Essential information to protect anonymity.

Developing guidelines for electronic media is a must considering the growing number of personal sites. AA have excellent guidelines which could be used as a foundation to simplify the process

PRivacy and confidentiality are greatly important. Some members are needing to protect their identity from predators on Facebook

Since social media (any online presence) is problematic, because many of us have had our anonymity compromised this way, we would like for the board to discuss. We also feel that we need to publish some clear guidance since many people aren't making the connection between our traditions and their online presence.

"Hell Yeah!" A set of guidelines for the use of social media is absolutely necessary. We should commit the resources to take care of this.

We feel that ACA could use a more extensive online presence, and particularly that there should be a safe, anonymous community for discussion and support that is available 24 hours per day. However, we do not feel that Facebook is an appropriate place for this, since it is inherently not anonymous, and it is becoming more and more easy to identify people online.

This is a very good question!

14 yes, 0 no

It's very actual. It's very strong way to carry the message. But very hard to observe Traditions. We know that AA and NA developed pamphlets about social networks. Maybe their experience would be useful for ACA too.

Comments against:

There is no way of being anonymous in Facebook. In Skype it is possible, use it.

ACA should not be on Facebook (Tradition 11)

We strongly oppose ACA on Facebook.

It's our opinion that Facebook is subject to too frequent privacy violations and would be at constant risk of posters losing anonymity.

Here in our country, being on Facebook means being NO anonymous anymore. So unless there is an ACA Forum or a social networking site just for the groups like ours, we would like to say "don't discuss" to this proposal.

Facebook is promotion. Our 11 Tradition is: "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion"

ACA on Facebook for us is incompatible with the principle of anonymous (when you making LIKE, you are not anonymous). NO

Not at all an option. We are not affiliated with any outside organizations!!

Other Comments:

There was a tie for this proposal. 2 votes yes, 2 votes no and 2 votes no opinion.