

**SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL SERVICE, DISTRICT 6**  
**General Service Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, June 11th, 2013**

**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**

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

**Paget V.** (GSR: *Bernal New Day*) **read Tradition 6.**  
**Rachel V.** (GSR: *Cow Hollow Young Peoples*) **read Concept 6.**

**New GSRs:** Sierra P. (GSR: *First Place*), Pyke B. (GSR: *Monday High Noon*), Alias D. (GSR: *Saturday High Noon*), Mike B. (GSR: *Hoodlum Haven*)

**Visitors:** David N. (Past CNCA Delegate, Panel 59)

**Birthdays:** Zane G., 27 years. Matt G., 10 years.

**Volunteer for Concept 7:** Ed McG.

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

**Amber:** Still don't have list of group contributions ready for you, but can get you information if you need. In our mailbox this month: Pax West sent \$51, extra revenue from their annual dinner.

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

**Teddy W. read the DCMC letter and asked for a show of hands for attending the Summer Assembly in Crescent City.**

**Andy T.** (Alternate DCMC): Want to thank the new GSRs who attended orientation today; anyone who hasn't, please see me after the meeting and talk about it, or join us next month @ 7.

**Larry D.** (Literature): When you come here for orientation, you get a service manual and stack of pamphlets. Then you'll register with New York, who will send you the same stuff (and more) in the mail. Would be great if you can bring your old book back once you get one from NY; we go through a lot of these. We have many extra copies of the report from last year's conference if you're interested.

**Ben W.** (Mail Coordinator): Didn't receive the email this month? Talk to Kristina, who manages the list, and the two of us will make sure you get the announcements you want.

**Kristina Z.** (Registrar): If you're a new GSR and haven't filled out the form yet, come see me after the meeting and we'll get you registered. Same if you've changed contact info, or are not getting the mailings (and should).

**Cheryl P.** (Intergroup Liaison): I have surveys from the Access Committee, asking about the accessibility of your meetings. You do not need an intergroup representative to participate. Also please remind your meetings that your secretary and treasurer should be registering with Central Office via <http://aasf.org>. You'll receive announcements and a copy of the Point. Only 8% of meetings have both commitments registered, 29% have one.

**Dave W.** (GSR: *Room to Grow*): We had a fabulous Founders' Day, and our online shopping app is now up and running. You can contribute (as individual or group), or shop for literature, pamphlets, chips, etc. via our website. Go to <http://shop.aasf.org>. Items can be shipped to your location, or picked up at Central Office.

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**Kristina Z.** (DCM: Subdistrict 360, Registrar) **presented on Concept 6:** Concept 6 deals with relationship between the GS Conference and the GS Board. Conference is in NY in April; all of our assemblies are scheduled around this conference: where delegates make decisions about AA as a whole. Board is composed of 14 "Class B" (alcoholic) trustees, and 7 "Class A" (non-alcoholic) trustees. Bill W., in writing Concept 6, said:

"Just as the A.A. groups find themselves unable to act decisively respecting world service affairs unless they delegate a great amount of active authority and responsibility to their Conference, so must the Conference in turn delegate a liberal administrative authority to the General Service Board, in order that its Trustees may act freely and effectively in the absence of the Conference itself."

Like all concepts, this one boils down to trust. As members of AA, we have the ability to have our voice heard and participate in decisions made about how AA as a whole works. Can express opinions on agenda topics @ group level, but have to trust our GSRs to communicate consciences to area delegates. Also must trust delegate to go to GS Conference and make best decisions for AA as a whole. Likewise, the conference must trust the board to take and carry out those decisions. Concept 6 gives the board wide latitude of judgment in action for carrying out those decisions. Responsible for all AA service activities (archives, CPC, treatment, special needs, finance/budget, literature, etc.) Bill W. explained that World Services = primarily a matter of policy and business. Spiritual aim can only be achieved by successful business operation. Board puts into action decisions made at conference so hand of AA is always there!

**Teddy:** Kristina wrote an article on Concept VI in this month's *The Point* – link is DCMC Letter.

**Mike B.** (Food Coordinator): Last month we were able to exceed the goals of what we needed to do. I need help to get this stuff here; can't do it all by myself. If someone can bring a couple of salads for me, I can reimburse. I can bring pizzas and chickens so we can continue to have that. Eventually expand it a little more.

*Kirk W. and Dave W. volunteered to bring a salad.*

**Visiting Officer Report (Dave N.):**

I love being of service. Served as a delegate on panel 59, long time ago (2009-2010). Teddy asked me to talk about what a director of AAWS does. Suspect it's because I was just named as a non-trustee director of AAWS this April. Might be better to speak next month, because a week from tomorrow I leave for NYC for my first meeting as member of AAWS board. Next month I'll have experience to bring, but right now just book learning.

