

District 06 (San Francisco)
Minutes for General Service Meeting
Tuesday, May 10, 2016
St. Marks Church, Fellowship Hall (downstairs),
1111 O'Farrell Street, SF, CA.

6:30 – 7:00 Bridging the Gap Orientation/Meeting: **OPEN**

7:00 – 7:30 New GSR Orientation: Dennis H.

7:30 – 7:30 12 Concepts & Service Manual Study: Laurel S.-S.

7:30 – 8:00 GSR Sharing Session: Facilitated by District Committee Members

8:00 – 9:30 District Meeting: Facilitated by Rhys G., District Committee Member Chair

A. Opening – Standing Items

- General Service Preamble, Tradition 5 (Long Form), and Concept 5 – Concept Miles will do next month
- Welcome of New GSRs, DCMs, and Visitors
 - new GSR Michelle McA. Big Book Special
 - new GSR Vaughn B. Pax West
 - New GSR Travis K. Wharf Rats
 - Joanne L. chair of CNCA
 - Susan R. Petaluma lunch bunch gsr
- Recognition of Birthdays/Anniversaries since our last meeting
 - Lauren - May 4th 28 years
 - Gilbert - May 7 35 years
 - Steve 25 years
 - Caleb 5 years last Tuesday
 - Dennis H 20 years 29th April
- Approval of prior month's minutes
- Presentation of current month's Financial Reports - expenses 70% lower than in April
- Presentation of Concept 5 – Riaz A.
- VOLUNTEER for a 2-Minute Presentation on Concept 6 for June meeting
- District Committee Members / Officers / Liaison Reports (please submit written report to secretary prior to the district meeting)

Rhys mentioned various opportunities to be of service.

- Presentation from Visiting Area Officer, Joann L.

Joann Why is it so important to go to the post conference assembly?

Every panel there is a difference between the 1st and second panel. There is spiritual growth from year to year. The day will be like Pre-conference: 9AM orientation and then a business meeting. It is important to attend the business meeting because we are the voters. Every one of us has an agenda topic we are interested in. If we don't hear our topic then we should get up and ask what went on. Raymundo will be going to our district next month here and a conference in Santa Rosa. The report is different at each meeting. He is the most excited at his first presentation. This service structure is how we keep Alcoholics Anonymous alive. Joann is curious about the feasibility study. Right now its just a conversation but the question that will eventually come is "What do the groups want to do?" because the trustees will not take any action until the groups chime in. What do we want to keep and what do we want to get rid of because the action will require cost and therefore some things will need to change. It's at Machinists Hall Burlingame.

- Presentation of housekeeping motion regarding sub-districts

Amber clarifies: a house keeping motion does not mean asking what we think? We are asking if we have objections to forming an ad-hoc committee and whether you have a question about the motion

Motion that an ad-hoc committee to help DCM's be helpful to GSR's. There are 5 of us there could be 23 DCM's. Some sub-districts have dozens of meetings others have a few. Decisions based on meetings that were there at the time. We have sub-districts and DCMs. If you have any questions about DCM would like to hold. Does everyone know what a DCM is?

Again the motion is do we form an ad-hoc committee to look into how and if changing districts around to be more intuitive and helpful.

Usually when we form an ad-hoc committee. Gilbert suggested: Make an amendment that the subcommittee would also explore getting participation in existing sub-districts of DCM's to add on to make position more meaningful. Other questions raised: How many people on ad-hoc committee, when do they meet, and how do GSR's hear what's going on. Question about Gilbert's amendment – Don't know how many there are supposed to be, is committee only exploratory and suggestive? (it is only exploratory) 5 DCM's and 23 sub-districts. So we have 18 sub-districts not represented by DCM's. (I wrote down what I thought Gilbert said, he is going to write it down his amendment)

Emily R. had a question – Amber answers – just over ½ dozen DCM's. Usually runs at about 6 DCM's. Gilbert's amendment was to have the ad-hoc committee to see how to get more DCM's involved. Explore how to attract/recruit DCM's to fill each sub-district in addition to ad-hoc.

