

District 06 (San Francisco) **Minutes** for General Service Meeting **Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
St. Mark's Church, Fellowship Hall (downstairs), 1111 O'Farrell Street, SF, CA

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6:30 – 7:00 New GSR Orientation: 8 attended – led by Justin H. *Alt. DCMC*

6:30 – 7:30 12 Concepts & Service Manual Study: 7 attended – led by Alison W.

### **Opening of Meeting**

- Open at 7:30pm with Serenity Prayer
- General Service Preamble – read by Justin H. (*Alternate District Committee Member Chair – Alt DCMC filling in for Dennis H. DCMC*)
- Tradition 9 (read by Mac E.) Long Form tradition Chuck & Concept 12 (read by concept 9 Janel)
- **Welcome new GSRs:** Chuck F. – GSR Join the Tribe; Elizabeth A. – GSR Cow Hollow Young People (YP); Mikiel V. – GSR Artists and Writers; Stephen R. – GSR Valencia Smoke Free; Walter L. – GSR; Stephanie A. – Alt GSR Each Day a New Beginning; Janel M. – GSR High Noon; Thea M. – GSR Like a Prayer; Nate DeB. – GSR Oceans of Sobriety; **Anniversaries:** Anniversary Neredia G. 5 years; Neil F. 4 years; Carl M. 14 years; **Visitors:** Teddy B-W, Alternate Delegate CNCA, Oakland
- Prior month's minutes (Aug 8<sup>th</sup> 2017) approved with a spelling correction: Christopher C.

### **Presentations**

- **Financial Report** – Gilbert G., District Treasurer: Reviewed financial report and group contributions; expenses; those were the August numbers; now in process of planning the 2018 budget; it will be sent out to you in the next few days; please offer any feedback; we can talk about it more at next month's meeting; generally speaking we are anticipating flat income; and for expenses we are anticipating less for events; looking at basically the same for PRAASA and there will also be the Pacific Regional Forum; we're hoping to get some feedback on this budget from you all so take a look when it is sent out; Are there any Qs// Q: Will there be an additional sub-committee budget for Bridging The Gap?// A yes. I know I added that -- actually this must be the wrong sheet because I did add in the BTG; it will be in the draft budget we send out.
- **Presentation of Concept 9** – Hemanth S. – GSR Say Hey
  - Volunteer for 2 minute presentation of Concept 10 for October: Jerry
- **Alt DCMC Report** – Justin H.: Area Committee Meeting (ACM); 4<sup>th</sup> Sat of every month; Meet at the Petaluma Community Center where there's a pond and geese and people actually fish there; I attended the monthly Area PI/CPC meeting; it was the coolest thing; the original person who basically began the idea of PI/CPC was Dr William D Silkworth; PI goes all the way back to the beginning of AA; even before AA was called AA; I also wanted to show you the report from the General Service Conference; we have a box of copies so come get one; in it you will find everything that happened at the conf back in NY; Joann came and gave her delegate's report in June; and the extended version of her report is in this booklet; for those who are newer to General Service, basically our delegate took all the group conscience from our area and shared them with the General Service Board and all the other representatives from around Canada and US;// Q: are there full names in the report – do we need to worry about anonymity?// A: yes protect it; please be aware of the spirit and principle of anonymity; And before we get into too many Qs I wanted to touch on something pretty awesome; CNCA is making a bid to host the 2030 International AA Conference; it would be in Santa Clara; // I have more information on how to get involved with hosting it; if you want to go to your groups and share this with them and they want to get involved; you can give them this info; send an email; live email address; need 4,000 volunteers; AA2030@CNCA06.org // Finally the Grapevine is asking for stories; submit by Oct 5<sup>th</sup> your BTG service stories; or submit your experience on "how steps saved my life" by Nov 5<sup>th</sup>; Finally, there was new business at the Area about how to best translate the Comments into Spanish; so there was the

beginning of a discussion on this topic; And we have a Fall Inventory Assembly coming up on Saturday Nov 5<sup>th</sup> which is really important and helpful to attend; save the date; flyers up here; so if you have any ideas on any of this come to our next area meeting and share it; and submit any Qs for the Area Inventory by Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> so we can discuss things like “how can we best help the still suffering alcoholic?”

