

SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL SERVICE, DISTRICT 6
General Service Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, Feb 11th, 2014

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: GSR Sharing Session

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

Melissa (GSR: *No Reservations*) **read Tradition 2.**
Vicky (Alternate GSR: *10 Years After*) **read Concept 2.**

New GSRs: Elizabeth S (GSR: *Sutter+Steiner Beginners*), Melissa (GSR: *No Reservations*), Vicky (Alternate GSR: *10 Years After*), Emily (Alternate GSR: *Serenity Seekers*)

Visitors: Padee McC (Delegate), Greg H (GGYPAA), Cindy L (Santa Rosa District 12)

Birthdays: Sharon (3 Years), Annabelle (9 Years), Rajat D (11 years), Natalie (3 years), Jill G (5 years), Kristina Z (15 years)

A member volunteered to present on Concept 3

Approval of minutes: *Approved (w/ minor revision).*
Approval of financials: *Approved.*
Review and approval of 2014 budget:

A member asked how the group would pay for a translator if necessary.

Amber: We would do a housekeeping motion, which is what we do for expenses we can't anticipate.

Brad K asked why we budget for \$500 under what we expect to take in.

Amber: A lot of times members will not ask for reimbursement/etc as a donation to the district, but this is problematic because it makes it harder for us to assess our needs. Been a district conscience for a while to send any extra money to the area.

The budget was approved.

Presentation of Concept 2:

Frederick G (GSR: *Living Sober*): In 1955 was the big hand-off when influence for policy decisions transferred from Bill/Bob/founders to fellowship as a whole. Board of Trustees founded previously, has legal authority over AA (corporate entity), but this was the answer to: how do 2 million alcoholics govern themselves? We delegate. (Members -> GSRs -> Delegates -> Conference). We trust the people sitting on the conference for any particular year w/ ongoing business of AA's affairs. Last paragraph: *"In making this momentous transfer, we old-timers deeply hope that we have avoided those pitfalls into which societies have so often fallen because their originators have failed, during their lifetimes, to properly delegate and distribute their own authority, responsibility and leadership."*

Announcements:

Teddy: Agenda topics are so named because they are on the agenda for the conference, and are topics for each committee to discuss - large matters of policy+finance that affect AA as a whole. Last month's packet includes agenda topics time-line, at-a-glance resource for GSRs to get

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handle on what the process looks like and opportunities to get consciences from groups to pass on to our delegate. This month's packet includes additional resources: "On Group Conscience", wonderful explanation of what we call the group conscience. Treasure, read, and use it! Also included: "GSR Resource Sheet", bullet-point guide w/ tips on taking a group conscience in relation to the agenda topics. Explains process, how you might schedule mtg. with your group/encourage participation/how to select topics. Included as well is flier for pre-conference assembly in Monterey, where GSRs inform our delegate of group consciences on these topics. Really recommend if you haven't been before. Takes some planning, so ask someone who is driving down and has room in their car if they can help you out. My first time I went all the way to an assembly in Humboldt County, was a great AA road trip and got to meet some wonderful people. Also having our own agenda topics workshop, Sunday March 15th @ Urban Life Center. Astrud will talk in a bit about some of the things to expect at this workshop. There is a dinner speaker meeting the night before. I'll leave a flier up here w/ info, also available on the CNCA website. April 26th there will be a joint meeting of BTG, PI/CPC, and H+I in Petaluma. Flier up here in the front. Also, thanks Mike Baehr for being substitute secretary tonight.

You're welcome.

Rhys G [REDACTED] (DCM): We have what used to be called the DCM meeting, now it's a GSR sharing session. We keep our shoes on now! If you have something to share, maybe a group issue, maybe want more info about what we're doing here, it's a more intimate + low key place to do so; shouldn't be intimidating for people who are new. When I was new, I always loved the meeting we had because it was quieter and felt more open. The meetings before the meetings are the place to be; you're all invited to attend, do not have to be a GSR. We all have info to share and would love to share it with you.

Teddy: Elizabeth is going to PRAASA as our representative and is looking for a woman to share with to make best use of the district's resources. Are there any women looking to share a room?

