

District 06 (San Francisco) Minutes for General Service Business Meeting  
**Tuesday October 13, 2020**  
*Online Zoom Meeting*

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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 [REDACTED] reads a General Service Preamble
- Reading of Tradition Ten by Steve R.
- Reading of Concept Ten by Gabriella M.
- **Welcome new GSRs or DCMs:** Kelly C., KooKoo Hump Day, Wednesday 6:00 PM. Don C., Eureka Valley Topic Group, Monday at 6:00 PM.
- **DCM Introduction.** Steve R [REDACTED] DCM for subdistrict 240 Pacific Heights / Cow Hollow. Beth S [REDACTED] subdistrict 375, evening meetings at 2900 Florida. Jackie B [REDACTED] DCM 270, Inner Sunset near the Gratitude Center. Chelsea W [REDACTED], alternate DCM for all other districts.
- **Welcome Visitors:** Miguel H [REDACTED] California Northern Costal Area Recording Secretary. Taran, SF/Marin Intergroup (IFAA) Board. Nikole T., IFAA Board. Peter M., Public Relations Committee for SF/Marin Intergroup.
- **Anniversaries:** Vanessa H., 10 years.

September minutes were accepted as submitted after a correction to Alison's name. It has one L, not two.

**Financial Report** – Beth S [REDACTED] Budget Committee., Below projected income, but also below projected expenses.

Q: My group Sister's Circle has two ID numbers on the contribution sheet. Is that OK? [Issue was resolved.]

**Summary of Service Manual Study.** Patricia. Concept Ten. The principle that underlies some of the earlier concepts relating to groups having the ultimate authority, but having it delegated to the Conference and then to the Trustees. The 12 Concepts Illustrated pamphlet was shown as well.

**DCMC Report – Justin H [REDACTED]**

*AA For The Older Alcoholic pamphlet wants new stories and wants your input.* 500-800 word submissions are requested before December 15<sup>th</sup>. Also, the Conference is looking for a Theme and workshop topics for next year.

AA World Services drew down an additional 1.5million dollars. Contributions are down, but expenses are down as well. Book sales went down in April/May but are slowly rebounding.

## **Liaison Reports**

Alison T., Intergroup Liaison. Changes to website are live. We also have a Digital Newcomer Package [<https://aasfmarin.org/new-to-aa>] There's a new interface for remote meetings, but more are opening in person so that is now reflected online. We now have a sleek back-end way to update meetings and meeting information for the website list.

We use The Buzz newsletter to communicate with groups. Check out The Buzz!

We use the Special Projects financial fund for these and related things. There's a link that gives much more information about this fund. <https://aasfmarin.org/special-projects-fund>] We will also hold an open meeting in the future to discuss concerns that some have raised.

GSO is requesting that you flip your donations to contribute more to Intergroup.

Q: Website, finding meetings. The zoom link for two recent meetings was wrong. Somehow when links are transferred from the old to the new site something may be going wrong. If you host a meeting, review your listing online to make sure the links are right. Also, my home group isn't showing up as located in San Francisco, it shows up as Everywhere.

A from Taran (Intergroup): Duly noted about non-current out of date listings, I'll pass it along. As far as "Everywhere," that is a bit of a work in progress. They had to compromise how they listed location to handle virtual meetings. The bugs are wrinkled and being ironed out.

Comment: The Update feature worked very well. I used it last night and by today the link had been updated.

Q: Will the "old meetings not being updated" list that's online right now be going away? A: That's a transitional thing. Anything that you see and think, "That's not right" should be going away.

Q: What is the status with the Town Hall Meeting on the Special Projects Fund? A: Nikki (Board Member): subscribe to The Buzz, it comes out every Friday and will have updated information about when the Town Hall is scheduled. We're probably looking at next Wednesday for that meeting, but all of the details will be in The Buzz. (Subscribe: <https://aasfmarin.org/buzz>)

Q: "Was this decision voted on by intergroup or the executive committee at Central Office to accept the very large donation?" This link gives a lot of information and background on that decision process. (<https://aasfmarin.org/special-projects-fund>)

## **Intergroup Public Relations Committee (formerly called the Public Relations / Cooperation with the Professional Community), Peter M. Co-chair.**

We're looking for a small group to help us reach out to the court system, the Public Defender's office and rehabs. This is good for people with experience as a lawyer, work with rehabs or someone who has been in rehabs. Please bring this request to your group. We would like your help.


