

SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL SERVICE, DISTRICT 6

General Service Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 12th, 2012

7:00-7:30: 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.**

Jessica J (GSR: *The Leaky Cauldron*) **read Tradition 6.**

Julie F (GSR: *Smoke Free*) **read Concept 6.**

New GSRs: Jessica J (GSR: *Leaky Cauldron*), Paul K (GSR: *Say Hey Group*), Rod Od (Alternate GSR: *Sometimes Slowly*), Amy D (Alternate GSR: *There is A Solution*), Lauren A-V (GSR: *Embarcadero Group*), Julie F (GSR: *Smoke Free*)

Birthdays: Shawn M 3 years. Riaz A 2 years. Alisa V 3 years.

Visitors: Augustin L (CNCA Assembly Coordinator)

Presentation of Concept 6:

Ken K (GSR: *Bernal Big Book*): The trustees, these men and women possess professional financial skills, so vital to help the alcoholic who still suffers and spread the message of AA. We forget there is huge infrastructure that needs taking care of. AAWS, including publishing and PR, is huge. Trustees are also AA's bankers, and oversee large reserve funds. Lot of authority and leadership given to them. Objective always a spiritual one, even when focusing on business. How to act? Much like directors of large corporation. Manage and conduct business. Not like an institution or government, where administration of policy/business is less flexible. Also less traditional than corporate model. Groups are the stockholders. Delegates are the representatives/proxy, trustees directors of the holding company, the GS board. Owns/controls subsidiaries. When we think of our trustees, our leaders are but trusted servants: do not govern.

Approval of minutes: *Approved.*

Approval of financials: *Approved.*

Rich G (Liaison: PI/CPC): We hold a quarterly workshop. How many here have had a DUI? While going through system, did you attend a DUI class? No? Well, people here in SF that do PI/CPC take AA to DUI classes. Talk about what AA is/isn't. Also speak to high schools, city college, USF, SF State, other interested people. Not recruiting; this is public information. Not about identification with speaker: about providing public with info about what AA is/isn't. Many misconceptions. If something you'd like to do, there'll be a workshop on July 14th.

Election: District Registrar

Teddy read the job description and presented on the 3^d legacy procedure.

Mike S (GSR: *Artists and Writers*): How much work?

Karen: Can take up to a couple hours a month. Not that big of a time crunch, but need to be consistent and show up to every district meeting. Some cross-checking of data involved. Don't need a car, we give you a computer and you just carry that. Also important to get to Fall Assembly this year.

Lauren A - **made herself available and was elected by group acclamation.**

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Local Forum

Karen presented briefly on the local forum and passed around a dessert sign-up sheet.

Visiting Area Officer Presentation

Agustin L (CNCA Assembly Coordinator): June 23rd is the deadline for summer assembly topics. That's when the area committee meets. When I came to AA, I learned how to do a service commitment, because the AA group is where everything starts. Just came looking for help, didn't know what a group was. When I became a GSR, didn't know what to do. Had to learn what is that job, to connect my home group to the GSO. Didn't know what the area was doing. Became GSR out of curiosity. Sometimes the DCM or GSR would come to my home group and talk about area business. Thought "one day I will learn what they are doing". My home group was electing a GSR and alternate. Someone made himself available as a GSR, so I made myself available as an alternate. Then he disappeared suddenly and I had to step in. Did a year, was elected again the next panel. Didn't know the job. Received Box 459 from NYC, had a lot of information. Didn't know that these people spent their own time working for AA and meet quarterly. Every 3 months in New York they take positions and inform all the groups. If you didn't get Box 459, register online: you can get it for free. They have all the issues from years ago. Right after conference, they share information about recommendations, advisory actions. They approve/disapprove what they recommended. All in this little magazine. In service we must understand the 12+12, Traditions. Conference is result of all the work we do every year. If you do background, you can see that topics come from different areas. World Services is working all the time. Have motions which come to assemblies, like we're doing to change the Preamble. We delegate authority: they decide if something will be on the agenda. AA Comes of Age: very important book. All the information on how these people struggled during those years for us to have what we have today. Service Manual helped me very much when I was in GS. There's a chapter explaining every service position. What is an assembly? What is the conference structure? What does the conference/assembly do? Trustee? Conference charter explains that we work with Traditions, but for trustees they have legal responsibilities. That's what I share with you, thanks for attention and listening. Thanks for being in General Service!

Old Business: Food

Mike S (GSR: *Artists and Writers*) presented the motion.

Motion: That we purchase pizza before each meeting, and that each person that cares to participate provide \$5 to fund the purchase for the next meeting.

Mike: That will give us an expectation how many people will eat pizza next month. We'll buy a little extra just in case.

A show of hands was taken. The motion passed with no objections.

New Business: Bid Committee for Panel 63 Assembly

Karen: 3 assemblies are open next year, as well as 4 following. Anyone interested?

Ruby: If you're not going to be a GSR next year, is it OK to be on the committee?

Karen: Might want to think about being available for next panel. Be a GSR for another group, or take another job.

Agustin: First thing is to decide what assembly to bid for. Pre-conference is 2 days, rest are 1 day. Think about facility, etc. Pre-conference might draw 450 people.. Other assemblies 200-350 people.

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Karen: The Area works with us. They can help you out if you have any questions as you go along. Plus, we've done one recently so you can take a look at the papers from it.

David W Every assembly's had to follow guidelines set down by the Area.

