

The SMR Business Meeting Minutes 26-1 January

Welcome

Call to order,

Date: Thursday, Jan. 15, 2025

Time: 8:45 Eastern

Participants: Number of raised hands declaring their presence at start: 18

The ACA Serenity Prayer

General Guidelines

1. Call for Service (*The following attendees offered to be of service*)

- a. Meeting Chairperson - Jim R
- b. Recording Secretary - Jim R
- c. Timekeeper - Sue
- d. Other (*optional*) -

2. Readings:

The Suggested Commitment to Service (BRB, pg 601), read by: Cathy MR

The Tradition of the Month, read by: Macy

The Concept of the Month, read by: Crissy

AUDIO RECORDING . **No Recording made**

3. Approval of the Minutes

Motion to approve - Macy; 2nd - John J;

4. Motion to Adopt the Agenda

Motion to adopt – Jan; 2nd – Macy; unopposed

5. Reports

- Treasurer: **Vacant**
- Service CoSecretary: **Vacant** (Boaz is assisting with scheduling)
- Communications CoSecretary: **Vacant**
- Webservant: **Vacant** (Thank you to Wendy and Staci for years of service)
- WSO Representative: **Vacant**

Other

- After-meeting Study: Sue - Documentation:
<https://www.acamorning.org/after-meeting-ad-hoc-committee-proceedings-propos>

[al-subject-25-5/](#)

Questions and comments for the adhoc committee:
smradhocommittee@gmail.com

Report: Work is winding down. All our efforts are outlined on the webpage above. Still looking at opening and closing after-meeting scripts; and training of after-meeting hosts; etc.

- Service Structure Adhoc Committee: Maelle (report offered by Jim)
This committee presently consists of Maelle, Eric, Jim R and now Heather P and Siamanta

Note: The group met on Monday, continuing the conversation around service structure. Direct message Maelle to participate.

Report: (Jim) The Group has met a few times. As noted above we have a lot of vacancies. This group began meeting at the end of November, looking at the service position descriptions. We are considering a team or club approach to having our group needs met.

Comment: Like a team approach, would like to help

Comment: Feels sad that we can't get these positions filled.

Comment: Do we open these positions to newcomers?

Comment: We have had no strong practice of announcing needs.

Comment: Can we move this discussion to the adhoc committee meeting?

Comment: When will room host/ tech training be offered?

Re: Perhaps resuming in February.

6. Current Proposals - Update

The Proposal page on our website:

<https://www.acamorning.org/group-conscience-motions/>

Voting concluded recently:

[Motion 25-10: The WSO Proposal to Change the Fellowship Name](#)

[Motion 25-11: Adherence to Tradition 10](#)

There is one proposal about to be voted on (begins tomorrow):

[Motion 25-12: Return to 60 Second Countdown to Close Breakout Rooms](#)

Comment: Don't we have a 6 month waiting period before reversing a group decision?

Re: Yes, generally, and the original motion to change anticipated that, if after one month someone wanted to change back, we could bring a proposal to the group.

Comment: Is the group voting to change back now?

Re: Voting will begin on Friday (tomorrow)

7. Old and New Business and Procedural Guidelines

If any business was held over from the month before, we begin with that, otherwise, we begin by addressing issues that were emailed to the CoChairs. If there is no business before the group, issues may be taken from the floor.

Old Business:

- Fellowship Group Voting determination:
 1. Review recent polling on the website: [Motion 25-10: The WSO Proposal to Change the Fellowship Name](#)

We reviewed the material posted on our website.

2. Show of hands to confirm or not confirm the online vote

There were 9 votes to confirm the results of the online voting

There was 2 vote against confirming the result of the online voting

3. Minority opinion - up to 4 participants may speak - Why we would take an opposite position.

Comment: I'm an adult child - I don't like change. I like the acronym 'ACA.' I do not like the terminology 'dysfunction', I think it may turn people off to the program. I didn't know my family was dysfunctional until I was in the program for a long time.

Comment: I agree with what has been expressed. What's more, it may be difficult now for people to find us searching for ACAD.

9:30 - meeting extended for 15 minutes

4. Question: Would anyone in the majority want to change their vote?

No. No one indicated that they wanted to change their vote from 'Yes' to 'No'.

5. If 'Yes', Question: Shall we have a re-vote?

(Does not apply)

6. If 'Yes', Show of hands to determine a Group Conscience

(Does not apply)

7. Look at the [Sample Voting Packet](#) to determine who, when, how and if a written response will be added.

Comment: Who will be filling in the optional comments on the form?

Comment: The group can determine the wording of the response. Someone (possibly D) will take the lead to facilitate. We can incorporate the comments that were submitted on the proposal post on the website, as well as the minority opinion stated above.

New Business:

- Can we add something to the Script that refers to the group service needs.
Comment: We just finished a script review. A focus of that review was to include an opportunity to post service needs in the chat at the very start of the meeting.
Comment: Periodic mention of needs at the announcement time could be helpful.

9:45 - Motion to extend to the top of the hour

- **MOTION:** (Brian@work) That the SMR Meeting Chairs make a **verbal** announcement noting the service vacancies, at the end of the meeting during the 1st week of each month. This may be as simple as reading any service needs announcement posted in the chat at the start of the meeting. Second, Sue. unopposed.

