

Happy, Joyous & Free ACA Phone Meeting CA1312

shastakath@gmail.com · [ACA WSO Meeting Information:](#)

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

Request for Support

Dear ACA Group,

Last year, our group sponsored a Ballot Proposal¹ to revise ACA's "official" literature policy so anonymous ACA authors who, ***instead of becoming paid professional therapists, contribute their innovative 12-Step program materials to ACA as a whole***, can be paid a small royalty—as AA Co-Founder, Bill W. (Wilson) was, during his and his wife's lifetime. The proposal received 30 "yes" votes from groups that responded to the ballot—well short of the 2/3 necessary to qualify it for discussion at the 2019 ABC in Malmo, Sweden, but nonetheless a significant measure of support.

We're pursuing this, now asking for support to petition the Board² There is a history that impacts "ACA as a whole" that prompts us to persist. Briefly, in ACA's initial period, (1980-1990), many ACA, CoA and ACoA meetings and Intergroups formed *independently* throughout the US, Canada, Australia and in Europe. As an AA in 1984, Kathleen S., Co-Founder of Humboldt ACA IG, ***made an important revision to Bill W.'s "instincts out of balance" theory in AA's second textbook, Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions (1952), by incorporating Inner Child reparenting within AA's 12-Steps.*** AA lacks an organizational mechanism for updating AA's original materials, but in 1987, Kathleen's ACA IG encouraged her to present these tools within ACA, as part of ACA's "official" literature, vetted in the fellowship.

Meanwhile, taking the initiative, a few members of the LA/San Fernando ACA IG³ some of whom had known Tony A. back in NYC, incorporated the name "Adult Children of Alcoholics General Service Board (ACA GSB)," in January 1987. The misunderstanding of Tradition Eight we address in our proposal—whether "an anonymous author" is a "special worker"—goes back to those original NPO By-Laws. While Kathleen S.'s three original ACA workbooks—all of which were produced, vetted, approved and are still in use within ACA fellowships from coast to coast and internationally—*belong* in ACA, and should be included, revising ACA WSO's existing policy also opens the door to ACA publishing original tools from ACA members and groups within the fellowship as a whole which are created in future.

We have interacted with former ACA WSO Chairperson, Mary Jo L., asked for advice and she has, in turn, referred the matter to Charlie H., current ACA WSO Chair. If, after reviewing the materials your group decides you want to support this petition, please email us or contact me at 1-530-347-6452, PST, with your feedback or questions. You are also welcome to attend the Happy, Joyous & Free ACA Phone Meeting on Saturdays at 11 AM PST or to request our handouts by email!

Yours in Service, **Luke H., Group Secretary**

¹ "**Proposal 2019 – 14** Submitted on November 30, 2018 by CA1312 Cottonwood, California:

Issue: We propose that . . . Should ACA reconsider its 1989*(?) decision, under Tradition Eight, to not pay royalties to ACA-member authors of anonymous books that are contributed to ACA WSO, so that such royalties may be paid, upon approval of conference of both the book(s) and payment terms and duration?"

² To mandate the Board's reconsideration of old decisions, the Operating Policies & Procedures Manual requires that a **minimum of five meetings or three intergroups** support the petition, ACA WSO OPPM, Appendix I, pg. 41.

³ ACA Archive materials, including the original incorporation document (which was amended to "WSO" in 1991), IG correspondence and IG Newsletters from this period (1987-1991) of ACA can be downloaded, along with a "read only" version of ACA's first anonymous 12-Step/Inner Child workbook, *Healing A Broken Heart*, available free at www.12StepsMadeClear.com These materials, "lumps under the rug" in ACA's history, are parts of our healing.