

District 06 (San Francisco) MINUTES for General Service Business Meeting
Tuesday May 12, 2020 | meeting held virtually via Zoom

6:45 – 7:15 New GSR Orientation // 6:45 – 7:15 12 Concepts & Service Manual Study // 7:30 – 9 District Meeting

Opening of Meeting

- Open at 7:30pm with Serenity Prayer
- Justin Hedemark read the General Service Representative Preamble
- Reading of Concept Five by Sarah D.
- Reading of Tradition Five by Justin Hedemark
- **Welcome new GSRs:** Joe W, The Early Start meeting in the Castro, Friday at 6:00 pm; Claire, Each Day a New Beginning, Sundays; Johnathan J, Easy Does It Saturday at noon.
- **DCMs Introduction.** Beth S, DCM for Subdistrict 375 evening meetings at 2900 Florida; Jackie B DCM for Subdistrict 270 Inner Sunset and the Gratitude Center; Steve R DCM for Subdistrict 240 Cow Hollow and Pacific Heights; Chelsea W, Alternate DCMC for all other subdistricts.
- **Welcome Visitors:** Miguel H, CNCA 06 Recording Secretary.
- **Anniversaries:** Vincent B, 10 years.
- Last month minutes were accepted as submitted.

Financial Report – Beth S, Treasurer. Financial numbers were emailed. We now have March contributions included along with April due to last month being delayed because of the pandemic. Group contributions: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1cK67kWmejDuNUaRdwVTz7_2CXIFAG10e We do not have a rent payment this month. The only large expense was reimbursing our DCMC for PRAASA.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: Q: Are these numbers for contributions to GSO in NY? A: No, these are the numbers for our district; there was an email sent out about the general service office in New York needing 7th tradition contributions because they dipped into prudent reserve by millions of dollars to keep our 12th step services up and running; you can contribute via aa.org // Q: What is the ideal split in funds given the current situation? Please tell us what we should be doing. A: The recommend split is on <https://aasfmarin.org/contributions> Each group decides what they want to do. COMMENT: My home group decided that while Shelter In Place was in effect, we switched the ratio between GSO and Intergroup. We send 60% to GSO and 30% to intergroup (and 5%/5% to the Area and District). The ‘official’ GSO pie chart recommends 50% for intergroup, 30% to GSO, and 10%/10% to local Area and District. It’s also being discussed at the General Service Conference about what GSO will recommend – we will hear more from them hopefully next month.

Service Manual Concept Study – Jeff S. We went over Concept 5, the Right of Appeal. Minorities can frequently be right even if they are wholly in error they bring about important discussion of issues. Bill Wilson says this concept provides protection against a hasty majority. This can take a substantial amount of time and feel painfully slow, but taking this time and making sure the minority opinion is heard makes sure the group conscience is heard. IT protects against the Tyranny of the Majority or Tyranny of the Minority. A goal is to slow things down and make sure all opinions are heard. *Monthly Concepts Study:* 6:45 – 7:15pm before District business meeting.

A service sponsor is very helpful in learning about this.

DCMC report – Justin H. We have transitioned wonderfully and everyone is helping quite a lot. The Area held the Pre Conference event virtually and it went great. The best thing we can do is stay connected with our groups.

District Officer Reports

Jackie B. Mail Coordinator. As a District we have transitioned to Google Groups and people are receiving email from sfgeneralservice@gmail.com. There is a Google Group where you can see all previous announcements. If you have not received an email from sfgeneralservice@gmail.com in a while or don’t in the next week or two, please message me and we can make sure you get them.

District 06 (San Francisco) MINUTES for General Service Business Meeting
Tuesday May 12, 2020 | meeting held virtually via Zoom

Liaison Officer Reports

H&I – Brad K. No report bc we don't have meetings and that's how we bring literature into facilities. Q: I've heard 2 different things from reps. One said H&I needs money and the other said they didn't because there are no H&I meetings. What should we do? A: 95% of what goes in the pink can is for literature and we are not buying/supplying literature now, so I think H&I does not need funds. We have a business meeting this weekend so I'll have more information next month.

Intergroup – Steve R. Regarding newcomers, a concern for many in this virtual age, Help Chat through the AA website has been a big source for new members getting to meetings. A non-official survey was on aasfmarin.org on how many people would like to see virtual meetings remain after lockdown lifts was conducted and had 65 responses. 10% wanted a hybrid, 17% wanted physical. 40% of meetings responding are still paying rent, 40% are not. Half are using intergroup resources. Zoom is used in 98% of virtual meetings and people saw a big drop in disruptions after starting to use safeguards.

