

2020 ABC DELEGATE REPORT Monterey Bay ACA Intergroup

As the elected Delegate to the ABC, I attended the entire two day 2020 Annual Business Conference, held via Zoom for the first time. The Agendas, Delegate Binder, and Parliamentary Procedures were distributed prior to the conference. Two advance delegate training sessions were required prior to the start of the ABC on April 23, 2020. I also attended a voluntary Meet and Greet online session. All of these preliminary sessions proved valuable to all because the Zoom platform was new to so many participants and hosts. Utilizing all the polling and feedback and chatting and breakout room functions was a learning experience. By the end of Day 2, we were all much more proficient in navigating the Zoom meeting environment.

Day 1 began with the Board of Trustees introductions and approval of the Minutes of the 2019 ABC.

Various **committee reports** followed with these highlights:

Treasury – 2019 literature sales and 7th Tradition contributions combined were at \$1.2 million, up 16% over 2018. Literature sales were \$1.0 million and contributions were \$129 thousand. Total assets were up 15% and net income increased by \$75K to \$78,764 over 2018. 7th Tradition contributions are trending upward as the number of meetings increases (\$117K in 2018 to \$129K in 2019). A small amount of literature sale funds were redirected to fellowship operations (\$58K) as 7th Tradition contributions did not cover all WSO office expenses.

WSO Office – 3 employees with a couple of volunteers filled over 7,000 literature orders. Literature sales are now back up to pre-CV levels.

Literature – 2 pieces are out for fellowship review: Predatory Behavior safety card and Bill of Rights. Slated for completion in 2020 are Ready, Set, Go; Getting Started (Little Red Book); and Inner Loving Parent Guidebook. Online workshops will be expanding. Next priority will be a publication on Sponsorship.

Finance – A change in the CPA firm has been completed with a successful financial audit. A new inventory control system was implemented. A multi-state retroactive sales tax project as a result of a new federal law concerning online sales has taken priority. Volunteers on the Finance Committee are being utilized to save money.

European Committee – Translation of ACA literature into European languages continues as a high priority. The Step workbook has now been translated into German. Majbrit has rotated out of the EU Chair and the Board after 3 terms of service. There are now 9 members of the European Committee with Frederick as Chair.

DCOC (Distribution Center Oversight Committee) – The operation is outgrowing the existing 2700 sq ft office but instead of moving office space, the office lease was renegotiated for 2 years at a greatly reduced price. A new inventory control system was implemented, a new HR company was hired, and literature orders increased 29% in 2019 over last year.

Public Information – Contact has been established with First Nations and veterans' PTSD groups. Two Board members visited the AA Central Office to establish a relationship with AA. A hospitality suite at the International AA convention in Detroit was booked, but the AA convention was cancelled due to CV. ACA has been asked by Al-Anon to put on a workshop.

Nominating – The committee to seek out and vet Trustees for the Board needs volunteers.

Questions & Answers yielded lots of interesting pieces of information:

A book like the 12 x 12 x 12 is under discussion in the Literature Committee.

Diversity was encouraged for members of the Diversity Committee.

WSO will soon open a Venmo account for contributions. This could happen this next week.

WSO Office is an essential service and the employees are working flexible schedules and are using PPE at work.

In the European Committee, the majority of 7th Tradition funds go to cover small group printing runs.

The Literature pipeline showing progress on each literature project should be back on track by July.

Three years of back sales taxes determined by the special workgroup will be paid off incrementally without penalties and interest and will not negatively impact the financial stability of the fellowship.

Ballot Proposals - the following ballot proposals were voted through to be on the agenda: 3,4,6,8,9,10 & 13.

RESULTS: Proposal #3: referred to a breakout group; referred to Service Network Committee

Proposal #4: failed

Proposal #6: referred to a breakout group; failed

Proposal #8: referred to a breakout group; failed

Proposal #9: failed

Proposal #10: passed

Proposal #13: failed, Board Motion taking care of this issue

Day 2 began with service opportunities on the different committees. Email addresses to volunteer on the different committees were included in the Delegate Binder and are available on the service website acawso.org.

There is a new Service Manual being developed by the Service Network Committee which is now in draft form.

Coronavirus update from WSO:

The original ABC and AWC were cancelled and moved to virtual Zoom meetings within about 4 weeks. Hundreds of meeting updates to the WSO website were performed by WSO office staff in just a few days. Online workshops were expanded to include Check-in Reparenting, which had 350+ attendees during the first day. Amazon and WSO literature sales are now back up to pre-CV levels, with Intergroup discount sales are lower but individual sales are higher. Ready, Set, Go meetings are available online and on the telephone. Telephone meetings have now doubled in size overall with more telephone meetings being added. A digital yellow workbook is nearly ready to be distributed. There is a continuing need for online workshops and step study groups. SLACK continues to be the most effective way for the members to communicate about updates concerning the CV.

The Ballot Proposals sent to small breakout groups were revisited and finalized (see prior page for results).

Questions & Answers included the following information:

- SLACK is the most effective way to quickly communicate information throughout the fellowship, in most cases.
- The monthly WSO Board Teleconference takes place the 2nd Saturday each month at 2pm EST, all are welcome. These calls are like a "mini ABC" each month.
- More information was requested on outreach into jails and institutions from WSO. Rich and David McB were agreeable to accept emails on this subject.
- It was suggested for each meeting to figure out a way to welcome Newcomers and to handle sponsorship needs in Zoom meetings, including how to get them the information and literature they need.
- The delegate from Taiwan requested a methodology to digitally deliver the BRB and other textbooks due to extreme distance and lack of printing facilities.
- Phone meetings should be internationally available, instead of only accessible in the USA.
- Zoom meetings, intherooms.com meetings and freeconferencecall meetings are all available internationally.
- Foreign literature translators have asked that idioms and colloquialisms be minimized in the English literature as they hinder translating the literature into other languages.
- It was mentioned that the WSO website does not have a welcome to the newcomer message on the first page.

Floor Motions

The floor motions submitted during the ABC were polled to see which of these motions were time sensitive and need to be handled during this ABC. Only one floor motion was determined to be time sensitive by the delegates, and the non-time-sensitive motions will be submitted to the Board for further action.

*Motion to create a committee to address fellowship safety for the immediate and continued purpose of providing guidance and resources to meetings transitioning between in-person and virtual meetings and addressing fellowship safety issues within all formats and venues during the current Coronavirus pandemic and thereafter. **PASSED***

Ratification of Trustees

Two Board Trustees have rotated out (Carole and Majbrit) and all others (Charlie, David, Bill, Jim, Erin, Miles, Rich, Sharon) were ratified by the delegates.

The AWC will take place in the next 2 days via webinar starting Saturday at 10 am EST, ending 12 noon EST Sunday. A record was set for the highest number of delegates to an ABC this year.

2021 ABC/AWC will be held in Boca Raton, Florida.

2022 ABC/AWC will be held in San Francisco Bay Area.

The Serenity Prayer was recited in the languages from the following countries: Germany, Israel, Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, Romania, Denmark, Belgium, Spain, and France.

Respectfully submitted,
Renée H.
Intergroup Delegate to the ABC