

Adult Children of Alcoholics World Service Organization



2008 Book of Motions

Compiled by Patricia Irelan - Assistant to Secretary, July 16, 2025

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----------|
| IMPORTANT Note: Minutes and motions from Board Meetings in 2008 are missing. | 3 |
| ABC: on April 25-27, 2008, in Prescott, AZ (11 members) | 3 |
| ABC-2008-01: Age of members. When is a person an adult? (Not Passed) | 3 |
| ABC-2008-02: Tri-fold with Guidelines for ACA Teen Meetings | 3 |
| ABC-2008-03: Not Setting Standard Age Limits for ACA Meetings (Not Passed) | 3 |
| ABC-2008-04a: Formalize Web/database Committee | 3 |
| ABC-2008-04b: Transfer of website Domain Administration | 3 |
| ABC-2008-05: Treasurer Reports Posted on Website (Not Passed) | 3 |
| ABC-2008-06: Publish WSO by-laws for Intergroups to use as a Model (Not Passed) | 3 |
| ABC-2008-07: We Move that we Promote Sponsorship (Not Passed) | 4 |
| ABC-2008-08: Have Healthcare Professionals Aware of ACA (Not Passed) | 4 |
| ABC-2008-09: Pamphlet on Public Outreach (Not Passed) | 4 |
| ABC-2008-10: Schedule ABC to link with AWC (Not Passed) | 4 |
| ABC-2008-11: Conference Approval of Workbook, "Twelve Steps of Adult Children" | 4 |

IMPORTANT Note: Minutes and motions from Board Meetings in 2008 are missing.

ABC: on April 25-27, 2008, in Prescott, AZ (11 members)

ABC-2008-01: Age of members. When is a person an adult? (Not Passed)

Following discussion a motion was not brought forward.

ABC-2008-02: Tri-fold with Guidelines for ACA Teen Meetings

Motion: For the Literature Committee to develop a conference approved Tri-fold to include guidelines for ACA Teen meetings. (Don C.)

Second: Linda L.

Decision: PASSED

ABC-2008-03: Not Setting Standard Age Limits for ACA Meetings (Not Passed)

Issue: That it is Individual whether there are Age Limits.

Following a discussion a motion was not brought forward.

ABC-2008-04a: Formalize Web/database Committee

Motion: To formalize a Web/database Committee to identify further improvements needed, with written status reports to the Board of Trustees for review at the monthly Teleconference.

Decision: PASSED

ABC-2008-04b: Transfer of website Domain Administration

Motion: To have the www@adultchildren.org domain administration transferred from David M. to a member of the WSO Board of Trustees, or a Web/database committee member.

Decision: PASSED

ABC-2008-05: Treasurer Reports Posted on Website (Not Passed)

Issue: We move that we have a standard Treasurer's Report from Intergroups and WSO posted on a web site.

Following a discussion a motion was not brought forward.

ABC-2008-06: Publish WSO by-laws for Intergroups to use as a Model (Not Passed)

Following a discussion a motion was not brought forward since the WSO bylaws are posted on the website.

ABC-2008-07: We Move that we Promote Sponsorship (Not Passed)

Following a discussion a motion was not brought forward.

ABC-2008-08: Have Healthcare Professionals Aware of ACA (Not Passed)

Issue: We move that we have Healthcare Professionals aware that ACA exists.

Following a discussion, a motion was not brought forward since a tri-fold for professionals was “in the works” and this type of work was already happening.

ABC-2008-09: Pamphlet on Public Outreach (Not Passed)

Issue: We move that a pamphlet be created for groups and intergroups, containing specific guidelines to describe how to implement a Public Outreach program while remaining within ACA’s policies and traditions.

Following a discussion, a motion was not brought forward.

ABC-2008-10: Schedule ABC to link with AWC (Not Passed)

Issue: Move the annual ACA WSO ABC to link with the ACA conference held the first weekend in November in San Marcus, CA. ABC on Thursday and Friday before the ACA Conference.

Following a discussion, a motion was not brought forward.

ABC-2008-11: Conference Approval of Workbook, “Twelve Steps of Adult Children”

Motion: To approve the ACA Twelve Step workbook as conference-approved literature. The workbook title is “Twelve Steps of Adult Children.” (Don C.)

