

**District 06 (San Francisco) Agenda for General Service
Meeting Tuesday January 12, 2021 / 7:30 – 9:00pm
Zoom ID: 840-2738-0768 PW: 1935**

Opening of Meeting

- Serenity Prayer
- “Why Do We Need a Conference?” by Bernard Smith – read by Jeff S.
- Tradition 1 & Concept 1 – read by Roy K. and Aundry B.
- New GSRs
 - Allison (NYX)
 - Aundry (Waterfront)
 - Patrick (Sat Morning Experience, Strength, & Hope Men’s Meeting)
 - Niko (Transgender/Genderqueer Castro Country Club)
 - Kelly (Bernal Big Book)
 - Keith (Monday What It’s Like)
 - Chris (Wharf Rats)
 - Sunil (Sometimes Slowly)
 - Larissa (OADW)
 - Pat (Wed Smokefree Sunrise)
 - Heidi (Anything is Possible)
 - Dan (Artists & Writers)
 - Lisa (Buena Vista Breakfast Club)
 - Michael (Blue Book Special)
 - Kerri (Thurs As Bill Sees It)
 - Will (Bernal New Day)
- Visitors
 - Megan
 - Leslie
 - Coree
 - Roy
 - Jim
 - Teddy
 - Leanna
 - Will
- Birthdays
 - Chris – 7 years
 - Joe – 39 years
 - Sunil – 5 years
- DCMs Present
 - Jill (DCM 270)
 - JB (DCM 225)
- Approval of Prior Month’s Minutes -- APPROVED

Officer Reports:

Chair (Jackie)

- District is going digital – sfgeneralservice.org
- New Google Groups, Google calendar, shared drives, etc.
- New area officers and new delegate (Jennifer B.)
- Old business to discuss at the Area meeting on 4th Saturday of month
- Opportunities to be of service
- GSO had a tough year in 2020 due to loss of literature sales and had to draw upon reserve twice, but they are not in danger of shutting down. Continue to send contributions!

Alt-Chair (Joey)

- Here to assist the GSRs, DCMs, and Jackie
- Explanation of why we are Panel 71
- Shared the link to the registration for new GSRs and new GSR packet

Treasurer (Beth, Riaz)

- Beth shared year-end report for 2020 – not much going on for the last few months including group contributions. Also shared that from 2019 and 2020, the excess funds were \$6,128.83. If we distribute that excess, we will start 2021 with just our prudent reserve amount.
- There is an amount of \$475.40 that we are not sure where it came from – we will discuss if this should be added to the excess funds and then distributed to the entities.
- Riaz introduced himself as new treasurer

Registrar (Chuck)

- Helping new GSRs, getting their info, and passing that along to GSO so they are aware of how many registered groups are in the district

Events (JB)

- March 13 – hold for Agenda Topics Workshop

Comments/Commentarios (Dennis)

- Dennis is filling in until we have someone elected into this role. He should have the comments compiled by Friday (1/15).

Service Manual Study (Kelly)

- Her first service manual study went well. They read Chapter 1 and talked about the structure of the General Service Conference, the voting system, and had Drew (Area Assembly Coordinator) available to answer questions.

Elections for Open Service Positions

- Comments/Commentarios Chair – Dennis H. was elected
- Mail Coordinator – Michael P. was elected
- Literature (and possibly also Grapevine/La Vina) Representative
 - Beth S. and Roy K. volunteered for this position and shared their qualifications
 - Beth received 57% of votes, Roy received 43% of votes; Beth was elected
- District 16 Spanish Central Liaison – This will be voted on next month
- District Archivist – This will be voted on next month
- GGYPAALiaison – This will be voted on next month

Visiting Area Officer: Drew Baker, Assembly Coordinator – “What is CNCA 06?”

