

District 06 (San Francisco) Minutes for General Service Business Meeting
Tuesday September 8, 2020
Online 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 reads a General Service Preamble
 - Reading of Tradition Nine by Joey
 - Reading of Concept Nine by JB
 - **Welcome new GSRs or DCMs:** Gabriella, GSR of Sister's Circle. Nani, Daily Reflections Out of the Bay Area Meeting. Elisa, Creative Alcoholics 6:30 via Zoom instead of the Gratitude Center (though are moving to a hybrid meeting).
 - **DCM Introduction.** Steve R, DCM for subdistrict 240 Pacific Heights / Cow Hollow. Hemanth, subdistrict 320 SOMA. Jackie B DCM 270, Inner Sunset near the Gratitude Center. Chelsea W, alternate DCM for all other districts.
 - **Welcome Visitors:** Jennifer B., Alt-Delegate to the General Service Conference, from Santa Rosa. Fermin, DCM of area 320 District 16. Emma, DCMC for District 16.
 - **Anniversaries:** Steve R, 34 years. Rachel C., 18 months *today!* Hemanth, 8 years.
- August minutes were accepted as submitted.

Financial Report – Beth S. Available in the Google Document spreadsheet for August 2020. Because we are on Zoom we've been saving money on rent and costs are down. We have a virtual event for Unity Day, but due to the virtual cost savings the district has been doing very well. If your group needs their 7th Tradition contributions, keep them with the group. // There was a draw down earlier this year due to COVID-19, but that has turned around somewhat due to contributions from groups like yours.

Summary of Service Manual Study. Jeff S. Concept Nine. It talks about leadership and rotation of leadership. Bill Wilson was concerned how it would work out in the future – how will AA get good leadership? A quote was read written by Bill Wilson dealing with this spirit of rotation of leadership.

DCMC Report – Justin H. 2019 was a record year for contributions, please thank your groups. There was a \$3million drawdown of AA's \$15million prudent reserve but AA is still running. There's a small projected deficit this year of \$165,000.

Mail Coordinator - Jackie B. We had our first ad-hoc committee meeting to go over job descriptions. It was very well attended and we realized the descriptions needed a reorientation of how they were presented and more review was necessary. This ad-hoc committee will meet once a month until the end of this panel (December 2020) and we will make recommendations that are up to the next panel to approve. We will be doing a minimal cleanup of descriptions and only remove things that are currently incorrect.

Liaison Reports

Alison T., Intergroup Liaison. Intergroup is the local version of what we do in our District meetings and it runs Central Office for San Francisco and Marin. Central Offices lease expires in one year and we are thinking/talking about what Central Office will look like in this new paradigm (of COVID). "Is there a Central Office?" Something to think about.

Another Excellent finance rating. There was a sizable donation that we were hesitant to accept but eventually did with the understanding that money would be put towards a tech committee. [The committee] has done a lot and you can see the results at AASFMarin.org. There's a new communications committee. If you sign up for The Buzz you'll get a lot of information about upcoming events. Unity Day in San Francisco is happening October 10th, Marin is October 17th

Q: How much was the donation that you were thinking of not accepting? A: \$14,000. Q: And how was accepting it justified? A: It was earmarked for the tech committee and it was decided we would continually review with Intergroup how it was being used and what the upcoming advances were and how it was helping. Q: How did they justify overriding the \$3k limit? A: I don't know but can connect you with people who do know. Comment: I asked about the status and they'll report quarterly. It will be reported next month.

Presentations:

Jennifer B. Alt-Delegate to the General Service Conference- *I've been a GSR, Now What?*

Your GSR commitment is coming to an end. It's time to think about what to do next. We learn and grow together. By the time we learn what we're doing in a particular position it's generally time to rotate out. Hopefully you have an Alternate ready to step into that position or perhaps you have someone in mind to encourage. It's part of passing it on. // When my group asked what I wanted to do next I told them, but they recommended instead I become a DCM. My service sponsor thought that would be a good next step and people told me that it would be good for the District and AA as a whole. It would be challenging for me but not impossible. If you know what being a GSR is, that's all you need to know to be a DCM. I knew I could work through my fear and get past my fear of being uncomfortable. // It really enhanced my sobriety. DCM is the best job! // Each election cycle I had to think about what was best for AA and step out my comfort zone. I was able to make myself available for most any position in the District. It's OK to not be available for every single thing, but don't let some vague notion that you're not good enough stop you. // A tech committee is forming at the Area level. We're not sure what that committee will look like, but that's part of what's great about joining in the beginning. You get to determine how things are going to go. // Being a liaison to a committee is a good way to be of service and get involved. It helps keep our fellowship more connected. There is no single job that's better than another. What does it mean to be available? It doesn't mean that we especially want to do the job or are knowledgeable. When I was asked to be a conference dinner chair I knew nothing about it and learned a lot. Being available means positions I might be good at and positions where there is room to grow. (There's always room to grow.) That off-balance feeling you get when you don't fully know what to do is a wonderful chance for humility. It lets me serve AA. I show up and do my best. // There's a spiritual component of being open and willing. When I feel available and open to whatever my Higher Power has in store for me, that's a really cool feeling. // [During COVID] the question of availability is a little tricky. Some commitments may stay virtual but most will likely go back to meeting in person again. I encourage asking people questions. If you are interested in a position, ask someone who did that service. People loved it or hated it and want to tell you about it. // Seize upon this opportunity to be a leader in a time of change. I think it'd be great if you all stayed in General Service, but it's not the only game in town. There are lots of ways to be of service. // Thank you for all you do and I hope to keep seeing you around.

Questions/Comments

Justin, Chuck, JB and Steve spoke briefly about their General Service experience after being a GSR.

