

District 06 (San Francisco) Minutes for General Service Business Meeting  
**Tuesday October 8, 2019**  
Old First Presbyterian Church at 1751 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, CA

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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 H reads the General Service Preamble
- Reading of Tradition Ten by Joe
- Reading of Concept Ten by Anna
- **Welcome new GSRs or DCMs:** Anna, Lush Lounge. Joe, Cow Hollow Young Peoples. Paul, The Surf Group.

**DCM Introduction.** Beth S, DCM 375 evening meetings at 2900 Florida. Luke H. 210 by Alamo Square/Lower Haight. Jackie B. DCM 270, Inner Sunset near the Gratitude Center. Steve R., 240 Cow Hollow and Pacific Heights. Linda V. 250 the Richmond and Land's End. Mac E., DCM 255 Haight. Chelsea W., alternate DCM for all other districts.

- **Welcome Visitors:** Coree H., Area Assembly Coordinator.
- **Anniversaries:** Vanessa, 9 years. Coree H., 7 years.

**Financial Report** – Beth S., district treasurer. Group contributions, all groups that have made contributions this year are listed.

Financial report – we are in the black about \$1,500 over our prudent reserve. Tonight's 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition can optionally be donated to Beth S. In the memo field mention it's for the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition District 06 and I will transfer the funds to the District's 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition. You can email Beth at [treasurer@sfgeneralservice.org](mailto:treasurer@sfgeneralservice.org).

**Summary of Service Manual Study.** Jeff S. Chapter 10. The General Service Board. The Board's operating corporations. Last month we learned of Trustees responsible for General Service Office and the AA Grapevine. These two have two corporations each, AA World Services, Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc. The people on those boards are called Directors (as opposed to Trustees). The Directors have custodial oversight over those two corporations. There are committees within these. Technology Communication Services, Finance, Publishing, Nominating.

All publishing for AA Approved material goes through the General Service Office. All Grapevine stuff goes through the Grapevine and La Vina. Any extra money yearly is held on to for one year and the next year a decision is made where to allocate last year's extra funds.

Trademarks: AA, Alcoholics Anonymous, The Big Book, Grapevine, AA Grapevine, GV, La Vina, and at least two more. The circle-triangle is not trademarked. (*Recording Secretary note: at the 1994 General Service Conference, AA resolved to discontinue the circle-triangle logo on all conference approved literature.*)

### **DCMC Report – Justin H.**

The Area would like feedback from your groups on 4 issues: 1) should Assembly be Open or Closed. 2) Is AA reaching the African American alcoholic, yes/no, and how we can be more welcoming. 3) new area business having the CNCA06 California Northern Coastal Area create a pamphlet to the Spanish speaking LBGTQ alcoholic. **Check with your group to see if there is interest in this.** During the Fall Assembly feedback is welcomed. (The Fall Assembly will be November 2<sup>nd</sup> at St. Mary's Cathedral - 1111 Gough Street.)

The Area meeting is the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday every month in Petaluma. The business meeting is from 12:00 – 3:30. I can drive if you need a ride.

Q: Can I submit group conscience without going to the assembly? A: Yes, email the conscience to myself or another Area officer or committee member.

### **Liaison Reports**

Chelsea W – Website help is *needed*. We need a committee. We don't want any single alcoholic doing this alone.

Mac – GGYPA, Golden Gate Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous. We put on events. [event in the past omitted.] There's a Halloween Dance on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Steve R – Intergroup SF/Marin. There's a proposal to have a single email communication strategy for all of Intergroup. There's one sign-up for Buzz, one for The Point, and two other items. The proposal is to have them all linked together so you can sign up for any or all of them from any of them easily.

### **Special Presentation: Area Inventory Assembly – Coree H, Area Assembly Coordinator.**

Having the inventory here is very special to me, it was the first assembly I ever went to in sobriety. I hope that everyone here has done a personal inventory. <crowd laughter> You know how important it was for you to stay sober doing that inventory. A show of hands of people that have done a group inventory (many raise hands). My group does it the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in November every year in order to stay healthy. We do the same thing at the Area and the General Conference.