Justin H – connecting inmates at San Quentin with outside sponsorship is still going on. Must be a man with 5 years of sobriety. Contact Justin, Steve R or Brad K for more information. We are about 1/3 of the way to the intended goal of ~150 sponsors.

Visiting Area Officer – Miguel H, CNCA 06 Recording Secretary. It has been an amazing experience the last couple of months being your recording secretary. The conference process changed a little bit. A little highlight from January – the whole thing isn't just the Conference, it's a whole year thing. The trustees currently meet to discuss Agenda Topics and release them in February. Materials have been translated to Spanish. Agenda Topic summaries were made available and GSRs decided what to discuss with their group. Last weekend the pre-conference event was done virtually. 278 people attended on Saturday and 195 on Sunday.

In mid-May the General Service conference will be held over four days with no more than 6 hours a day. Our Delegate feels it will be a good conference. Each committee at the conference will meet in Zoom Breakout Rooms before the big meeting with the entire GSO, the Board and the Delegates attending. June 6th will be the Post Conference Assembly (open to all AAs) and our delegate will review what happened. Have your copy of the agenda summaries to follow along easier.

Most of the AA world has been turned upside down. The General Service Conference wouldn't be able to work without all the participation we've been getting. Multiple phone calls and emails about how to perform a virtual group conscience. That's the most visited page of our site – how GSRs can reach their groups. People have found virtual meetings useful. About 40 members are here at this (District) meeting, but some other districts/areas are finding trouble getting people to show up. We are trying to help them as much as we can but some meetings (*districts? I did not get clarification.* – Recording Secretary) have seemed to have just disappeared during the Shelter in Place.

I read many reports. We are still having a Conference and we are learning many lessons. They may not be the lessons we wanted to learn, but it may be what we needed. It helps us learn what we're capable of doing to help the alcoholic who still suffers. Every month we have an Officers meeting for the Area. Groups are learning new skills. This has been a great experience and most Districts have been successful at helping groups get their Group Conscience.

I heard many group consciences and agreed with many of them and took many notes to give to our Delegate. It was almost overload. Our Delegate has been doing a great job.

QUESTIONS: Q: I'd love to get some clarity on who is welcome/invited to attend the Assembly vs. the Conference? Can anyone go? A: Any AA member can attend the Pre-Conference Assembly and the Post-Conference Assembly. The Conference itself only for Delegates, voting members of GSO Staff, Trustees and the General Service Board. Think of it as a closed business meeting for AA as a whole where everyone who attends is super well informed on all the issues so business can be conducted in a streamlined, well informed manner. Sometimes other countries ask if some of their General Service Office members can attend to learn about how it is run.

Live Poll during the District Meeting: Did you attend the pre-conference event? Yes, 23% (7 people), No (21 people), Pre-Conference What? 10% (3 people).

Feedback from attendees of the Pre-Conference Event

Leslie K. I attended and it was fabulous. This time last year I would have responded, “Pre-conference assembly What?” It was great to bring my group conscience to the pre-conference Assembly. It was pretty amazing and easy to attend from home. It was hard to focus from home on a computer screen but it was still a spiritual experience. // Julie S. This was my first Assembly and I wouldn’t have been able to go if I had to physically go. I got to attend the tail end of it and was able to hear our Delegate Teddy speak. I wasn’t able to give my group conscience because I came late, but I emailed my group conscience. // Jean M. I really loved it. I liked being able to see everyone’s name, group and position. The instant translation between Spanish/English was great – the most inclusive thing I’ve ever seen. Being able to instantly understand was great. I would be happy to do these conferences on Zoom rather than drive two hours. // Michelle M. I’ve been to a lot of Assemblies before and this was by far one of my best experiences. Seeing names under faces helped with understanding who was who. It was very well run. Great presentation and well timed. Saturday was hectic on as the shares were 75 – 90 seconds, but everything flowed smoothly and it was very enjoyable.

The Post Conference Assembly will be June 6th and it will be virtual. Teddy will join us on July 14th here to share his Delegate report if you miss it on June 6th.

New Website - SFGeneralService.org

Lots of great information for GSR resources! GSR Handbook is online and more. The Minutes are located in the What’s New section. If you’re curious about upcoming events, check out the What’s New section. // Julie S. Q: Is the General Service Manual on this site or available online? A: The service manual is located at AA.org as a .pdf. We might link to it here later as well. [Edit: It can also be found here. https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/en_bm-31.pdf] // Allison: On the Intergroup Representation side, having the .pdf of what’s the difference between Intergroup and GSR would be helpful, along with a link to Intergroup. // Dirk: Under Forms, the form to update the info for the New GSR for registration instructs them to send it New York. We may want to have those forms altered to have them sent to our PO Box in San Francisco. // Chelsea – I welcome your website feedback.