Greg H [REDACTED] (GGYPAA): Seeking your endorsement for a bid that we're submitting for SWACYPAA. Inaugural conference this year in Salt Lake, and we'll be submitting a bid for SF in 2015. I will answer any questions you have and submit a housekeeping motion for your support.

Greg read the proposed letter of support

Teddy: Our habit with matters like this is to ask for a housekeeping motion expressing our support, and make sure there are no conflicts w/ date, etc.

Mike B [REDACTED]: Does this leave District 6 in a position of any responsibility, or are we just putting our rubber stamp on something that we think is cool?

Teddy: Nothing other than the letter. As a housekeeping motion, we ask for objections.

An objection was made, which was then withdrawn at the close of the meeting. Motion passed.

Astrud C [REDACTED] (Events Coordinator): Looking for a co-coordinator. Really excited about agenda workshop on March 15th, from 1-5PM. Need volunteers. Kirk W [REDACTED] will be emceeing, past delegate will be doing "What The Delegate Needs To Know". Will be doing setup/breakdown, cake, coffee. Need help with all that. All the information is in the flier; encourage you to make announcements, fun to get your hand up. Interesting information whether or not you're a GSR. Biggest commitment is probably coming to Costco with me to shop. Last year we discussed the topics first, and then the background (what/how/why). This year we'll get through what it's all about and how it works first, then talk about agenda topics. Will also have a grab bag where people can put a topic that interests you, and maybe we'll address your topic.

A volunteer sign-up sheet was passed around.

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Teddy: The final list of agenda topics should be coming out this Friday. Very soon afterwards you will all be receiving it. Afterwards, our area officers perform this amazing service for the area. Along with the agenda topics, there is background material that's often several hundred pages long. Our officers divide it up and prepare summaries of the material for the topics. Shortly after you get the topics, you will receive these summaries, which give you a really good indication as to which topics on which our delegate needs to receive group consciences. Not all will need one, although that is up to your group.

Visiting Area Officer Presentation - What The Delegate Needs To Know

Padee McC (Panel 63 Delegate), presenting:

Really getting excited. Heard some great presentations tonight. Former alternate GSR, GSR, alternate DCM, everything else, etc. Have sat in the chair you're sitting in tonight, so welcome. Kinda like coming into AA for the first time - ask for help, get a sponsor, makes it a lot easier to negotiate this kind of stuff. In last year's report on page 6 is the conference theme + discussion topics. Many groups already talking about these: how important is participating in common welfare through contributions? What do they do? What does it mean to be living in heart of AA, passing it on through sponsorship... are we keeping it to ourselves or are we passing it on? Also heard great discussions on changes happening in world today - how does it affect AA, whether electronic or financial? Do not need to wait for summaries to begin discussing these topics with your groups, sitting down w/ and listening to them. Important thing about being GSR is that we do more listening than talking. Don't always have all the facts, do the best you can, show up, and listen. What am I looking for?

It was shared with me early on that I'm looking for ideas, experiences, concerns more than I am for opinions. When there's a topic about maybe reviewing a pamphlet, really cool to go buy a bunch at the bookstore and take to your meeting and show what they're considering changing. We'll be able to inform you as to the reason. Agenda topic ideas more often than not come from a group, from GSR to district, and district brings it forward. These items + questions come from us, not from the board/trustees/non-alcoholics. Come from you guys. Changes to *Living Sober* came out of this district; it was a good idea, and the timing was right. Changes to svc. manual, pamphlets on contributions, changing "donation" -> "contribution" (was appropriate; we don't accept donations). This is why you're important. I didn't have an easy time of it my first time as GSR. Had an old-time group that was pretty curmudgeonly. Got them there with ice cream and coffee. That year we were discussing the 4th edition of the Big Book; nothing more exciting than getting curmudgeons to discuss a 4th edition - even argued about printing a soft cover!

