

District 06 (San Francisco) Minutes for General Service Business Meeting  
**Tuesday August 11th, 2020**  
*Online 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 reads a General Service Preamble
- Reading of Tradition Eight by Taran
- Reading of Concept Eight by Joey
- **Welcome new GSRs or DCMs:** No new GSRs or DCMs. **DCM Introduction.** Beth S, DCM 375 evening meetings at 2900 Florida. Jackie B DCM 270, Inner Sunset near the Gratitude Center. Chelsea W, alternate DCM for all other districts.
- **Welcome Visitors:** Coree, Area Assembly Coordinator. • **Anniversaries:** Leslie K., 15 years. July minutes were accepted as submitted.

**Financial Report** – Beth S, district treasurer. Group contributions for July were awesome, thank your groups. We took in \$803.04. That's higher than the past few months but in the ballpark of January. That's because we're 1/2 through the year and some groups send contributions every six months. Group contributions + 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition + \$24 for H&I. Outgoing, not much. \$39 for bank charges (which are normally ~\$16.) Additional fee was due to human error in paying the PO Box late.

**Summary of Service Manual Study.** Jeff S. Concept Eight talking about how the trustees of the General Service Board operate two organizations, the AA World Service and the Grapevine. In order to do this the Trustees elect directors and other people to run the business so they don't have to do the day-to-day work of running the corporations.

**DCMC Report** – Justin H. Last month was an amazing Delegate report. Later we will discuss how to read the full Conference Report. Last weekend was the Summer Assembly where one of our district members shared. The Area is doing very well and we're still having meetings every month on a Sunday. We will begin talking of transitioning at the end of this year and we'll discuss what that looks like and what to expect next month.

### **Liaison Reports**

Allison T., Intergroup Liaison. To over-simplify, Intergroup is the local version of what we do in our District meetings. There have been two Town Hall meetings to discuss what it will look like when we return to meetings in person. Hybrid meetings, concerns with COVID, etc. It's a Q&A session that many find very helpful. **You do not need to be any kind of service representative to go.** Topics are facilitating virtual meetings, safe and functioning, virtual fellowship, digital contributions, and the newcomer. Intergroup has formed a formal communications team to manage a unified outreach effort to tell people about what Intergroup is. Working with existing materials, websites, The Buzz newsletter, etc. It's important to get people to sign up for The Buzz, especially groups that don't have an Intergroup rep. Group contributions are down but individual contributions are up. Expenses were slightly over budget but we still have an Excellent rating. There will be a virtual Marin Unity Day on October 17<sup>th</sup>/ SF's on 10<sup>th</sup>

## **Special Presentation: How to Read the Conference Report Coree H, Area Assembly Coordinator**

- The Table of Contents is your friend. There are many ways to read the Conference report. Not every portion will be interesting to you. I like to read the Keynote on page 6.
- Pages 49-52 there's there Financial Report. It has a lot of quick facts like how much we took in and the financial highlights. I'm not a finance person but it was pretty interesting. I like to look at the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions received by Regions. There's a lot coming from the NW and Pacific United States. It takes 17.9 million dollars per year to make AA happen.
- The Advisory Actions – what happened during the General Service Conference. There were many controversial agenda topics and basically none of them passed but many of the less controversial things happened at the General Service Conference.
- There are Floor Actions, but I think the Committee Considerations are the most interesting. The Committee discussed creating an AA History book and they've decided to do it but haven't done it yet. There were two motions on gender neutral and one wasn't passed but with the 2<sup>nd</sup> they are looking for draft language and will bring it back to the next General Service Conference. They discussed use of the Lord's Prayer for the ending of the big AA Conference.
- Area Reports. I think they're interesting. What happened in Maine last year? What happens in AA in places where you don't live?
- Page 74. I think this section is very interesting. There are 64,000 groups in the US and 1.3 million members in the US. Outside the US/Canada there are almost 600,000 members.
- The presentations – you can bring these up for discussion in your groups. Remote communities in AA, AA is 89% white, who is missing in AA, etc.
- Page 94. Literature distributed. There were almost 500,000 copies of the big book distributed in 2019. (A full breakdown of literature distributed is on page 94.) Grapevine books distributed, Grapevine subscriptions.
- Lists of delegates and various trustee committees. Who our non-alcoholic trustees are and what they do.

*Bring to your group what happened, what may happen, and a couple of quick facts.*

### **Questions for Coree**

Q: What's the difference between the Conference Report and the Delegate's Report? A: The Delegate's report is only their experience on what they heard, saw and felt. The Conference Report is more overarching on what happened at the Conference. Maybe the Delegate's personal experience was vastly different from the rest of the members. // Comment: I like the section the GSO manager gives about the services that the GSO did. How many emails they answers, etc. I find that useful so my group knows what their 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contribution goes for. // Comment: You can see what other groups are experiencing or having problems with. Maybe they're the same your group is having problems with.

### **Treasurer – Beth S**

7<sup>th</sup> Tradition – I receive money for the District and put it where it's supposed to go. Venmo @Beth\_Saunders. You can indicate if you want any or all to go to H&I vs. the District.

### **Summer Assembly Last Saturday**

There was a business meeting in the morning where the Area conducted routine business, then six different workshops split off. AA in the Digital Age, Outside Issues, Diversity, Who's in our Rooms, and more.

Riaz – If you've ever been to the Assemblies, there's usually a business meeting portion dealing with group consciences then an afternoon portion with workshops. It felt to me that the overall theme of the Assembly was focused with the lens of the pandemic, how do we carry the message to every nook and

cranny of Alcoholics Anonymous that we can. Be it a physical location or a particular demographic that we aren't that good at reaching. Or people that need extra technology to help them get online. How do we continue to effectively reach alcoholics and how to grow in understanding our effectiveness. With the pandemic we are now more duty-bound to outreach.