The question is asked. "Has there ever been re-districting?" Answer : "No, we talked about a different idea"

Anthony P. – wanted to know if Gilbert wanted the committee to look for getting DCM involved or some other option. Answer: No goal if this is to be done before November The goal is to look at all the different angles. Would be good to get GSR's and DCM's.

Motion passes.

- Continue discussion on Area motion regarding officer eligibility - Dennis H.

Given our discussion last time about officer eligibility, Dennis opens the floor for opinions.

Shared from floor:

- anything that makes it easier for people to serve is a good thing.
- Officers get to see lots of different district and what they do. And this opens up chance for more people to see
- If we want to take a group conscious on this amendment right now

- Continue discussion on Area motion regarding safety pamphlet – Amber G.

Amber requests shares for group safety and why

- some meetings have a stronger old-timer car that have dealt with these issues. seen struggles around group conscience being taken on the fly
- while in favor of pamphlet more discussion is needed
- what about predatory behavior not just towards people but finances, 13th stepping

- one group men were scared of homeless dudes. women – worried about unsolicited attention, men with ulterior motives, and men waiting for them outside of a meeting.
- one in favor because there is a lot in literature about trusting AA and people in AA and it is an incredible part of the program. Newcomers are really vulnerable and are learning how to trust for the first time and unfortunately can't trust everyone in AA the first time.
- groups according to the 4th tradition are welcome to put out their own literature
- if pamphlet is not made, the experience strength and hope of others around people around safety we have documents around anonymity and delineates guidelines for anonymity. Even if a pamphlet is not wanted, what we can do is give experience strength and hope guidelines.
- one has an idea that the pamphlet should have numbers to call for various situations
- one member discusses disturbances at meetings and we don't tell them what to do for each situation. The group will know what neighborhood it is and they should be able to handle it.
- one tool we have for each group is that we can have a meeting history, so no one has to come up with inventing the wheel for how to continue traditions of the group.
- eg. Someone has Google glasses in the meeting. It can be sexual predation but it can also be financial predator.
- Maybe we should discuss what is appropriate and inappropriate behavior in the 12th step meetings around 13th step
- yes we should acknowledge danger in AA, but that AA as a whole it is amazing that something so unregulated actually IS so safe.
- safety should be addressed and also worried about traditions that this might be an outside issue and who they should and should not date. And concerns about giving advice and telling people what is healthy and not healthy behavior but can we also offer resources.

B. District Business [Business of the San Francisco District. Items here will either affect our local district or may be referred to the Area if items could affect A.A. as a whole.]

District Elections for Panel 65:

- Officers/Liaisons: **Archives Coordinator, BTG Chair**
- Processes review - District Database Update
- Old Business: None
- New Business: None
- Discussion Topics: [Brought to the district by groups, GSRs or any trusted servant and discussed until a motion is brought forward for consideration or the district decides to pass.]
- Review questions and comments from November's inventory.
- SF General Service Pamphlet
- Safety in A.A
- Outreach to Club Houses

C. Area Committee Meeting Business [Business being discussed at the Area Committee Meeting. [We may obtain a district conscience on these items and/or you may obtain your group's conscience]:

HOUSEKEEPING MOTIONS:

It was another busy month at the Area Committee meeting in Petaluma. Five, count them, five housekeeping motions – all of which passed without an objection.

- The Area Archives Committee purchase shelving at a cost not to exceed \$190.00 to allow storage space for the boxes that are currently stored on the floor: Presented by the Archives Committee. Background: It is not appropriate to store documents on boxes on the floor. NO OBJECTION, MOTION PASSED

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- None

PRESENTATION OF NEW BUSINESS

- None

Discussion Topics: Should our assemblies have a standard rotation similar to what PRAASA had done?

Should the Area form an "Access Committee"?

D. Assembly Business [Business to discuss with your groups and upon which to share your group's conscience at the next assembly business meeting. The next time the Area has a business meeting will be at the Post-Conference Assembly, May 14, 2016 in Burlingame.

