

SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL SERVICE, DISTRICT 6
General Service Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 12, 2011

7:00-7:30: New GSR Orientation
7:00-7:30: Service Manual Study
7:30-8:00: Inter-Subdistrict Meeting

Karen S (District Committee Member Chair) **opened with the Serenity Prayer and the General Service Preamble.**

Erica (GSR, *Marina Discussion Group*) **read Tradition 4.**
Joseph L (Alternate, *Raising the Bottom*) **read Concept 4.**

New GSRs: Mary Ellen D (Valencia Smoke-free), Robin McG (Surf Group), Erica W (Marina Discussion Group), Claudia C (Alternate, *Saturday Beginners*), Joe (Big Book Basics), Joseph L (Alternate, *Raising the Bottom*), David A (Alternate, *Wombley's Clapboard Factory*)

Visitors: Jeff O Area Chair

Birthdays: Numerous.

Approval of minutes and financials: Approved.

Reports

Officers:

Karen (DCMC): We had a great showing of 33 people at the preconference assembly. Great turnout, thanks everyone for coming. Over 400 people total at the assembly. Started off rocky because the recording secretary Richard got in a motorcycle accident right before arrival (he's OK; just broke his leg); alternate delegate, who had been a secretary before, swept right in and took care of the commitment. Most spiritual moment was when we took a prayer for all the people who weren't able to get there. Was humbling; realized it's a big order to ask us all to go there and ask our groups to pay.

Agenda topics workshop went well. Decided that for the future we need to print copies of the agenda ourselves, and that we need a microphone.

Attended BTG committee and at lunchtime, I ran into Eddie after having just grabbed all the materials, and he volunteered to accept the BTG chair position!

Eddie (BTG chair): Home group is *Any Lengths*, Saturday at 9:30, Fort Mason. Just celebrated 10 years, and that told me I need to do one more level of service. Grateful for the opportunity to be BTG chair. God does work in my life in mysterious ways!

Paul C: I was elected by some 60 H+I volunteers and just removed by a steering committee of 4-5 people that met in secret, and has no right of appeal. Hadn't even gotten my jail clearance yet. Reason I was removed (I believe) is because I brought up that we have hundreds of people signing up for H+I and we don't have openings. Started asking questions, which is what I did with my sponsor. Found out that there's no spirit of rotation in H+I, you have people who have been holding on to their meeting for 5-10 years and I think I ruffled some feathers by proposing that we rotate commitments. Will be speaking to more people about this later this year and see if anything can be done.

Alejandro D (DCM 280): Regarding the conference, remember that you can email your group conscience to the delegate. Regrettably, I am stepping down as DCM 280 because I have

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left SF and won't be able to serve the subdistrict as much as I want to.

Amber [redacted] (DCM *Parkside/Richmond*): Would love to talk to any GSRs in my subdistrict, have found none! Remember that we are part of an area, not just a district. Read CNCA Comments and go to the area meeting to get an idea of what's going on! A motion was discussed at the area meeting that CNCA allow for the option of receiving CNCA comments (including Spanish version) via email. It's about having a choice, not getting rid of sending by post. Some people find a PDF more convenient, some were worried about logistics of keeping a database, some were worried about members' names showing up in an electronic edition, and that too many people opting out of mailing could mean we lose our bulk mail rate. Might make a committee to address these concerns.

David [redacted] (Area Registrar): Privilege to serve, nightmare to deal with our database! Members please handwrite names, the group you represent, and the position that you hold for that group, in order to delete people who are no longer serving in their positions rather than perpetuating a 12-page printout. We are looking at new options for keeping track of information; hopefully have something web-based together in the next 6 months.

Elizabeth B [redacted] (Literature): If you're a new GSR and could not go to orientation, please see me and I will give you reading materials. We give you a service manual, so does WSO, and you'll end up with 2 or more copies. Encourage you to return the extra copies so that we can recirculate, lower cost, save trees.

Anna (Liaison to Spanish District 16): No report

Teddy [redacted] (Alternate DCMC): New GSR orientation, please come if you haven't been to it yet and make sure to fill out your group information form so WSO can keep in touch with you.

Michael M [redacted] (Treasurer): Next month we'll start talking about next year's budget. Asked for volunteers for the finance committee.

Rich (PI/CPC Liaison): Saturday, April 16th, 10 AM at Central Office, orientation for going to talk to non-alcoholics, potential alcoholics, professionals. Presentations are given in teams of two; one person talks about what AA is about, other person gives an abbreviated version of their story. Orientation includes training, and you must observe a DUI class to get qualified to go give a talk yourself.

