

SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL SERVICE, DISTRICT 6

General Service Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 10th, 2012

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

7:30-7:45: Sub-District Meeting

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

New GSRs: Patty B [REDACTED] (GSR: *Shamrocks and Serenity*), Antonio G [REDACTED] (GSR: *Mission Terrace*)
Alisa V [REDACTED] (GSR: *Wednesday High Noon*), Robin S [REDACTED] (Alternate GSR: *Raising the Bottom*)

Patty B [REDACTED] (GSR: *Shamrocks and Serenity*) **read Concept 1.**

Antonio G [REDACTED] (GSR: *Mission Terrace*) **read Tradition 1.**

Visitors: Carlton "Tony" R [REDACTED] (CNCA Literature/Grapevine/La Viña Chair), Bruce K [REDACTED]

Birthdays: Robin McG [REDACTED] (GSR: *Surf Group*), 5 years. Al G [REDACTED] (Alternate GSR: *Serenity Seekers*), 10 years. Ryan G [REDACTED] (GSR: *Cow Hollow Young Peoples*), 4 years. Ken K [REDACTED] (GSR: *Bernal Big Book*) 2 years

Susan W [REDACTED] (Mail Coordinator): If you are not receiving a packet via email or mail every month with the minutes/finances/agenda/etc., please talk to me after the meeting so I can get your address. I bring some printed copies to the meeting but they go very fast! Those of you who are officers, send me your report and I'll assemble it into this document. The purpose of this is so that the GSRs can get this report in a concise fashion and see what each officer has to say for the month.

A member volunteered to present on **Concept 2** next month.

Presentation of Concept 1:

Al G [REDACTED]: Some of you may be asking why am I wearing a towel. When I came in, I spilled a whole cup of tea on my white pants. Either the towel or my underwear! Now a two-minute presentation on Concept 1. Two parts: first part, just the facts, second part: my unique interpretation of concept 1.

After the groups were created, trustees came into fruition: person who administers affairs of an institution. Evolved by 1948 to the Alcoholic Foundation, in 1954 to General Service. Behind the scenes, the trustees were relying on two alcoholics for connection to AA as a whole: Bill and Bob. 1948, Bob got sick so everyone realized that they wouldn't last together. Movement began to transfer ultimate responsibility to AA as a whole. By 1955 at St. Louis Convention, goal was achieved. Concept 1 rooted in Tradition 2, now part of AA. Those are the facts.

Now my unique interpretation: One thing I do with my sponsees is look at character defects; prime story I use is Bill's story: probably as big an ego as anyone in the history of the world! In concept 1, we see that Bill thought he was connection between trustees and all of the fellowship. What I try to show sponsees/learn from myself is that ego/character defect is where the program can do good. Bill helped to create AA, helped create the Big Book, created the 12 concepts. Ego, or more specifically character defects, can resolve with the program something positive/good. Second thing I want to point out is what I need with my program. First thing that attracted me when I came in was the anarchistic principles I saw in the rooms. Came from a world where I wanted nothing to do with government/society, wanted to smoke crack and give a middle finger to authority. Even reading concept 1, saw that ignorance, apathy, or seeking of power would cause service structure to fail. Applied that principle to society, gave me something to connect with in AA. Points out that because of our programs, we are moral and responsible

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enough to have right purpose and collective intelligence. When I use my program, I too can have right purpose/collective intelligence in my life. Thank you!

Approval of minutes: *Approved.*

Approval of financials: *Approved.*

Teddy: At 7:30-7:45 in the next room, we have a subdistrict meeting which is where we discuss topics useful to GSRs. We discussed agenda. If you're interested, see me after the meeting.

Archives Presentation:

Brad W (District 6 Archivist, GSR: *Tuesday Newcomers*): When I came into AA, was in pretty desperate straits. Had no thoughts about how AA would keep track of decisions/history. All I knew is that there were meetings where I could go to get help/relief from my obsession. Took a number of years before I had any sense how AA was organized. Groups have to keep records of their decisions, principles they work on. Bill W. started realizing there was a need to have archives to keep record of decisions made at GS conference, committees, and so forth. Percolated around until 1975, when GSO set up an Archives department/committee. Pretty extensive archives. Contains original records/personal papers of founders, other early members, also committee records/decisions/etc. When someone raises a really bright idea, archivist can go in and see if anything done on that topic before... any decisions, recommendations, so we don't veer off in different directions?

