

District 06 (San Francisco) Minutes for General Service Business Meeting  
**Tuesday March 10, 2020**  
Old First Presbyterian Church at 1751 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, CA

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6:30 – 7 New GSR Orientation // 6:30 – 7:30 12 Concepts & Service Manual Study // 7:30 – 9pm District Meeting

**Opening of Meeting**

- Open at 7:30pm with Serenity Prayer
- Justin H reads the General Service Representative Preamble
- Reading of Tradition Three by Jack K
- Reading of Concept Three by Sean R

*A brief aside mentioning the helpful benefits of Service Sponsorship*

• **Welcome new GSRs or DCMs:** Megan M, Oceans of Sobriety Wednesday at 8:30 in the Outer Sunset. Paul R, Ten Years After, 6:00 pm on Sundays in Mission Delores. Sean R, NYX Saturday night. Jack K, Monday Beginners, 8:00 pm. Lane K, Tuesday Morning Women's Meeting at the Gratitude Center.

**DCM Introduction.** Beth S, DCM 375 evening meetings at 2900 Florida. Jackie B DCM 270, Inner Sunset near the Gratitude Center. Steve R, 240 Cow Hollow and Pacific Heights. Malia L DCM 310, the Castro to the Dogpatch. Chelsea W, alternate DCM for all other districts.

- **Welcome Visitors:** Erica G, Area Registrar.
- **Anniversaries:** None announced.

• Last month minutes were accepted as submitted and are now *available as a Google Drive document as well as on the new and improved district website [sfgeneralservice.org](http://sfgeneralservice.org)!*

**Financial Report** – **Beth S:** district treasurer. Group Contributions have February and year-totals listed. If your group hasn't contributed it will not be on the list. If erroneous, please see me. The Financial Report shows a large disbursement – this was returning the portion of funds to the Area that we were provided for the Assembly but did not need. // \$2,045.46 leftover at the end of the year. If we did send this to the Area, we would be in the red ~\$500. This would be normal for the beginning of the year. Discussion: Due to the virus, group contributions may go down over the next few months. We might give half the amount to the Area instead of full. [*Agreed to discuss next month.*]// We were lucky to sponsor a PRAASA scholarship for Pat: \$750 budgeted, but total expenses were an additional ~\$120. I would like us to include that amount in our scholarship. Discussion: Comment: The \$750 is the average of what we sponsor. Depending on where it is, it varies more or less. Soon PRAASA will rotate to our Area and lots of GSRs can be sponsored to attend. / Comment: I feel strongly we should pay the full amount. / Comment: It's not good form to say "we'll pay for you to go" and then leave them with a bill. / Q: Can we have a breakdown? [A financial breakdown was given] / Comment: we usually don't pay for meals. / Q: Would it be a financial hardship for the scholarship recipient? A: Not really.

*Vote passes to fully reimburse.*

**Communication Coordinator Report** – **Jackie B:** Pre-Conference Assembly is April 4-5 at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. This is the big assembly where we share group feedback on agenda topics with our Delegate. [*A ride-share sheet was passed around.*] // Did people like the new format of the email using Google Drive links? A: A resounding YES. // Should we include attachments as well as links? A: Yes. // The Google Drive attachments will be added to some sort of an archive and added to our District website: [sfgeneralservice.org](http://sfgeneralservice.org)

**PRAASA Report** – **Pat R:** The conference was pretty awesome. I arrived in Arizona on Friday and went straight to the conference location. People went into a panel and there was a timer on the side with green/yellow/lights. Lots of discussion about topics that will be discussed in Detroit. Outreach, how do we reach people outside of our meetings, Social media, language and diversity, accessibility. Sometimes it got pretty heated but we remained a fellowship nonetheless. There was an awesome Trustee Report – the speaker does a lot of work with the

Grapevine. She mentioned we had the Grapevine on YouTube and we're looking into database metrics so people could search easier for Grapevine on YouTube without coming up with Marvin Gaye songs. It took me a while to find a video on the AA Grapevine and it was pretty cool: 5 minute stories on recovery, stories told with American Sign Language, and audio too. She talked about travels she did and various places she carried the message. The last thing I caught at PRAASA was a panel discussion about the possibility of the Big Book becoming gender neutral and how that fits our primary purpose. Though I disagreed one speaker's opinion that gender neutrality has a lot to do with being politically correct and that we're still carrying the message and staying sober with it written how it is - that regardless if we have a gender neutral big book we're still helping others to achieve sobriety, I remained calm and stated my piece that being able to identify can help more people get sober; and some of the other replies were more harsh. The term 'archaic' was used. Another topic discussed was taking responsibility for our service. Thank you very much.

