

**SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL SERVICE, DISTRICT 6**

**General Service Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 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**

**7:30-8:00: Sub-District Meeting**

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

**Therese M** (GSR: *Friendly Circle*) **read Tradition 2.**

**Sam L** (Alternate GSR: *Reality Farm*) **read Concept 2.**

**New GSRs:** Sam L (Alternate GSR: *Reality Farm*), Michael N (GSR: *Gay Men's Stag*)

**Visitors:** Richard H (Panel 61 CNCA Recording Secretary), Margaret J Chair, SF/Marin Intergroup)

**Birthdays:** Cheryl P (5 years), Jill G (3 years)

**Antonio G** volunteered to present on **Concept 3** next month.

**Presentation of Concept 2:**

**Richard** volunteered to read *Concept 2*.

**Richard H:** This is where Bill W. turned it over to the groups. It's your conference; you run it. Article 12 of charter requires that any changes to 12 steps/traditions require  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote of all of AA. Highly doubt anything's going to change in either! Concept is quite astonishing in the power it gives to the conference. Maintenance, taking care of the World Services: Grapevine, everything disseminated overseas, publishing entities, etc. People don't know what AA really has; not just a little group you came into. All of you have been GSRs/DCMs: you know what AA is. These books don't just get published by themselves. Turn it over to the conference to tell those people who are running things, those people who we hired, what to do.

**Andy T** (Intergroup Liaison): PI/CPC is a committee of our IFB, and they are still looking for a chair. Committee meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month; next meeting will be March 12<sup>th</sup>, at Central Office at 7PM. If you are interested or know someone who may be, talk to us. Thanks!

**Approval of minutes:** *Approved.*

**Financials Presentation**

**Alex P** (Treasurer): We sent \$697.53 to CNCA; got a letter thanking us. You'll notice that January we collected quite a bit of money; that's typical because you have a lot of treasurers terming out. Don't expect as much for February.

**Approval of financials:** *Approved.*

**Intergroup Presentation**

**Margaret J** (Chair, SF/Marin Intergroup): Only attended my first General Service meeting last month. GSR: lots of layers. With Intergroup, the structure stops at just us. There's no larger service body. You may notice we're referred to as Intergroup now, not IFB, which was our name last year. Originally served SF, San Mateo, East Bay, up to Petaluma. Only one for miles around. Over years, those have split off and it's just SF and Marin. Structure has still existed though. Just one board of directors, and 75-person board not best way to be organized. We were having to discuss all these business matters at group level. How do we file taxes?

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Change business name? Was not effective. This administrivia did not get people excited, took time away from focus on committees and other work we do as Intergroup. Besides running Central Office, we also have a lot of service committees, where groups come together, and hopefully get people involved. Examples: Access Committee, Archives Committee, 12-Step Committee, SF Teleservice. Really we want to get people involved in those, not have people glaze over at business paperwork. Last year we passed a whole new set of bylaws and are now structured much like intergroups in other parts of the country. New structure: large membership, smaller board of directors. Under new bylaws, completely up to groups how they want to structure their intergroup service position, instead of being defined by 2-year terms, with required attendance and rotation. Now it's up to the groups. They can set sobriety requirement, level of participation they want to have. Big change. Moving business stuff out of the main meeting into smaller board of directors meeting. A year ago, we were discussing privacy policies and conflict of interest policies and having to have this whole group go over them at group level: were so bored! Now we can discuss more interesting issues. Every month we go over the committees, really trying to get people up and running and involved. Personal experience is that if you're not participating in a committee or doing something else, it becomes boring really quick and you don't like it. Once I got involved it was super fun and I made lots of friends and enjoyed doing it. Also trying to move as many services online as possible. Moved group contributions online last year, really handy if you're a treasurer. Order literature online, it'll be ready to pick up. Super easy. Also expanding hours Central Office is open, for those who have a literature commitment but find it hard to come by because of a regular job. Very fortunate in SF that we actually get most of our operating budget from group contributions, don't depend on literature sales. Income from literature is a small percent of our income, and we're able to sell the books at cost. Lots of intergroups don't have that luxury, sell the Big Book for \$12 and that's how they make that money. General Service will be selling literature directly now, threatens a lot of intergroups' bottom lines but won't make an appreciable dent on us. Because we interface with General Service more than your typical intergroup, we've been making inquiries from New York about how they will price/make available literature. Meetings are the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month at 7PM. Every 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting is in Marin. Saturday hours will be 10AM-2PM starting in March. Monday nights we'll only be open till 6PM.

