

Proposal 2022 – 4 Submitted by: WEB0393, DC008, IG729, WEB0609 and WEB0616
Issue: Change Concepts II & VI to clearly identify the Annual Business Conference (ABC) as seat of the actual voice and effective conscience of our fellowship. Suggested changes will clarify that authority for the maintenance of world services is delegated to the ABC by the fellowship, while Trustee members of the ACA World Service Organization (WSO) are empowered by the ABC to act as legal agents for the fellowship regarding the maintenance of world services.

Suggested Changes

Concept II: Authority for the active maintenance of our world services is hereby delegated to the ~~insert: Annual Business Conference as the~~ actual voice, the effective conscience for our whole fellowship.

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 regarding large matters of general policy and finance. ~~Delete: But~~ The Annual Business Conference ~~delete: else~~ 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.

Discussion Points

- I thought that the concepts are for WSO and not for the fellowship and the way this proposal is worded is for the fellowship.
- Majority of the members have not heard of Concepts so I do not think it is appropriate for ABC to be interfering with our foundational documents.
- The concepts were confusing and conflicting in what I was seeing in ACA service. I was part of the Study Group on concepts, and they are very important since they are trusted servants and they are a link between the fellowship and the board. They need to address the need for accountability. I support this proposal.
- The concepts were approved in a ABC and were a rewrite from AA. I am for the clarification as to how it is written.
- The concepts were approved by 4 people at a board meeting in 1996 and the fellowship never had any input. They are entirely about corporate and leave the fellowship out. I support this with the addition that the fellowship has at least partial control.
- The concepts do not outline the legal aspects of WSO, those are the bylaws. The group conscience does inform. This conversation would be more inclusive and informed if we were using knowledge based decision making.

- The background in the initial statement is clear and accurate. There's a disconnect that I find confusing in these concepts. I support bringing this to KBDM.
- Does it state in the OPPM that there needs to be a fellowship-wide decision to change Traditions and Concepts? A: There is currently nothing in the OPPM about this..
- I support a fellowship wide vote on this, not just ABC.
- A substantial majority of our fellowship has no knowledge of the service structure or the concepts of service. The concepts are for all of us. Some words are left out of Concept 2.
- The steps, traditions and concepts - studying them has been important to me as a whole. In Concept 6 the word "but" is a stop and seems to make it seem that it is more important than the rest of the paragraph.
- What does the "maintenance of world services" require? I don't know where that clarification comes from; how do we define it?
- While I don't disagree that the voice of the fellowship is primary, yet I do not think it is only at ABC. There are many other ways. To say that the ABC is the voice of the fellowship is limiting. I disagree that that is the only place that the voice of the fellowship is heard.
- Charlie mentioned that about an ad hoc committee in his motion - can he expand on that?
 - A committee has its own independence and who they report to in the structure, where study groups do not have clarity as to who they report to.
- What is a task force then?
 - Under OPPM we do not have this term "task force" or "study group", whereas a committee would report every month to the Board and at monthly meetings.
- Is important to note who is creating the study group. In my motion I specified that it would be "the conference" that creates the study group, which leaves it in the voice of the fellowship.
- I am concerned about what if Concepts 1 or others needs to be changed. I want to hear why the original proposal is only limited to Concept 2 and 6. In other groups the concepts are not changeable by a small group.
 - A: We find it important to define the voice of the ABC. We are challenging the paradigm of the concepts - are they foundational documents and what is required to change them?
- Does ACA have a Charter? My understanding of the 12 steps of AA, which ACA is founded on, are included in the charter, which makes it a legal document. I wonder if there should be a broader discussion about creating a charter.

- In order to understand Concept 2 and 6, you need to read AA concepts in order to have an informed discussion. You can download them. You will see we are not trying to change the concepts yet we left some words out when they were written.
- Historical knowledge: when these concepts were created, we did discuss creating a task force in order to involve the fellowship.
- I was at the ABC when we adopted these and there were more than 4 people in the room. Maybe we were creating ABC committees so they report to the ABC, not WSO.
- After hearing this discussion, I recognize that this is a bigger problem than originally conceived in the proposal. How do we address this challenge?
- An ad hoc committee is under the Board and that is the question - what I see is that it is under the control of the board so what we want is a ACA committee.
- We do not currently have ACA committees so we need to clarify if this is what we want or if it is an ad hoc committee.
- MOTION approved by majority of delegates present during meeting to be considered by online worldwide delegates:

Results of Voting by Delegates on this Proposal:

- To put forward to all worldwide delegates this motion online:
Motion: To create an ad-hoc committee that will study Concepts II and VI and report to the 2023 ABC on possible revisions. Delegates and the fellowship will be notified of the study and invited to join the ad-hoc committee.