Website of national archives states: *"Historical records help us to sift through our day-to-day experience in recovery and reach back for the shared experience from the past. As we sort out the myth from the facts, we ensure that our original message of recovery, unity and service remains the same in a changing, growing, expanding Fellowship that constantly renews itself."*

These records help us stay on point in our message. Fundamentally, archives is about carrying the message. Our district has an archives: 193 Mayhew Way, Walnut Creek. Two file drawers at area archives. Two rooms, one w/ file drawers, other is display room, filled with original materials, first editions of books, other literature, photos, etc. What we collect are typically personal papers of important people who served on committees, administrative files/records, old meeting schedules, fliers for events. Fun to look at cards for old yearly fundraiser dance. Newsletters, meetings, group histories, audio recordings/interviews. Books/publications about AA. Many levels of archives. New York has big, well-organized archive. Each of the areas has an archive. For our area, each of the districts have archives. Other organizations, such as Central Office, Living Sober, H+I, ICYPAA, several others also keep records. Lots of material out there. Bill saw it as important to have to preserve true history/information, that AA would not be seen as a cult. Factual records are there from which true history can be written.

Brad presented items on the table:

- Set of photos, Bill W. standing with managers of a recovery farm
- Ebby Thatcher, Bill W's sponsor
- Photocopy of Anne Smith's phone book from the 1930's
- Minutes of the Mission Dolores group from the 1940's
- Meeting schedule from 1954
- Photo from SF AA retreat in Tahoe, 1940's
- ... and more!

I'd like to hand out these Group History Forms, ask each of you to take back to your group, fill out w/ information about your group's history.

Peter M (CNCA Archivist): Brad did a great job of talking about what we do in archives. I help with preservation, cataloging materials. Brought along copies of that 1954 schedule. Some

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of those groups represented here tonight. Friday All Groups used to be a function of Central Office; when AA first started, fellowship was much smaller and All Groups only Friday-night meeting. Idea that everybody would go to that meeting, so fellowship could have unity. Schedule was for San Mateo, Marin, and SF. SF office was at that time the central office for most of Northern California. Other thing I brought is history of our area by a past delegate, Dean Kirkham. Delegate in the 1980's; took upon himself to write history of our area. SF fellowship figures prominently in history, important, essential part of development of AA. Whenever history written, some folks will have problems with it. If you talk to New York about AA history, refer you back to this Dean K. history of which I've brought a copy. Members here that were around during that time, some will say "wasn't exactly like that"/"it was like this"/etc. Read a lot of it, pretty innocuous, great service done for the area. He went through a lot of material. His notes+records are at our archive. We've brought fliers for Central Office anniversary party which will be at the end of January. Opportunity to get together and celebrate our history.

Bruce K (Past Central Office Manager, member of Central Office Archives Committee): Looking around the room, I think I'm the only person who's older than AA. Born in 1929. Both our founders were drunk as hell back then. Our Big Book came out in April of 1939, and that same month the people back in NY were having trouble. Had all these books stacked up in a warehouse and didn't know what to do with them/how to sell them. Somebody suggested himself as a person that could sell them. Name was Morgan. Hadn't been in AA very long; said he knew Gabriel Heatter, nationwide radio commentator. Morgan was having trouble staying sober, AA decided they needed to make sure he was sober before his interview; imprisoned him at the New York athletic club for a few days before. By the time he came on the show, he was good and ready. Have the transcript here. He gave his pitch. One woman who was listening at the time, Mrs. Gordon Oram. Lived out on Duboce Park. Had a tenant who was a terrible drunk. Thought if she could get that book, maybe it would help her tenant. Wrote away for it. Her name and other names came into the NY office from people who had heard the Heatter program, or read the Oursler article in Liberty. Asked how can we get the book/get involved/etc. In November of that year, NY office sent someone out to SF, stayed at the Cliff hotel. Had a list of names of people who had written. Got 4 of them together, told them about AA and how it works. Then they got on the phone and called other people from the list. Decided they would have to have a meeting! Next month they had their first meeting at Mrs. Oram's house on 51 Potomac. We now have a plaque there: site of first AA meeting on the west coast. Just before Christmas 1939. By that time, had Akron, New York, Cleveland, Chicago. SF was 5th big city to have an AA group going. Only stayed at 51 Potomac for a short time. Ended up on 1700 Stockton. One of the group founders, Ted, told them "you don't have to pay too much attention to that God stuff"; ever since, we have been a more humanistic and non-religious AA than Los Angeles, for instance, where they really play up the religious side of things.