**Visiting Area Officer Presentation**

**Richard H** (Panel 61 CNCA Recording Secretary): Pre-conference assembly is the only one that's two days. Up in Lakeport this year. The roads are kinda treacherous heading up to Lake County. Twisty/windy. Think about setting up your reservations to stay overnight. How many people going to the assembly? (show of hands). How many been to an assembly? (show of hands). Same number. You all know how to register, right? Register at tables w/ your district, for voting purposes. How will you find your groups? Got those little signs but they're not always visible. Reserve at least two tables and get them close to the microphone! If you want to give your group conscience to the delegate, you want to be up there first to give your conscience. If you've heard what you're about to say already, please don't say it... so be the first! Breakfast will be served in the morning for you. Suggest you get there early, mingle. Set of lights we use when we start discussion on Agenda Topics. People say how rude that is! Some that go up for the first time get offended by it! We set them for 2 minutes initially, but it changes... could go as short as 1+1/2 minutes. When you start talking, green light comes on: go! Introduce yourself and your group quickly. Then use the time to say what needs to be said: you can say a lot in 1+1/2-2 minutes. Yellow light: halfway through. Red light: everyone starts clapping, and they won't stop clapping until you sit down. Not a congratulation that you're doing a good job and we like what you're saying: no, shut up and sit down! If we gave everybody in this room 2 minutes (I counted 40), that's 80 minutes. I'd be here for an hour and a half listening to you guys, minimum. Just for this district. That's why we've adopted this process of the lights; borrowed from PRAASA. They really like to talk a lot! Reason we do it is a time factor; want everyone to be heard. We want the minority and the majority opinion. The lights seem to be working. Dinner Saturday night, with a speaker. Need to reserve for that. Think I got everything covered. Thank you!

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**Mike B** [REDACTED] Not everyone gets a chance at the microphone, but you can write your group conscience down and drop it in a box at the table so your delegate can read it later.

**Therese M** [REDACTED] If I'm unable to attend, how can I make sure my group's conscience is heard?

**Richard:** You can give your conscience to your DCM.

**Karen:** You can also email to me, or hand me a written conscience. If you have an alternate, you can also have your alternate get up there as well.

**Al G** [REDACTED]: Where do Area topics come from?

**Richard:** The conference board, trustees, non-trustees, got together two weeks ago to decide what we're going to have.

**Craig S** [REDACTED]: Are those available on a website?

**Richard:** Confidential; don't put on our website. As a committee we're looking at having our newsletters, comments put on the website, but we're not there yet. Agenda topics are confidential and won't be available to the general public.

**Karen:** We will email to you guys as soon as we have it. Background materials come to the area chair. Those guys meet and decide what, from the background material, will be provided as a description for the groups. But I will have the whole background on any topic if you're interested and want more detail. If you can take a few of those topics and discuss with your group to discuss, that's a big deal. When I was a GSR, I would pick 5 to discuss and emailed my group, asking if anyone's interested. Ended up going to the assembly with 7 topics. There's a lot though: 40-70 at least. Probably won't get the material until the area meeting two Saturdays from now, will work on it over the weekend and come to us the following Tuesday, already the very beginning of March. Susan will mail it out to you guys, confidentially.

**Report on July 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> local forum**

**Alex P** [REDACTED] We have a lot of districts participating. In October 2006, concept of local forums approved by the General Service Board. Any service committee may request a local forum. Expenses assumed by local forum committee.