Teddy: Two panels ago we bid for an assembly and went through the process. Lot of information for the bid committee if we decide to form one, to go back and see the work that was done, venues that were looked at.

Old Business: Web Committee Guidelines Approval

Show of hands: 28 in favor. 0 opposed. 10 abstaining. Passed.

Discussion Topic: How can our subdistrict structure better serve us?

Paul (GSR: *Say Hey Group*): Totally new to GS. Brought up subdistricts to our group, mentioned how we might cut down on numbers. Have no idea how they serve us, would like to know more.

David W (GSR: *Room to Grow*): Usefulness of subdistricts really depends on activity level of DCM. If your DCM wants to marshal resources/etc, they'll get a lot done. Subdistrict structure itself: if DCM doesn't make it matter, it doesn't matter. Needs a reason for it to matter. Noticed that at the basic level, unless there's some immediate lack of communication from GS to the member... unless we make it matter, it doesn't matter. Every Assembly has to follow.

Peter K (GSR: *Happy Hour, Subdistrict 290*): I was a DCM once, for subdistrict 265 in the Outer Richmond. Wasn't a single meeting but the one I went to that had a GSR. Went to the ones that I could. Some were all women, some were held during the day. Went to ones that I could, no interest in electing GSRs, kind of the end of that. This is why DCMs are important: DCMs vote at the Area meeting. Although we might not have many DCMs now, at some future date it might be important, might really want more votes at area committee meeting for some reason. I'd be strongly opposed to any motion like the one Marin is considering, to decrease the number of subdistricts. Would be better if we could have more DCMs so we could have more representation at the area meeting. In the meantime, we should keep the ones we have.

Nikki F Was speaking to one of the people in Marin spearheading the reduction in subdistricts. Pointed out how in SF we have 26 subdistricts, some have 2 meetings, some have double-digits that a DCM would be responsible for. Not just how many, but how they're distributed. Idea is to be that connection from GSO -> group. Work of the DCM to then inform the group what GSR is and what work of GSR is, to get them involved in GS. Plenty of groups that may not have a GSR, this room's not at capacity and we have hundreds of meetings in SF.

Teddy: Some recent history. I first came here during panel 55, came in at this time of year with 6 months left of the panel. There was one DCM functioning in district 6. 24 subdistricts, one DCM. Don't know what went on in the other 23, but no DCM. In panel 57, there were 2 functioning DCMs. In panel 59, started with 8 and ended with 3. Only districts with lots of meetings even have subdistricts. Purpose: that GSRs can communicate with someone rather than everyone going to the DCMC. When I think "is this structure serving us", something's wrong, somewhere. Lot of GSRs don't have a DCM to go to.

Brad K (GSR: *Sunday Rap*): Reading our meetings from last month when we were talking about this. Historically, subdistricts were for larger counties where people were really spread out. Don't know if we need that many, would be in favor of reduction.

Karen: I was a DCM. I found out a lot of groups were rotating treasurers a lot (or not at all), weren't being accountable for money. Got people to learn about spirit of rotation and

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responsibility. Pissed people off, it was scary, but changes happened and money got donated to central office. One thing we voted for DCMs was that district would help pay for rides. Having district help support it, help support drive to Petaluma so you can go and vote there: that was a really good point. Great privilege to go to area meeting and vote.

Mike E (District 6 Treasurer): The amount of representation we have at the area committee meeting isn't as important as the breadth. DCMs are useful in making sure that everyone gets a chance to be heard. We should focus on underserved areas of the city, collecting consciences and promoting involvement in General Service. I would like to maybe be a DCM next panel.

Rich G (GSR: *Any Lengths Group*): Almost a 5th of SF meetings are held at the Dry Dock. Dry Dock is its own subdistrict. Anyone here represent a meeting at the Dry Dock? And there's a subdistrict 325 that represents the church at Post + Mason. Don't think there's meetings held there anymore. This is like any inventory: getting rid of unsalable goods. Let's take a look at how it's carved up and redetermine it.

Brad W Would be good to find out optimal number of meetings a DCM can work with. Maybe we could ask people who've done the job? We had 7 subdistricts for many years, then added 13 more, then added another 4 beyond that. Must've been reasons why we thought we needed to keep adding subdistricts.

Jon (GSR: *Friendly Circle Beginners*): I don't even know who my DCM is, don't even know how to find out. Might be good to re-evaluate every couple of years.

Meeting Presentations

David W: *Room to Grow* is Friday night @ Our Lady of Safeway. Really newcomer-heavy. If you and your sponsees are looking for sponsees, especially ladies, come see us. Lot of treatment centers nearby. Artificial nexus of treatment and newcomers just getting to know AA.

Paul K: *Say Hey Group* has a meeting every day from 6-7PM at 7th + Townsend, Old Ukrainian Church. Big space. Tuesday night, big speaker meeting. Monday: 12+12 discussion. Thursday: speaker. Friday: Big Book w/ fellowship. Wednesday night is a meditation

Jessica J: *The Leaky Cauldron* is a relatively new meeting that meets 9:30 AM on Sunday in a tea house. Tea is provided as part of our rent. Really intimate meeting, starts with 10 minutes of meditation. Mostly discussion format.

Julie F: *Smoke Free* meets Friday at 2900 24th St. Big meeting, very active, lots of newcomers.

Teddy gave a sample GSR report.

Closed with the Responsibility Statement