JB – There was a motion about establishing a standing technology committee. The initial vote failed, then we listened to the minority opinion. A number of people spoke on why they voted for it. That changed the minds of enough people that we took another vote and it passed. I love it when that happens. It could take only one person to change the vote on something. Due to this being the end of the panel and people changing over in November we had a motion to fast-track this vote and the fast-track passed, then the official vote to establish the committee passed as well.

Jackie – I was struck by the business portion. Anytime the minority opinion changes the way a vote happens is extraordinary to watch. Many Spanish-speaking minority opinion speakers talked about how they needed help with technology. I think this is the first time a motion has been fast-tracked at the Area. It was historic and exciting.

Joey – The fervor of the moment, a lot of people were suffering and channeled that suffering into this proposed Technology Committee. There wasn't clarity on what the committee would do. They voted in a committee that wouldn't help the individual groups that were suffering. People didn't hear that and it was just odd. Now we have a Technology committee. Maybe it will get rolled into the web committee, maybe it won't. I think there was a misunderstanding on the vehicle of the Technology Committee on what kind of help would be provided.

Jennifer – I had never attended an Area Assembly before. It felt a little like magic to see so many different people from groups and areas expressing different needs. I second a lot of the sentiments that were shared including some of the value of some of the decisions. I was struck by some of the overall energy and passion expressed in solving the actual problem. Nobody knows how to solve it but people are willing to raise their hands and try. Coming from the corporate world you don't see those things often. It was refreshing and it gave me a lot to think about personally.

### **Housekeeping Motion**

Jackie – Reimbursing for the Zoom subscription. We upgraded Zoom to a Pro account in the beginning. I upgraded and I've been paying \$15/month for Zoom. Then there was the opportunity for a full year for \$100/yr, so I made a decision and purchased it but we don't have a line item for it. I'm asking for reimbursement of the year and monthly charge. It will expire July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021. We can talk to the finance committee for budgeting for Zoom in the future. \$169.73 reimbursement.

Reimburse Jackie for what she's paid for Zoom up to this point. That covers up to July 29, 2021. \$169.73 for a one-time reimbursement to Jackie. Housekeeping Motion passes and is approved.

### **Old Business**

We have discussed a few times a pamphlet for the Latin American alcoholic. If your group has talked about it please let us know.

Anna – We took a group conscience about this two months ago and in general people were positively responding to having this specific pamphlet. Nobody spoke against it.

Allison – I brought it up to my group during announcements and got some feedback in the Zoom chat. Very few responses, but they were positive.

Jennifer – I've already shared my group's feedback on this. Are you looking for additional feedback on this? A: This is for additional feedback. If you've already shared your group conscience you don't have to share it here again. This is only discussion, this is not going to area. Comment Jennifer – this has support of my group but only if it is written by people in the community, not something created by "white folks" and translated.

Sarah – My group was in support of the pamphlet.

Johnathan – My group was mostly in favor by a small majority. Some in opposition thought “we can’t have a pamphlet for everybody.”

Riaz – I’m curious whether it’s going to be a pamphlet entitled to “To the Latino/Latina/Latinx”.

Portuguese speakers are Latino if they’re from Brazil. There are many indigenous people that come to San Francisco that do not speak or read Spanish. If it’s written to the Latinx community it would not be accurate.

Rudy – I did write a proposal, but it is just a proposal. As we move forward with it I can imagine that the proposal will change, mature and develop.

### **Announcements**

Job Descriptions! To reformulate or edit descriptions we are inviting people to join officer meetings where GSRs can join and attend in the coming weeks. // The two-year panel will be ending in December. Officer elections for the following two-year panel are held in October/November. My position (Mail Coordinator) has not been updated since we did snail- mail, and we don’t do that anymore because we’ve moved more to digital. GSRs have insight and may be interested in attending an officer meeting to decide any changes to job descriptions. Email [sfgeneralservice@gmail.com](mailto:sfgeneralservice@gmail.com) and let me know if you’re interested in attending a job description meeting. We will then bring the new descriptions to the District for approval.

Q: Allison, Intergroup Liaison. I was surprised/confused to learn there’s an H&I rep for Intergroup and an H&I rep for General Service. I don’t know if there are any other liaisons or officers that have this redundancy. I don’t know if clarifying descriptions would help. It’s my job to know as the Intergroup Liaison to know but it’s still confusing.

Q: We’re planning on rewriting job descriptions and planning on getting them back to the District to approve before Elections in October? A: The elections in October probably won’t change so we may have to wait on elections for new job descriptions. Or maybe we could fast-track.

Q: Can we vote people in with a tentative job description? A: Yes.

Comment: I believe it’s better to keep something imperfect for a period of time than to risk moving quickly. AA’s greatest strength is *moving slowly*. Things don’t generally go wrong when things move slowly but bad things often happen when we rush.

### **Unity Day – October 10<sup>th</sup>**

If you would like to help with organizing or the creation/planning, email me, call, text, or send a carrier pigeon. As we’re virtual this year the sky is the limit on getting speakers to come and share. We’re taking submissions on speakers.

From Vanessa via Chat: In the interest of time, putting my announcement here: If you would like to help with organizing for SF Unity Day (10/10/2020), please email me at [vanarama@gmail.com](mailto:vanarama@gmail.com) or call/text at 651-261-4200. Also taking submissions for participants! Thank you for letting me be of service!

### **Budget Committee**

Every year the financial paper goes out for AA and it gets updated. If you’re interested in joining the finance committee let me know or text me at 808-630-4359.

## **Four 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.

Meeting ended with the Responsibility Statement at 9:03 PM.