Old Business Items

- *"That CNCA 06 expand area officer eligibility to include Alternate District Committee Member Chairs and current members and chairs of area standing committees and sub-committees who have served as a DCM and/or DCMC.* Presented by Eric, Jennifer and Laura. CARRIED OVER TO POST-CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY
- *That General Service Conference develops a pamphlet sharing experience, strength and hope on group safety"*- Presented by District 14 CARRIED OVER TO POST-CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY
- *District 16 Spanish Central is requesting that CNCA 06 restructure District 16 by removing sub-district 02 from District 16.* CARRIED OVER TO POST-CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY

New Business

- "That CNCA moves to reintroduce the following section (From page 6 of the AA Member – Medications & Other Drugs, Revised 2011 and also from the 1998 edition of Living Sober page 89) in "Appendix*" in Living Sober (2012 edition). Placement of the below text will follow the current section Note to medical professionals (page 90)": "Some alcoholics require medication. We recognize that alcoholics are not immune to other diseases. Some of us have had to cope with depressions that can be suicidal; schizophrenia that sometimes requires hospitalization; bipolar disorder, and other mental and biological illnesses. Also among us are diabetics, epileptics, members with heart trouble, cancer, allergies, hypertension, and many other serious physical conditions. Because of the difficulties that many alcoholics have with drugs, some members have taken the position that no one in A.A. should take any medication. While this position has undoubtedly prevented relapses for some it has meant disaster for others. A.A. members and many of their physicians have described situations in which depressed patients have been told by A.A.s to throw away the pills, only to have depression return with all its difficulties, sometimes resulting in suicide. We have heard, too, from members with other conditions, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, epilepsy and others requiring medication, that well-meaning A.A. friends discourage them from taking any prescribed medication. Unfortunately, by following a layperson's advice, the sufferers find that their conditions can return with all their previous intensity. On top of that, they feel guilty because they are convinced that "A.A. is against pills. It becomes clear that just as it is wrong to enable or support any alcoholic to become readdicted to any drug, it's equally wrong to deprive any alcoholic of medication, which can alleviate or control other disabling physical and/or emotional problems." Presented by District 07
- "That the following paragraph be added to the section "How Decision Affecting A.A. Are Made" in "The A.A. Group" pamphlet at the conclusion of the following sentence: Annually, groups from the U.S. and Canada elect delegates (serving two-year terms) from their areas to the yearly meeting of the Conference in New York --to hear the reports of the board's committees, G.S.O. and Grapevine staffs, and to recommend future directions, mainly in the form of Advisory Actions. "Prior to the annual General Service Conference a list of important issues to be discussed during the Conference is published and made available to each and every Group in the U.S. and Canada. Because these issues make up a part of the entire General Service Conference Agenda, they are referred to as Agenda Topics. Every Group in the U.S. and Canada has the opportunity to review, discuss, and develop an informed Group Conscience on these Agenda Topics. The Group's GSR then carries the Group's Conscience on Conference Agenda Topics to the Area's Delegate, usually at an Area Assembly prior to the General Service Conference. The Area Delegate then represents the collective conscience of the Groups in the Area at the General Service Conference on these matters vital to A.A. as a whole." Presented by District 11

Presentation of New Business

- None

9:15-9:30

E. Closing – Standing Items

- 7th Tradition
- Sample GSR Report
- What's On Your Mind?

9:30 Close

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Trusted Servant Reports

It is our Group Conscience that we do not have verbal reports during the meeting, but that Trusted Servants with information provide a written report to be circulated with the agenda. Time at the meeting will be allowed for time-sensitive items that have arisen since the mailing. What follows are written Trusted Servant reports:

Registrar: If you are a new General Service Representatives (GSR), please submit a Group Information Change Form during the New GSR Orientation or visit the Registrar before, during, or after the District meeting. If you have any changes to your contact information or meeting information, or if you have not been receiving District or Area correspondence, please visit the Registrar or email registrar@sfgeneralservice.org.

Web committee chair: The Web committee needs support. No Web experience is necessary. Help to plan, organize, and proofread content for our Web site.