

SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL SERVICE, DISTRICT 6

General Service Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 13th, 2011

6:30-7:00: Bridging The Gap Orientation

7:00-7:30: New GSR Orientation

7:00-7:30: 12 Concepts and Service Manual Study

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

Tradition 12 and Concept 12 were read.

New GSRs: Gregory H (Saturday High Noon), Larry D (A Is For Alcohol), Susan D (Women's Promises Group), Phil K (Saturday Beginners), Sally F (Big Book Basics), Duncan C (Cow Hollow Men's Group)

Visitors: Padee McC (Alternate Delegate, CNCA), and from District 16: Sergio, Ramiro, Tony, and Adrian

Birthdays: Tony, 3 years. Mike B, 5 years.

Presentation of Concept 12

Warranties are counsels of prudence; express forethought for future based on lessons of the past. Some things that popped out at me:

- Talks about the reserve fund. 1 full year of operating expenses for General Service + the Grapevine is just over \$12 million. Literature sales make up deficit between group contributions and actual cost of services provided.
- Warranty 5 says no conference action should be personally punitive or incitement to controversy. Alcohol is the enforcer; no other penalties needed!
- Public violations of traditions ought be responded to privately. Inform violators they are out of order; rely on pressures of opinion instead of laws. We are not a police operation.
- Abstain from acts of authoritative government which could harm AA's freedom. Spirit of love, one member to another: freedom under God to grow in his likeness and image is forever the quest of AA.

AI G volunteered to present **Concept 1** next month.

Announcements

Mike B: Sorry I'm late; had an emergency at work and boss drove me over. Wanted to announce my birthday: 5 years on Nov 15th.

Alex P: One correction to finance report. States total income for October when it should actually read total income for November.

Approval of minutes and financials: Approved.

Approval of inventory notes: Approved.

Approval of budget: Approved.

Open Position: Literature Person

Elizabeth: You have to arrive here at 6:45 PM and stick around to answer questions after. About 4-6 hours of work per month depending on level of involvement, efficiency. You can attend the monthly officer's meeting, which I recommend.

A 3rd legacy procedure was conducted. Nobody made themselves available in the first round. The coffee makers then volunteered to share the commitment, approved by group.

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Open Position: H+I Liaison

Karen: Previous guy wasn't able to do the commitment. Like to have a strong one for next year. Go to the meeting, tell them what we're up to, come here, tell us what's going on with them.

A 3rd legacy procedure was conducted. Brad K [redacted] and Tony M [redacted] made themselves available. Brad K [redacted] was elected.

Announcements (continued)

Karen: Sent around the report from the Public Relations trustee. Also sent announcement from Ken Monson: you can get an eBook of the Big Book through GSO, among other things. We have printed reports this month instead of people speaking; grab what you need from the table. The CNCA comments are minutes from the area meeting, including when we have our next assemblies, etc.

Presentation about Upcoming Local Forum

Adrian: CNCA is hosting a local forum. Dates are July 7-8, 2012 in SF area. Not sure where yet. I am the secretary. Sergio is coordinator, Ramiro is treasurer. Tony is on the translating committee so you can join us!

You probably have a pamphlet already. Inviting District 6 to be part of the committee. Explains what local forums are for, the process for local forums, including a FAQ. Happy to answer any questions you may have. First time I've ever served on one of these, try to answer what we can.

Planning meeting at 11 AM, every second Saturday of the month @ 650 Andover St. (*Grupo Renovacion*). Everyone's welcome; translation is provided.

We're expecting 200-300 people at the forum.

Elizabeth: Rarely seen people work so hard as you guys from District 16.

Tony: Would be great if one person can be a rep to join us, work in our meetings. Still lots of service to do. All are welcome. Lead the way if you can!

Amber: This is very organized. You guys are impressive! Wondering if it is possible a dance may be part of the forum. Would you have a dinner like we have before assemblies?

Sergio: We are deciding on both.

Amber: Funds... does GSO help at all, or is it just the local area?

Tony: Each of the districts has put down \$200 to start. Would be only the 7th local forum since 1979. Not something that happens every day!

Karen: We can decide if we want to elect one person, or a few.

Discussion of Proposed Preamble Change

Proposed: Replace "men and women" in the AA preamble with "people of all ages"

Karen: Would like to bring district conscience on this to the area meeting on Saturday. We can discuss it some more if we're not ready to vote.

Teddy: Purpose of conscience not just to say yes or no. Can say WHY we thought it was a good or bad idea, or what the minority opinion was.

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Chet: Big split at my group. Lots in favor and against. Those in favor thought it would help create more inclusion, eliminate sexism. Those who opposed argued that it's worked for 70 years and there was no reason to change.

Magdalena: It's not 1937 anymore; things have changed. SF knows that more than others. New language makes so everyone can feel welcome in AA.