## **AA NEEDS HELP. BILL WILSON SAID PR WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT JOB IN AA. FOR THE FELLOWSHIP AS A WHOLE.**

Email me at [SFPR@aasfmarin.org](mailto:SFPR@aasfmarin.org) if you can help.

We provide literature and speakers for members of the professional community to educate about

Alcoholics Anonymous. "Signing court slips" at meetings, how to do that and retain anonymity. We're going to talk about that.

We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, speaker orientation at 6:00 PM and the main meeting at 7:00. [SFPR@aasfmarin.org](mailto:SFPR@aasfmarin.org)

Q: Should someone interested email you directly? A: Yes, email me directly  or [sfpr@aasfmarin.org](mailto:sfpr@aasfmarin.org).

Q: What is the sobriety requirement to be involved in PR and are there different levels to speak or reach out to someone in the Public Defender's Office? A: Speaker, 2 years recommended. Less than that for being a committee member. 6 months of sobriety with a working knowledge of the steps and we'll work with you.

### **California Northern Coastal Area Recording Secretary, Miguel H.**

Several motions are going on right now. The most stressful CNCA incorporates as a nonprofit that we've talked about for the last 1.5 years. The current structure no longer supports our needs. Currently if someone is successfully sued in CNCA, it can effectively drain the CNCA bank account. If it's incorporated as a nonprofit this could be avoided.

Read the report. (Email a District Officer to request a copy of the report.)

Travel reimbursement. We generally have 3 different types of insurance at the Area. Liability for accidents during travel. Area officers travel over 1,200 miles during a busy month. The finance committee thought it would be good to have better coverage. Our current insurance provider didn't ask, but the agent thought the motion would be a good idea.

Next motion. A bookkeeper. Retain the services of a certified bookkeeper to assist our Area Treasurer. Area meeting every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month. All can attend.

We should create a more specific job description so the position can be more attractive.

Some people believe that we don't need someone outside AA for these positions. Others believe it's a full-time job.

Expenses projected are \$120-125k. It's a lot of work, so hiring a bookkeeper was proposed. Some expenses are rent, publications (newsletter), travel expense, interpretation/translation English-Spanish-English.

Motion. Increase reimbursement for area officers from \$100 to \$150 for hotel reimbursement.

At the end of the GSR pamphlet is this quote:

*"The strength of our whole A.A. service structure starts with the group and with the general service representative (G.S.R.) the group elects. We cannot emphasize too strongly the G.S.R.'s importance."*

You can call/email Area officers. Anything we can do for you, we will. I have three years of notes that I can provide if needed.

All motions can be found at CNCA06.org including background information as well.

Q: I'm a DCM and available to anyone with questions about this. GSRs have the right to make the decision whether or not to take this to their group. Can GSRs just inform their group and invite feedback, or should they try to collect feedback for this? Collection may be difficult.

A: I don't want to give my personal opinion. This is a way to collect a group conscience. We can't tell people to go to their group and get their group conscience. It's up to the GSRs. There are over 100 topics

every year and it'd be impossible to cover all of them. But we're hoping to get feedback on these four.

Q: Financial questions, my group will want to know if we're paying the bookkeeper and how much. I've helped create nonprofits and know it can be costly and take time. The hotel increase from \$100 to \$150, how often is this reimbursement claimed – how big of an impact will this be?

A: Our Area is HUGE. We travel about 340 miles in one day. To be eligible for hotel reimbursement we must travel over 100 miles. We travel about 3-4 times a month. It may be 4 miles away or 400 miles. I cannot give you a solid number due to this.

A Chelsea: We are currently not paying a bookkeeper. The finance committee for Area has a Treasurer, a finance committee Chair, and members on that committee. We create the budget and provide receipts. These are AA members at large who are elected through Third Legacy elections. Some have accounting skills, most do not. The way the motion is written there is no dollar amount attached and it's open-ended. We're looking for a little more oversight – we want to see if that's what the fellowship wants. We're looking for a Certified Bookkeeper vs. an uncertified Bookkeeper. Certified costs more.

Q: Re: Incorporation. Do other areas do that? How common is it? Have you spoken to other Areas about it to see what they have done?

A Justin: The majority of Areas we reached out to for several months were incorporated. The way it's structured now, CNCA06 is an Unincorporated Nonprofit Organization. In the eyes of the law it's a Business Entity. One reason for incorporating is to get a Tax Exempt status, but we already have that exemption since 1994. The current setup offers protection for the Area but not for members of the Area if something happened while they were at or on the way to an Area event.

