

District 06 (San Francisco) Minutes for General Service Business Meeting
Tuesday April 14, 2020
Online Zoom Meeting

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

Opening of Meeting

- Open at 7:30pm with Serenity Prayer
- Justin H discusses how the online meeting will run, then read the General Service Representative Preamble
- Reading of Tradition Four by Jimmy L.
- Reading of Concept Four by Stephen R
- **Welcome new GSRs or DCMs:** Jimmy 10 AM Saturday at Marina Dock. Alex, NYX Saturday at 7:00 pm. David W, High Noon Mon-Friday. Sarah D, Walk of Shame Wednesday at 8:00pm. Jean M, Too Early Group.

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, the Castro to the Dogpatch. Chelsea W, alternate DCM for all other districts.

- **Welcome Visitors:** Eric L, Area Chair.
- **Anniversaries:** Sarah D, 11 years. Brad K, 13 years. Anna V, 3 years. Jean M, 41 years.
- Last month minutes were accepted as submitted and are now *are available as a Google Drive document*.

Financial Report – Beth S, Treasurer. We are missing group contributions because they have been delays getting to the post office box. I received one portion delivered today, but not the entire month of March. I anticipate in the next couple of months there will not be many group contributions.

No financial surprises for March because not a ton happened.

To contribute digitally (AASFMarin.org/contributions) there's a section for Group Contributions instructing what percentages to send to what places (central office, GSO, etc.) and includes the mailing address.

Q: Do we have a Venmo for District contributions? A: We never set that up for groups, but I have been accepting to my personal Venmo for district contributions. *@beth_saunders*

Q: Can groups donate via Venmo? A: Not currently. Q: Do we track how many groups contribute? A: Yes, but it was not included in this month's report as we do not have full contribution information yet.

Comment: Central Office would like groups to continue giving group contributions and NOT having individuals give lots of individual contributions. Many small contributions = difficulty in maintaining.

Service Manual Study – skipped this month.

Justin H – Pre Conference Assembly, groups have until May 6th to gather group consciences on agenda

topics. You can share with email directly with our delegate Teddy, form-submission, or email me or Chelsea.

Nancy R – GSR Bernal New Day. Q: What are the dates? A: Pre-Conference Assembly May 2nd and 3rd and will be held virtually. Our Delegate wants our feedback by May 6th so he can take it to the Assembly (not pre-) on May 15th.

Liaison Reports

Allison T – Intergroup/General Service liaison. There's a lot happening now with converting to online AA meetings and I have personal gratitude for those that have been involved with that.

We request meetings send their online meeting information to GroupServices@aasfmarin.org. There have been challenges with Zoom online meetings with safety and inclusion. Many groups have assigned co-hosts to help with running their meeting. How to stay in the loop and get information when we can't get it through word of mouth – The Buzz is more critical than ever. It's a twice-monthly digital newsletter and is a good form of AA communication. You can get free Grapevines and there's a Big Book podcast. Aasfmarin.org/the-buzz. You can get an email address created for your group through The Buzz. It would be YourGroup@aasfmarin.org and it can be useful to keep your group updated virtually.

Our financial status went from Good back to Excellent. Contributions can be made to aasfmarin.org/contributions. Between SF and Marin there are 168 meetings that Intergroup needs information from. They are listed on the website – DON'T LET YOUR GROUP BE ONE OF THOSE GROUPS. Make sure your group is talking with your meeting space and make sure there's an arrangement for rent and keeping your space.

We are not encouraging people to go to face-to-face meetings right now.

Q: Is anything being discussed on how AA can be made available to newcomers that do not have phones or internet? A: Brand new people, yes. For those without phones/internet, not yet. That can be discussed later.

Q: I know Central Office is thinking of doing an Enterprise Zoom account for meetings. Do you know about that? A: We thought it was going to happen a few weeks ago but I have not heard any updates. I can check to learn more.

Anna V – Spanish Speaking Liaison. I have nothing to report. We should be having a meeting tomorrow but I do not have full details.

Brad K – H&I. As of four weeks ago all H&I operations are suspended as jails are not letting visitors in. 7th Tradition is happening via Venmo, but nobody is passing around the pink can for H&I. You can donate to this vital service here: handinorcal.org

Comment: Some hospitals and institutions in Australia are bringing a laptop into that institution and having their normal H&I meetings via Zoom.

Eric L – Chair of Area 6.

My position is like what Justin is doing, but I run the business meeting for the Area instead of the District. Our area is doing OK despite everything going on. We've been one of the leaders in AA for the Coronavirus pandemic. We were the first area to reschedule their Assembly. Districts have all gone to

digital meetings.

This Assembly is the first all-digital assembly. The International Convention was canceled. It was not postponed because we're not sure that the pandemic will be done in a year, nor do we know if we'd be able to get all hotel rooms back. AA has insurance so we will not lose a lot of money from this. The General Service Convergence in New York will be mid-May and will be fully virtual.

After the Conference, Teddy will return with information to bring back to us. He will be at a virtual post-conference event.