Sharing session. *What can the district do to support you and your groups?*

Gabriella – We’ve had more people online than we had when we met in person. We’ve had more people volunteering for service commitments. In some ways the shelter-in-place invigorated our group. I’m a little concerned about transitioning back and how to bring that to our in-person meeting.

Julie – Q: people using their personal Zoom account and the meeting gets attached to it, then that person is tied to the meeting. How can you transition?

Comment: I had a similar issue with the treasury. Treasurers use their personal Venmo accounts and it’s kind of messy. How to deal with that?

A: I started a 7-day-a-week meeting. I keep once-a-day meeting donations separate. The account is connected to my personal bank account but I keep detailed records and can handle being audited. I know some groups have a bank account for the group. Our local intergroup office has How-To’s on that and how to turn a meeting virtual in 5 steps. <https://aasfmarin.org/how-to-move-an-a-a-meeting-online-in-5-simple-steps> I surrendered my personal account and turned it over to the meeting. All meeting officers have access.

A: The #1 way to get set up is to create an email. Use a free Gmail email, and the zoom account is ~\$150/yr which is less than meeting space rent. If Zoom is tied to a personal account it’s complicated. You’re tied to the person starting the meeting on time, etc. Instead, create an email for your group then set everything up.

A: My group was using a member’s work Zoom account and the group made a free Gmail account. We were caught between the group getting a Zoom account (which still involves someone’s financial info linked to the account) or going through New York’s Intergroup which offers free AA Zoom accounts. We went with the free New York Intergroup Zoom account to keep all personal information separate from our group. We announced for a month we would change the Zoom ID then gave out the new ID to everyone and updated the ID with Central Office. We didn’t lose any members.

A: The person using their personal Zoom account got tired of doing it so we had to get a new one. I set up a personal Zoom account for the meeting. For me Venmo is just for AA treasurer work, nothing personal.

7th Tradition Announcement

Send Venmo to @beth_saunders. If you want to split your donation so a part or all is for H&I, mention it and Beth will split the donation.

Housekeeping Motion

The District Archivist position has been unfilled for a number of months, but Holly M. wants the job. She is excited for this job, has extensive archival experience, and her day job is relevant to the position as well. [The District Archivist job description was read.]

Q: Why is this position only through December? A: General Service positions are for two years and end in December. This is only for confirmation of a temporary Archivist. If Holly would like to make herself available as Archivist she is able to do so during the next panel.

Housekeeping motion passed and Holly M. is the District Archivist through the end of this Panel (December, 2020).

Old Business

Pamphlet for the Latin American Alcoholic.

[One feedback was missed by the Recording Secretary]

Rachel - My group is in support but wants to know more specifically what the pamphlet is about. Can there be a little more clarification or will it remain vague?

Rudy (*the person proposing the pamphlet*): I based it off of similar pamphlets. It’s an introduction with maybe history of that community in AA. 3/4 of the pamphlet would be stories of people in the

community telling stories on how they got sober in AA.

Jackie – we don't have any stories from Spanish speaking men or women. This is important and I support the pamphlet.

Q: Re: the Latinx pamphlet, can we make a motion? What's the next step? Does it require a GSR or DCM to make a motion to vote? A: Yes, they would let me know via email they would like to bring it up, we would set aside time on the agenda to discuss it, we would decide if we were ready to vote, then we would take a vote.

Q: Is this District meeting a group? Are we supposed to be self-supporting with representatives from other groups? Is this District different from a normal AA group? // A: Generally a District is a service entity, a group of alcoholics gathered together for sobriety. Historically at the Area they've passed the basket to cover expenses. // A: This has come up before and it was always suggested that since groups donate to the District, individuals may also do so. However, Districts are known and one of their jobs is to put on AA workshops and in those areas no 7th Tradition money is collected. But it's generally accepted to take 7th Tradition in District meetings. // A: We are a service entity and groups send us money to run as a service entity. Any excess at the end of the year goes to the Area. We don't distribute to all four service entities, we simply use the 7th Tradition to pay expenses and any extra goes up to the Area. // A: What our 7th Tradition dollars do in groups vs. in District meetings. For the Pacific Region AA Service Assembly (PRAASA), we send representatives from our District there and to other events like Pacific Regional Forum – we provide scholarships so expenses are not a barrier to participation in various locations in and out of state. I think that's one of the best ways we spend our District 7th Tradition dollars. // Comment: I've wondered about the 7th Tradition at District meetings before. Should we have a statement that goes along with the passing of the basket that succinctly explains what it's used for? A: We typically do something like that but our normal Treasurer is not here tonight to say it.

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.
Great topic for this month, Rotation. Is it availability? It is who is in the room? Is it how sponsors express how to be of service to sponsees?

4 – Discuss ideas on how to convey information regarding Area Assembly motions to the GSRs.

A: How to more effectively convey info from the Area. A GSR and DCM can get together. After a conference you can call the Delegate directly! Also call District officers. Everyone is willing to help to get things into simple terms to bring to a group.

Unity Day – Vanessa

October 10th, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Protecting anonymity in the age of COVID both in Zoom meetings and in-person meetings, Archives, and more. It's virtual so there's no heavy lifting but if you'd like to help please email events@sfgeneralservice.org.

Digital Contribution ad-hoc Committee

We are talking about best practices. Digital contributions for AA world Services and for our Area. Our contributions are tied to our treasurer's personal account. We will discuss that.

San Quentin Sponsorship Program

Steve – Men with 5 years sober and sponsorship experience can sponsor a San Quentin inmate through a visiting process in the prison's Visitation Room (though currently through correspondence due to the pandemic). Orientations are done as-necessary. Go to handinorcal.org and click on "What we do".

Meeting ended with the Responsibility Statement at 9:01 PM.