**What The Delegate Needs to Know – Erica G:** Area Registrar. What is a delegate? Once a year there's a General Service Conference in NY where decisions about AA get made. [A few examples were given.] Most people would be interested in [these examples] if they knew about them – the GSR lets their group know about these things so they can share their opinion. The GSR gives the group's opinion to the Delegate. This year there are 84 topics – don't do all of them. Pick a few and get a Group Conscience from your group. Not "do you want this or not?" Find out "How do you feel about it, *and why?*" There's magic that happens in a group conscience and sometimes people change their mind when they listen there. Our delegate represents us (our District/Area) and he does what he thinks is good for AA as a whole. You can call, email, or mail our delegate. He promises he will read all correspondence. But do you think reading your group conscience will be as effective as going to the Pre-Conference Assembly and saying it at the microphone? I want to get up there and tell Teddy "This is what my group thinks and here's why. There was a minority that thought differently, and here's the reason why." The reasons why are most important so he can give an informed decision. We trust our Delegate and we elected them. We go to the Elections every two years and we choose a person who we believe will best represent AA as a whole. You will have 75 seconds at the microphone. Don't tell your group or position, just say your name and get right into the group conscience. Use those 75 seconds to the best of your effectiveness. He serves on two conference committees: Treatment and Accessibility is one, International Conventions and Regional Forums is the other. He carries more weight in those two committees but he still needs to know our opinions on other items in case those other items come to discussion. // Q: How come we only get this summary less than a month before the conference? / A: People have all year to submit area topics, then Trustees decide in January what the final topics will be and February 15<sup>th</sup> they turn it all in. The Trustees give us 1,200 pages of information on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Eight area officers got it down to 32 readable pages (the summary) so it is easier to manage. // Comment: The way this is structured there's no way my group can participate. These items have to go through our business meetings before we can talk about it. I would need to call a special meeting. / A: Each group handles it different. Some groups schedule a meeting far in advance. Some GSRs pick out specific topics that their group will talk about. // Q: Can we email Teddy directly? / A: YES. You can email, you can submit a form on CNCA06.org and you can call him directly. If you're at the assembly and want to talk to him but the line is too long, you can write it down and stick it in a folder for him. // Comment: There are 84 topics so I got 7-8 and made a sheet that people could put tally marks next to what we wanted to talk about. We have a special meeting scheduled where we can discuss as many of the 8 that we can get through. // Comment: Most groups don't discuss all the agenda topics. My experience with asking group conscience is asking people for their opinions one at a time. It's manageable. Most groups do have at least one special meeting.

Justin says, "*Blah blah blah...skipping my report*" [Recording Secretary – aside, "*I love the blah.*"] Justin, "*Yeah, make sure you put that in there.*"

[The meeting broke into individual tables to discuss Agenda Topics] & [7<sup>th</sup> trad baskets passed]

### **Open Floor for Discussion of Agenda Topics**

Q: I was concerned about the short amount of time we had. Is there a way we could make a motion to change the schedules to give us (the GSRs) more time with these topics? I learned that I CAN make a motion and we can talk

about it and move it to the next level. This is the majority of the people we need to hear from, but they have the smallest amount of time for feedback. I believe it would be good to push for more wiggle room. // Comment: The source of the topic stands out. There are references to individuals and groups that did not get a district/area conscience, but submitted it directly. The question my table had was, "Do we give more credence to the topics that come from an Area vs. those that come from an individual or group?" // Comment: There is a board that looks at all the topics that decides that all these issues are important enough to put on this list. // Q: Who decides on the topics? / Answer: The trustees meet at the January board meeting and they finalize the final topics. The delegates, the chairperson of each committee, gets to meet with the board and they get a say-so to discuss what's important. But the trustees get to decide. // Comment: Some groups bypass the area and submit things directly to the conference. That's the benefit of minority opinion. I think it's awesome that an individual group/person submitted something that is being considered.

### **Old Business**

Item: Should AA World Service create a pamphlet for the Latin American alcoholic that is written by the Latin American alcoholic. This was proposed by Rudy a while ago and has been on our District agenda for a while. This is not a translation of an already existing pamphlet, this is for a new pamphlet written by and for the Latin American alcoholic. // Discussion: Q: There's a large Spanish speaking AA district in SF. Do you know what they think? A: We used to have a liaison but do not any longer. Anna V volunteered to be our liaison for District 16.

Item: Reimbursement of Area Officers. This would be a contribution to the area from our district that equals their mileage. *Presented by DCM Jackie B:* "The District makes a contribution in the amount it cost the Area to send an officer to our district whenever an area officer visits during the remainder of panel 69". // Tonight Erica came here. Her approximate mileage cost is \$13. If the motion passed we would make a donation to the Area for \$13. This would assist the Area financially to offset the mileage costs of Officers. // Q: I'm unclear the difference between doing this and having less money to give to area at the end of the year vs. turning over at the end of the year our excess. / A: When the motion was made we didn't know if we would have an excess. Also, this may encourage other Districts to do the same thing. // Comment: I like the idea of trying to help and the idea of self-support. Don't you also need to know the financial situation of the surrounding groups? Like, if Area doesn't have money do they send officers only to us because we reimburse petrol? // Q: We've heard vague mentions of areas having financial difficulty. More information? / A: Last year there was an Area Treasurer unable to fulfill their duties and that led to checks uncashed. This caused the Area to not have as much money as they should have had and the money was not retrievable. / A: *It is an anomaly.* // Comment: I think it's good. It's good to push for sharing of resources and ideas in AA. // Justin – we seem to be getting closer. We will have a vote on this next month.

**Events Co-Chairs:** *Vanessa and Keith:* This Saturday we have the Agenda Topics Workshop from 11 – 2. We will discuss several AA topics and model a group conscience on revising the AA Preamble to use gender-neutral pronouns. The Urban Life Center at Franklin and O'Farrell.

Announcement: checkout Intergroup website for ongoing updates of meeting sites that are closing meetings due to the COVID-19.

Meeting closed at 9:02.