### **Officers/Liaison reports**

- **District Registrar** – Neil F.: somewhere on each table there is a sign in sheet; please let us know that you’re here by signing it; if we have your information written incorrectly please let us know by crossing it out and writing in your correct information; thank you
- **Recording Secretary** – Chelsea W.: If you’re interested in seeing what you can do to help out or be of service to folks who are dealing with hurricane Harvey wiping them out – I have the contact info for the Houston Intergroup see me after if you want it.
- **GGYPAA Liaison** – Mac E.: filling in for GGYPAA liaison; this Saturday there’s a scavenger hunt; start at central office at noon; we’re also bidding for ACYPAA again; we have a committee member who works in hotels so we’re feeling very positive about it.
- **PI/CPC Liaison** – Justin H.: PI/CPC provides information about what aa is and what aa is not to those who encounter alcoholics in the real world; medical doctors, clergy, therapists, mental health providers and others; the school year just kicked off again; we are absolutely in need of people to take meetings into schools and coordinating this service and a lot more; if you want to learn how to make those connections; we have open slots if you want to come be of service; the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month is the orientation at 6pm at central office; all you have to do is attend; or you can contact us and schedule orientation for your group; the website is [aasf.org/PICPCservice](http://aasf.org/PICPCservice)
- **District Events Co-Chairs Report**: Elena – Unity Day is Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup> from 11am-3:30pm; Flyers are available; please hand out and make announcements to your groups; the theme is Tried and True/ Innovative and New – Many ways to carry the AA message; Brouck H. Who is the co-founder of the National AA Technology Workshop; when I was going through the records of past unity day flyers with Maury, we saw that he was the speaker at Unity Day 21 years ago; in fact the whole panel this year is incredible; these are awesome presenters on carrying the message of AA; Karen C. for H&I; Jackie B. on History; Miguel H from Area General Service will be talking about the Grapevine; Kim S from Intergroup Archives will also be presenting; very diverse and interesting group; there will be orientations for many of the Service entities that function beyond the individual group; groups giving orientations are H&I, BTG, teleservice, sunshine club, PI/CPC; and we’re serving LUNCH!!!; definitely tell people about the free food – then everyone is in!!!; during lunch there will be an AA trivia game; it is essential that you get the word out; there is a lot of good information; there will be tables all over the room; people who can answer Qs; awesome opportunity to learn about all the service options in one spot; this is the best place to get people motivated and involved in service; not only are we handing out flyers, but through the events page on the intergroup website, there’s a link to an eventbrite; we made it through central office; because of part of the theme being about new technology and carrying the message as many ways as possible we thought we could try using some technology to help spread the word for the event; you can’t search it in the event bright because it’s private; It’s very important we get help day of;// Q: if people are RSVPing through eventbrite- do people need to provide last names??// A: I actually don’t know, but it’s set to private so the event can’t share it// Q so if someone wanted to RSVP without using the online way – how do we do that?// A have them call or text Neredia or myself.

### **Visiting Area Officer**

**Area Alt Delegate** Teddy B-W, Alternate Delegate CNCA

I walked in to General Service a little over 11 years; attended the orientation and learned that making myself available for service didn’t necessarily mean I \*wanted\* to be of service; but I learned that if I