Next few minutes will be: geek heaven, or "what on earth is this guy talking about/why should I care?" What AAWS is: on each table is an inverted triangle graphic. Groups are most important part of AA; drive everything through the GSR. You participate in a district committee, your district a part of an area assembly that elects a delegate. 93 assemblies in US+Canada. Represent AA as a whole, not an area in a political sense; they just receive knowledge about what's happening in AA in their area. At conference, all decisions are made about things that affect AA as a whole. Should we have a 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Big Book? Should we change Tradition 11 to include language about the Internet? Approved decisions are passed on to the GS board, who are responsible for insuring implementation.

Board can only do so much; in my AA svc. Manual, on S62 talks about GS Board. To some extent only has custodial role. Conference is group that sets policy. Unlike corporation, where board might set policy, doesn't happen in AA. Groups set policy through delegates at conference. What does the board do? Oversee all of that implementation. Do that through two operation corporations (AAWS and AA Grapevine). AAWS responsible for GS office/publishing activities, Grapevine responsible for the magazine. All work done through these two corporations, at the bottom of the triangle.

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There are specific legal reasons why board can not directly control operations of AA. Don't understand yet but I'm sure in a couple of months I'll have a better understanding. Boards of two corporations have similar structures. 4 GS Board trustees, 3 non-trustee directors, 1 paid staff member, and general manager of GS office is also member of AAWS board. General manager is president of that corporation. Currently: Phyllis H. Board meets 8x/year in New York, participates in conference.

What does the board do? Responsible for budget preparation for service operations @ office+publishing. Responsible for pricing new/revise literature. Responsible for reviewing GSO service activities, ensure meeting needs of the fellowship. Responsible for making sure recommendations are implemented as conference asked. Responsible for copyright concerns, granting reprint permissions where appropriate. Non-trustee directors participate in all these activities as full members of corporate board. Also serve on 3 trustees committees of the GS Board. Finally, asked to represent AAWS at regional AA events.

Why non-trustee directors? What's the difference? Well, there are 14 alcoholic trustees, and 7 non-alcoholic. Typically trustees elected on basis of their service to AA, their knowledge of traditions/concepts, their spirituality. Not necessarily business skills/acumen/knowledge. That is why there are non-trustee directors. Actually recommended by corporate boards and approved by the GS Board @ conference. When recommending, look for specific skills/expertise to augment. In my case, I've worked in health care IT for ~25 years. As we move into e-publishing, social media, greater use of business technology in offices, they saw a need to have someone with IT expertise on that board. I believe that's one of the reasons why I was lucky enough to be recommended to serve on AAWS board.

Last thing: current delegate Padee just announced vacancy for another non-trustee director on AAWS corporate board. One, Joe D., will be ending his service after the next conference. If this is something that sounds interesting, applications are due by July 15<sup>th</sup>. Teddy has the info.

Really looking forward to serving AA on a new level: at the very bottom!

**Mike S.:** How long is your tenure? Until you resign?

**David N.:** Can serve up to four 1-year terms. Each year you can be recommended to serve another year. GS trustees can only be named from people serving as non-trustee directors. Conceivable could serve AA for total of 8 years.

**Someone:** Why is Grapevine separate?

**David N.:** When corporations were founded, Bill thought it very important that AA be independent voice for fellowship, with editorial responsibilities separate from publishing operations and allowed to have a separate editorial voice. Lot of discussion going on right now that we're looking at whether to combine two boards, to perhaps gain better efficiencies, take advantage of economies of scale, etc.? Conference chose to keep them separate. Fair question.

**Dave W.:** What is most important thing GSR can do?

**David N.:** Do your job. Work with your groups, get their consciences. Board can only be effective if carrying out what fellowship as a whole wants us to do. If you're doing your job, letting your voice be heard at the assembly so the delegate can be heard at conference, that's the most important thing you can do... that, and carrying info back to group so next year group can be more informed. Things tend to carry over multiple years. Hope that answers the question.

**Teddy:** We'll be hosting the Fall Assembly, which will be area inventory assembly this year. Kirk?

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**Kirk W.** (GSR: *Sesame Step*, Assembly Co-Chair): Assembly to mark calendars for is Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. Basically 5 mo's from now. James and I are just chugging along. We'll be hosting at St. Mary's. They have a beautiful conference center and kitchen, plenty of room and parking. Lots of volunteers. Great place to show up at 7 AM to help direct parking. Getting in the night before and setting up coffee pots/rooms/etc. I have an event background and pretty good at thinking ahead of things. Asking for lots of help. There will be a \$25 dinner Friday night, esp. nice for folks coming in from out of town who want something to do. Trying to keep it really simple but tasty. I'm thinking of *Too Early*, renowned for their snacks and bagels and stuff. Had a pretty fancy bougie sponsee that was tasked with getting refreshments; had to remind him to treat it like a soccer game for your kids! Can be tasty but should be simple. Gonna kinda schedule in shifts. We can all wrangle each other in. Area meetings are fantastic for newcomers. People get lit on fire for GS at area meetings. Makes a lot more sense seeing at area level than district level. Expecting about 400 ppl. ~50 people for dinner the night before.

**Teddy:** Last panel we formed an ad hoc committee to look @ district-level structure, see if any need to make changes. Has been meeting, and has a report this evening.

