

District 06 (San Francisco) Minutes for General Service Business Meeting  
**Tuesday June 9, 2020**  
*Online Zoom Meeting*

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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 read the General Service Representative Preamble
- Reading of Concept Six by Kenna K.
- Reading of Tradition Six by Johnathan
- **Welcome new GSRs or DCMs:** Leslie A. Sunday Night Castro Speaker Discussion, 7:30 pm. Doug L. GSR of As Bill Sees It, Thursday at 6:00 pm.

**DCMs 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. Chelsea W, alternate DCMC all other districts.

- **Welcome Visitors:** Dennis H. CNCA Treasurer. John L.
- **Anniversaries:** Tony R. 30 years. Alicia G. 18 months. Claire A. 9 years. Riaz A. 10 years. Michael H. 1 year.
- Last month minutes were accepted as submitted.

**Financial Report** – Beth S, Treasurer. Almost no expenses last month. Group contributions were just under \$400. Thank your group for their contribution. Not much to report because there isn't a lot going on. We're doing fine financially.

The only money going out is the money that came in for H&I and then went back out (to H&I).

**Service Manual Concept Study** – Jeff S. Concept six addresses the trustees, the members of the General Service Conference. They have the legal and practical responsibility of AA World Inc. and other legal AA entities. They are the guardians of the 12 Traditions and are responsible for carrying the AA message to other countries around the world. They are the AA bankers.

Bill makes the point that although "our objective is always a spiritual one," nevertheless our world service is a "large business operation." "Indeed," he says, "our whole service structure resembles that of a large corporation. The A.A. groups are the stockholders, the delegates represent them, like proxy-holders, at the annual meeting; the General Service Board Trustees are actually the directors of a 'holding company.' And this holding company (the General Service Board) actually owns and controls the two 'subsidiaries' (A. A.A.W.S.S. and the A.A. Grapevine) which carry on the. . . services.

"This very real analogy makes it. . . clear that, like any other board of directors, our trustees must be given large powers if they are to manage the. . . affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous."

**Justin H DCMC report** –The area has been holding virtual meetings and the Post Conference Assembly was this Saturday. Our delegate Teddy will join us next month at the District meeting. He will present at 7:30. *You can invite anyone who is interested – they do not have to be general service members.* Tell your group.

### **District Officer Reports**

Allison T. Liaison between Intergroup and General Service. We have our intergroup the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month. There is going to be a virtual “Town Hall” meeting on Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:30. People are encouraged to register ahead of time. All are welcome. The purpose: discuss moving back from virtual meetings to in-person meetings.

Central Office is still at a financial rating of Excellent. There was a \$140,000 contribution that we have accepted under the heading of a Special Projects Fund separate from the budget. We plan to use it for some technology stuff and will be diligent on keeping people updated on financial reporting.

Some meetings are meeting face-to-face right now. At some of these meetings members have tested positive for COVID-19. Remember – we are here to serve the newcomer. Think of the 1<sup>st</sup> Tradition and unity of the group. We don’t want COVID to spread at meetings and we don’t think it looks great for Alcoholics Anonymous to have meetings with Coronavirus. We do not encourage people to attend those meetings.

June 18@6:30pm Town Hall Meeting <https://aasfmarin.org/event/town-hall-meeting>

Jackie B – Founders Day! This Saturday there’s a Founders Day Event from 1-5 PM. Our delegate will be there as well as the H&I Historian. A panel on Remote Communities with a variety of alcoholics on the panel. There will be ASL interpretation (sign language) all day. Also a presentation on AA History. Parts will be in Spanish and English (a first in SF Founder’s Day).

H&I – Brad K. H&I business meeting last month. Overall our financial health is OK mostly because our expenses are way down. April donations are down 50% from the year prior, but literature expense is down 90%. H&I is still paying rent for storage so we still need contributions. We have had many individual contributions come in – the bank has a limit on the number of transactions per month before we have a per-transaction fee. We have started 6 Zoom meetings for those in treatment centers and hospitals, but haven’t been able to inside correctional facilities. During our next business meeting we will discuss financially helping other H&I areas that are struggling. We have done this in years past and will if we end up with more money than we need.

Steve R – San Quinten sponsorship program. Men with 5 years of sobriety can partner up with an inmate and be a sponsor in the visiting room. This is different from H&I as this is one-on-one only. Lots of challenges, but it’s very rewarding. We have nearly 70 pairs currently and plan to have at least an additional 70 in the near future.

**Visiting Area Officer – Dennis H. CNCA 06 Treasurer.** The Summer Assembly is coming up and officers are discussing whether it will be virtual or in person. We are accepting suggestions for Workshops, we typically have around six.

A brief note on the Area and finances in the last few years. We have gone from a position of strength, went through a rough financial time, and are now back to a solid treasury *for the moment*. There are still structural problems on how we handle our finances. Our group contributions are down about 50% but we're down even more on expenses. Our largest expenses have always been on Assemblies and travel – none of those are happening right now. Our largest current expense is interpretation. We're trying to get interpretation Spanish/English/Spanish at all committee/officer/assembly meetings. When we start to grow again will group contributions remain low? Time will tell. We're going to have virtual meetings through August, for sure. This will keep expenses low.

A lot of contributions are coming in through Square [a digital payment platform]. I encourage that.

GSO – in 2019 we saw a continuation that's been happening for several years. Group and individual contributions have gone up. 2019 we had the largest contributions ever. 8.8 million, one million of which was individual contributions. Expenses were up a bit last year due to a variety of things including becoming fully staffed. Publishing, our mainstay, was down a bit from last year.