Second: Phyllis

Decision: Motion passed with one abstention.

REFERENCE: (In Preservica)



ComLine

Adult Children of Alcoholics
Experience, Strength & Hope

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The Annual Business Conference Issue

From the Chairman

The 2008 Annual Business Conference (ABC) of Adult Children of Alcoholics was a marvelous success. Representatives from ACA/ACoA groups and InterGroups gathered April 25-27 in sunny Prescott, Ariz. (USA), to discuss group conscience survey balloons in addition to taking action on group motions. The ACA WSO Board of Trustees also held its annual in-person meeting at the conference.

For the second year in a row, the delegate from Denmark traveled to North America for the ABC. We are an international fellowship with meetings in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, in addition to North America and other parts of the world.

The Annual Business Conference involved 11 primary motions from ACA/ACoA groups. The confer-

ence delegates discussed group suggestions that dealt with improving the WSO website; improving fellowship; teen-agers attending ACA meetings; and creating a pamphlet for ACA Teen and a pamphlet to help groups conduct public information events in their city or town. In addition to these items, the delegates also discussed the emerging need to reopen the ACA World Service Office during the next year.

Group delegates also acknowledged ACA's 30th birthday with a delicious cake and refreshments. ACA/ACoA was founded in 1978 in New York. During the next year, ACA WSO Board of Trustees will implement many of the suggestions and motions brought forth by the Annual Business Conference.

Omer G., ACA WSO

ComLineArticles
@adulthood.org

Thanks for sharing your inspiring YOU with us!

Submit your stories, artwork, creative inspiration. The themes for our future newsletters are listed below; whichever one stirs the muse, send something on -we'll keep it on file until the appropriate time. Articles should be 350 words or less. Deadline for submission: 15th of each month.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Chairman's Report | 2 |
| ABC Minutes | 5 |
| Meetings/Intergroups Motions | 6 |
| Long Term Goals & Visions | 8 |
| Committee Reports | 9 |
| ComLine Subscriptions | 10 |
| Treasurer's Report | 11 |

12 Issues / 12 Themes

| | | | |
|----------|---|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| January | ACA Relapse, Hitting Bottom, Step One | July | ACA Teen |
| February | ACA Fellowship – "After the Meeting" | August | The Loving Parent & Our Higher Power |
| March | Acknowledging the Inner Child | September | The ACA Promises |
| April | ACA Celebrates 30 Years! | October | Literature: the ACA Book & Workbook |
| May | Special Edition: ACA Annual Business Conference | November | Practicing Self-Forgiveness |
| June | Emotional Pain, Personal Growth | December | Emotional Sobriety |

About ACA

Adult Children of Alcoholics is a Twelve Step, Twelve Tradition program of women and men who grew up in an environment of addictiveness (alcohol or other substances) or otherwise dysfunctional homes. Our willingness and resiliency bring us together. We share our experience, strength, and hope to validate our experience as well as give some hope to the new member. We take positive action in our lives today. By practicing the Twelve Steps, focusing on "The Solution", and accepting a loving Higher Power of our own understanding, we find freedom from the past and a way to improve our lives. For more information or literature:

www.adulthood.org

Motions 10 - 11, contd.

poses. He suggested that the WSO could meet twice annually, with one meeting being inside the U.S.A. and the other being able to meet in whatever location the board agrees upon. Rachele mentioned that her group/area is against this "link," as the convention is not a WSO function. Omer G. added the possibility of a teleconference option for the 2nd ABC. Don C. voiced agreement with that, as there would be no member ratifications at the second meeting. The second meeting would be for updating progress on decisions started at the April ABC. Scott R. asked about the possibility of the ABC being linked to conventions other than the November ACA convention. The hope of these suggestions is to increase trustee attendance at the ABCs.

Scott expressed the concern that the events must clearly remain separate -- no affiliation between the WSO and such events should occur.

Omer noted that this year's ABC in Prescott had more members expected to attend more than one such event during the year. It was suggested the board consider some compensation (travel reimbursement, per diem) if travel to multiple events become necessary.