was available to tell the truth and say 'yes'; so I kept raising my hand as being available; I got a service sponsor; I had been a GSR before and I decided to do it because it looked like they are having fun; looked like they were enjoying themselves; it could be confusing; so I came early stayed late; kept asking questions; no matter my question, at the end of the conversation, the answer was usually 'trust the process'; I was told early on to listen like I don't have an opinion; don't be afraid to speak my truth; vote my conscious; these guiding principles served me well; this is essentially a formula for how I show up for General Service; we rely on our traditions and warranties; i'll begin with an idea before we get to the process of business; Bill reminds us a good idea can come from anyone anytime; can arise out of one your committee reports; my experience has shown that if I have what I think is an amazing idea, the last thing I ought to do is make motion; first thing is to talk to another alcoholics; might be helpful to introduce a discussion topic; the process at General Service mirrors our unshakable foundation for life; we take a topic and rotate it through all the perspectives; we have a codified system for how an idea turns into a motion; not going to talk about all the ways ideas become motions but the typical way we do it is after the motion is submitted to the 'Chair' there is a presentation of New Business; which is when the voting members can ask questions about the background and intent of the motion; there is no discussion at this point; during Presentation of New Business GSRs are given the information they need to take the topic to their groups and collect their groups conscience on the motion; also presentation of new business is the time for the motion's wording to be discussed and any amendments offered; one reason we go through this step is because if we start discussing the topic at the same time it is presented, then we would only be discussing our views not our groups; we get to ask Qs about the intent of the motion; it's a very important step; then after the presentation of the new business the motion becomes New Business and this is the time for people to share their thoughts and group reps to offer group consciences and personal opinions; after we get all the group consciences; the chair asks for personal opinions; get to hear what everyone else has to say; once we have heard what everyone has to say; we go back to our groups; then the motion becomes OLD business; we don't always vote the first time a motion moves to old business; when I got to serve here as district 06's treasurer that panel it was very clear that we were divided 50/50 on a motion; so the discussion happened and the chair allowed it to continue and continue; it was a long process; people kept discussion going though; at the end the district was unanimous; so on to voting; simple majority vs substantial unanimity; lower impact vs greater impact; less chance of railroading a motion through or politicking; This other thing in AA called the minority opinion; in the discussion phase we encourage the minority to speak up and share what they think; hopefully by the time we're voting the minority had plenty of time to share; there really shouldn't be any unsaid perspective by the time we're voting; quotes from concept 5 "minorities frequently can be right" "they compel a thorough debate" "our chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority"; having heard the minority opinion the chair asks if anyone is changing their vote; then chair asks if there is a motion to reconsider – if there is, and the motion to reconsider passes – the main motion goes back as old business for next month; that's a quick gallop through the business process of a motion; this is not a hard and fast set of any approved guidelines; i've just shared in a general way how it tends to happen at CNCA; truly, we are all guided by the 6 warranties in concept 12 – which can only be changed by the same way we would change the steps and trads; keep practicing that 6<sup>th</sup> warranty that AA should forever be democratic. // Q: did you say there are 9 areas in CA; // A: there are 93 Areas in the US & Canada and I think 7 in CA // Q: did I hear you say that it's an unwritten tradition we don't vote on biz the day it's presented? // A: if the motion is low impact, doesn't affect any other groups, doesn't set a precedent nor policy and is specific to that district alone, then it could be voted on that day – like a housekeeping motion; it would be up to the group and the chair. // Q: besides the service manual, where can we find this information? // A: The AA Group: where it all begins, GSR pamphlet, see literature table, GSR orientation packet. // Q: when you were talking about the process – was that for the group biz meeting or here at the district? // A I was describing process at

the district but once when I was a GSR I used this process at the group I was serving because there was a controversial motion that clearly affected the Unity of the group, so if it was going to affect our group Unity? Then we would go for substantial unanimity and could use this process.

