

## **RCA VS 2025 Convention Exploratory Committee meeting, January 9, 2026**

Attendees: Ruth & Debbie, Scott & Anne, John & Val, Mark & Maggie, Danny, Jim K & Vicki (WSO)

*Tradition 1:* "Our common welfare should come first; personal progress for the greatest number depends upon unity"

*Tradition 2:* "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as known in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern"

There was a review of the history of how this group came about and locations of members.

Vicki noted that WSO tries to have the convention in a new area and this is an ideal area.

There was discussion about the convention being held in Washington DC or Virginia. Jim suggested North Carolina. Maggie stated that there is insufficient local support for a NC convention, based on the complete lack of response from our outreach to local groups (Greensboro and Raleigh). Anne concurred.

Ruth mentioned that Jennifer is looking into a retreat center around the Richmond area.

Vicki suggests that we need to look at more than just hotel costs. It's important to consider travel expenses (both flying and access to the venue). Jim looked at the Reston VA hotel that Danny mentioned and they have more shuttles to the hotel from the airport than previously.

Danny expressed a concern about ensuring we have enough support for a convention, period. Since COVID the local in-person participation here has dropped off, as have volunteers.

John mentioned the previous meeting the email that he sent out, breaking out the roles. He suggests we review that list. Val mentioned the importance of ensuring that key roles are covered.

Maggie shared that previous discussions have included a suggestion of moving forward, consecutively, in three areas:

1. Researching VA vs DC locations and hotels vs dorms/retreat centers; so that we can have more details for comparison: cost, location, & travel expenses.
2. Identify what key roles need to be filled before it is worth moving forward.
3. Consider getting a list of representatives for all groups on the East Coast; put together a flyer and/or survey reaching out to see how much local support and build

up local interest. For example: If someone responds that they would like to help, we can send a survey asking in what area, any applicable skills, amount of time willing to help, whether prior to convention or at the convention.

Ruth is willing to be to be the chairperson and requested a Vice Chair position be filled that would run meetings in her absence and act to coordinate with WSO. She would love to see it as a combined phone, online and in-person convention. Debbie would be very glad to support her as co-chair and expressed gratitude for participation. Ruth was voted in as chair of RCA2027 committee, as follows:

<i>Nominated:</i>	Ruth
<i>Seconded:</i>	Jim K.
<i>Ayes:</i>	11
<i>Nays:</i>	0
<i>Abstentions:</i>	0

Vicki, in response to John's request for clarification, stated that the liability is on the WSO not on the group and noted that finances are being handled differently from how they were done in the past. She has encouraged us to use Carol at Helms-Brisco to do comparisons between DC and VA, in terms of cost. Combined or hybrids conventions are challenging, technologically, and we would need to increase the budget. The WSO equipment is older and hotel tech quality can vary.

Ruth would asks that we to consider alternative options; rather than just hotels. It is important to make this available to those who have little funds to attend.

Vicki advised that there can be issues of lack of internet availability in the rooms, dealing with everyone being heard, you need to have additional resources in volunteers who are able to handle technology issues. Maggie asked that, since we usually have multiple tracks, that we could simplify by making just one track a hybrid.

Maggie asked if the times on the survey work, in general, for monthly or bi-weekly meetings. Ruth proposed we start meeting on the last Friday of each month, beginning January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Jim would be willing to fill that position or Maggie suggested we might find someone ideal as we move forward.

Ruth asked if Maggie would be Administrative Support. John asked to be considered for Treasurer. These would still need to voted on.

Jim asked if we could have Carol start looking at Arlington and DC.

Maggie will send out the next meeting notice; after creating a group list. All in this meeting have agreed to have a contact spreadsheet available to anyone with access to the google group.

We agreed to set up a monthly meeting on the last Friday of the month at 6pm going forward. We can add additional Friday meetings, as needed.