There are also concerns about travel costs should board members be expected to attend more than one such event during the year. It was suggested the board consider some compensation (travel reimbursement, per diem) if travel to multiple events become necessary.

Finally, there was discussion about holding such WSO events in places other than the USA. We are an international organization, so many of these events could be scheduled to be in other-nations.

Motion 2008ABC-11:
Issue: Motion to approve the ACA Twelve Step workbook as conference-approved literature. The workbook title is "Twelve Steps of Adult Children."
Reason/Purpose: The 2006 Annual Business Conference approved the concept of a Twelve Step workbook to accompany the new ACA Fellowship Text (Handbook)....

Handbook Committee Chairman Omer G. detailed how the workbook was developed during a two-year process with input and approval from ACA WSO trustees and ACA group members. Omer read several fellowship comments that showed widespread support for the new ACA workbook. The comments show how ACA members are using the workbook to work the Twelve Steps and to clarify the Steps.

Lise expressed a concern about the lack of questions/ exercises for some of the steps. Omer explained the rationale as to why the Handbook Committee felt it preferable to not retain the same style and flow between all the steps. Lise indicated that the Danish Intergroup wants to wait one year before approving the workbook as conference approved material.

Following discussion, Don C. made the motion to approve the workbook as conference approved literature. Phyllis seconded the motion. Motion was approved by all with one abstention.

With all the motions discussed, the group broke for lunch as prepared by ACA member Mary T. The Prescott area contract workers supporting the WSO also joined us for lunch and as a time to get acquainted. The group thanked Mary for the work involved in preparing such an excellent lunch.

Long Term Goals and Visions for the ACA WSO

The group brainstormed Goals and Visions for the ACA WSO. It should be noted that through the brainstorming process, clarifications were not requested, nor was any consensus sought, intended, or obtained. As such, these were simply presented as ideas for the WSO consideration over the next year. They are presented here in the order brought forth.

- Strengthening the committees; be more involved.
- Getting current information. How to do outreach to still suffering ACAs. Identify with pulling ACA back together.
- More communication.
- 2009's ABC to be held close to new ACA office.
- Replace draft BRB on website with selected portions of published BRB.
- ACA office with full-time secretary.
- Toll free phone number to ACA office.
- Each board member to pick one person to help become new board member.
- More committee interaction; more committee members.
- Learn ACA story by more members. Improved communication.
- Active office. Offices for Intergroups.
- Business plan that includes specifics.
- More outreach committee members.
- How to get 12 Step workers to be more involved, to pass on knowledge.
- How to "demystify" the WSO.
- One day meeting in the fall. ABC put on teleconference.
- Overall piece of literature that lists all ACA literature.
- Contact with book purchasers.
- Be involved with last idea (the one above).
- Sustain professionalism with shipping of books. Follow up with professionals who got handbooks and workbooks.
- Bowl of business cards at professional conferences to follow up with information. One card drawn would get free BRB.
- International outreach event. Major committees meeting monthly via teleconference and reporting total to board.
- Would like WSO board member to meet with Danish Intergroup.
- Outreach with American Counseling Association.
- Establish a plan for the incoming funds.
- Workshop with American Counseling Association; "Chicagoland."
- Use ComLine for follow up outreach.
- More communication between Intergroups.
- Succession plan for all board members.
- ComLine to go out to all meetings; change ComLine into booklet form.

2008 ACA WSO ABC Minutes: April 25-27; Prescott, Arizona

Scott R. - ABC Chairman

ABC was called to order April 25, 2008 at 6:00 pm with the Serenity Prayer. Following ACA members were in attendance:

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Voting members: | Non-Voting members: |
| David B. AZ054 | Armand B. AZ045 |
| Don C. CA940 | Phyllis R. AZ045 |
| Jean B. AZ065 | Scott R. AZ045 |
| Josie E. TX083 | |
| Linda L. MT017 | |
| Lise A. IG040 | |
| Omer G. OK001 | |
| Rachele V. OK019 | |

Scott was nominated and elected to serve as the ABC Chairperson. The ACA Twelve Concepts and the Commitment to Service were read.

