

District 06 (San Francisco) **MINUTES** for General Service Business Meeting **Tuesday 12th of June 2018**
Urban Life Center 1031 Franklin Street, SF

- 6:30 – 7:00 New GSR Orientation
- 6:30 – 7:00 GSR Sharing Session
- 6:30 – 7:30 12 Concepts & Service Manual Study
- 7:30 – 9:00 District Meeting

Opening of Meeting

- Open at 7:30pm with Serenity Prayer
- General Service Preamble – read by Dennis H. (*District Committee Member Chair - DCMC*)
- *Tradition 6 long form*: Tom S – GSR Sesame Step & *Concept 6*: Mimi K – GSR There is a Solution
- Brief description “**What is a Service Sponsor?**” those willing to be a service sponsor raise hands.
- **Welcome new GSRs**: What it’s like Now
- **Welcome Visitors**: Joann L [REDACTED] CNCA Panel 67 Delegate; Teddy B [REDACTED] Alternate Delegate; Jenni Love & Service Group
- **Sobriety Anniversaries**: Tony 28 years; Joann 16 years; Elizabeth 7 years; Elizabeth Z 10 years;
- **Prior Month’s Minutes**: approved

Presentations

- Financial Report – Dennis H fills in: please let me know if you have any Qs; Gilbert G is our District Treasurer; we need folks to sit on the upcoming budget planning committee so please keep in mind.
- Presentation of Concept 6: Steve R – GSR; Volunteer for July Presentation of Concept 7: Elizabeth Z
- DCMC Report – Dennis H [REDACTED] Summer Assembly fliers up here; open positions Registrar; Archives Chair; BTG co-chair; the delegate’s report is the highlight of the year; so many of you were up at the Post-conf; it’s special to hear it up close too so let’s turn over the meeting

- Delegate’s Report – name: Joann L [REDACTED] – CNCA Delegate

The first I will mention is the Display over here; if I get talking before I tell you about it I might forget – once I get going; ok so I will share a little about what the General Service Conf is; essentially it is the connection between GSO and the groups; the whole of AA; actually – a lot of you probably know Jackie B; how many of you saw the third legacy play she wrote and produced?; I loved that play; I will never forget the visual of the chain connecting the groups to the GS Board; and at first it was bill and bob in the middle; and then once GS Board and Conf were up and serving their function the founders weren’t vital for AA to keep going; so I am here to share what happened at the Conf; I serve on the finance committee; you can find the breakdown of the committees in your service manuals; over here on the Display table there are handouts with all the numbers I’ll give; it’s basically a stats sheets; it is really special for me to be here giving this; I got sober in SF; and it’s my sobriety anniversary; and there’s nowhere I’d rather be; ok so – the GS conf took place at crown plaza in NY from April 21 – 28; the theme was “A Solution for All Generations”; when I returned, I sat at my kitchen table, reflecting, wondering how to put it into words; I remind myself why am I doing this?; I would die without this program; so I have a vested interest in AA functioning and carrying on; like all the things in my life – my relationship to AA is like other relationships; if I don’t care and invest – my relationships fall apart; same for aa; I have to invest and take care of AA too; I want to thank the GSRs of CNCA; thank you for your group consciences; I am so grateful to all the groups who participated in concept 1 obligation; there was an amazing volume of written submissions; I was amazed by the number, the sheer volume; especially from our Spanish speaking members; my first plan was to use an app on my phone to translate; but there