A District inventory highlights things that are specific to your district. In Santa Clara we found that due to the arrangement of our room, people couldn't hear very well and they would leave. We changed the room arrangement this change helped retain people.

I was at your last District inventory. You broke up into small groups and did an inventory that way, it was pretty cool. Some of the questions asked included: What is the basic purpose of our district? Are we seeing a fair cross section of people in our district – who's not here? Is our district meeting accessible to all? Is the meeting attractive to people? Do people feel bored? We ask very similar questions at the area inventory assembly.

These six questions will be discussed at the Area:

- 1) What is the basic purpose of CNCA (our area)? Good warmup question.
- 2) Do we spend the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition contributions wisely? (Do GSRs know and care?)

- 3) What does it mean to be available for area service? (It's not just an area officer position, it could be attending the monthly meeting in Petaluma. How many hours does it take for a certain position, and am I available for that?)
- 4) How can the area officers/committees better service the area? Do you think I [Coree] should be going to 7 area meetings a month?
- 5) How do we avoid the tyranny of the majority and the minority. It comes straight out of Concept 5 in the Concept's Checklist (found on AA.org or google search "aa concept checklist). The idea of the two tyrannies is the majority pushes things through with force of numbers and the minority keeps bringing up a pet issue again and again and again until it passes.
- 6) Is our area accessible to all that want to participate?

There are no wrong answers in an area inventory. You can say things that are wildly unpopular, yet they can be vital for the survival of the spiritual health of our area. You have a voice, it's valid, and *I really mean that*.

If you have people at your home group that are interested in hearing how these things happen, bring them along!

Q/A

Q: When you said exposing/sharing the ugly truth about the group similar to a personal inventory, can you give an example on how you would do that with a group?

A: There was a time in my home group where there was a weird membership issue between 2 members. One member would be very rude to people and involve crosstalk. Others didn't want to bring it up because they didn't want to be targeted by this person. It was brought up in our group inventory.

*A printout of suggested questions is passed out.*

Q: When someone doesn't feel safe, is that part of the AA Safety Card?

A: I don't know, this is just what happened in my group.

Q: What would be things that would be solved in a business meeting vs. an inventory?

A: You know how you do steps 4-5, but they wouldn't be effective if you didn't do the rest of the steps? There are things that can come out of the inventory that can be brought up at a business meeting as a motion for change. Example: my inventory highlighted that people couldn't hear at our area. The next business meeting we made a motion to rearrange the room.

Q: You said you can bring an interested member of your home group. Can you bring *anyone* in AA to the Area Assembly?

A: Yes.

Q: With a group inventory, where do we get the questions/guidelines?

A: The way that my home group did it was the AA Group pamphlet, there are 14 questions. We used those. You can also pull them from the 12 Traditions Checklist and rephrase them for your group. You could also make a survey of your group – have a bunch of questions and have individuals rate them in order of importance.

Q: Have you facilitated a group/area inventory?

A: I have facilitated group inventories and facilitated this District 06 last panel.

Q: If we're looking for someone to lead a group inventory, how do we figure out who a good person would be?

A: DCMs are good people to ask. Someone NOT part of your home group and has experience doing it. Generally when I'm asked I bring a note keeper who can type, and I do the facilitating. You can do both at the same time, but it sucks.

*Chuck F – If anyone is doing this and needs a note keeper, I can type for you. See me.*

Q: How consistent do the members of the group need to be for the inventory to be effective? We always have enough people, but the group changes/turns-over regularly.

A: There's no hard and fast rule. If it were my group I'd try to see if these people were coming regularly and I'd announce it to the group that you'd want to do a Group Inventory. See what they think.

- Ten minute break to meet at tables and discuss group inventory -

#### **Feedback on Group/Area Inventory discussion**

Jackie – Our group talked about group inventory and district questions. “Are district meetings informative and enthusiastic?” Some parts are not clear to individual GSRs how what is being discussed is relevant to their particular group and I sometimes wonder if we take too much business back to our group and overload them.

Julie – Question to my group, in an inventory you have a facilitator come in. What is the role of the GSR? Do they have a role or are they just a member of the group meeting?