Attendees were asked about their goals for the 2008 ABC, what they hoped to accomplish:

- Wants direction re: what fellowship wants; specifics. Also wants to get to know the other members on a more personal level.
- What will WSO do with the money? Wants direction on funds. Wants to have a great time with rest of attendees.
- Likes the brainstorming. Wants to take information from this conference back to her group/area to make connection to the WSO.
- Likes matching faces to names for the first time. Looking for outreach direction. Wants to look at "new" ways to attract more meeting members.
- "Here to learn." Wants to take what he does learn back to the group. Increased communication between groups and the WSO.
- Wants to see inner workings of ABC. Wants to take information back to new members.
- Wants to find humility. Wants to see more transparency toward members. Wants willingness of board to "let go of some things." Wants trust in program process. Wants to be less afraid of fellowship needing to be "saved." Wants less work!

- Hopes to see room for dreams for WSO and membership. Wants to see progress made at next ABC. Wants to learn more.

- Self-proclaimed "old timer!" Wants to see "wider base" on board and at ABC's in the future. Wants to attract more members through curiosity. Wants more members on each committee. Wants web-based connection to allow world-wide "attendance" at future ABCs.

- Wants to improve outreach. Wants to get to know other members on a more personal level. Wants to continue to look inside ACA for answers. Wants to hear more spiritual traditions talk at the local level. Wants to learn to let go. Wants to rest!

Group also looked at pictures from when we were children and tried to guess who was who. We did quite well; as a group, we successfully identified each one.

Reports were received from the following committees and officers:

Literature Committee (Omer gave verbal report for Michelle); Outreach Committee (Linda); H&I Committee (Josie); Web/database (Scott and Don); Treasurer Report (Phyllis); Handbook Committee (Omer); WSO Chairperson Report (Omer)

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm until the following morning.

Meeting was re-convened April 26, 2008 at 8:30 am with the Serenity Prayer. Current WSO Board members were ratified, with starting year as board member noted:

- Omer G., 2004 (also 2007 WSO Chairperson)
- Scott R., 2001 (also 2007 WSO Vice-Chairperson)
- Phyllis R., 2005 (also 2007 WSO Treasurer)
- Linda L., 2005 (also 2007 Outreach Committee Chairperson)
- Bill S., 2008 (also 2007 H&I Committee member)
- Josie E., 2007 (also 2007 H&I Committee Chairperson)
- Lise A., 2008 (Member at Large)
- Don C., 2004 (also 2007 Web/database)
- Michele L., 2005 (also 2007 Literature Chairperson)

Communicating with WSO

WSO Board and Committee members do their best to be responsive to inquiries. Please be patient with us—we are all volunteers and aren't always able to respond as quickly as we'd like. E-Mail is usually the fastest and best way to reach us. Various points of contact are shown in the "Who to Contact" section. You can also write to us at ACA WSO, PO Box 3216, Torrance, CA 90510, USA. Please do not send Express Mail. We don't pick up the mail every day, so it's a waste of money for you, plus it requires us to make a special trip to the Post Office during business hours. Thanks, and we look forward to hearing from you!

ACA Meetings/Intergroups: Motions 1 - 4

Motions from the ACA Meetings/Intergroups were discussed. Comments received by the fellowship, either by mail or through the forum, were included in the discussions.

Motion 2008ABC-01:

Issue: Age of members. When is a person adult? Motion did not receive a 2/3 approval from the voting members and was therefore not considered.

Motion 2008ABC-02:

Issue: That ACA does not have an age limit.

History/Reasoning: There is talk of ACA-teen, but it is not everywhere yet. So until ACA-teen is wide spread, we welcome all adult children, because they have nowhere else to go. The purpose of this proposal is in part to present the fellowship with a balanced range of choices, when it comes to age limits.

