

District 06 (San Francisco) Minutes for General Service Business Meeting
Tuesday February 11, 2020
Old First Presbyterian Church at 1751 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, CA

6:30-7pm New GSR Orientation // 6:45-7:15pm 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 Two by Tim W.
- Reading of Concept Two by Leslie G.
- **Welcome new GSRs or DCMs:** Sean, NYX Saturday Night at 7:00 pm. Jeffrey, Saturday High Noon. Tim, Join The Tribe. Leslie G, The Waterfront Group. Christa C Women's Kitchen Table.

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 (Maria with an L) L 310, Dolores Park to the Dogpatch. Chelsea W, alternate DCM for all other districts. Andy T Northern Financial District and North Beach.

Service Sponsorship is very helpful for those in AA General Service.

- **Welcome Visitors:** Charlie IGR for Cow Hollow Men's Group Wednesday at 8:00. Dennis H, previous District 06 Chair (and current CNCA Treasurer although not visiting as Area Officer).
- **Anniversaries:** Pat, 2 yrs. Beth S, 20 yrs. Gabriella, 7 yrs. Pat, 3 yrs. Michelle M 8 yrs. Chelsea W 12 yrs.
- Last month minutes are accepted as submitted.

Recording Secretary – Chuck F. Last month's minutes had an Easter egg offering anyone cash if they had seen it. Nobody claimed the reward. See page 4 of the January minutes for details.

Financial Report – Beth S, district treasurer. December information was emailed during the last month so that group contributions could be included. YTD 2019 group contributions were emailed as was an updated 2019 Financial Report. January and current YTD (just January) was emailed.// If your group is not listed on the financial statement, please find out way. Some groups mail contributions to the wrong place. // If you notice a large influx of money, this was due to the Area paying/reimbursing us too much for the Area Assembly. We will be returning the extra money to the Area shortly.

Summary of Service Manual Study. Pat C. Concept 2 would have been read by the group but the study was not attended this month. Next month there will be a summary. I invite anyone to join us at 6:30 next month. We go over one Concept per month.

DCMC Report – Justin H. The Area is putting together summaries of the Agenda Topics – why is it here, when was it brought up, what's the history of the topic. However, you can review the topics yourself to see if your group would be interested in any of the topics. // Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly. (PRAASA) It's in Arizona and our District traditionally sends someone from our district with a scholarship.

Chelsea W – Alt District Chair. Wants volunteers that aren't familiar with General Service to be greeters and setup people for our District meeting.

Dirk B – District Registrar. Erica, the registrar for the Area, has asked that someone from the new Solutions Group please see me after the meeting for some paperwork. We also have Group Numbers for many groups – we got these from New York. Give the group number to your group treasurer. Please include your group number on your

donations. Keep your group number in your group's paperwork binder (if any).

Brad K – H&I Liaison. There are 70 spots open, 30 in rehabs and 40 in jails (clearance + 2years sobriety required). Please make announcements at your group. H&I Orientation is always on the 3rd Saturday of every month at 2900 24th Street at Florida Street.

San Quentin Prison: If you are a male and have 5 years of sobriety, you can support/sponsor an inmate. They are looking for more people. See Steve R or Justin H for more information. // The meeting is in the visiting room with many non-AA people. We now have ~65 sponsors. You do not need a security clearance as you do in H&I, all you need is a visitor's clearance (much less stringent). Q: What is the commitment, week, year..? A: It's open ended. Q: What makes this different from H&I? A: This isn't an AA meeting, it's sponsorship with an individual.

PRAASA – In Tuscon, Arizona March 6-8 with over 1,000 people. In the past our district has provided a scholarship of \$750 or less to allow a member to attend.

Q: Traditionally it's been a GSR, but is it open to DCMs as well? A: Traditionally it's been a GSR or Alternate GSR that has not attended previously. Q: Is the \$750 budgeted? A: Yes.

Anna and Pat would both like to go.

Pat: I am a GSR from Harbor Light Center and recently graduated. I'm fairly new to the Fellowship. If I can go I believe I could bring a lot back here to San Francisco and my group.

Anna: Just getting started in general service (3rd month in) and I'm learning a lot. The more I get involved the more I'm inspired to attend assemblies. I attended the most recent one and have attended many conferences. This has been more of a learning experience for me. I'm going to the International in Detroit and want more experience before that time. // 35 people voted, 2/3 of the vote (23 votes) is needed to win. Pat received 24 votes and will receive the scholarship. // Q: The vote is for the scholarship, not for attendance, right? A: Yes. Both can go, but we can only give the scholarship to one.

Inventory Discussion

Q: Are we making enough effort to inform groups about the value of having a GSR?

Jackie B – DCM for the Inner Sunset. There are exciting agenda topics this year so I went to the 7:30 am meeting at the Gratitude Center and made an announcement about exciting things like Editing the first 164 pages of the Big Book, changing to gender neutral pronouns in the Preamble, podcasts, and so on. I told them it's not too late for your group to have a GSR. There's still time for a GSR to get started and take a group conscience.

One District (not ours) picks an unrepresented meeting (no GSR) out of a hat and someone would go to that meeting that month and talk about general service.

Justin – Judging from the attendance at this meeting, no, we aren't making enough effort. One option would be to make an announcement at a meeting if you don't hear a GSR announcement.