Susan: Discussed this at our business meeting. Many opinions:

- For: It's not part of the 164 pages. Why not change?
- For: "people of all ages" could open things up for people with alternative gender identities.
- Against: No changes to anything ever!
- Other: Someone who'd done lots of service was asked "why should we have to change anything"... answer: to keep the people in General Service busy!

Andy: Was very surprised by the meeting we had to discuss this. My group (*Waterfront*) has many young people, who overwhelmingly supported the change. Another group felt strongly it shouldn't be changed, because no compelling reason to do so. People did not seem particularly invested in their opinion and were willing to be in favor or against... if others were.

Teddy: This is area assembly business. We have plenty of time on this item. No sense of urgency: there are no emergencies in AA!

Visiting Officer Presentation

Padee McC (Alternate Delegate, CNCA): So excited to tell you about inventory, what we do next. General Service sometimes feels like we do nothing for a long time, but really we just move a bit slower than our other fellows. We affect AA as a whole, so have to be more methodical; not as autonomous as, say, teleservice or intergroup.

During inventory, I take notes and personalize it. Ask myself: "gee, what part of this applies to me?... Am I not being the best GSR and being a buddy to someone else? How can I improve?"

Remember as DCMC that I sat there so excited about changes I knew I could make within myself. Happens with every inventory that we do. Little things you can change right away within yourself or your subdistrict. Take action personally! Be more friendly, show up earlier, maybe stay later? Take that inventory and make a list of things you feel the district can work on, area can work on... do we have to throw motions at them? Not necessarily... can discuss in meetings at various levels (subdistrict, district, officers'). Maybe make it a topic? Point is: talk about it! Get everyone's idea. Find out if people are interested, or if it was well thought out. Asking about concerns/changes is a great way to go, because you flesh out what works and what **needs** work. Always collect ideas before any motion. Share your ideas with your sponsor/service sponsor.

Thing about General Service is we rotate, rotate, rotate. None are perfect or the "best ever" at our job. This job is crazy; learning so much, feels like a treadmill. Rotation keeps you on your toes. Your ideas are awesome: discuss and take action! "emergencies" in AA are: coffee pot is broken, meeting room door isn't open. Everything else should take time to solve. Service manual asks: "Is this service really necessary?". Ask yourself.

Sometimes there's a 10th step. Last panel, people complained that nobody had time to participate at the pre-conference assembly. People came up to the mic about it during "What's On Your Mind", and at area meetings. Went to the delegates, shared their ideas/concerns/proposed changes and said "let's try it". A 10th step works!

Discussion of Proposed Preamble Change (continued)

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AI: Do we vote as our groups vote, not just our personal opinion?

Karen: Right of decision means we can go to the assembly with an open mind, change our vote based on what we're hearing, not just what our group said. We are trusted to do right by AA, doesn't mean blindly copy our group. Can go back to them and explain why we changed vote.

AI: Where is the ultimate final vote where this gets decided?

Karen: At the conference. We carry the conscience to Ken, who goes to New York.

Teddy: This is assembly business. If we pass a motion at the assembly, then our delegate would bring it to the appropriate committee/GSO staff member, start process of this maybe becoming an agenda topic. Several layers by which motions are evaluated. Only some show up as topics.

Karen: The books that come out after the conference will show what advisory actions were taken, procedural administrativia, etc. Read them to see how it works!


Brad: I agree the preamble should be changed, but "people of all ages" puts specific emphasis on age. Lots of issues of inclusion, not just age. Why not just the word "alcoholics" or some other more neutral phrase or word?

Alex: My group asked where this came from. Recalled that the member who brought it up was someone who switched it up on his own and noticed some young people look up and pay attention. It could help attract young people who aren't engaging in AA. When I said that, the discussion changed... was interesting to see more people lean towards "let's leave it alone, then".

Elizabeth: My group was opposed. Felt it wasn't inclusive enough. Suggested "people".

7th Tradition

Meeting from the Hat

Ruby S  *Came to Park* is a really great meeting Saturday nights @ 7PM. Lots of parking: don't have to worry! Step/tradition meeting. One week we do a step; next week a tradition. Speaker/discussion. Please come: good place to be on a Saturday night!

What's On Your Mind

Amber: Thanks for an excellent presentation on the forum, and thanks to Padee. Look around you for people with experience; they can answer your questions. Get phone numbers.

Wanted to see what came out of the anonymity discussion. Started with conversation between one person and their service sponsor, brought to district, then to area, then to NY. Recently the literature committee wrote Ken and said the committee is not going to do anything as formal as an agenda topic, because some anonymity issues are already being addressed in literature or by other committees. I then circled back to the person who originally generated the motion and she said "I just wanted people talking about it... And guess what: everyone is!".

Alex: Just wanted to thank Elizabeth for being an amazing literature person.

Magdalena: Think we still need to look at this preamble thing, make some kinda decision about it. Things have changed. It was a different time. I'm just looking at the preamble, not whole book.

Teddy gave a sample GSR report.

Closed with the Responsibility Statement