Discussion pursued regarding possibility of an ACA-teen extension. Discussion on liability/abuse concerns. Omer presented 10 guidelines from ACA Fellowship Text (Chapter 18 - ACA Teen). The guidelines offer suggestions that detail clear boundaries and behaviors that would keep ACA Teen meetings safe for the teens and for the adults sponsoring such meetings. Guidelines from Chapter 18 - ACA Fellowship Text, page 475-487

- 1) Treat Children of Alcoholics as equals and realize they are potential members of ACA.
- 2) Do not talk down to them just because they are younger than 18 years old.
- 3) Do not become a rescuer or a substitute mother, father or big brother or sister.
- 4) Do not become a "counselor" for the family of a child of an alcoholic.
- 5) Do not get involved in family arguments or fights. Let the proper authorities handle such situations.
- 6) Refer the family to counseling if you realize the family is open to such a suggestion. Do not force solutions. The family must be willing.
- 7) Provide information about ACA to the family if they are open to such options.
- 8) Do not volunteer to help out with an ACA Teen meeting if you do not believe you can keep a boundary of avoiding inappropriate intimacy with a teen-ager.
- 9) Relate to the teens through your own experiences as a child of an alcoholic or other dysfunctional family and as a recovering adult child. Talk about your experiences with the ACA Twelve Steps and attending meetings.
- 10) Do not act alone. Ask for help from other ACA members.

Other things to consider:

- ACA members who wish to sponsor an ACA Teen meeting should be 21 years old or older.
- You cannot be an ACA Teen meeting sponsor if you have been convicted of a felony or charged with child abuse, sexual abuse or any other inappropriate sexual behavior.
- You should be involved in ACA for at least two years and have demonstrated recovery (emotional sobriety or changed behavior) before becoming an ACA Teen meeting sponsor.

Don C. made a motion for the Literature Committee to develop a conference approved Tri-fold to include guidelines for ACA Teen meetings. Linda L. seconded the motion. Further discussion addressed the need for a Literature Sub-committee for this purpose. What will guidelines be based on? There is a need to discover current ACA Teen meetings to see how they are being run. Motion to develop tri-fold approved. Two options were noticed: Option 1: Have an age limit for the "adult meetings." Option 2: Set no age limit; any age members allowed to attend.

Motion 2008ABC-03:

Issue: That it is individual whether there are age limits.

History/Reasoning: This is how it's been so far. The purpose of this proposal is in part to present the fellowship with a balanced range of choices, when it comes to age limits.

Omer G. mentioned his view that it should not be up to individual groups to decide about an age limit on members. He feels that kids should be allowed to attend meetings and that meetings should help to develop an ACA Teen group. Scott R. and Don C. agreed that the autonomy of the meetings must come first. Omer G. clarified his initial comment to mean that the WSO does not set an age limit. Lise A. mentioned having an open discussion via the ComLine on this topic. Don C. mentioned that the word "guidelines" should be replaced by "suggestions" in any further discussion on this topic.

Motion 2008ABC-04:

Issue: We move that the WSO's web site be improved.

History/Reasoning: It is very difficult to find things. Doesn't necessarily bring up what was requested.

The improvements made during this past year were discussed, though all agreed more can be done (a work in progress).

Don C. commented that the website/database committee needs to be strengthened to allow for more people to review requests and/or recommendations for improvement possibilities. Omer G. mentioned the informal proposal on this topic made during yesterday's portion of the conference. Scott R. mentioned that the details of this committee should be approved by the trustees. One suggestion is for the website/database to report via the ComLine as updates and/or improvements take place.

Motion adopted to formalize a Web/database Committee to identify further improvements needed, with written status reports to the Board of Trustees for review at the monthly tele-conference.

Motion adopted to have the www@adulthoodchildren.org domain administration transferred from David M. to a member of the WSO Board of Trustees, or a Web/database committee member.

Suggestion made for periodic Web status reports included in the ComLine.

Need for additional Chat Room safety in the Forum was also discussed.

ACA Meetings/Intergroups: Motions 5 - 10

Motion 2008ADC-05:

Issue: We move that we have a standard Treasurer's Report from Intergroups and WSO posted on a web site.

History/Reasoning: Our meeting has had little, timely financial information.

