

District 06 (San Francisco) Minutes for General Service Business Meeting
Tuesday April 9, 2019
Old First Presbyterian Church at 1751 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, CA

6:30 – 7 New GSR Orientation // 6:30 – 7:30 12 Concepts & Service Manual Study // 7:30 – 9 District Meeting

Opening of Meeting

- Open at 7:30pm with Serenity Prayer
- Chuck F. reads the General Service Preamble
- Reading of Tradition Five by Victor.
- Reading of Concept by David P.
- **Welcome new GSRs or DCMs:** Susan C., alternate GSR Big Book Basics, David P., alternate GSR for Artists and Writers, Friday night. Leslie C., GSR, The Be Still AA Group. Victor GSR, Salvation Army Harbor Light Center.

DCM Introduction. Mac E., DCM 255 (height and GG park). Jackie B. DCM inner sunset, #270. Chelsea W., alternate DCM Chair – I am the DCM for all areas that don't have a DCM. Jennifer D., CM for TL, Civic Center and some Castro. Linda V., DCM in Lands End, outer Richmond avenues – need GSRs in my area.
Two minute break for GSRs to meet their DCM.

- **Welcome Visitors:** Magdaleno O. – Area officer for the CNCA panel 69.
- **Anniversaries:** Vince, 9 years. Courtney W., 6 years. Jerry D. 6 years.
- **Prior Month's Minutes:** Malia's name was misspelled. Correct spelling is "Maria with an L."

Financial Report – Chelsea W. filling in for Beth Sanders. Financial statements are on your table. See me if you have any questions.

If your group isn't on the group contribution list, see your Treasurer. If they don't know your group number, see Chelsea.

Summary of Service Manual Study. Jeff S., Design for Living meeting. Chapter 5. The Area Committee. We are the District. The DCM's belong to the Area and are part of the Area committee. They put on the Assembly. The Area Committee has a suite of officers like normal meetings/districts. Past delegates pass on information to new delegates.

Presentation – Grapevine and La Vina, the AA World Journal. Magdeleno O. AA Grapevine started by a group of 6 people in June, 1944 in the New York City area, and a brief history of the Grapevine was presented. Bill Wilson was a frequent contributor. The Grapevine was the first publication of the Twelve Traditions. The AA Preamble was published in June, 1947 in the Grapevine. Articles are written almost exclusively by AA members.
AAGrapevine.org has online archives of articles, giving information on many, many topics that have been in the Grapevine.

Q: Can a group purchase a Grapevine subscription and give it to a rehab? A: Yes.

Q: Is there a deal where a group can buy old Grapevines for \$20? A: Yes.

Q: Does the Grapevine run out of articles, or is there a large surplus? A: When someone sends in a story, even if it's not published in print, it can be published online.

Q: Grapevine asks for specific topics. Can we find out topics in advance? A: Yes, on AAGrapevine.org.

Presentation on Motions – Mike C., Join The Tribe. The story in “Alcoholics Anonymous” named “Our Southern Friend” seems to have inconsistencies. Because of this I wrote a letter to general service. When I brought it up with the group they essentially said, ‘Get over it, don’t drink.’ I wrote Box 459 with questions and they never wrote back. I later attended Unity Day and told the DCM about the lack of response, and they recommended bringing it to your home group to see about having the GSR bring it to their District.

When I brought it to my group, the group conscience did not want to take action on this. If they were concerned about, one might say, “I would like to make a motion.” If it’s seconded, it becomes New Business and gets discussed at the next meeting. If desired by the group, the GSR could come and bring it to the District.

Example Motion: “I make a motion that there be created AA approved literature that describes the unexplainable things in the AA Big Book.”

Justin H.: Motions are organic, they can start pretty much anywhere. But then it goes through certain steps to get to New York and from New York to get back to the individual groups.

Comment: There is such a book, it’s called the AA Concordia. (*Note: this is non-conference-approved literature. –Recording Secretary*)

Q: Peter K., Happy Hour Friday Night. The role of the Agenda Committee determines which of the topics that New York receives. I’d like to know more about that. Also: How does an agenda topic die? We decide on many things over the years, but then they come back again and again. (Examples: the gray pages in the AA Grapevine and full-face actors in PSAs.)

Q: Jackie B. Motions can start at the group, or individuals going to the District meeting or their DCM. Some write directly to AA trustees to create an agenda topic. Before making a motion, consider getting feedback first.

Q: Allison T. Sometimes I don’t know what is best-practices or AA approved vs. what is unique to a particular meeting. I’d like to learn more about that for the future.

Q: Linda V. – Every few years random groups decide that XYZ Thing is an Important Issue even though AA’s dealt with it twenty times before. *It’s important to let them* because that’s how people get involved. I have been tempted in meetings to say, “You are wasting our time, we’ve done this before.” But if I do, that new person with one or two years who was

Justin H. – a motion was passed allowing a website form to be created that allows you to give your group conscience to your Delegate.

The legal stuff is changing in our area. We are not incorporated, but a vote passed to form an ad-hoc committee to research if we should incorporate (to protect area officers from legal or financial repercussions in things related to AA and AA groups).

DCMC Report

Chelsea W. I still need help with our website. *I need all the help*, even if it’s just someone to hold me accountable with this.