**\*\*\*\* 7<sup>th</sup> tradition \*\*\*\***

**New Business:**

***Motion: That District 06 reimburse one Bridging the Gap Co-Chair for their attendance at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Area Bridging the Gap Forum in Monterey in an amount not to exceed \$255.00.***

Proposed Budget		
Expense	Basis	Max Reimbursement
Lodging Expense	Monterey apx. 125 miles one way	\$100.00
Breakfast & Lunch Expense	Provided by Host Dist.	\$0.00
Dinner Expense	Half day travel.	\$20.00
Mileage Expense	Travel 250 Mi. @ .40/mi. for D6	\$100.00
Registration	Attendance	\$35.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$255.00</b>

**Q&A:**

Q is it true that people are at their most vulnerable from the time they leave an institution? // A yes //

Q: what are the goals for the BTG committee? Like what's plan for what will happen after the chair goes to this forum? // A: she would give a presentation to the district about what she saw, heard and felt; a major priority for the committee has been to revive it as it has been dark without any volunteers and the volunteers we are attracting don't have any experience doing this so by sending her to the forum she will be able to learn from other districts how they do BTG and she'll be able to make connections with people who can offer experience strength and hope moving forward; finally, two goals we have had since July when we really set to revive the committee was to make sure H&I had the right information to leave when they bring meetings inside and to have the committee up and running enough so that we could give a proper orientation at Unity Day – both of which we've been able to accomplish.

**Discussion:**

*group conscious:* my group was almost 100% in favor; and the only hesitation was if we have the money// my group was really excited about this and really want to send a chair; glad BTG coming back online after it has been dark;

personal opinions: I would really love to go; i feel like it would be a way for me to essentially find a service sponsor for BTG and get inspired and learn about what i'm doing// back in Charlotte I was part of BTG and I must have presented the option of BTG hundreds of times; I thought this is never going to work; but then a year or two later, I was at a meeting and a guy came up to me and thanked me for sharing about BTG because he did it; so I really want to put it out there that it works; that guy told me that "you were there at that meeting and I've been sober ever since"// in 2001 I was in detox for 3 days; went to a couple of H&I meetings there; I got out 10:30am and I was serious about getting sober and going to a meeting but the liquor store was closer than the bus stop that would have taken me to a meeting; granted this was san mateo; but I was serious when I went in and I was serious when I came out; makes me wonder if BTG had been there – I know I would have taken them up on it // so I'm thinking about the financial expense; I'm remembering that when I was drinking, I used to go the ATM and take out all my money; hundreds of dollars; in a black out; I have no idea where all that money went; the next day my account - it would be empty; so the money for BTG; it's going to save lives; and we need to say yes to this for BTG because we've been dark // Q: sorry one last question- is the motion a one time expense?// A: yes. I knew we would be short on time as far as voting on the motion before it had been Presented/New Biz/ Old Biz so, keeping in mind it would probably be 'fast tracked' through our process, I wanted to ensure it was a singular expense. I also kept in mind that by having this motion on the floor – whether it passes or not – it is useful information for the finance sub-committee when they are planning the budget for next year; // Q: can we just vote// vote by simple majority to vote on motion by substantial unanimity// motion passes with unanimous vote; no minority opinion

#### **Area Business:**

- going to skip area business because we're short on time; please see me after or email me if you have any questions about the discussion concerning the motion about producing new PSA containing full face actors// Q: is this something we should take to our groups?// A: yes // Q: did you say full page or full face? // A: face

#### **What's on your mind?**

So I am the coffee maker – I thought maybe I could also be an archives guy but I haven't been able to do anything at all for that; so I'm here to make amends; talked to DCMC about this; got to get mentioned that the archives chair position is open; so decide what to do about that; i was biting off more than I can chew// I'd love to talk to anyone who went National AA technology workshop// I just came back from Akron ohio; went to DR bob's house; yp conference; I would love to tell you about it; go to akron; but let me just tell you - not going to cry – it was amazing; literally; if you ever plan to go there are so many beautiful people; the person I was supposed to stay with had relapsed i had the opportunity to feel powerless i want the hand of AA to be there; go to akron;

#### **Closing:**

- Sample GSR report: At the last District meeting this new guy made us stay late; but we learned about a ton going on; there's a scavenger hunt at noon this Sat at central office for YP; SF Unity day is Sat Oct 14<sup>th</sup>; there will be free food for lunch, trivia, all the orientations so show up and get fully oriented all in one day; there's a lot of movement reviving Bridging the Gap and if you have any questions or need more info; come find me
- Close 9:04pm