Today, local forum planning committee has a great theme: Recovery, Unity, Service. Approved a registration fee of \$25/attendee to help cover estimated budget of \$4,505. Leftover funds will be returned to those who have contributed seed money. Have secured a space with seed money from Districts 17,18,19, and personal contribution from chair to secure space. Location is Bayshore Comm. Center, 450 Martin St. in Daly City. Have fliers in English and Spanish, and approved 1<sup>st</sup> day's agenda topics. Will be the 1<sup>st</sup> time a local forum has sponsored a dance. Will be open till at least 10, and open later if we have the money. Districts 16,17,18,19,20 are Spanish-speaking districts. Open to all members of AA and there will be simultaneous translation, so bring your FM radio.

*Alex moved that District 6 contribute \$200 in seed money to the local forum. It passed unanimously.*

**District Business: Food**

**Item:** *Does District 6 want to have food prior to the District meetings?*

**Karen:** Because this will be a big policy change and will affect us for some time, I would like us to have a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote, rather than a simple majority. Call that a small "t" tradition. Should we do 2/3<sup>rd</sup>,

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or simple majority?

*The group voted 18 to 13 to decide this question by a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority.*

*Motion to have food passed with 20 votes of 29.*

**Karen:** Next we'll set up an ad-hoc to discuss/investigate. Try to get this going and decide within a month's time how it's going to look and start having food before the meeting. Sign-up form on the table for those interested in participating.

**District Business: Assembly Bid**

**Karen:** There's no bids set for 2013, which is less than a year away. Most of us won't be here unless we take another commitment, so we want to talk about how it's going to affect the next panel.

**Ingrid:** What's required is, for starters, the money to rent the space. Extra money on top of that, for parking, security, etc. If it's just a regular assembly, it's 1 day on a Saturday, from 8:30-4:30 or something like that, maybe 5. We would have to find a space that could hold about 400 people. Space we had for our assembly was a little bit small and cumbersome, but it made it really cozy and I think made everyone pay attention! You can sometimes wander off at assemblies, I know I have. In SF it was a challenge to find a space that large that also provided parking. Would need to form a committee that would be able to do that. Facility that we had seemed a little ambivalent about having us there, almost that they didn't want us there. Don't think it was our fault; think they had prior not-so-great experiences with people having events there. We have to provide breakfast, lunch and dinner. There is a meeting and a dinner the night before. We could have some autonomy with that, maybe turn that night before into something else. Would require a dinner that is paid for by the people who come to it. Can do it at a restaurant if you can find one that will serve that many people. Don't know if that place exists in San Francisco! The area pays for the assembly: rent, extra charges, etc. There is a budget for food, and for decorations.

Will take a lot of volunteers. Don't just come from GSR. I had a great crew with our last assembly. A group of enthusiastic girls who probably 6 months prior would never have imagined they'd be working on something like that. It is an opportunity to get people familiar with and interested in GSR who aren't members.

**Chesterfield S** [REDACTED]: On the one hand, will we be overly dominant since we just did one? And on the other hand, will we not be carrying our end by NOT making a bid?

**Alex:** How will the handoff work, if we decide that we want to do this but we hand it off to another panel?

**Ingrid:** Actually, last year's assembly was voted on by the previous panel. And there's always a group of people who get started early, scouting the space, etc.

**Craig:** We share a central office with Marin, and they have more wide-open spaces. Could approach the Marin district and maybe co-sponsor one.

**Ingrid:** All I will say is Too Many Cooks.

**Diane:** Just want to point out how difficult and expensive it is to find a suitable place in San Francisco. Mike and I looked at a lot of places. Parking, particularly, is difficult.

**Mark R** [REDACTED]: How popular is San Francisco as a place to come for an assembly, compared to other places? I've been to most of the last few assemblies and they've been fairly well-attended.

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**Ingrid:** I think we broke a record last year for an inventory assembly, so I would imagine having the assembly in San Francisco would help.

**David K** [REDACTED] We are doing service to the area by providing a central location.

**Alisha B** [REDACTED]: Do we actually have to host it in San Francisco, or can we do it somewhere cheaper?

**Teddy:** We can host an assembly anywhere. Doesn't necessarily have to be in the city. Last one we hosted with District 16 and did out on the southern border of the city. We could experiment with other locations. We need to be prudent with the money the area spends, but the area also recognizes that different areas have different expenses. The pre-conference assembly in Marin a few years ago was very expensive, but the area thought it was important that we go to Marin county to have an assembly. They recognize the value of having an assembly in a particular location, even if it's more expensive.