were way too many; so I asked a fellow delegate; Melvin from area 93; we sat down together and he translated and read the groups consciences and I listened; I also learned that in his area, they can submit group consciences through the website; they even have graphs that show all the group consciences votes entered through the website; maybe incorporate this for the future; for how many of you is this first time hearing delegate's report?; I want to see – how many of you here will hear a Delegate's report for the first time?; Oh that's great – so the General Service Board is made up of delegates from the areas; in North America (mostly the states and Canada) we have 93 Areas; voting; 7 class A; 14 class B; 40 staff from GSO behind the scenes; officially the Conference is 6 days 9am-9pm; and unofficially there are many events; the Sat before and Sat after meetings; especially the 1728 meeting; the remote communities meetings; delegates only meeting; there's a farewell brunch; and a visit to stepping stone; as this was my second time, I could tell a difference between my 1st and 2nd years; less fear; even though there were large, heavy topics; did not plan too much sightseeing; Pacific Regional Forum; a bunch of us went on "the George D tour" to Calvary church where the oxford groups met; heard about Dr shoemaker; saw the Wilson's homes on Clinton st & State St; tour of GSO; riverside drive; bob S; tour of how group contributions are processed; I learned how important putting the number on check is; I am always struck, whenever I take a tour of GSO, the staff is so hard working gracious; during trip to step stones; where Bill and Lois lived in their final years; they call the writing spot "wits end"; you can still see the cigarette burns on the desk; I was actually more excited to see Lois' desk where she started Al-anon; many of the objects in the house are numbered – by Lois – with their histories written down; like the history of their chimney being engraved with a large circle and triangle so as newcomers approached their house – they knew they were on the right path. Oh yeah and the meetings; they are not part of the conf, but a lot of us go; especially to the 1728 meeting; that is the number you get with multiple 12x12x12; help trustees better understand the spiritual service structure; help them not feel disconnected or removed from mainstream AA; sometimes they are right next to us but still feel lost; if you are curious about more information, please check out the GSO newsletters; ask me for any of these things; there has been discussion about creating a conf committee for Remote Communities; there has been quite a bit of discussion about it, but no action as of yet; but the accessibility committee added remote communities to their breadth of services covered; One important event is a national vets in aa workshop; last year Ben B from Oklahoma was chosen as Chair and I was Alt Chair; we understood our role responsibilities were to chair the first of two delegate only meetings; We divided the responsibilities; he would do several of the opening talks at the conf; I was the email keeper; what we did not know was that it was also our responsibility to run these two meetings; so Ben and I were like "what are we going to do? we are supposed to run these meetings?"!; and I thought, "well, I'm a past area chair I should be able to handle this." so I'm looking at the list and I tell him - I'll take care of it; so I'm managing and controlling; and aptly our theme became "king & queen" of the meeting; I ended up overmanaging the props and he started calling me his conference wife; during the week, I started really missing my real life husband and it made a lot of sense because it was my 28th wedding anniversary to my husband back in CA; there was another delegate from Canada who was celebrating their 47th wedding anniversary; both of us got to agree that if we weren't sober there's no way we would still be married; then Ben pipes up with his southern drawl "you mean to tell me that you've been cheating on me for 28 years!!!" and laughter erupted; the light hearted mood and laughter was very welcomed; when we're doing the right things – when our spiritual motives are right – being very cheerful naturally follows; us 2nd years warned the first years that roll call is spiritual, for me it was still a very special moment; we heard heartfelt talks; the delegate chair Ben encouraged us to always remember that this fellowship saved our lives; Richard B from western Canada discussed how we might focus on primary purpose as we work to remain humbly aware of our pp; Gregg T review of the conf; I don't know if you can see this very large binder; but that is our work week in that binder; I still get tired every time I look at it; for committees who have joint trustee committees they meet and get caught up on what has been

