

2011 ABC Submitted Items for discussion

ITEM 2011-1 (*ACA Inter Group IG-040, Denmark*)

Issue: A motion is made, that every 5 years, the ABC will take place outside of USA. Further, that this be done the first time in 2012.

History: So far ABC has always been in USA, despite bids from Denmark the last few years to host it. ACA is a fellowship spanning the whole world, and some countries have very strong groups and Inter Groups, including Denmark, who would be thrilled to host the ABC.

Argument in Favor: The ABC strengthens the fellowship wherever it goes. Let some of the strength, service etc. help groups and Inter Groups outside of USA, while letting the board members and representatives attending ABC meet ACA as it looks around the world.

WSO Analysis: In the past, all ABC's have been held in the USA, and most ACA meetings reside in the USA. Moving the ABC to Europe would limit attendance by members in USA, but also allow greater participation by those in Europe. Since the OPPM calls for the WSO to provide reimbursement for elected WSO Board members attending the ABC, most of whom reside in the USA, these reimbursement costs would likely be higher for ABCs held outside the USA.

ITEM 2011-2 (*ACA Meeting DEN053, Denmark*)

Issue: We are proposing that the next ABC meeting can take place in Denmark.

History: Denmark is the second best representative in ACA with 40 meetings countrywide. Denmark is geographically placed more central than USA for other European countries.

Favor: We would find it awesome to invite the fellowship from US and Europe and see as many countries as possible gathered in the name of ACA / ACOA.

WSO Analysis: see analysis in related item 2011-1

ITEM 2011-3 (*ACA Meeting AZ065, Prescott, AZ*)

Issue: Request a pamphlet to be developed to expand on how to have an open friendly meeting without crosstalk. What is crosstalk and what is acceptable interaction during a meeting? What is the proper response by attendees in an ACA meeting when crosstalk, or accusations of crosstalk, occurs?

History: The BRB includes a brief discussion on crosstalk, but leaves a wide area of interpretation. No-crosstalk for many means not commenting or giving advice on another person's share. However, others believe any interaction (e.g., a head-nod, a smile) during a share to be a type of crosstalk. This has caused unsafe feelings within our group as we wrestle with different interpretations of crosstalk. Also, newcomers often want questions answered during the ACA meeting. How do we respond?

Argument in favor: Such a pamphlet will provide guidance to meetings when addressing crosstalk issues. If approved as an action item at the ABC, the Prescott ACA members would like to participate in the development of such a pamphlet.

WSO Analysis: The Literature Committee is responsible for the development and publication on new pamphlets. A new pamphlet would need to be developed over the next year for presentation at the 2012 ABC. Due to the WSO limited volunteer staff, the time expended on development on this pamphlet could impact the development and/or completion of other literature committee tasks.

ITEM 2011-4 (*ACA Meeting: CA 477, Los Altos, CA*)

Issue: That ACA / WSO explore the requirements to hire an outside service to provide certificates of insurance for meetings. The insurance would be paid for by the meeting under a blanket policy?

History: Many places now require insurance for groups that hold meetings. It can be hard for the meeting to get this insurance. Having a service that would furnish this insurance would solve this problem.

Argument in Favor: This would solve the insurance problem that many meetings now face.

WSO Analysis: Per the ACA Seventh Tradition, ACA meetings are autonomous and as such could not be covered as part of a WSO Insurance policy. However, if the fellowship desires, the WSO could investigate and suggest possible sources for such insurance, though individual meetings would need to arrange and pay for such insurance and the WSO could not be a party in obtaining such an insurance policy.

ITEM 2011-5 (*ACA Meeting AZ054, Mesa , AZ*)

Issue: We make a motion that WSO clarifies in all literature for meetings: what a "closed meeting" is.

History: Recently there have been listings for new meetings defining themselves as "closed" and then clarifying that to mean only people who had Alcoholic parents / guardians are actually welcome.

Argument in favor: The history of "closed meetings" has always been explained as book study closed to new members during specific dates, women's /men's focus groups or incest survivors. The Preamble read at the beginning of meetings says "where addiction is / was present, and does not exclude addictions other than alcohol. Our 3rd tradition states "the only requirement for membership is a desire for happy and effective living". This new definition of "closed" breaks our traditions on many levels.

WSO Analysis: The Fellowship Text, page 566, discusses the different types of meetings, including the option of a "closed meeting". If the fellowship desires further amplification on this meeting type, a pamphlet could be developed to further expound on this issue. The Literature Committee is responsible for the development and publication on new pamphlets. A new pamphlet would need to be developed over the next year for presentation at the 2012 ABC. Due to the WSO limited volunteer staff, the time expended on development on this pamphlet could impact the development and/or completion of other literature committee tasks.

ITEM 2011-6 (*ACA meeting TX086, League City, Texas*)

Issue: We propose anyone attending the ABC be charged a \$20.00 registration fee.

History: There is currently no charge to attend.

Argument in favor: We believe charging people who attend the conference will help pay for food, drinks, literature used for the weekend and also help towards renting the establishment where people will gather for the business meeting.

WSO Analysis: In the past, the WSO had charged a \$25 ABC registration fee to offset the cost of the ABC. Since 2005, the ABC costs have been fully covered thru the normal Seventh Tradition Donations received by the WSO. In 2010, the total cost of the ABC (less board travel costs) was under \$1000. Adding a \$20 registration fee would offset such costs in future ABCs, though imposition of such a fee could result in less people being unable to attend.

ITEM 2011-7 (*ACA meeting TX086, League City, Texas*)

Issue: We propose a new group that registers with ACA WSO be sent a welcome packet for free.

History: New groups do not receive anything in the mail after registering with WSO and currently have to pay for a new meeting binder.

Argument in favor: Many other recovery groups are given free information to a group that is new.

What ACA currently offers is a three ring binder filled with valuable Information. We feel new groups would benefit from free information when they register with the WSO. Not all groups know about the binder or have money to purchase the information for their group.

We also feel ACA has the funding to provide this information for free based on information received from the treasurer in the ComLine.

We do not want to replace the binder, but believe key information can be sent to a new meeting in a regular letter size envelope. We entrust the ACA WSO committee to choose which information could be sent to new meetings.

WSO Analysis: All material needed to start a meeting is currently on the WSO web site, with additional material (in a three ring binder) is available for purchase from the WSO. The cost of a new meeting packet would be around \$4.00 and would likely require postage for around a 2 oz mailing envelope. The WSO received 128 new meeting registrations in 2010 (105 domestic US and 23 non-US). The cost of producing and mailing new envelope based meeting packets would thus be around \$600 annually, which would need to be covered thru the 7th tradition donations from the existing meetings.