

District 06 (San Francisco) Minutes for General Service Business Meeting
Tuesday August 13, 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
- Justin Hedemark reads the General Service Preamble
- Reading of Tradition Eight by Abby.
- Reading of Concept Eight by Vanessa.
- **Welcome new GSRs or DCMs:** Abby B., co-chair for Castro Club Sober Sisters. Scott N., Cool Fresh Kids Club. Vanessa H., co-chair Castro Sober Sisters. Ricky B., Federal Speakers Group.
- **DCM Introduction.** Steve R., Pacific Heights/CowHollow. Mac E., Haight and GG park. Hemanth S., South of Market. Luke H., NOPA/Panhandle. Linda V., Land's End. Jackie B., Inner Sunset and Gratitude Center. Beth S., evening meetings at 2900 Florida in the Mission. Chelsea W. – backup for all other districts.
Four minute break for GSRs to meet their DCM.
- **Welcome Visitors:** Josh R. with Intergroup. Laura W., Area Treasurer.
- **Anniversaries:** Leslie P., 2 years. Hemanth 7 years. Mac E., 6 years. Steve R., 33 years. Jill 10 years. Jose, 2 years.
- **Prior Month's Minutes:** Accepted as written.

Financial Report – Beth S., district treasurer. Financials are as of the end of July. This month we are in the black (aka, a positive amount) for the first time this year [*Recording secretary note – this is expected and normal*]. Sent money to H&I, paid the rent.

If you want to see if your group is contributing, check the Group Contributions list. If your group isn't listed, that means we have not received any money from your group this month.

Q: I am a treasurer and distributed money, but I don't see my group listed. Why? A: I may not have received it yet, I check the post office box once a month.

Summary of Service Manual Study. Jeff S. Chapter 8. Conference Committees. Each delegate sits on a different committee. There are 11 committees, and they create agenda topics for the conference. Some delegates go to the conference, some do not. The conference does not work without these committees.

DCMC Report – Justin H. The area is going very well. The Summer Assembly is coming up (the Workshop Assembly) to learn about general service, problem members, unruly members, etc. Session 1: Trust, Growth and Unity in the Fellowship in the Digital Age. Session 2: Are we inclusive? Who is missing from our meetings, and more. It's in Petaluma on Saturday, September 14th.

Liaison Reports

Steve R – Intergroup. There will be a safety workshop put on by Intergroup, hoping for October. Sense of intergroup is they want to do a workshop on African Americans. Nothing has been formed, but

consensus is they want to proceed with this.

Justin H – PICPC. Sunday Streets event is coming up. If you want to volunteer to be a friendly face at an AA table, please volunteer. Normal PICPC meeting is the 2nd Monday of every month, 7:00 at Central Office.

Presentation – Laura W., Area Treasurer. Service Sponsorship.

In my mind I had an idea that a service sponsor required the same time and commitment as a regular AA sponsor. When I started in general service I didn't know I was supposed to go to all those assemblies and events. I made my co-GSR drive me around. It worked out, I later married him.

After being in general service for a while I got involved in Archives without knowing how to do it, so I looked for someone with specific knowledge about working in Archives. I found someone with a lot of experience, and if she doesn't have experience with a particular issue I can find someone else with direct experience with what I'm looking to learn.

Collectively we have a wealth of experience in general service.

[A handout titled Service Sponsorship is given out that's an excerpt on the service manual.]

"A service sponsor is usually someone who is knowledgeable in AA history and has a strong background in the service structure."

Service sponsorship often looks different depending on which role you are doing service with. "Service is a lot more fun when we understand what's going on." – Laura Whelan.

My service sponsor has been incredibly valuable to me. I was recently diagnosed with an auto-immune disorder and it's affected my ability to do service. My service sponsor already knew me and was able to help and support me. "Do I need a service sponsor anymore?" It's like staying connected in our AA recovery – staying connected in service is important because we never know what's coming and when we will need that support.

"It's way more fun for me to read the concepts when I am a service sponsor."

"Service is our most important product after sobriety."

Q: Did you ask your service sponsor what direction to go in service, specific positions? A: Before elections I talk with my service sponsor about my availability (work, family), sometimes I do a quick written inventory. "What shape is your [AA] triangle?" Make sure your recovery is still solid and you're not spending too much time on service. Do I have the time, energy and knowledge required to fill a position?

Q: What do you mean about a service written inventory? A: It looks different depending on what I'm doing. Am I available, what are the commitments that can't change (family, job commitment)? What are things that could easily (or not so easily) flex in order to take a service commitment? Can I fill the requirements, or can I learn to fill the requirements for the position? What do I have to learn and do I have time to do that?

Q: Is it necessary for your service sponsor to be different from your AA sponsor? A: It depends. If

sponsor time is limited, sometimes it's nice to have someone different to call. If it's the same sponsor it can be nice because your sponsor already knows you. It's most important for my service sponsor to have the same position in the past, or one that's very similar. They must have knowledge of your service position.