**Rhys G.:** Over last 6 mo's, 4 of us met off and on to discuss whether we should look at re-subdistricting. Contacted a few resources, some informally, some people with history as to why some subdistricts were set up. Do have a few dark subdistricts = subdistrict with no meetings in it. One church that no longer has meetings is a subdistrict unto itself. Asked GSO; first question I got was "why do you need to redistrict", and "why go through process of not just leaving those subd's dark – may come light again". I got some info that wasn't too helpful, really. If you contact GS about any issue, they will send you group information they collected. In general, they have no opinions but do have experience that they'll share. Also contacted local archives, not a lot of information about re-subdistricting. Upshot is that it's not really broken, is what we came up with. We have quite a few DCMs, several subdistricts, and openings for DCMs. At some point if we have a lot of meetings w/ representation inside some downtown subdistricts... we may have to re-address the issue. For right now, it's our considered opinion that it's not necessarily broken. As we know in GS, we don't move quickly to a decision. Our decision was to take no action at this point. But this could come up again.

**Greg C.** (GSR: *Sober 5150s*): San Francisco's Alano Club seems almost gone. 7<sup>th</sup> and Irving is almost like one now. How to get one recognized?

**Ingrid:** What is the purpose of having subdistricts?

**Rhys:** To improve communication. When talk of splitting the area comes up, issue is always "is there enough communication"? Part of what we want to do is improve that communication.

**Ingrid:** Instead of changing subdistricts, why not change structure of DCMs to be more fluid? Why can't they work in a different way? Why isn't that the conversation?

**Rhys:** Conversation at subdistrict meeting is basically "how can we be of better service".

**Mike S.:** What I've started to do is have 1x/month meeting where we meet at a restaurant, discuss issues GSRs are having. Last month we met, talked about how you run business meetings. Not so much "this is how you run", but everyone discussing is saying "yeah you do this, you do that". One thing I want to try to do is invite anyone interested in participating: very informal, next scheduled meeting is July 12<sup>th</sup> @ 8PM @ Squat+Gobble @ Haight+Masonic. Try to get conversation going on among GSRs so it's less formal than this particular meeting, and a way for GSRs to just ask questions. This is not restricted to my subdistrict; any GSR invited to participate. As you can see, we have a small group of GSRs participating out of 600+ mtgs. Opening up to anyone interested. I was lost when I became a GSR, so many things to learn; I'd rather give everyone a leg up if we can help it.

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**Mike B.:** Map available on <http://www.sfgeneralservice.org> to help you find out what district you're in and what meetings are there.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition

**Teddy:** New business @ Fall Assembly. Probably won't get to vote until Pre-Conference assembly next year. Lots of time to think. Relates to publication of area newsletter (CNCA Comments). Hard copy is currently mailed to everyone in the system. Motion that's been presented for us to consider is that the area (CNCA) cease production, copying, mailing except when individually requested. Effect would be that you'd have to opt in to have it mailed to you by regular mail. Around \$10K/year spent on mailing this year, has big impact on money we spend. Proportionally big expense for area.

**Dave W.:** Intergroup is having the same conversation re: mailing out The Point. I feel differently about the two. People should have to opt out of getting the Point. Idea is it should be read aloud, lots of info that can be used readily @ meetings. Don't feel that way about info in CNCA comments. Useful on level not applicable to local meeting, or people not already in GS. \$10K is lots of money at area level. Lot of trees and fuel. If people want them in the mail, they can ask for it. Would get more mileage out of having people opt in.

**Paget:** For environmental thing alone, and \$10K, I agree. Used to belong to several clubs with mailings and it's a big pain in the ass!

#### What's On Your Mind

**Patti B. (GSR: *Shamrocks and Serenity*):** Having a discussion re: composting and recycling. Some meetings do, some don't. It's a big issue for some of us, both a meeting thing and a personal choice thing. Anyone who's interested, we may do a volunteer thing: one of us brings a bucket and takes it home.

**Teddy:** At my first orientation for General Service, it didn't make much sense at all. But some people said the assembly is coming up – you should come with us! Was in Fortuna. I got in the car, had the most amazing road trip with alcoholics in the car. Found out a little bit more about this thing I didn't understand. Got to Fortuna, met some of the most amazing people on the planet. Neglected to say that earlier. If you're sitting on the fence and wondering whether it'll be worth the while - my experience is I am so glad I got in the car back when I did that and was new.

#### Meeting From The Hat

**Mike B.** presented on *Hoodlum Haven*: Meeting started a decade or two ago back around 29<sup>th</sup> and Lawton (if I recall correctly). Got its name because the guys at the meeting grew up in the neighborhood, and used to be the local hoodlums before they got sober! Real south-west SF vibe. Lotta guys in the trades, working for the city, etc. People really roll up their sleeves at this meeting and get down to business. Speaker shares for 35 minutes, there's a smoke break, then we split up into groups and discuss the topic with each other. Afterwards we all go out for pizza. Check it out Fridays 8PM @ 40<sup>th</sup> + Vicente.

**Andy gave a sample report**

**Closed with the Responsibility Statement**