

ABC/AWC Report – Malmo

Two Board members were transitioning off the Board:

Mary Jo L – after 6 years of service on the Board, the last two as Board Chairperson, Mary Jo had met her term limits and transitioned off the Board.

Marcia J – after 2 years of Board service, the last one as Board Secretary, Marcia decided to leave the Board.

The first day began with a tour of Denmark and Sweden. Several Board members, some with their spouses attended. Marcia J fell and broke her ankle. Doctors told her she had to go home to have surgery on her ankle. Marcia and her husband left the next day. We had planned an event honoring Marcia for her service. Instead we gave her an engraved crystal vase thanking her for her service. Marcia, once home, saw her doctor and did not need surgery. Her ankle is still mending and in a walking cast.

Monday and Tuesday were Strategic Planning Meetings for the Board. Every year the Board meets twice face-to-face to plan short-term and long-term goals. Some of the items on this year's agenda were How to make the WSO more relevant to groups, status and needs of the Signal Hill Distribution Center, Sales at Amazon, US, UK, Germany, Russia, Amazon Sales Tax Liability, How to Communicate Effectively and I did a presentation on Demystifying Accounting. I've attached a copy of my report for your enjoyment.

The ABC was attending by about 70 delegates and 20 more remotely. The remote delegates were from the US, Canada, Europe and Australia. The remote delegates were very active – calling for “Points of Order” and asking questions. Jim B and Sharon F did a great job giving the remote delegates a voice and not letting them be forgotten. The ABC voted on two ballot proposals – the first was an ACA Mission Statement and the second was an ACA Inclusion Statement. A Mission Statement could not be agreed on but a working group will be formed to bring a Mission Statement to the Board. The inclusion statement was in the second proposal was modified by the delegates and approved. The ACA Inclusion statement is “ACA is an inclusive organization and open to all affected by family dysfunction. We strive to create an atmosphere that reflects the diverse communities we serve and where everyone feels empowered to be their full, authentic selves.”

The Swedish IG arranged for a “Swedish Night”, an evening of all things Swedish: Food, drink, song, and dance. We were offered such delicacies as whole crayfish (complete with directions on how to dissect it to get to the meat), smoked black eel (with warnings not to eat any of the skin, as it would make you ill) various preparations of herring – smoked, pickled and I'm not sure what else they did to it. I decided to be vegetarian for the evening.

After extensive discussion, ABC delegates approved the following motion—that the Addressing Predatory Behavior working group convene at least two open discussion sessions, available to all volunteers, and revise proposed literature about victimizing behavior inside and outside ACA meetings. Following WSO board approval, the revised literature will be made available to the

fellowship by September 2019, so that groups can test it and provide feedback to WSO. The working group and Literature Committee will incorporate fellowship suggestions as needed, and bring a final document back to the 2020 ABC for Conference approval.

Finally, the new Board members and officers were introduced and ratified by the delegates. The new Board members are Erin D (former Delegate Training committee Chair) from PA. and Rich R. (on Regions Committee) from New Mexico. The new Board officers are Charlie H – Chairperson, David McB – Vice-Chairperson, Miles C – Secretary and Pat H – Treasurer.

The AWC was the best attended in ACA history with almost 500 attendees. Twenty-four countries were represented. There was a Volunteer table and there was a large response to the call for attendees to step up and give service. The “Addressing Predatory Behavior” workshop was packed to overflowing and was very well received. The presenters did skits demonstrating various types of predatory behavior.

The banquet on Saturday night was the opportunity for the attendees to express their gratitude to Mary J for her term as a Board Member and Board Chairperson. Mary J was the featured speaker at the banquet and her last talk as a Board member. Charlie and I presented Mary J with a quilt embroidered with a thank you to her. After Mary J there was a performance by a clown who did a skit using the ACA traits and topics. He was a much-needed laugh after Mary J’s emotional talk. After dinner, there was a dance.

Charlie’s closing speech is down-loadable by going to acawso.org and search for AWC Closing Ceremonies Charlie’s talk. The AWC closed with Serenity Prayer spoken in whatever language was native to the attendee.