Q: You've talked about service sponsorship for general-service-level service. Do you use your service sponsor for meeting-level service, or intergroup-level service? A: I use my AA sponsor for meeting-level service because they have experience with it. It depends on preference and what experience your recovery sponsor has available.

Reaching out to African American Alcoholics – Jackie B. Delegate passed on a report from 2018 about reaching out to African American alcoholics. General Service Board has some goals and one is *Inclusion*. People reached out to their trustees asking how they can reach their remote communities (which are different everywhere – in some areas African American is a remote community). They had a conference call with several African American members and asked what kind of things could be done inside the fellowship (at meetings). There's a difference between invitation and inclusion. Everyone is invited, but they may not be included. (Invite a vegan to a dinner, but if everything is meat they won't feel included.)

How to reach newcomers – in the report. Many black colleges and frats/sororities, reach out to those. Using public information to reach out to national black organizations. How can conventions help, including YPAAs? There's no international people of color conference. It's important who speaks at the conference – after two people of color spoke at main meetings in San Diego conference there was an uptick of black AAs over the next year in San Diego.

Grapevine did a bit on micro aggressions, small subtle things that make people feel not a part of. This month's grapevine has an article on People Like Me including blacks in AA that had the statement, "I felt like the only black at my meeting, but when I went to an assembly I REALLY felt out of place."

"For the African American Alcoholic" pamphlet hasn't been updated since 2001.

As of the last AA survey in 2014 of 6000 members. 89% white. Non-white were 4% African American. That's been true since the membership survey began asking ethnicity in 1998.

[\[https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-48_membershipsurvey.pdf\]](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-48_membershipsurvey.pdf)

After WW2 a lot of people of color began coming into AA, but Jim Crow laws prevented whites and blacks from meeting together so black groups began forming.

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Justin H. – Our Delegate is on Treatment and Accessibility Committee. Accessibility for all AAs is important to him. Delegate Teddy shared this: How this topic is raised requires careful discernment. Good judgement, a careful sense of timing, courage and prudence. These are the qualities we need.

10 minutes of group breakout to discuss

Riaz A.– I speak as a person of color. If you take this back to your meeting that is predominantly white with only 1-2 non-whites, don't say, "YOU are the Indian person in the meeting... what should we do?"

That makes that person feel like they have to speak for all Indians.

Chuck F. – Don't make white people figure out how to bring black people into AA. It's like a bunch of white men figuring out "how to help those white women."

I was on the host outreach committee for ICYPAA in Detroit, Michigan. Detroit has a huge African American population, but we failed in outreach to the black alcoholic. I hope to see the International 2020 Conference [being held in Detroit] do something different that we did.

What's Going on in Your Group

Allison T., Reality Farm. In the spirit of inclusion, we had a female/male sponsorship coordinator. We now have a trans/non-binary sponsorship coordinator. A member that fits those qualities said, "the only area I feel safe is [dance] clubs" where there is a lot of drinking. We try new pilot programs at Reality Farm for ~6 months and we're trying this trans/non-binary sponsorship coordinator.

Request for Housekeeping Motion

Jackie B.. Motion: "That CNCA requests a play about the AA grapevine..." [*the exact motion wording was not captured and motion was not repeated in full again – recording secretary*] The motion won't cost the district or area any funds.

It's brought up as a District motion because Area 44 in New Jersey has been putting on plays for 25 years at the International for various reasons. I think San Francisco should get involved.

The play I'm proposing would be a play about the AA grapevine reaching out to remote communities.

Q: Why was the play request refused in 2015? A: Because of miscommunications on the play topic requirement.

Do we want to ask the international convention to consider putting on a play?

Q: What is the urgency, why? A: Registration opens in September and they are nailing down dates. "They said it would be better to have an area request instead of an individual request."

Comment: This feels like a personal request. I think it should be put to the groups to see if this should be brought up by the area.

Comment: This isn't saying people in San Francisco have to be in the play.

Comment: If we bring this to the groups, it's essentially the same as saying don't do it due to the time sensitive nature.

Comment: My group isn't going to care.

Comment: This feels too rushed. It feels like we're being hijacked.

Comment: I don't think this is area business. It doesn't feel right.

Comment: It seems like the deadline has already passed. A: It hasn't, but it will in two weeks.

Justin H. - Because there were objections to this housekeeping motion, it will not be voted upon.

Luke H. – DCM

I need help with the assembly. It takes a fellowship to step in and help out and head up different committees, get your sponsees to help out. It's on November 2nd and will be at St. Mary's across from where we used to meet. We need help with: Food, parking, setup, cleanup, decoration, registration, soda/water/coffee, cleanup during the event, pre-assembly dinner point-person.

Unity Day – last year was wonderful. How to be of service outside of your group, CICPC, Sunshine Club, etc. October 12th. *If you know anyone you want to have speak there, please see me, Luke.*

The Area requests conversation on:

- 1) Are area assembly open or closed? Should alcoholics be welcome there, why or why not?
- 2) Are your groups in favor of a new edition of the big book?
- 3) Motion before the area that the general service office produce a pamphlet for the transgendered alcoholic. Does your group think such a pamphlet is needed?

Meeting closed at 9:00.