What can AA World Service do to help your group? What can AA do to help us stay connected?

Leslie – my group is not meeting virtually. We have a phone list and I’ve contacted many via phone/text/email to do a group conscience. Someone from the group started another meeting and it’s sort of our meeting, but sort of not. I feel kind of adrift. // Julie – I reported last month that my group wasn’t having a business meeting, but now we have! We discussed how to take a group conscience and then we did it! It would be helpful to me to have advice on how to take giant subjects like Agenda Topics and make them super-tiny bite sized so I can spoon feed them to my group easier. // Chuck – how should we send donations? A: It’s easiest for the District to have each group send donations as a group instead of individually. They’re also accepting digital contributions at CNCA06.org, so maybe donate individually (or as a group) there? // Sarah D. – I forced our group to do a group conscience, but I didn’t know about the Pre Conference Assembly and missed the chance to share my group’s point of view. Is that OK and is there a way to get the group opinion to the right place? A: Your group is now engaged, that’s a win. Use this as a learning experience. This is not a bad thing. A: Our delegate WILL accept group consciences! They may or may not be incorporated into his planning, but he will read them. Email Teddy.

7th Tradition – send Venmo to (*removed for anonymity*). It’s a private Venmo. Indicate if you want any part of your contribution to go to H&I. I did this last month, thank you all for your contributions. If it asks for my phone number, there’s an option to bypass that confirmation. Do it without including a phone number.

Upcoming Dates

District 06 (San Francisco) MINUTES for General Service Business Meeting
Tuesday May 12, 2020 | meeting held virtually via Zoom

Post Conference Assembly Delegate's Report: **Saturday, June 6th 9am-5pm**

Event held virtually via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/95384403744> for password email sfgeneralservice@gmail.com

Delegate's report at our District: **Tuesday, July 14th 7:30-9pm** email sfgeneralservice@gmail.com for login info

OUR DISTRICT MEETING IS RESCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER. (*this month only*) Instead of meeting on the second Tues of the month, we will meet on the third **Tues, November 17th 7:30– 9pm** due to double-booking at location.

Old Business

Rudy brought this up months ago – do groups want a pamphlet to be developed that's geared toward the Latin American alcoholic and the particular experiences of that group. Does anyone have any feedback from their group about that? // Rudy – This was brought up last fall to have a pamphlet. We have them for the African American and Native American communities. It'd be nice to have one similar for Latin Americans. One thing that was brought up was the many different cultures within the Latin American AA community and that may be a difficulty. // Next time your group asks for an AA Related Announcement, GSRs – tell them the District wants to know if there's a desire for creating a pamphlet for the Latin American Alcoholic. See generally what the feel is then bring that back to our District next month. // Jackie – this is how Agenda Topics are born. If there's enough interest our District will bring this to the Area as a suggested potential Agenda Topic.

New Business

None.

What's On Your Mind

Jackie – There's a "Watch Party". A play put on by Intergroup on the history of AA General Service and it can be watched free via Zoom this Saturday. Oakland Intergroup will accept donations – they had to close their Central Office.

Matt E. – We will hopefully transition in the future from Zoom going back to face to face meetings – that transition may be tricky. Is anyone thinking about this transition and how to deal with masks and these sorts of things? // Comment: Intergroup talked about this – social distancing. It's anticipated that there will be some separation and that meetings may not be the same as they were. We can probably have 20 people in a room with six foot separation. It's only been minimally discussed but longer-term issues have not been discussed. Some meetings may not meet again, it's hard to say. // Comment: At a meeting I attend I brought up that it's a good idea to talk about it now. Issues around masks – do you ask people without masks not to attend? Should we supply masks if attendees do not have them? Good to talk about now. Some groups are discussing being hybrid meetings and what that would look like – having a computer at the physical location for a Zoom broadcast. A lot of things to discuss. Good to have the conversation now instead of the last week or two of Shelter in Place. // Comment: Vanessa. I volunteer my services as Events Chair (as there are no events) to help with hybrid meetings as a liaison for those that wish to attend meetings via Zoom. // Comment: Justin – we have not thought about it yet for the District meeting but it's a good thing to bring up. // Comment: Dirk - My Monday night meeting is absolutely packed with people when it's in person. One big point of discussion is "When do we close the door?" If we can only have 20 people in the room, who gets to come and who doesn't? It's going to be very hard. // Comment: Alex – People at my group are very interested in live streaming the meeting. I have concerns about that with anonymity.

Justin - Officers will be discussing how we will meet in June. We welcome your ideas and thoughts. Email sfgeneralservice@gmail.com.

Meeting closed at 9:00pm with Responsibility Statement.