The SMR Business Meeting Minutes 26-10 October

Welcome

Call to order, Eric R
Date: Thursday, Oct. 15, 2026
Time: 8:49am EST
Participants: Number of raised hands declaring their presence at start: 17

The ACA Serenity Prayer

General Guidelines

1. **Call for Service** *(The following attendees offered to be of service)*
   a. Meeting Chairperson - Eric R
   b. Recording Secretary - Jim R
   c. Timekeeper - CC
   d. Other *(optional)* -

2. **Readings:**
   The Suggested Commitment to Service (BRB, pg 601), read by: Jim
   The Tradition of the Month, read by: CC
   The Concept of the Month, read by: maelle

   AUDIO RECORDING NOT RECORDED.

3. **Approval of the Minutes**
   Motion to approve - Jim; 2nd - CC; unopposed

4. **Motion to Adopt the Agenda**
   Motion to adopt – CC; 2nd – Rene; unopposed

5. **Reports**
   - ☐ Treasurer: Kim B - Report
     https://www.acamorning.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/2026-September-Treasurers-Report.pdf
   - ☐ Service CoSecretaries: Heather and Macy and friends - Macy

   - ☐ Communications: Judy in SF (Contact List)
   - ☐ Web Team: CC/Judy/Jim
   - ☐ WSO Representative: Crissy
     There is information on the website. CC is willing to fulfill the Rep duties yet would like someone to step up to consider being of service. The position needs a more complete description.

Other

- ☐ Ad hoc Committee - Service Structure: Maelle
  https://www.acamorning.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/report-service-structure-BM-Oct.pdf
  The committee will be submitting a proposal about a 'team approach' to service by November.
- ☐ Ad hoc Committee - After-meeting Script Development: Jim R
  https://www.acamorning.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/Working-Agendas_-After-meeting-Scripts-V.4.pdf
  The original approach to developing an aftermeeting script has been suspended in favor of editing the existing script. Results of the surveys are noted inthe 4th meeting notes in the above document.
- ☐ Ad hoc Committee - To Update Business Process: Darl/Brian@work
  No Report offered - Unsure if this committee is actually functioning.

6. **Current Proposals** - No proposals being considered

Motion to extend to 9:45

7. **Old and New Business and Procedural Guidelines**

Old Business:

- **Motion GC 9-2:** To hold a Town Hall discussion regarding the After-meeting survey, on either Nov. 5th or 6th, after the Newcomer Session - Hosted by Brian@work.
  Brian@work; 2nd Jim. Passed unopposed

New Business:

- Update the Contact List password
  New password: was chosen - will be announced when implemented

Motion to extend 10 min - Tracy now timer

- Solstice Celebration
  Motion GC 10-1: For the group to approve establishing a Solstice Celebration team, lead by maelle and Valerie, willing to create fellowship programming.
  maelle, 2nd. unopposed
- Return to a Process for adding New Business to the Agenda
  TBD - move to old business in November
- Safety Wellness Team - update
  A complaint has been raised. We are following our protocols - https://www.acamorning.org/predatory-behavior-safety-protocol/

  Offered by Jim
  What the Big Red Book suggests:

Crosstalk applies after the meeting. The Handbook says crosstalk includes comments "before, during, or after a meeting," and that unsolicited advice "should be avoided" (p. 574).
Most responses are small. "Many new members may not understand the cross talk rule… we can quietly explain the rules after the meeting" (p. 574). Any member may ask the chair to restate the rule during the meeting, and the chair may choose to talk with the person after the meeting instead (p. 575). "In most cases, a gentle reminder works" (p. 575).
A group vote is the next step, not the first. For crosstalk that is "more serious or a nuisance," the chair or the person affected may call an immediate group conscience vote (p. 575).
Act with at least two people. "Do not act alone in these situations." Actions are taken "by the group and with group support" (p. 584). Escorting is done "by a group of meeting members instead of one member acting alone" (p. 584).

Motion GC 10-1: I move that anyone party to the complaint, NOT be a member of the Wellness Team that is following the Safety Protocol; and that Jim R give direction of the investigation to another member. Brian@work; 2nd Jim.

No vote taken. Move to 'old business' in November.

Motion to extend 10 min (to 10:10)
Motion to extend 5 min (to 10:20)

8. **Adjournment and Closing Prayer, Time** - about 10:30
   Motion to Adjourn: Suzanne, Seconded : maelle

   Closing affirmation: Unity Affirmation *(of SMR)*

9. **Announcements**

   Next meeting: **SUNDAY**, November 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.