Liaison Reports

- Mac E., GGYPAA. Golden Gate Young People in AA. We are looking to make a bid for ACYPAA.
- Brad K., H&I. Orientation is at 2900 24th Street monthly. ~40 positions open, 6 months sobriety is needed. Jails/prisons need a couple of years sobriety.
- Jackie B, Intergroup. Presentations at intergroup were great. Intergroup needs people who want to connect with people *through their computer*. Founders Day is June 8th at the Unitarian Universalist Center. AA speaker, free dinner, and excerpt from the AA play "I am Responsible" is in Novato June 22nd.
- Allison T., Intergroup. Intergroup representatives are needed. Many meetings don't have an intergroup rep but all should. Q: Justin Hedemark. Do we have to have an intergroup rep in order to register with intergroup? A: No.
- Chelsea W. We are hosting an Assembly this fall. **We need ~100 people to help**. Post Conference Assembly is in Vacaville. This is where our Delegate comes and tells us about the conference and tells us what he spoke about there.

Meet Your Meeting

Elizabeth A., GSR for Cow Hollow Young People's Meeting, Tuesday 7:00 – 9:00 pm. Geared toward young people but welcome all ages. Great place to find sponsees who are young. There's a break in the middle for smoking and socializing with newcomers. 30+ in attendance. We go out to fellowship every week.

Justin H. – when I was new I attended this meeting and took a greeter commitment. It was integral to my sobriety and I highly recommend it.

What's Going On in Your Subdistrict

Riaz A. My group has had issues with AA safety. We now read a safety statement at every meeting. Dilemma about how to handle someone's been asked to leave (and they do for a while) but comes back after time passes. A few certain men are making certain women uncomfortable. Does anyone have thoughts now or after the meeting?

Rudy, Anything is Possible meeting. We have 7 meetings at one location, one group for 7 meetings. One treasurer that is on financial aid in Section 8 housing. He can't keep the money in his bank account or he'll lose his section 8 housing. We haven't been able to contribute to the district due to this, but we're looking into setting up as a non-profit or not-for-profit business.

Jackie B. – it might be easier to simply get a different person to be treasurer than it would be to set up as a not-for-profit.

Chelsea W. – there's a pamphlet called, "The AA Group, Where it All Begins." On page 29 it talks about group inventory and having the group answer group-related questions. There's also a traditions checklist to check the spiritual health of the group.

Question/Comment: some groups invite someone outside to run the group conscience. Comment: If your group wants someone outside to do a group inventory, talk about it at the district or talk with your DCM.

Allison T., Reality Farm. Does anyone have experience applying the traditions to AA fellowship after/before the meeting? Maybe extending the principals to fellowship? Fellowship as an extension of the meeting itself.

Bridging The Gap

Courtney W.: Bridging the Gap is changing focus to the inability to gather a robust committee for BTG. The new focus is a prerelease contact program where we get information to inmates so we can set up a written correspondence with an AA on the outside and so they can keep that correspondence going upon release. We are opening discussion/conversation for this.

Q: How many months will this conversation take? A: We anticipate a transition period with new incoming officers.

Q: The need for mental health/hospitals vs. Jails vs. Treatment centers are very different. Are you looking for different things for the three, or one policy for all?

A: Bridging the Gap in different areas where it's functioning well can handle different programs. We're having complications in SF. Treatment centers feel BTG is redundant, jails are difficult to get into, and we don't have enough people to fill the positions.

Q: What's different between what H&I does and Bridging the Gap? Does BTG take them to one meeting when they get out? A: BTG brings inmates to their first meeting once they get out, and BTG does not bring meetings into facilities. BTG makes presentations at the institution, but they're *presentations*, not AA meetings.

Q: Has BTG every thought of being rolled into H&I? A: There's a lot of overlap.

Q: Is BTG just an AA penpal that will bring you to a meeting when you get out?

Q: You mentioned there's a lot of facilities that need BTG – how many? A: We haven't found one that has a reciprocal beneficial relationship. Facilities don't get back with us.

Q: It sounds like BTG is not needed, that's what I'm hearing. It's OK to let it go if we don't need it.

Q: BtG in Marin is successful. Why does it work in the north bay but not in SF? A: I don't know the exact reasons, but BtG chairs in more successful areas say they can sustain a committee of 5-7 people who show up regularly. We do not have that.

Comment: I've done BtG before and I know how important it is to have volunteers to pick people up from jail and bring them to a meeting. They pick you up directly from jail and take you to a meeting first thing. That's why it's important.

Comment: There's a lot of redundancy covered elsewhere, but if we abandon the core function of BtG inmates will not have someone meet them when they get out of jail. The primary purpose is to carry the message to the alcoholic, and Bridging The Gap provides that function in a way that other parts of the fellowship (H&I, etc.) do not.

What's On Your Mind

Mac E. Clarifying point on H&I vs. Bridging The Gap. In H&I it's super important that the only thing we bring is AA stuff. Bridging the Gap is more personal, you're picking them up. Inmates sometimes (but rarely) have other motives to get to know BtG people, potentially unhealthy motives. An H&I volunteer is cleared as "an unpaid worker" of the jail and fraternizing with inmates is COMPLETELY forbidden, therefore the Department of Corrections frowns on H&I people picking up inmates. Aka, working Bridging The Gap. But a random visitor, say a Bridging The Gap person, the DOC has no opinion about that. The DOC views H&I as having more legal responsibilities, but BtG does not.

Jackie B. – Intergroup talked about the culture of responsibility (or lack thereof). We don't hear [at local meetings] people talking about service at the meeting level. When we talk at a meeting level, talk about the service work you're doing to help reinforce the culture of responsibility.

Sample GSR Report given by Chelsea W., including asking your group if we've ever done a formal group

inventory or if they want to do one.

Meeting closed at 9:03.