This is how important this stuff is - if I just take my own opinions, it'll be a narrow minded conference. My experience is narrow compared to a roomful of 100 folks. If you've been doing this for a while, you can move your group through 10 topics. Next thing you know, you've got lots of paperwork. I'm looking for the heart of that group conscience - what are those great ideas? The topic might start an idea but it's not the end-all. Out of that, if we say "we wanna do a PSA"... what if a GSR's home group says "what about this community or that community? how are we reaching out to them?". This is how we got our Spanish-speaking PSA, targeted at Latino women. Idea came out of a group and we had it two years later. Not looking for just a yes/no answer. Looking for ideas/concerns. If we hear enough about it, then maybe we'll decide something isn't a good idea, etc.

At the pre-conference assembly, I sit with my alternate delegate and recording secretary and we take notes on every person who goes to the mic and shares. Also a box at the front where you can put group consciences if we've run out of time to share. But please don't put it in the box if you've already said it at the mic - box was pretty full last year. Over 400 additional items. I also get emails and phone calls and I listen and read every single one. At the conference, nervously, I take all my notes and I go to the mic and read my nametag and then I tell them "this was an idea

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of a group". I have no new ideas if you guys just give me a yes/no.

"La Viña" has been a topic. Heard one person share about how she takes La Viña to her sister in jail, and it's her only contact with AA and sobriety. At the conference, when we started talking about it and discussing it and discussion turned sour, I could go up there and share the experience of that GSR and her sister.

It really works; I trust in the process. Thought that was so hokey at first, but I trust it now. Trust the trusted servants, finance committee, etc.

Not easy at first. You get to know your group intimately. Not easy. When we start talking about changing the Big Book, do we ever see personalities! It's a blast to get to know your members more intimately. Really want to encourage you to show up and just try it. Lots of workshops happening. Santa Rosa is Saturday. March 1st is Marin. Gives you experience + excitement. I'm always open for questions. We have lots of emails and phone calls.

Really has changed my life to be part of this process from day one. This is how we change AA. Yeah it's slow, but we make a lot less mistakes that way. Questions?

Q: Is the proposed spirituality pamphlet an agenda topic?

Padee: We sent that back to committee. Fact that it came through with a proposed pamphlet in 2 years is amazing. I bet we'll see it.

Q: You said you can't take just a yes or no at the conference, rather take our ideas. Is one of your positions to choose which of those ideas you take to the conference? How do you choose?

Padee: Really spiritual process for me. We're not as unique as we think we are, but your ideas are creative. If there's something I haven't heard on the floor, I'll put out something that I've heard from a group. Will sometimes change the mood of the whole room. Based on process of elimination, too.

Q: Is your email address available?

Padee: 

Q: How important is the deadline? Should we try to get info to you by the pre-conference, or by the conference?

Padee: Best for me if I can compile my notes before I go to the conference. I have received many emails from all over our area with additional information, sometimes right up to the conference. Once the conference starts, I pretty much have to shut down that part and focus on the next 8 days of business meetings.

Teddy: As Padee mentioned, there are 130 delegates. 93 represent areas, and then trustees, other members of grapevine, world svcs board. When I was a GSR, we would have maybe 3 or 4 ppl that participated in the sharing session around agenda topics. Good friend taught me that I was there to share thoughts of the people that were interested. Hundreds of thousands get to be a part of this process that we call the GS conference.

Vacant Position: Food Coordinator

Teddy: This is Mike's last month being food coordinator. Is anyone available?

Nobody made themselves available.

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Teddy: There will be no food available next month.

7th Tradition

Teddy: Any volunteers for events co-chair?

Greg Carl volunteered.

Old Business

That future pressings of the AA Service Manual include blank Group Change and New Group Forms on the last page of the service manual

The members chose to decide this by a simple majority vote. 33 for, 2 against. Motion passed. This will now go to the Area.

Andy gave a sample GSR report.

What's On Your Mind

Teddy: Access committee are conducting a survey. Response was not overwhelming. Peter Murphy left these with me. Please take one.

Astrud: Al-Anon has book "Paths to Recovery", shows you how to incorporate things into work/daily life. Was thinking how cool it'd be for AA to teach us how to incorporate concepts. Would be really neat to have a piece of literature that really sits down with us. Unless you're doing General Service, you think it's really dry, and then you see that book and it's like "whoa"

Patti: If you have any extra copies of the service manual, leave them with me. Also don't be shy about taking any of these pamphlets up there.

Closed with the Responsibility Statement