Read transcript of Heatter interview. (avail: <http://hindsfoot.org/wcoast1.pdf>)

Visiting Area Officer Presentation

Tony R (CNCA Literature/Grapevine/La Vifa Chair): Was asked to come here and speak on "Am I Available". Am I available? I am available! First questions you start thinking about when you get into General Service. You go to area assembly, personal issue: have to ask yourself: can I do this? Am I qualified? You probably aren't. I know I wasn't! Heard at an assembly: "God doesn't choose the qualified. He qualifies the chosen!". Watch what you say to the people that have been here for a while. My friend, Bob K, past delegate says "just make yourself available and see what happens". Cool thing that happens is you're not running for anything. When you friend wins, cool. Be happy that your friend won. When you're a GSR, you can volunteer your group, your group gets to grow. You grow closer together in process of this group. When I volunteer me for something, means I gotta show up and do a job. When I volunteer my group, hey: bring friends along, new people I don't know, sponsees. When you volunteer your group/district or something, then your district may grow in unification. I know that my group, "Love and Service", someone's always volunteering for something. Now we're going to do

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something with NCCAA, literature table at the San Ramon. Wanted to stay home and do something else, but the group volunteered, I'm part of the group, I'm going to go. Put in a couple of hours at that thing. What we do in GS: Think about it, talk about it, talk about it some more. Eventually we'll actually make a decision! Hopefully you'll make your decision before the thing happens. Have heard of groups finally make their decision after the event finishes. Before I leave here, a couple of things. If you volunteer for the is forum.. bring your radios. Without your radio, you only get half the message. Glorious thing to be able to hear everything. More I listen, the more I grow. Hardest thing to me was to listen to you. Waited for you to pause for a breath so I could talk again. Used to know everything, now I don't even know the questions. Decisions to make: do you want to be of service? Do you want to grow? Up to you, thanks.

Election: Literature Person

Karen: Coffee commitment people had offered to take over literature, but important to have a full-time person available to take on that commitment. (*read description*).

A 3rd legacy procedure was conducted. Diane G [redacted] and Alisa [redacted] made themselves available. Karen suggested that we allow them to share the commitment, so moved by Rich Guard, approved by acclamation.

District Business: Local Organizing Committee (vote)

Item: That District 6 send a representative to the local forum organizing committee

Approved.

Election: Representative to Local Forum Organizing Committee

A 3rd legacy procedure was conducted. Alex [redacted] Ingrid S [redacted] Robin McG [redacted] made themselves available. Alex was elected in the second round with 33 votes.

District Business: Food (discussion)

Mike S [redacted] (GSR: *Artists and Writers*): We had been talking about adding some component of fellowship to the GSR meeting. Had been discussing having food at this meeting, prior to the district meeting. Half hour gap before the actual meeting; why not have food? Could do potluck style, or a little more structured, like we order pizza.

Nikki: Would this be based on voluntary contributions, potentially having a separate basket, or would it come out of our budget?

Mike: Idea is to make it solely voluntary.

Dan: Could make a huge difference in working well together.

Karen: What can we learn from the IFB process? How do they do it?

Alejandro: One person would be in charge. Would delegate to volunteers for next month: one person for salad, one person to Costco, one person to carry to meeting, etc.

Nikki: Would the food person be responsible for holding on to money, or the treasurer?

Karen: Would definitely keep it separate from the general meeting. We do not expect our groups to feed us.