Kristina F [redacted]: Come to the concept study!. Next concept will be Concept 5, which is about the Right of Appeal.

Amber [redacted]: Come to the pre-meeting at 7:30. Talk about whatever's going on for you. Today we shared our experiences about the pre-conference assembly.

Andy (Liaison to IFB): IFB is a legal body which governs the Intercounty Fellowship. At one time, covered all of Northern California, now it's just SF and Marin. Members are responsible to act in best interests of this corporation, which oversees Central Office. Report on business from April meeting:

- Discussed upgrading wheelchair lift at Central Office
- Need a new treasurer (if you or someone you know has experience in financial management, please let us know). Two-year volunteer position. About 10 hours of work a month.
- Planning Founder's Day, Saturday June 11th, 12-4PM at Urban Life Center.

Brad [redacted] (Archives Chair): Located at 185 Mayhew, Walnut Creek. Space has a work area

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and there are two rooms, one is filing cabinets; every district in the area has at least one drawer. We have two! Other room is more of a display and has lots of interesting historical items from the area + national AA. We have minutes, publications, Grapevine, photos. Various displays on easels that are taken to conferences and assemblies. Our drawers include district minutes, IFB materials, and Living Sober Western Roundup materials, plus interesting early things, including a notebook with records of the first AA meeting in San Francisco (1938-1943). Next workday is Saturday, May 14th. Volunteers? Also, if you have anything that may be of historical interest, contact us. Karen, our area archives chair, has suggested that we have an Archives Day. A few things I've come across:

- Two original color photos from 1966, one of them was Bill Wilson with two other people in front of a big sign for a recovery home, other photo was Ebby Thacher (Bill's sponsor), who first reached out to Bill in his kitchen
- Photocopy of the pages of Anne Smith's phone book (Dr. Bob's wife). There are some familiar names in there!

Jeff O [REDACTED] Visiting Area Officer: Still don't really feel like a visitor here, since I'm from here and I live a couple blocks down Franklin. Moved by lots of things this weekend, especially how many from SF attended, and also Humboldt County was very beautiful. Our area has 4 assemblies per year, pre-conference is the only 2-day one, can see how it's difficult to get to an assembly that long that far away. Remember that the most important thing is Just Showing Up. Hard to put in words what happened there, almost have to have been there. Try to come to the other assemblies: they're all 1-day and driving distance from SF. May 21st is in Antioch, post-conference. Summer assembly, August 13th, Vacaville, includes workshops and inventory. Fall assembly will be here in SF; it's taken a long time for this to happen (been since 1997)!

Remember the lights. You will hear applause when your time is up. 90 seconds sounds like a short time but most people are able to wrap things up when they see the yellow light. Some times people don't realize that the only way AA works is to trust our trusted servants. Some of the things that go on in the conference will be decided by a committee and no point having the groups, or even the whole conference, decide on it. Overwhelmed by some of the literature and finance things (our delegate is on the finance committee). We ended up being ahead of schedule by Sunday morning!

One of our jobs is to send our delegate off to New York and trust him to vote in the best interest of AA as a whole, not necessarily of our area. No one of us is smarter than all of us. Go to the post-conference assembly, listen, have some fun, relax, and enjoy. Now is a great time to inform your groups and get them excited (perhaps/perhaps not).

Area business was discussed, including creating a corrections and treatment committee. Did not vote on this, sense of the room was that we're not ready.

Karen S [REDACTED] Been a rush to get to this pre-conference assembly, happened so fast. Now we can talk about what's next. Need to elect two co-chairs for the Fall assembly, will give you a month to think about it. Entails working with Spanish-speaking District 16, who are cohosting. Had some fun at pre-conference meeting talking about it. I will not be running the committee or a big part of it, but I will tell you when I have an idea! I want our assembly to have great food since we're in SF. Will have to figure out how to raise money and go buy it, since we don't take donations! We can have SF-related trivia games! How about having legos and letting people build SF landmarks at their tables! Alejandro has connections to all the drag queens in the city, perhaps we can get them to serve the food or greet! Once we have two co-chairs, they'll meet once or twice a week with District 16, might take a lot of time, might not. Closer to September it will get very busy for those two people, know that if you take on the position. Your October will be taken. Don't want to go on vacation or get sick! Assembly is November 5th. You will be working with the area assembly chair as well, who can help you. Also want to go to the summer

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assembly, because they can help pass on valuable experience and items to you. If you feel that you're ready and want to be a part of it, let us know!

