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Special Delegate Report — ABC 2017

Experience, Strength, and Hope

Robert's Rules of Orders and ACA

by Erin D., Delegate Training Sub-Committee and Mardi M., ComLine Editor

Familiarity with *Robert's Rules of Order* (RRO) reinforces the value and lessons learned in recovery.

By following RRO, business can be discussed in an orderly fashion. We are able to present agenda items for general discussion, then ask for a motion of those items. Orderly communication is foreign to most ACAs. In our family of origin, our communication was usually chaos: people pushed buttons, spoke over the top of each other, hollered, and slammed doors.

So how does RRO teach us? Let's say the Chairperson has invited someone to speak. This person **presents a motion**. This needs to be a well-prepared statement of the issue, as the person making the motion will not have the chance to speak again until all voices have been heard. A well-presented motion will allow for a quick and efficient process. This is not the fly-by-the-seat-of-my-pants comment, but a defined statement so those present will clearly understand the motion. Then the person making the motion needs to stay silent, ready to hear how the others will respond.

Next, the motion must be **seconded** by another registered Delegate.

If the motion is seconded, then a **discussion** will now be heard in favor and opposition. Each Delegate, representing their group's conscience, may address the motion. The Delegate will speak only once until all have had a chance to speak. This is where ACA teaches me that I do not need to repeat what someone just said because I agree with it or need to be heard personally. I learn to con-

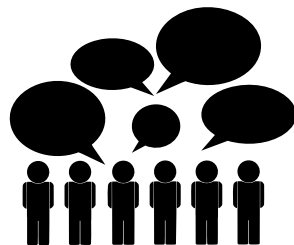
trol my impulses or need to rush in and support another person. A *Keep it Simple* approach moves the meeting forward quickly and efficiently, thereby

allowing the Conference to do what it needs to do to carry out the will of the fellowship by reaching an informed group conscience. We address the motion with courtesy and respect and without pointing fingers at others. Principles over personalities!

The Chairperson may now ask if the Delegates are ready to **vote**. To adopt a motion, a simple majority is all that is required. At the ACA Annual Business Conference, the Delegates' vote represents the majority's vote of each group that voted – not a personal opinion. We practice open-mindedness and anonymity; the surrendering of ego. As a Delegate, I am responsible to spiritual principle of Unity.

Robert's Rules and ACA meetings, thank you for teaching me the value of listening, honoring and speaking when it's my turn. True to the ACA Promises, this practice has rewarded me so much peace and serenity when it comes to being present and communicating with my family.

For educational information on attending the ABC see: <http://repository.adultchildren.org/delegates-education-page>. 🐼



About the ACA ComLINE

The *ComLine* is published quarterly by Adult Children of Alcoholics® World Service Organization, with one free report of the Annual Business Conference (ABC). The *ComLine* is intended as a communication line from WSO to the fellowship of ACA around the world, and as a forum for the fellowship to share recovery. The *ComLine* slogan is "*Experience, Strength, and Hope*." The opinions expressed are those of the individuals writing the articles and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ACA fellowship or WSO.

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Service Structure Setting Up to Serve International Scope

by Marcia J., Service Structure Committee (SSC) Vice Chair

Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACA) has a good problem. From September 2014 to September 2016, the number of meetings registered with the World Service Organization (WSO) increased from 1,232 to 1,625. That is a 32% increase in just two years.

This extraordinary growth speaks of a strong and vibrant fellowship, which continues to receive more calls for WSO service to help new members and groups get organized all over the world. This, in turn, requires the creation of ACA literature in more languages in order to share the experience, strength, and hope to continue supporting the adult child in recovery.

Our primary purpose is to carry the ACA message to those who still suffer. The current structure of the WSO has served the fellowship well so far, but increasing membership and wider demands require that we consider what type of structural changes might address current issues and facilitate the provision of future services in a functional, efficient fashion to a fellowship that is larger and more international in scope.

The WSO Board of Trustees created the ad hoc Service Structure Committee after the 2016

ABC (Annual Business Conference) to review the ACA service structure and make recommendations to the WSO Board and the ACA fellowship in this matter. The committee is chaired by WSO board member Bill D. Others on the committee are: Marcia J. (Iowa) Vice Chair/Secretary, Bonnie K.-M. (Texas), Charlie H. (DC), Jim R. (New York), Marietta B. (Connecticut), Melani M. (Tennessee), Nancy U. (Florida), Tom R. (Pennsylvania), and David McB. (Florida).

The committee has undertaken the task of compiling and analyzing the service structures of nine other 12-step fellowships as well as ACA's own structure. A timeline for continued activity toward the larger goal was presented to the Board of Trustees, as well as a proposed procedure for committee action. Both were discussed and approved by the Board of Trustees at their Strategic Planning Session in October 2016.

We expect this work to continue over a couple of years, with presentations being made at the Annual Business Conferences (ABC) and world conventions. Look for continued information in the *ComLine*. We welcome input from the fellowship. 🍷

2015/ 2016		ACA Service Structure Process	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Recognize NeedForm Committees	In-depth Structural Review		
2016			
In-depth Structural Review			
2017			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Presentation of ConstraintsSuggest ImprovementsRationale	Creation of work groups to facilitate communication and conversation about the information and deal with procedural necessities to enable putting these recommendations into action.		
2018			
Work groups continue efforts		Present proposal to the conference for possible adoption	Work on details for a transition process
2019			
Present recommendations for implementation of new processes to Board	Publication to the fellowship of motions to be ratified and motions for consideration	Ratification by the Conference	Implementation process taken over by the Board in conjunction with committees

Delegate's Corner

Welcome to the Delegate's Corner! The Delegate Training Subcommittee (DTSC) was born out of the 2016 Annual Business Conference. Our program is growing at its most rapid pace in many years, and the need for service – at all levels – is also increasing to support that growth.