Are our District emails already excessive? A: Yes, some emails are excessive. Only email us pressing issues. We received that feedback. // Comment – is there any way to put together a 1-page newsletter? "Here's what we're going to discuss for Agenda Topics," for instance. A: Has anyone seen the intergroup The Buzz? That's something similar. // A: This meeting has decided not to do paper so we email instead. This month was excessive, but this month was Agenda Topics. // A: Maybe a one-pager with links to the various things. // A: Maybe an email *without attachments* that has the information in the body of the email itself. // A: Email good, attachments Bad. // A: People use their phones and don't open attachments on their phones. // Q: What's wrong with paper? A: The cost and the waste. // Comment: Clickable links in a mobile format may be good for general District emails, but perhaps not for Agenda Topics. // Comment: This is my 2nd meeting I'm super new. Getting into being a GSR, it looks like my job is to do reading. How am I to learn what's going on in AA service if I don't read what AA is writing? I know it's going to take time. // Comment: This is my 3rd GSR meeting and I'm feeling more comfortable due to familiarity. To represent my group I think I need to do reading of the attachments. I like that it's so in-depth, primarily because I don't know what's going on. It's better to have the information than to not have it. // Comment: I think many groups know they should have a GSR, but undersell the responsibilities in order to get

someone elected. "You go to a meeting once a month and lead a business meeting." The GSR doesn't know what they've signed up for. They're not getting across the value of a GSR but duping someone into it. // Q: Can you be a GSR for more than one meeting? A: Yes, but you only get one vote in District and Area votes. However, you can give multiple group consciences at the microphone at an Area Assembly.

How well are we keeping our groups knowledgeable about what is happening to AA worldwide:

If groups have an officer, they're fairly well informed. // Comment: When we talk about worldwide we're normally talking about Canada and the US. I don't think we're informed about what's actually happening across the world in AA. But for the US and Canada, I think we're pretty well informed if we have a GSR. // Comment: One of the best things about general service is learning about AA around the world. Box 459 (newsletter) has a lot of great information. // Comment: We have a limitation that we don't have any AA celebrities. It's hard to disseminate information quickly due to the lack of 'leaders'. It's hard for a new launch of AA in a different country to have that knowledge filter back to the US. // Comment: In Puerto Rico with natural disasters, local AAs asked for help (big books, literature, etc.) but there was no response. // Comment: Disadvantage of geography. Living out east we used to go to the New York AA office regularly. Can't do that on the west coast. You can read newsletters, but I've felt more disconnected from that AA center. I don't think anything is immediately wrong, but it's easier to feel the heart and soul of AA if you go to the New York office. // A: The Archives have a lot of that information. Maybe it's on us to bring the archives out more often to the Area or PRAASA? // Comment: I love general service because there's opportunity for one-on-one interactions about service. [Shared experiences about going to AA meetings in Africa.] If we say Yes to AA, stuff happens. // Q: Would it be possible to bring a subset of the Archives to our District meeting? A: Yes. We would like to have an Archivist in our District. You get to go the Area and get involved in Archives.

7th Tradition. **Electronic Contribution** can be sent via Venmo at @beth_saunders.

Inventory Discussion

Now that we've talked about inventory, what action can be taken? Please jot down your ideas and bring them to us next month.

Agenda Topics Workshop

Vanessa: Saturday, March 14th from 10:00 – 2:00 pm. This will be to discuss the agenda topics. The full list of agenda topics was emailed and printouts are available. There's also a packet available that has a timeline for GSRs, how to run a group conscience and a script for how to run a group conscience. Plan on a time to meet with your group to discuss 3-5 agenda topics.

What have you done to get group consciences? Open discussion.

Nancy from Bernal New Day, 7 meetings but one business meeting to cover all. What is the goal of having this meeting with my group? A: Pick a few topics that you think your group would like, then discuss with the group to see what they like. There are many ways to handle it. A: A good majority of the topics will not be voted on (and that will be noted in the March 1st Agenda background summaries), only deal with the ones you're interested in. Q: Between March 1st and April 9th, all GSRs will be taking a group conscience, right? A: Yes. Get started sooner rather than later. Announce to your groups and tell them *why we are doing it*. // Comment: The hot item is about editing literature. The Big Book may be changing. // Comment: If you only have an hour, you can probably only cover 2-3 agenda topics.

Old Business

Pamphlet for the Latin American Alcoholic, not specifically something written for general AAs then translated to Spanish. Does anyone have any group feedback? A: Informal group discussion was very, very much in favor of this.

New Business

Jackie – New business is about introducing something that will be dealt with via a motion next month. At that point questions can be asked. // We'd like our district to contribute mileage costs by our District instead of having

the Area reimburse. We wouldn't reimburse the area member directly, but we would contribute mileage costs to the Area so they can reimburse it. **"We would make a contribution in the amount it cost the Area to send an officer to our District."** This is only for one year. // Q: The motion is "do we want to give gas money to visitors"? A: We are contributing to the Area. If the Area Chair comes it'll cost \$40. He'll get that reimbursed by the Area. However, we will give an extra contribution to the Area for \$40. If our district starts doing it, hopefully other districts will as well. // Q: Area indicated that if we reimburse then we will get an officer to visit? A: If we request an officer, we will get one. I can't imagine it would be different with the reimbursement amount. // Q: Is it a set amount each month? A: No, but it'll likely be \$20-60 every Area visit. // Q: So there's fiscal difficulties in the Area? A: [no answer was recorded]

What's on your mind?

Dave B: GSR for Say Hey group! It's in the minutes for last month that our group lost our keys. We have them back! // Dennis H: One thing I have to do as an Area officer is to travel to meetings like this across the state. I'm older and my eyesight isn't what it used to be, so I'm asking for volunteers to drive me to District meetings in the Bay Area. // Q: How many GSRs conduct their group business meeting, and if all feel like they have to? A: Technically it's up to the group conscience how they run it. A: It's traditional, but not a requirement. // Comment: The timeline printout for the Pre-Conference Assembly has the incorrect address listed. It is at Santa Clara County Fairgrounds in San Jose, *not* in Santa Rosa.

Meeting ends at 9:01.