A: You don't always have to have a facilitator. It's not always necessary to have someone do it for you.

A: The GSR is *a member of the group* during the inventory. The whole point of a facilitator is detachment. A facilitator allows the GSR to just be a member of the group.

A: The steps are to the alcoholic what the traditions are to the group. It's a spiritual analogy. I'm not the person who decides if my inventory is good or not and I read it to a sponsor. Similarly, that's why I want a facilitator for a group inventory.

Steve –I'm here because of a group inventory because my group found we had 70 people (7 daily meetings, one group) but no GSR or Area rep. How do you conduct an inventory in that circumstance? My sponsor facilitated something similar for a “group” of 50 but only 4 showed up.

A: Food is always a great bribe to keep people. However, it may bring in people who aren't part of the group.

Q: As a GSR, do we have agency to decide (annually, etc.) when it's a good time to have a group inventory?

A: No, but bring it up at a group business meeting. It's up to the group if and when they have a group inventory. If your group has not done an inventory in a long time, during announcements or business meetings may be a good time to talk about the District Fall Inventory, then broach the subject of a AA group inventory.

A: Our GSR brought up we haven't done an inventory in years, so at our group our business meeting we decided to have a AA Group Inventory in November every year.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition

### What's on your mind – for your group/subdistrict?

Riaz – At Unity Day at 1:00 I'm cohosting a panel called "Let's talk about safety in AA". I've talked to a number of women in AA. I was chosen for this panel due to issues with women in my home group. How can men in meetings steps up and be helpful against CIS-hetero men hitting on women?

A: We put Safety in our meeting. We had a guy at our home group doing the same inappropriate things in our meeting. We talked to him.

### Housekeeping motion

Steve R. - Make an emergency expense for the Host committee for the preassembly dinner on November 1<sup>st</sup>. It's a small-t tradition that the host committee has a dinner that is self-supporting. The room will cost \$1,154 to secure the room, and in addition we need a small amount of seed money for incidentals. It's a \$30 per/person meal.

Luke – Due to consumables it's about \$200-\$300 in addition to that \$1,154. We usually have a turnout of no fewer than 60-70, sometimes over 100. We need 66 to break even. *Our goal is not to make money, it's to welcome people coming in from out of town to attend the event.*

Q: Can we be proactive and sell tickets? How do we get the word out?

A: Tickets will be distributed as soon as possible. The price is "Self-supporting, but available to all."

Steve R – We have a flyer with tickets that will be on the SF / Marin Intergroup website tomorrow. You can pay cash, check, or pay online. Note: this housekeeping motion is seed money only.

Q: Are these surprise expenses?

A: Not a surprise, but we were trying to get a different/less expensive spot that didn't pan out.

Comment: Our prudent reserve is over \$2,000, plus we are in the black \$1,500 on top of that. Bank account balance is ~\$3,500. We try not to dip into the prudent reserve if we don't have to, but it's there. We expect next month the amount will be covered.

Comment: Dr. Bob said, "12-step work takes a little bit of money and a lot of time." This is a little bit of money.

### Housekeeping Motion

Does anyone object to \$1,154 and up to \$300 in supplies for the pre-assembly dinner on November 1<sup>st</sup>?  
No objections. Motion passes.

Budget committee will present a draft budget at November's District meeting.

Luke – I'm excited to be putting on the assembly. Unity Day is coming up this Saturday at the Urban Life Center from 11:00 – 4:00. Orientations for all things (H&I, PI, etc.) will all be available at Unity Day. Free food, free dessert. Last year had a couple hundred people.

We need help with the assembly to sign up ahead of time. Chelsea – it's not about how you feel. As a GSR, you are a part of a bigger thing. There are 40 blank spots available. We need people to sign up or we're going to have a hard, bad time.

If you know people you can talk into signing up, do so.

Q: If someone wants to sign up after tonight, how do they do so?

A: Contact me:. You can give that info out to anyone you choose. Or contact Chelsea, Steve, Jeff, Justin.

Justin H – we have 2019 Conference Report books for everyone. Come get them!

Meeting closed at 9:00.