Delegates are guided by the Twelve Traditions, the Twelve Concepts, and through ACA's Operating Policies and Procedures Manual. As a delegate attending the Annual Business Conference, one represents their group's conscience. One of the ways we do this is through the rights and responsibilities of our Twelve Concepts (BRB, p. 615).

- **Concept I** The final responsibility and ultimate authority for ACA World Services should always reside in the collective conscience for our whole fellowship.
- **Concept III** Right of Decision
- **Concept IV** Right of Participation
- **Concept V** Right of Petition
- **Concept VI** Responsibility for maintenance of our world services.
- **Concept X** Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority.

The words alone, of rights and responsibilities, may seem to carry a bit of baggage to an ACA. Exercised in recovery, a new strength often occurs among supportive fellow travelers as we work Tradition One: Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on ACA Unity.

As was expressed by a fellow traveler once when a conflict arose in a business meeting, "This

is where our real work begins." Such it is as a delegate.

Our service is not about our own thoughts and opinions, but about what our group's conscience – guided by a loving Higher Power – wishes to express. I learn in service as a delegate, that it is not about me, nor what I think is best for the fellowship. By working together with my family – my home group – I go forth and represent us. Quite unlike the families most of us grew up in, we learn a new way to live if we work our program diligently, and we receive the gifts of The Promises in *all our affairs*.

The DTSC is preparing teleconferences, videos and tools that will be found on the ACA website to prepare delegates prior to their first conference. We are developing training on the Twelve Traditions, Twelve Concepts, and Bylaws.

Aside from preparing materials for new delegates, we are also establishing a "buddy system," someone you can check in with prior to or at the conference. Here at the Delegate's Corner, we will keep you updated on our developments. Currently we are sending out a survey to past delegates to gather information that they feel would have helped them at their first conference, as well as what they find they would like more information on with regards to being a delegate.

To contact the DTSC you can reach us at dtsc@acawso.org. Meanwhile, watch the website as we expect to post updates of our work in the coming months.

Erin D., Vice Chair

Delegate Training Subcommittee ☛

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 Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and the Commitment to Service will be followed by trusted servants in decision making;
3. delegates to the Annual Business Conference (ABC) are trusted servants and therefore equally guided by the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, Twelve 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.

Floor Motions at the Annual Business Conference

by Pam M. & Laura L. / California, USA

Purpose of a Motion

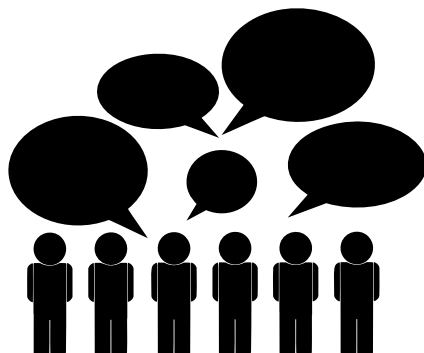
A motion is a formal proposal to a group to take some form of action, put forth an opinion, or institute a process. We get things done efficiently when we have specific rules of behavior, so we use *Robert's Rules of Order* in our ACA business meetings.

Ballot Motions

At the ACA Annual Business Conference (ABC), part of our time will be spent on ballot items that 203 groups voted to discuss at the ABC. To consider each ballot item, someone will make a motion such as: I move for WSO to announce a call for groups to submit an Own Loving Parent workbook. Someone will say they also want to discuss it ("I second"). Then the Chair will set a time limit to discuss the proposal. The Chair will then call for the vote.

Floor Motions

In the process of discussing any subject, there may be a repetitively voiced need for a specific service or education. At the 2016 ABC, many new delegates were confused. Born of that confusion was a motion to have a committee form to create training for delegates at the 2017 ABC.



How to make a Floor Motion

1. Raise your hand; wait until called on by Chair.
2. Say, "I move (state action, policy, or process wanted)".
3. Chair asks for second. If motion seconded, Chair calls for discussion for specified amount of time.
4. Chair asks for motion to be restated and counts votes and announces if motion passes.

Disposition

Motions may be passed, amended (changed), withdrawn altogether, or tabled. If passed, the action, policy, or process is then carried out by ACA volunteers who Step Up to do the job! 🐾

Ballot Issue Results

The 2017 Annual Business Conference (ABC) agenda will have 12 ballot measures that were approved by the required two-thirds majority of the ACA groups that voted. These ballot measures will be discussed at the upcoming 2017 ABC/AWC (ACA World Conference) in San Diego, April 20-23.

Out of the 16 ballots that were originally submitted by individual groups and then sent back out for fellowship approval, 203 groups and intergroups voted to approve 12 of the 16 measures to be voted on by the delegates at the ABC. The four that did not make it onto the agenda were ballot item numbers 2, 6, 7, and 14.

To see all of the ballots and the vote totals go here:

<http://repository.adultchildren.org/committee-abc/ballot-prep>

Come join us at the ABC and help make a difference in the future of ACA! 🐾

Tradition Two

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.