Phyllis R. reported that the WSO Treasurer's reports are already available via the ComLine on a monthly basis. This can serve as a suitable format for Intergroups looking for such guidance. Omer G. mentioned that there is no need for the Intergroups to report their financial status on a monthly basis to WSO. Don C. mentioned that someone could explain to the Intergroups how/where the monthly Treasurer's report is made available to all ACAs: Linda L. mentioned that all board meetings minutes, which include the Treasurer's report, are automatically forwarded to the Intergroups. A suggestion was made that there could be a standard form that ~~can~~ be used by those Intergroups who wish to make monthly financial reports. Another comment was made that there already is a format in the ComLine that Phyllis uses each month. Another suggestion made was to develop a site on the Online Forums for Intergroups to use to submit reports. ~~If they choose to~~ It was agreed that the WSO cannot impose a requirement on the Intergroups to provide a treasurer's report to the WSO.

Motion 2008ABC-06:

Issue: We move that we publish WSO by-laws. Intergroups could use them as a model. **History/Reasoning:** We have no access to WSO by-laws.

Discussion based around need to contact meeting who submitted this motion to let them know where to find the By-Laws on the web site. Mail a copy of the By-Laws to this group.

Motion 2008ABC-07:

Issue: We move that we promote sponsorship.

History/Reasoning: Sponsorship is lacking in our area.

It was noted that information on ACA sponsorship (a "Fellow Traveler") is included in the Fellowship Text (page 389) and in two existing Tri-Fold brochures.

Discussion based around the need to send a letter to the submitting group regarding page references from the BRB (Big Red Book - our Fellowship text) that address this topic. Don C. mentioned that he is against taking any other action than this letter. Lise A. mentioned that the Danish groups want something more concrete regarding sponsorship; that they are confused about what is needed. Another comment was made that online sponsorship is growing and is a viable option.

Don added that our Traditions do not allow us to "promote" the program, though we can encourage same by the sharing of our "experience, strength, and hope".

Motion 2008ABC-08:

Issue: We move that we have health care professionals aware that ACA exists.

History/Reasoning: We do not have a pamphlet to offer to health care professionals.

Josie reported that the WSO Outreach Committee is

sending letters to health care professionals advising them of the ACA program and its purpose. There is a tri-fold "In the works" for professionals, the "Therapist Tri-fold." The Outreach Committee will work with the Literature Committee to develop a tri-fold brochure based on these letters.

WSO Board members attended the NaCOA/US Journal Training Conference in Orlando, Fla., providing informational materials about ACA to the professionals attending the conference, and they were warmly received by the professionals in attendance. In May, the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (CAMFT) Conference in California will be supported similarly. The word is getting out!

Motion 2008ABC-09:

Issue: We move that a pamphlet be created for groups and Intergroups, containing specific guidelines to describe how to implement a Public Outreach program while remaining within ACA's policies and traditions.

History/Reasoning: Our general fellowship has dwindled and many groups don't know how to attract people. We certainly have no shortage of candidates! We do have a shortage, however, of information about Outreach...

The Fellowship Text, under "Forming the New Meeting", page 559 provides guidelines on getting the word out about the meeting. However, it was noted that this section addresses new meetings and not existing meetings.

Scott commented about the confusion of which outreach activities are considered acceptable (informational) versus unacceptable (promotional).

Discussion based around the possibility of a tri-fold to be developed for purposes of outreach. Lise A. mentioned that "experience, strength, and hope" from other groups could be part of the material included in the tri-fold. Don C. said the "ACA Is" tri-fold already covers much of that topic. He also mentioned a reference sheet regarding outreach pointers could be listed on the forums. Scott R. agreed on the tri-fold idea.

There was also discussion regarding a forums topic to gain information from successful meetings in maintaining attendance. More discussion was based on obtaining signed releases from those willing to be quoted. We also had a discussion regarding using the ComLine to pass on where outreach information can be found.

Motion 2008ABC-10:

Issue: Move the annual ACA WSO ABC to link with the ACA conference held the first weekend in November in San Marcus, CA. ABC on Thursday & Friday before the ACA Conference.

History/Reasoning: More people might attend the ABC if it were linked to an ABC conference.

Omer G. mentioned that he is unsure if this step is needed in order to increase attendance at the ABC's. Scott R. voiced concern about connecting too strongly to a convention. Lise A. voiced her agreement with the connection of the ABC to the conference. Don C. mentioned that the WSO Board (corporate board) is legally required to meet "face-to-face" in the U.S.A. at least once annually for corporation licensing pur-