

The ACA World Service Organization

Rep Report for May, 2021

from the WSO Representative, WEB0120, Jim R.

This report highlights some of the recent initiatives at the ACA World Service Organization, developments that relate directly to our meeting. The report also features various online resources available to members and meetings and may announce opportunities to be of service to the WSO.

Announcement:

The 2022 Annual Business Conference will be held in-person in April, in San Francisco. Our meeting could comfortably send a Delegate to represent us. If the group agrees, funds for that purpose could begin to be set aside.

The Monthly Board Meeting, May 8, 2021.

The Board of the World Service Organization holds a business meeting, online, on the 2nd Saturday of each month, open to all ACA members. Audio recordings of each meeting may be found at acawso.org

Here are some highlights that stood out this month:

A Town Hall discussion of “Only” Meetings will take place on Sunday, May 23rd at 12 noon Eastern. The Meeting and Service Safety Committee wishes to hear the collective conscience of the fellowship while addressing the need for group safety, as well as, legal concerns of exclusionary meetings.

Here is a link to more information: <https://acawso.org/2021/04/20/only-meetings-town-hall-scheduled-for-may-23rd/>

The World Service Websites

This section highlights either something from one of the websites, adultchildren.org or acawso.org, or the work of the Board or one of their Committees.

The Annual Business Conference – Proposal 14

The site, acawso.org/category/abc2021 presently has a link to the ABC 2021 Day 1 Summary. This will give you the flavor of the proceedings of the ACA Annual Business Conference.

Our meeting Group, Strengthening My Recovery fashioned a proposal in October of 2020 and entered the process of having our concerns and suggestions brought before the Delegation of the worldwide fellowship. Our proposal, which was approved for discussion and placed on the Agenda, came before the Delegates on the first day of the Conference, during the 9th hour of attendance. The following is a summary of the proceedings, the last item of business for the day:

8th Ballot Item handled: (2021 – 14)

We propose that WSO support exploring the challenges and opportunities associated with the world of online ACA recovery, learning more about the impact on individual recovery, and on the well-being of online meeting groups, including the service structures needed to support these groups over time.

-

Motion and Second / Introduction by Jim R., representing WEB0120 the submitting group. Discussion.

-
Friendly Amendment: “We propose that WSO create a committee to coordinate and oversee exploring the challenges and opportunities associated with the world of online ACA recovery, learning more about the impact on individual recovery, and on the well-being of online meeting groups, including the service structures needed to support these groups over time.”

-
Friendly Amendment **FAILS** [Quorum Met: Yes; 23.7% in Favor]

-
Vote on Original Motion **PASSES** [Quorum Met: Yes; 69.0% in Favor]

-
Minority Opinion,

-
Two people in the majority indicate they would change their votes

-
Second Vote on Original Motion **FAILS** [Quorum Met: Yes; 48.1% in Favor]

NOTE: The arguments against this Proposal included an opinion that WSO is too busy to be concerned with all the requests that are laid at its doorstep. Shortage of volunteers. Additionally, it was voiced that the group that proposed this issue was looking for WSO to solve their problems – that they were not giving service to the organization and that they should join some committees that are addressing these issues and get to work. *(As recalled by Jim R.)*
A recording of the proceedings will be available in a few months and will be brought to your attention.

On the other hand...

A proposal asking for support is not the only way in which to achieve our goal of exploring the effects that being ‘virtual’ is having on the organization and personal recovery. And there are ways in which our group may have a positive effect on the worldwide fellowship.

The Members Subcommittee

This committee is in place to support meetings and **members** that do not have an intergroup nor Regional affiliation **in North America**. Check and check – while we do have an international attendance, we also have members from North America. It has been brought to my attention that the Members Subcommittee would be able to conduct a survey of all WEB meetings, conducting the exploration we had requested at the ABC. As members of that committee, we could shape the survey to answer our concerns and curiosities.

The Members Subcommittee is nested into the Member Services Committee, which focusses on the needs of the ACA membership. Member Services needs a Chairperson.

Presently, the Members Subcommittee may need a Chair or Vice Chair, and... well... members. The last published report from this committee is dated May 2020. (Go to acawso.org/category/member-outreach/ for reports and references.) On the WSO Slack workspace, aside from 2 ‘hellos’ in April, the last meaningful correspondence was in July of 2020. Bit of a ghost town. Our attendance on this committee would be an opportunity to put the resources of the WSO into service.

The Service Manual

Another means of offering service and support to ACA is through the editing of a new service manual.

Briefly, with the expansion of the organization and with innovative new technologies, the descriptions of service in the Big Red Book were deemed insufficient and outdated. A fuller, adaptable stand-alone handbook describing the current service structure needed to be developed. The Service Network Committee is shepherding the efforts.

The first draft of the manual is available for review at acawso.org/category/service-network-committee. Just click on the colorful manual cover.

Having looked over the manuscript, I find a strong need for representation of the virtual online meeting. For example, the section titled How to Start an ACA Meeting, begins by advising that groups need to 'Locate a Facility'. Only actual places are suggested, generally consisting of 4 walls and a roof. No reference is made to the possibilities of meeting online.

The Committee is asking for feedback. We have an opportunity to explain and systematize the online recovery experience by helping to write-in what is missing from the manual.

The Service Network Committee meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7PM ET. All are welcome to join, on Zoom at **Meeting ID:** 831 4682 1777 **Passcode:** 10049

The Ballot Prep Committee

I was ratified at the Conference to take on the position of Chair of the Ballot Prep Committee. Work begins next month. To learn more about the committee, go to acawso.org/category/ballot-prep/. If you would like to volunteer, please send a message to me at bpc@adultchildren.org.

For More Information

In regard to the business of the Board and their committees, go to acawso.org.

Or... write to world.rep@acamorning.org for more information about the WSO, the various committees and the opportunities to meet fellow ACAs and provide service to the organization.

Please note: I shall be transitioning into a mentoring role as another member of the Strengthening My Recovery family steps up to become the conduit, to and from the World Service Organization.