- This will be placed on our website for comment.
- Background will be gleaned from this discussion

8. Announcements

*The annual **Ballot** will be published soon, featuring Proposals being considered for inclusion on the Annual Business Conference (ABC) **AGENDA**. There are over 20 issues to be voted on. The Group needs to plan how to address these proposals.*

9. Adjournment and Closing Prayer, Time -

Motion to Adjourn: Brian@work, Seconded, Sue :

Closing affirmation - Unity Affirmation

Next meeting: **SUNDAY**, February 15th

Minutes submitted by: Jim R

References:

The ACA Serenity Prayer (and Long Version)

God (Higher Power) grant me the serenity
 to accept the people I cannot change
 the courage to change the one I can
 and the wisdom to know that one is me.

◊

Grant me patience for the changes that take time,
 An appreciation for all that I have,
 A tolerance for those with difference struggles
 And the strength to get up and try again
 One day at a time.

The Suggested Commitment to Service (BRB, pg 601)

I perform service so that my program will be available for myself, and through those efforts, others may benefit. I will perform service and practice my recovery by:

1. Affirming that the true power of our program rests in the membership of the meetings and is expressed through our Higher Power and through group conscience.
2. Confirming that our process is one of inclusion and not exclusion; showing special sensitivity to the viewpoint of the minority in the process of formulating the group conscience so that any decision is reflective of the spirit of the group and not merely the vote of the majority.
3. Placing principles before personalities.
4. Keeping myself fit for service by working my recovery as a member of the program.

5. Striving to facilitate the sharing of experience, strength, and hope at all levels: meetings, Intergroups, Regional committees, service boards, and World Services.
6. Accepting the different forms and levels of service and allowing those around me to each function according to their own abilities.
7. Remaining willing to forgive myself and others for not performing perfectly.
8. Being willing to surrender the position in which I serve in the interest of unity and to provide the opportunity for others to serve; to avoid problems of money, property, and prestige; and to avoid losing my own recovery through the use of service to act out my old behavior, especially in taking care of others, controlling, rescuing, being a victim, etc.
9. Remembering I am a trusted servant; I do not govern.

The ACA Traditions (BRB, Chapter 19, pg 489)

Tradition 1: Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on ACA unity.

Tradition 2: For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as expressed in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

Tradition 3: The only requirement for membership in ACA is desire to recover from the effects of growing up in an alcoholic or otherwise dysfunctional family.

Tradition 4: Each group is autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or ACA as a whole. We cooperate with all other Twelve Step programs.

Tradition 5: Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the adult child who still suffers.

Tradition 6: An ACA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the ACA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

Tradition 7: Every ACA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

Tradition 8: Adult Children of Alcoholics should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

Tradition 9: ACA, as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

Tradition 10: Adult Children of Alcoholics has no opinions on outside issues; hence the ACA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

Tradition 11: Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotions; we maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, TV, films, and other public media.

Tradition 12: Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

The 12 Concepts of ACA (BRB, pg 615)

Concept I

The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for ACA World Services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship.

Concept II

Authority for the active maintenance of our world services is hereby delegated to the actual voice, the effective conscience for our whole fellowship.

Concept III

As a means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relationship between the ACA meetings, the ACA WSO Board of Trustees, and its staff and committees, and thus ensuring their effective leadership, it is herein suggested that we endow each of these elements of service with the traditional Right of Decision.*

*The right of decision as defined herein refers to:

- 1) the right and responsibility of each trusted servant to speak and vote his/her own conscience, in the absence of any contrary mandate, on any issue regardless of the level of service;
- 2) the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and the Commitment to Service will be followed by trusted servants in decision making;
- 3) delegates to the Annual Business Conference are trusted servants and therefore equally guided by the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, 12 Concepts, and the Commitment to Service;
- 4) standard practice that decisions made by subcommittees are subject to the authority of the service body which creates its mission and defines its parameters.

Concept IV

Throughout our structure, we maintain at all responsible levels a traditional Right of Participation.

Concept V

Throughout our structure, a Right of Petition prevails, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of grievances will be carefully considered.

Concept VI

On behalf of ACA as a whole, our Annual Business Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Annual Business Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters would be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the World Service Organization when they act among themselves as the World Service Organization of Adult Children of Alcoholics.

Concept VII

The Annual Business Conference recognizes that the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Adult Children of Alcoholics World Service Organization are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Adult Children of Alcoholics. It is further understood that our World Service Organization relies upon the force of tradition and the power of the ACA purse for its final effectiveness.

Concept VIII

The Trustees of the World Service Organization act in this primary capacity: with respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs.

Concept IX

Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are, at all levels, indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the Adult Children of Alcoholics World Service Organization.

Concept X

Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority—the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description, or by the Operating Policy and Procedures Manual and bylaws.

Concept XI

While the Trustees hold final responsibility for ACA's World Service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate trustees, executives, staffs, and consultants. Therefore the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.

Concept XII

In all its proceedings, Adult Children of Alcoholics World Service Organization shall observe the spirit of the ACA Twelve Traditions, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion vote and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no WSO action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the WSO may act for the service of Adult Children of Alcoholics, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the fellowship of Adult Children of Alcoholics which it serves, the WSO itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

Unity Affirmation (of SMR)

Together we can do what we could never do alone.

No longer is there a sense of hopelessness.

No longer must we each depend upon our own unsteady will power.

We are all together now, reaching out for power and strength greater than ours;
and as we join together, we find love and understanding

beyond our wildest dreams.

Keep coming back.