Coronavirus started affecting GSO in April. Contributions were down, but only about 20%. The decline in publishing was 80% and that affected a lot. That's not 80% profit, but 80% income. Expenses continue. We sell most of our books through Central Offices and those offices are closed. Meetings aren't selling books because they are virtual. Estimated is a gap of about \$70,000/month.

Publishing becoming less important to our profits has been coming for a long time, but Coronavirus hastened it. Individual contributions need to cover costs that used to get covered by publishing. Because of this the Trustees decided to remove \$3mil (from \$16mil) to cover expenses for ~9 months. *This is the very situation we keep prudent reserves for*. It gives us time to adjust.

Talk with your groups about this and make sure they are aware of the situation. A slide is available showing finances of what is happening. It's a cause for concern but is not a cause for panic.

Individual contributions can be made online at the AA website.

Q: Where do we make suggestions for the Summer Assembly Workshop? A: Send them to me (Dennis) or any Area officer. Or CNCA06.org

Q: What actions can we ask of our groups given the current financial circumstance? A: Not everyone can contribute as much as they used to, but some can. If your meeting isn't paying rent, consider sending it as an AA donation. Talk with your group treasurer. Again, this is not a panic or scary thing, but it's important that we let people know what's happening.

Contribute individually to GSO at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) or [www.aasfmarin.org/contribute](http://www.aasfmarin.org/contribute)

Comment: My group decided to disburse 60% to GSO and 30% to Intergroup (instead of the normal 60% to Intergroup / 30% to GSO).

**7<sup>th</sup> tradition Beth S** – You can contribute to the District via my personal Venmo (I am the District Treasurer) at @beth\_saunders. Let me know what percent to send to H&I.

### **Discussion on Meeting in Person**

Leslie K. - My personal opinion is that I strongly prefer this District meeting via Zoom. The time and location of the physical meeting makes it easier for me via Zoom.

Steve R. – What is our current relationship with Old First Church? A: We are not paying rent, we are still welcome back. I can email our contact there and see what the plan is when they're planning on opening again. I don't think anyone has 'poached' our time slot. I'll reach out and report back to the group.

Paul R. – I don't think we can make any decisions because they city has not released any guidelines on how many people can be in a room, etc. My home group (normally 50-60 crammed into a room) plans on meeting virtually for a while. Zoom works great.

Julie S. – There are a lot of aspects of zoom meetings that I love. Not having to look for parking! But being together in person is so important. Can we come up with some sort of hybrid where there's a screen/laptop that let some attend virtually? That can keep numbers down and give people options. Maybe a sign up list ahead of time with a maximum on people in person.

Aaron M. [Missed due to technical issues ]

Jackie B. Another meeting is set up to be a hybrid meeting with a cap of 20 people in person. I can also post New York Intergroup guidelines to see what others are talking about.

Joe W. Capacity restrictions, who is going to sit at the door and turn away newcomers if the meeting is at capacity?

Tony R. I like the GSR meeting being Zoom as I feel I can participate more. When it starts I'm just ending a 5:00 meeting so I wasn't able to make it to the GSR meeting early. I plan on attending physical meetings as soon as we get the go-ahead. Workshop Topic: how do we accommodate a potential large influx of people after reopening?

Jennifer A. – Agree on holding our district meeting on Zoom. My home group has begun talking about what to do. Our meeting size has tripled due to people coming from out of the area. We've talked about splitting the meeting into physical meeting space and digital meeting space, both happening simultaneously.

Leslie K. – I work for the city and my understanding of the reopening is that the phases are all conditional. If there are new outbreaks/spikes that the city will scale back to a previous stage.

Jeff – We're coming to elections. Has anyone had experience doing elections via Zoom and can I have guidance? Maybe this could be a Workshop topic?

Rudy – We should consider not going back to in-person meetings for a couple of months.

*[An informal poll is taken during the meeting. Do we stay virtual or go back to in-person?  
All but one person wanted to stay virtual.]*

[Very brief (~1 minute) gap in minutes due to technical issue]

Alex – The Baltimore Intergroup discussed doing contact tracing. This would include keeping a list of all attendees (first and last name) in case of a COVID outbreak.

Discussion on the motion of creating a Latino AA pamphlet.

Joe W. – I would like to see an AA pamphlet created.

Jennifer – someone at a group said, “Why are they talking about this in an English speaking meeting?”

Johnathan A. – My group was more in favor in moving forward than against. The few against had reasons of “We can’t do this for everybody.” Another “The funds are down, is that really the best use of our money right now?” All in all, my group was more for than against.

Claire A. – Only one person at my group gave feedback – there was zero excitement about this in the group. It feels like it’s not the most important thing to think about right now. The one who gave feedback said it’s a great idea and wanted to make sure it was written in Spanish and was puzzled at it being brought up in an English-speaking meeting.

Mike B. – My group was unanimous in the desire to move forward with the pamphlet.

## **Things the Area wants your Group to Discuss**

- 1 – Discuss ideas and options to operate CNCA on a more financially prudent basis.
- 2 – Discuss content available on the Area website, and what might be added to improve communication.  
<https://www.cnca06.org>
- 3 – Discuss how we can best strengthen the composition and leadership of our future trusted servants.
- 4 – Discuss ideas on how to convey information regarding Area Assembly motions to the GSRs.

### **What’s on Your Mind?**

JB – I received a sample GSR report for May. This was *very* helpful to me as a GSR. My group doesn’t have business meetings so this gives me a way to cram everything in.

Jackie B. – A group I’m in is forming an ad-hoc committee to go over city/intergroup recommendations, distill them to their own recommendations, then bring those to the group business meeting.

Meeting closed at 9:00.