It was difficult to lose connections to my normal meeting and face-to-face contact. But I've seen AA rise up among this. Newcomers are finding us. At my Monday meeting we had someone show up for their first meeting ever. They now have a sponsor, they're on Step 2 and are getting pamphlets via email. We've been resistant to the internet for a long time in AA, but that's now being forced to change.

Past-delegates are coming to the Trustees meetings where they wouldn't have been able to go in the past due to moving out of country.

People are finding our meetings that wouldn't have in the past. There are no barriers going to a meeting, driving there, going into a room and sitting down. Now it's just a click away.

Comment: You can donate your International Convention registration. Check the email address you used for registration for more info.

Q: Meetings that are strictly online have to register in Central Office as International Groups, meaning they will not be part of their 'area' and not representing that. There's a need to create an area representative for online groups that would go to the General Service Assembly. Have you heard anything about that?

A: That's all we've been talking about for a week. We don't know yet. For me, if an online group wants to come to our Area and share their group conscience with me or Teddy, I have no problem with that and they will be welcomed.

Since we're not having assemblies we're saving a lot of money. *I say this next piece as an AA member, not as an Area Officer.* If your group wants to contribute more of your money to local AA things, that sounds like a good idea for now. The Area does not pay rent but for a room once a month. AA General Service Office does need extra money to pay rent and pay staff.

Q: You said AA has insurance for canceling the International Convention. Will that cover 100%, 90%, or what?

A: I don't know. What isn't covered are expenses that have already happened, site visits and pre-work.

A: GSO has both general liability insurance, officer insurance, and has specific event insurance as well. It's covered 100%.

Beth – 7th Tradition for the district meeting. My personal Venmo is private but is also used for the District meeting 7th Tradition. @Beth_Saunders. If you mention what percent you want to go to H&I, I will make sure it gets there.

Getting Group Consciences via Virtual Meetings

Jean – I'm glad we have this extra month to get a group conscience. I created a document that's more inclusive than what we would cover at the group level and sent it to 25-30 people that attend the business meeting. We may get more feedback this year due to having more time.

Leslie – My group is not meeting virtually, but voted to meet brick-and-mortar. We have a phone/email list and I sent a group email (using bcc) informing of the group conscience and asked if they wanted to be part of it. There's a group of ~10 that agreed and we had a Zoom meeting. We went over the items in the first meeting, but only one person came to our 2nd meeting. I set up a web poll

Julie – I recently said "We need more time [for consciences]!" We now have more time and I'm grateful. I've been holding up signs during announcements saying we need people to share. I'll keep you posted on if it works.

Comment: Maybe contact the host of your meeting and ask if you can make an announcement about Agenda topics.

Michael: We had a great experience via Zoom. I sent out an email to everyone with 6-7 agenda topics, telling them I'd offer background information if they'd like and that we'd get through as many as we could. BCC is super important. It was a positive experience opening that door to communication before we met after our meeting. We did it over Zoom for an hour. Zoom was nice because I could mute everyone else while one person was talking. It was easy to get a group conscience and people felt comfortable.

Jackie – If you feel that hosting or setting up Zoom is beyond you, I am available (SFGGeneralService@gmail.com) to be a technical host and help if you don't want to worry about that. You'll be able to just work with your group conscience.

Allison – During regular non-pandemic meetings it's hard to get people excited about group consciences. Right now we're having weekly business meetings because there's a lot to talk about. Sponsorship, commitments, etc. I feel like people are business-meeting fatigued. I feel that if I try to read the room as a GSR, throwing agenda topics at my group right now won't work.

Jean- When we go back to in-person meetings it's important to get phone and email lists so we can get in touch with our members.

Nancy – I'm the GSR for 7 meetings because they meet every day of the week. I'm afraid of having too many opinions and too many people. We've had a business meeting almost every day of every week since we've gone virtual. Now I have 35 people who are attending business meetings. How deep do I go into the Agenda Topic conversations? Do I have people just vote, or get opinions on everything?

A: Steve Runng - As a DCM I'm available to start and help conduct a business meeting. Call me at

A: People may have technology fatigue, but some people use a technology called Slack. You can have a #Channel for each topic. Some use Facebook. It lets people write out their opinions and you can go through them at your leisure.

A:

David – I find technology is breaking down some barriers. This openness has helped create a wonderful group conscience.

Aaron – During our Group Conscience meeting it was nice to talk about AA stuff and NOT talk about security problems we had been having with Zoom. We didn't have to vote or come to consciences, but to give our opinion. It was nice. I had to remind people sometimes that we were not debating, but sharing our experience.

Old Business

The pamphlet for the Latin American alcoholic – our district would like you to get a group's opinion so we can decide to bring it to the Area or not.

Jackie withdrew her motion about area delegate travel reimbursement.

Pre Conference Assembly (virtual) is May 2-3.

We will talk about rescheduling the November meeting sometime down the road. The church has us double-booked and we will determine what to do later.

What's On Your Mind

Beth – we're not paying rent and the church told us not to worry about it. We will pay rent for our District space when we return to the church.

Chelsea – sample GSR report – DENIED!

Meeting closed at 9:02.