Nikki: Could also get a volunteer who's willing to coordinate this, allow them to try something next

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month on a trial basis. See how it goes.

Mike: Start as a potluck, maybe, assess interest and involvement. Then maybe later we can make it a little more formal. Potluck is easiest.

Andy: Important to have someone spearhead it who's very enthusiastic. Kind of a big job. Potluck strikes me as very unlikely to work on a regular basis.

Ian: One way in which potluck might backfire is that people are more willing to pay money for food than to bring food. What IFB will do is ask for a volunteer for salad and desert for the following month, usually get Costco lasagna: vegetarian and non-vegetarian. No consistent vegan option; so much enthusiasm for it, not sure why... We could ask Maury at Central Office how to do it. Just works well.

David: My experience with something like this is generally through my church. One thing I found effective is they do a thing where it's on a sliding scale. Wouldn't want to take it out of our coffers, which is a little questionable for me... not sure the groups in SF are giving us money to feed ourselves. Takes about 4-5 people to successfully pull off.

Ingrid: Lots of meetings I went to in LA had a spread of food. Food is love and sharing! Never heard anything negative about food at a meeting. Don't think there's a negative aspect to it. Been done at thousands of meetings before. Sure if it's something we want to do we'll figure out how to do the logistics. Maybe if we don't have enough money to cover it, we can pass the basket.

Election: Representative to send to PRAASA

A 3rd legacy procedure was conducted. Sean [redacted], Greta O'R [redacted], Kristina [redacted], Jackie B [redacted], Rich G [redacted], Antonio G [redacted], Cheryl [redacted] and David [redacted] made themselves available. Cheryl was elected in the 4th round with 28 votes.

7th Tradition

What's On Your Mind:

Shawn M [redacted] (GSR, *Sesame Step*): Just got an iPhone, tried to download the Big Book and it didn't work. Can anyone help me?

Elizabeth B [redacted]: Wanted to mention a brand new pamphlet, hot off the presses. Published in August, Central Office just got them. "AA for the Alcoholic with Special Needs". How alcoholics with disabilities can get access to AA. Guy in SF has a story in this book. Wanted to mention that to you. Pamphlet here on the table. Thank you!

Magdalena: Two quick announcements. Living Sober has auditions for the musical coming up, January 14th, 10 AM-12 PM at the Unitarian Church. Also, the last Saturday of the month, 9PM at the Castro Country Club, birthday celebration, and I'm 28 years sober this month. All of you come and join us! If you have a birthday, you can add that and take some cake. Lot of fun, thank you.

Brad W [redacted]: Group history forms... either return them at the next meeting, or send them to me by email. My address:

[redacted]

Jackie B [redacted] (GSR: *Marina Discussion*): *Home Group* nearly lost its space due to dogs in the church area. Churches are actually allowed to not allow service dogs into their spaces. If it

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becomes an issue with your group, if you're in a religious facility that doesn't want animals, and you have members that do want to bring their animals, the church can legally exclude service dogs. What *Home Group* has been doing is announcing it, but also offering to help members find another meeting to go to.

David K [redacted] *Living Sober* is a conference for GLBT, everyone's welcome. 4th of July weekend, will be the 1st-3rd this year. Local contest, happening right now, if you know a budding artist who would like to submit a logo, submit to art@livingsober.org. Going to choose that logo this Sunday. Registration currently open, presently \$50 to register. Register online at www.livingsober.org. Registration at time of conference will be \$70. Worthwhile to register in advance. Going to be at the Park55 at Powell St. station. Phenomenal room rate of \$165.

Teddy gave a sample GSR report.

Meeting from the Hat:

Shawn K [redacted] (*Sesame Step*): One thing I learned in AA is to be honest, and honestly I don't really know the origins of Sesame Step. What I do know is that we used to meet in Noe Valley and now we meet at the Womens Building at 7PM. Format is we have a speaker come in and talk about a step. Every 4th Tuesday we read a tradition.

The meeting recognized Elizabeth B [redacted] *exemplary service as Literature Person.*

Closed with the Responsibility Statement