Martha (District 16): Assembly was the last panel's idea; we are just getting up to speed and now we're trying to organize. I have some things in my mind about what can be done better, what kind of food we should serve, who should speak. Having our meeting this Saturday at Grupo Mission where we will talk about what we want and what to do. We need to prepare as soon as possible; we have only 5 months. Me, I would like to dance, but I can't! (laughter)

David [redacted] Beautiful place, St. Gregory's in Potrero District. Going to be a pleasure to work there. I know that their staff is fabulous to work with and we'll have a great experience. Looking forward to a really, really good event. I do intend to be on the committee, encourage you to think about this and stepping up. Bring it to your groups that we'll be doing this event and need people to do gruntwork, to just be available! Already thinking about how I'm going to get my sponsees plugged into this; will be an exciting growth experience to put this on.

Karen: Asked for peoples' individual experiences from the pre-conference assembly:

Ingrid (GSR, *Too Early*): We left Friday, 8:30 at night, for the assembly. We were running really late, very stressful until we finally got on the road, then I could surrender. Got up there about 1 AM, made pretty good time, but couldn't see a thing. On the way back we could see everything. Felt like this was a nice metaphor for how the assembly changed my perspective on a lot of topics, including some on which I had a really strong opinion.

Elizabeth B [redacted] (Literature, GSR, *Sober 5150s*): What struck me was the camaraderie, seeing people from other counties and districts. Did a lot of networking and was kind of adopted by some folks from Lake County. Really terrific to see that no matter who we are/where we come from, we're a family because we have the Big Book and the program in common. Every meeting does things a little differently. Because of the uniformity of the AA message, have total confidence that I can go anywhere in the world and know that I'm in an AA meeting; that's the work that we do here. Went to a local meeting up there and they didn't have a chair, so I shared at the meeting. Shared my experience at the assembly on being dually-diagnosed, lots of people came out of the woodwork who also identified. Know that I have to do this so I can help others.

Volunteer for the Concept presentation next month: Brad T [redacted]

7th Tradition

Ken [redacted] (GSR, *Bernal Big Book*), **presented on Concept Four:** Got to experience this first-hand at the assembly. Structure is very corporate, but allows people to discharge responsibility appropriately. Principle of participation: all can vote, no superiors, no inferiors, no advisors. Governance was authoritarian and rigid in early AA, which meant grievous trouble and misunderstanding.

Natural for trustees to feel that theirs was the duty to manage the office and micromanage everything done in AA. So it was that AA could not be run by two committees, each able to issue non-participating directives. Be clear: nobody against the idea of final authority, just against misapplication/misuses. Participation can usually stop this sort of nonsense before it starts. Final authority must lie in groups.

We got to see a movement on three issues of old business at the assembly, with a vote on two. To see this participation at work, live, was really exciting.

Another reason for participation: we all deeply desire to belong. Want a brotherly partnership, no one second class. Should not be second class world service workers, just like in AA as a whole.

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Encourages us who serve AA to accept necessary disciplines that our tasks require; can do this when we are sure that we belong, participation assures us that we are truly trusted servants. Theme: "We are responsible" was really appropriate in the light of Concept Four.

Teddy  (Alternate DCMC) gave a **Sample GSR Report**.

What's on your Mind

Teddy: Was so wonderful to be with so many people from this room in Ferndale. When I went to my first assembly in Panel 55, someone told me to get in the car and so I did. Was up in Fortuna. There were only 4 people from SF at that assembly. Really touched my heart how many SFers were there this year, thank you all.

Amber: Sometimes I think, at this meeting, how much do we do for the new people? On your table is a laminated card which explains some of the acronyms and stuff we throw around. Love the quality of sobriety I get to be around in general service and at assemblies, especially when solving problems. Thrilled to see conversation after conversation of people doing their sobriety at this level of the heart. Felt so good. My assembly behavior was really bad: I was so rowdy! There were people in front of us from Napa, and they kept asking me nicely to shut up, and it took forever for it to click. Maybe I just ran out of steam. At the end of the assembly, one of them invited us to visit their home group. Example of the kind of love that I experience in General Service. Coming into General Service was a whole new level of spiritual experience for me.

Closed with the Responsibility Statement