Our Delegate Teddy says 34 areas responded, Areas Incorporated: 61.76%, Areas Unincorporated: 23.53%, Other: 14.71%”

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

Venmo to  It's a private account. Please specify what amount if any to go to H&I.

### **MOTION**

Pamphlet for the Latin American Alcoholic [Motion passed]

*“That District 06 request A.A.W.S produce and publish a pamphlet for Latin American Alcoholics containing stories from Latin American Alcoholics in their own words to be presented to our Area for review and approval.”*

Rudy: This covers in general anyone in the Latin American community, a bi-lingual pamphlet. It would be similar to the pamphlet to the African American Alcoholic. In some cases these pamphlets include history of that group in AA. 2/3rds of these pamphlets re: various groups would have personal stories. Latin Americans who were able to get sober in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Comment: Point of clarity that was brought up in Intergroup. Question was phrased, ‘the pamphlets were translated in a lot of different languages including Spanish, so what’s the difference?’ The difference is that it would be about stories written by Latin Americans, not just translated. That was helpful information for my group to know.

Vote on how we should vote: Simple Majority or Substantial Unanimity (2/3rds)? Historically, things of 51% are things of little consequence or no significant financial impact. 2/3rds are historically things that would be for things that can affect AA as a whole.

27 of 34 voted. 59% decided to vote using Simple Majority.

The effect of this motion if it were to pass would be to have a member of our District go to the Area business meeting and ask this to be placed on New Business, then present it to the Area as New Business. The Area then decides whether or not to bring this to the General Service Conference.

Q: If I don't have a group conscience, should I vote my opinion or abstain? A Justin: As your groups GSR you have right of authority and right of decision for your group. My opinion is that you should vote as what your group would vote and if you don't have that, vote your personal opinion.

31 of 34 voted. 90% in favor.

Minority Opinion offered, no minority opinion was given.

MOTION PASSED.

### **Job Descriptions**

A new slate of Trusted Servants will be voted in over the next few months.

Chair of District. The panel lasts for two years, odd and even numbers. The next panel will be Panel 71. You will be coming in as the Chair of the District and you'll be running the business meeting once a month – you should be available to chair physically once a month when the meeting is no longer virtual. You will open the church, run the meeting, facilitate, run the agenda planning meeting once a month to set up the Agenda (all are welcome). The running of the business meeting is done via Chair's Rules but loosely based on Rogers Rules of Order. Also expected to attend the Area Business Meeting the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month in Petaluma. If it does return to in-person you would attend in person – it's an easy drive and you can carpool. I also serve and support all the other District Officers.

Alt-Chair: Chelsea. I shadow the District Chair in Petaluma (or via that Zoom meeting). The best part of being the Alt Chair is that "We" get to do the New GSR Orientation that happens immediately before the District meeting. We serve as the backup DCM. We are the District Committee Member for any location without a DCM. We get to help everyone. All of the bells and whistles and sparkles... The chair has to be *on* but I get to be in the background gathering factoids. I do all the Chair does. The annual events, the Assemblies (4 per years), then Workshops and Unity Day. Some of the behind-the-scenes things I do. I updated our Handbook, I make the calendar for the Panel. I do the website. I keep the contact list up to date with who is a current GSR. I do the Sample GSR announcements at the end of the meeting or email them out after the District meeting.

Justin – I was Alt-Chair before the Chair. I learned a ton and everything was already in place for when I became the Chair.

District Committee Member ("DCM"). Jackie: I am the DCM for the geographic area where I attend meetings. You can be a District Officer AND a DCM at the same time. DCMs attend this monthly District meeting and the four annual Assemblies. Ideally all four, but if you can't make all of them or all monthly meetings things can be worked around. There's a DCM Sharing Session in Petaluma but that is *optional* for DCMs. As a DCM I'm a voting member at the Area Committee Meeting in Petaluma. It's mandatory to attend the District meeting as much as possible, then as much as possible at the Petaluma meeting. My primary task is to help GSRs understand AA's general service structure and help them with their

groups. I also support gathering of group consciences of meetings in my local area. I can approach groups without GSRs or take a group conscience for those without GSRs. "A DCM is a GSR for GSRs." The DCM position is a very proactive position – it is what you make of it. There's a lot of room between doing the bare minimum and doing an adequate job.

Justin: In years prior we shifted the November meeting date due to lack of available meeting space, but being virtual we will be holding the November meeting on our normal 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday – Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Fall Assembly is happening on November 7<sup>th</sup>. There's a flyer in your email and it will be on Zoom.

Meeting ended at 9:00 pm.