done since last year; each delegate assigned to a conf committee; discussed each item on agenda; every trustee and delegate assigned to one or more; advisory actions go to the committees; we work with the trustees and the gso staff; I am on the finance comm; joint meeting with trustees David M. 2013 as treasure; 2019 he rotates out; be on the lookout for qualified people; you can read position description in box 459; if you're going to the Pacific Regional Forum, you'll get to meet him; he is known for his 'around the picnic table financial report'; finance stats record 7th up 6%; not extra money; we are still relying on lit sales to fund GSO; GV came in over budget despite continued decline in sub purchases; general service continues to categorize la vina as a service; LV is considered a service cost; here is an inspiring way to contribute; a group in Oregon started a grassroots self support movement; they looked at the cost of services per person and per group nationwide and if all members paid their share then GSO would be fully self-supporting; and then each year for about the past 3 years people and groups have been contributing that about; last year GSO received \$75,000 from individuals and groups; if you're giving this amount, then you're doing your fair share – and if you're giving more - then you're covering for others who aren't as able to contribute as much financially; so why did it take off – people hear the amount, and many think, "that amount - I can do that"; it's an amount that's doable; something almost all can do; but we still need to talk about group support; cost of services div by number of members; so this year it's on the 4th of July and the individual amount is \$7.41/member; celebrate your independence from alcohol; my opinion on this overall upswing in contributions – I think it stems from the feasibility study of 2016; contributions going down expenses were going up; trustees made the feasibility study; and basically the outcome was them asking us – asking the groups – "what services do we want to cut?"; last year we were 81% self-supporting; 83% this year; we've gotten as low as 63% in the past; please keep yourself and your groups informed by looking through the treasurers packet; we talked about it at the pre-conf; includes info RE services provided by GSO for the groups; self-support packet; we were able to ask questions RE recent litigation; the legal fees will be paid partially out of the 2017 budget & the rest out of the 2018; for the fiscal year last year, income was higher and expenses were lower than budgeted; I believe we can attribute this to staff at GSO; they always come in under budget; and you can find all of this in the Conf Report; another piece of the conf report includes any progress on additional considerations; advisory actions are things that must get done- additional considerations are more along the lines of requests – if you have the time and the money please get these done; the past few years so many of them have been done; that was very impressive; part of the work of the finance committee; go over budget; discuss how to inform buying subscriptions to GV and LV; you can buy extra subs to be donated; there was a very touching moment when a session started with serenity prayer in Eng French & Spanish; there are delegates who only speak French and Spanish; Eric from Canada; JB Puerto Rico; we did not have long agenda on the finance committee; but that didn't mean we didn't have a lot to do; concerning tying the increase in personal contributions inflation – it did not pass; hear from all the committees; trustees at large; also we now have more access, and more efficiency with the delegate's dashboard; we get to hear area highlights; There was a third legacy election for Pacific Regional Trustee; the nominee from our area was Ken M; there were 14 on the first ballot; by the third ballot, only 3; the new Pacific Regional Trustee is Kathy from Arizona; you can meet her at Pacific Regional Forum; she was the chair of Navaho translation into the oral language committee; was presented early this year at red road conf in AZ; the final three days we come together as a conf and each committee's report is read; then there are shares and we vote on the items; for committees with very heavy agendas – they find time for their committee work by working during lunch early in the morning; two excellent items from David N & David R discussing important consideration about financial responsibility; concerning the litigation - there had been a private FB group where folks were discussing the manuscript litigation; I hope we do not do this again; I found that people say things online that they would not say in person; also, there was a whole lot of speculation; mostly not a fair because the board was not legally allowed to talk about it; so we couldn't hear from both sides; what's so important in

collecting a group conscience is that face to face conversation; tone of voice; what comes to our heart when we look people in the eye; there are pros and cons; also, we are more accountable when looking at someone's face; people say in text things they would never say in person; then, during "what's on your mind" at the conf on Weds a lot came out as far as this topic; there wasn't anywhere else on the agenda where the conf could discuss it; and concerning our financial responsibility - David N asked very tough Qs RE \$ responsibility; and I really hope that the area sets aside time to discuss these questions; on one of the tours, I sat next to a delegate who is on the trustees committee and she shared the process with me that they interviewed as many trustees as they could for as long as they could; and she said the thing that helped her the most was reading the service manual cover to cover over and over; they interview the trustees as much as time allowed; they care deeply; in a perfect world, all be in the same room when we talk about it; check out the additional considerations RE issue litigation; LITERATURE 20 total 13 passed; list the ones that passed; theme - "our big book: 80 years, 71 languages"; interesting item - company page on linked-in; CPC items that passed; corrections - for inmates being released - not dev a new pamphlet but all corrections service materials be revised with updates addressing these issues; GV books and single issues sales; LV items; PI - expand 10 & 11; final two options for 2030 International are Indianapolis or St Louis; these are only some of the items; keep your eye out for the AA general service conference report; vendor IT committee redesign website; a GSO produced AA app for smart phones; gso youtube channel; update GSO enterprise recourse planning system; daily reflections daily video project; also see the bb in asl beginning stages; we used electronic voting; it was fun; saving time; so much better than counting hands; 8 floor actions usual after a motion fails; many years ago floor actions were at the very end; first guy to the mic could decline to discuss and that would be it from the whole conf; now it's not like that if someone makes that motion; more civil than rushing the mic; there was only one that did not pass decline to discuss; about protecting the intellectual property of alcoholics anonymous; lengthy discussion; people not on topic; chair asked them to please wait; there was not any other chance where people had been able to really talk about the item concerning censuring the board - it was declined to discuss; and there was no what's on your mind because it was voted to work instead; we had not talked about this; so at the end the chair knew to let people talk; we needed to listen; someone tried to call the Q; this motion passed; minority opinion was heard - motion to reconsider; and then we were done and 67s lined up to say goodbye; felt so abrupt; cut off mid conversation; during farewell, I think I tried to be funny; but I was dazed; what just happened? it felt like it was dividing the room, the alcoholics; we had not arrived at an understanding; not at an agreement; struggle to close this report; Michelle gave a report on Communications Audit - asking questions about how well are we communicating with public; but reflecting back on the conf's close, I find myself asking - how well are we communicating with each other?; all these concerns about how well we're talking to those outside the fellowship, but what about how are we talking with each other?; at my kitchen table trying to put what I saw heard and felt into this report; I look over at a sketch of kitchen table where Ebbie brought the message to Bill; where he talked face to face, one alcoholic with another; carried a message saved his life; that was then carried by so many many it was carried to me and to you; saving our lives; multimillions; carried to 180 countries all over the world; and with that, we will have new responsibilities; how well we are able to show up to meet these responsibilities will depend on our ability to talk about them; how will we meet them? With unity? with recovery? Joel always reminded us alcoholics about a vital message on pages 124 and 125 in the 12x 12. Going to ask you one more thing; pause for a moment; before we talk before we speak; ask yourself 2 Qs: 1) will this help unity? and 2) will this help the alcoholic who still suffers? if we can say yes, than I think we're going to be ok...