**David:** What we're talking about doing is putting in a bid. Not talking about saying "yes we're going to do it" and then have to do it. We put it into the area, and they might not necessarily say yes. Might say "we can't afford that", or "somebody else is going to do it". We're just deciding to say that we're willing.

**Announcement:**

**Brad K** [REDACTED] (Liaison, H+I, GSR, *Sunday Rap*): At our last meeting we discussed maybe passing the H+I can and the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition in opposite directions, to keep them separate. We're up to 68 groups that have H+I reps, up from 0 a year and a half ago. Contributions in December 2011 were up 70% from the year before. However, 2010 donations were extremely low. We decided to increase our prudent reserve. We're voting on new meetings, including into Walden House. This is a big deal. First time we're bringing meetings there. Starting with one day a week, three days a week soon. Secretary slots go pretty quickly. 850 Bryant needs secretaries, or we'll lose opportunities there. Don't have enough people to go in and do those meetings. Really critical place for an alcoholic to go there and carry the message that you don't have to end up in places like 850 Bryant any more. Have to have 2 years sobriety and pass a pretty extensive background check. Guy named DK is in charge of that program, can get ahold of him through Central Office. Meeting is last Thursday of the month at 1851 Sacramento.

**Assembly Business: Preamble**

**Karen:** Would like to be able to report what, as a district, we think about that change. Let's see how many are in favor of changing that.

**Mark R** [REDACTED]: We discussed this at my meeting for 2 months. 11 in favor, 8 against, and all very strong opinions. I could go either way, but I'm not sure everyone else is feeling that good about it.

**Teddy:** I really like the intent of this motion, which is to, as I read it, make AA more welcoming. But I think it's a case of the good being the enemy of the best. Only really attaches to one element of how we can make AA more welcoming. And for that reason, if I had a vote I would vote against it. Not because I don't think it's well-intentioned, but simply that it doesn't really go far enough. Could really be worded far better.

**Brad K** [REDACTED]: Generally for my group, the conscience was 2/3<sup>rd</sup> against the change, again like Teddy said people agreed with the intent but not the language.

*Karen decided not to pursue this as a matter of district conscience.*

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**7<sup>th</sup> Tradition**

**What's On Your Mind:**

**Teddy:** The agenda topics workshop is coming up on March 17<sup>th</sup>. There is a flyer, will be emailed out to everybody. Over at Urban Life Center from 1PM-4:15PM. Please make a note of it in your schedules. Will be a wonderful afternoon. Our former delegate Sharon will be there and talk about what the delegate will need to know. Jeff will talk about Group Conscience 101. We'll do a mock sharing session, and there'll be cake!

**David:** I do some liaison work with us for the *Living Sober* conference. *Living Sober* is a conference here in SF for LGBT people. There is a fundraiser, AA/AI-Anon meeting at Most Holy Redeemer. Go to the website to find out the details. This coming Saturday will be "Anonymous Idol". Meeting at 7, show starts at 8. All are welcome. Sort of a talent show, and you get to vote. If there are people in your group who have never been on the steering committee for Living Sober, we're looking for people to join the advisory board. Gotten kind of small, need more input from the community. Contact [advisoryboard@livingsober.org](mailto:advisoryboard@livingsober.org)

**Alex:** My finance committee is me and Robin. We need more people. If you love to talk about money and what we do with it, talk to Robin, who's not here tonight... join our finance committee so we can have a great budget to pass on to the next treasurer.

**Craig:** Alex found a really cool place that has cottages. If you're going to the pre-conf assembly, we found a 3-bedroom cottage, worked out at a great price.

**Meeting from the Hat (of sorts):**

**Sam L** (Alternate GSR, *Reality Farm*): Really nice group. Lot of regulars. Nice, homey feel there. Good vibes. Come on down and check it out!

**Teddy** gave a sample GSR report.

**Closed with the Responsibility Statement**