Qs: I'm confused about how you explained GV operating over budget but still not being self-supporting?

A: it is planned for a deficit but came it over that amount, but the amount we came over the planned

deficit still doesn't make GV out of the red; the staff at GV are amazing; so prudent with the funds; amazing bc subs are still declining; they have been successful with the GV books; voices of women in AA especially // Q: what was up with the controversy? Why was the conf upset with the board over the litigation? // A: one reason was the timing; it happened right after conf; so a lot of the conf was like 'why didn't you bring it up with us when we were all there with you in NY?'; the printer's manuscript was in lois's possession until she died; then an archivist had it; it was clearly left to the fellowship in a will; but it was stored away and somewhat forgotten after that person's death; then it turned up when someone tried to sell it at auction; then a gentleman who bought it when it was being sold a second time around; at the time we did not have doc promised to us; but then a letter said "I'll give it to you" was found; so the Board filed a law suit; unfortunately when they did – the court told them "you can't talk about"; and the board said they couldn't talk about it; don't say that to alcoholics; in the end, AA even paid for this guy's lawyers; they felt like they made a shot at it; at that time they felt like they were doing what was in AA best interest; our trustees run a corporation; bound by nonprofit law of NY; times when litigation is necessary; trustees are between rock and hard place; yes we want guidance; there will be times when there won't be time for that; how can we do the right things; bound by law; and concepts; the thing that got me was that people talked about it before we heard all sides and bc of litigation they weren't allowed to talk about it but then only one side could talk; it was frustrating and sad for all. // Q: thanks for a wonderful report; felt what it was like to be inside the conf; the controversy and disunity; still a lot we don't know; but it does get people interested in what's going on; people want to know – what should we pass on to them; where should we direct them? // A: please be openly talking; being informed fully; being patient when one side is told they are legally bound to be silent for now; talk about trads and conpts; what I took away- we have a lot of untraveled road up ahead; new responsibility with copyright and website; there will be times when we need to employ litigation; stand up for what is right; in many groups the topic of safety is bring up these conversations; what if a person is threatening? some groups don't want to call the police; it's a good q to ask - what do we need to do to protect ourselves and take care of ourselves??; it's important to talk openly and live in the light, live in the real world; tell your groups, Yes, you should call the cops when someone is threatening people safety – in a meeting or a movie theater or wherever; we don't pretend it's not happening just because it's AA; we still have to talk about it too; denial does not work; I call it courageous conversation.

Dennis – let up thank Joann! Just one thing from me - I need help to close the room up; if people who are able if you can stay and there's a roller thing we can use for the chairs.

Jenny not a GSR – member of love and service in pleasant hill, live in Oakland, work in city; one of the last time you might see Clancy; talks about sober relationships, working with others, myth busters; hotel discounts; all these fliers are all allocated to SF take back to your groups.

Meeting closed with Responsibility statement at 8:54pm