- History of General Service Conference – Bill turning over stewardship of AA over to GSC in St. Louis in 1955
- All of US and Canada divided into different Areas
- CNCA is one of seven Areas for California (California Northern Coastal Area), which is then broken up into many Districts
- GSC is how we make large policy decisions for AA. Conference structure is an upside-down pyramid with Groups at top. It ensures that AA as a whole is not run by just a few individuals.
- AA groups share their consciences with District, DCMC shares those with the Area, then the Area delegate brings those to General Service Conference → keeps the lines of communication open!
- Will asked how many delegates attend GSC – there are 93 between US and Canada

Presentations: “2021 Calendar – The Year Ahead” presented by Joey H., Alt-Chair

- Joey shared the District calendar and discussed how the first few months is typically the busiest as we prepare for gathering group consciences to bring to the pre-conference assembly and then General Service Conference.
- GSRs should start talking to their groups now about a date they would like to take their group conscience (before the pre-conference assembly on April 3-4)
- In February, GSRs will get the topics that will be brought up for discussion at General Service Conference
- In early March, PRAASA conference will share out additional information about the agenda topics
- March 13th – Agenda Topics Workshop will give more information for GSRs on how to take a group conscience
- April 3-4 is pre-conference assembly where we deliver our group consciences
- May 15 is post-conference assembly where we learn about what happened at GSC and any decisions that may affect AA as a whole

Sharing Session: “Childhood Trauma and the A.A. Member” Heidi H., G.S.R.

- This is a presentation courtesy of Anything Is Possible as they took a group conscience and want to bring a motion to create a pamphlet around “Childhood Trauma and the AA Member”.
- ACE Test – Adverse Childhood Experience test, those with high ACE scores are at risk of dying 20 years earlier than their peers from a variety of causes including suicide or addiction.
- We briefly went through the questions from the ACE Test. All of the questions were read and then Heidi asked if folks could raise their hands indicating their scores on the ACE Test. Multiple members expressed in the chat that this did not feel appropriate and they were uncomfortable with the reading of the questions and asking folks to visibly identify their ACE score.
- Heidi shared that raising awareness about the ACE Test can help AAs understand how they can seek outside help or address issues that cannot be treated through the 12 Steps/program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

- A member expressed appreciation for the presentation and seeing what constitutes childhood trauma and how we can use this information to help other alcoholics who would possibly score high on the ACE Test
- A member wanted to share her opinion that you had no side of the street in childhood and that you should not owe amends to adults who inflicted trauma upon us, sometimes this can get misconstrued when working the steps
- A member wanted to share that this presentation struck a chord with her. Her thoughts on a pamphlet about this could possibly be tricky for AA since our pamphlets usually deal with experience, strength, and hope – not medical/psychological issues. This may not be AA’s responsibility as it specifically relates to the ACE Test.
- A member supports the idea of creating a pamphlet on how to deal with childhood trauma as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous – how to seek outside help and not feel alone
- A member supported the fact that Anything Is Possible took a group conscience and wanted to bring this as a motion to the district for a pamphlet. However, he did not feel this was an appropriate topic for AA to take on, that it was better left to medical professionals.
- In the chat, a member shared “Statistics are through the roof re Alcoholism and past and current trauma. This is probably the most important "outside" issue "inside" so many of us. Very pleased to hear the discussion and note the support. A realistic, informed, and modern discussion might finally challenge and reframe incredibly antiquated and shame based AA disinformation both from members and in our literature”
- A member shared that while many alcoholics suffer from childhood trauma, many also suffer from diabetes. Just as it would not be AA’s place to put out a pamphlet regarding “Diabetes and the AA Member”, it is not our place to put out a pamphlet regarding childhood trauma.
- More discussion on this at a later meeting. It is still not a motion yet.

Housekeeping motions: None

- We quickly voted to extend the meeting by 10 minutes

Old Business:

- None

Presentation of new business:

- None

Liaison Reports:

Hospitals & Institutions (Julie)

- Talked to Brad and getting up to speed

Intergroup (Alison)

- The issue of the Board accepting a large bequest is still being discussed. Lots of opinions on both sides. There will likely be a vote in March about whether to keep the bequest or return the money to the estate. New IG reps can vote starting with their 2nd meeting, so if your group wants to be represented, please have someone attend the February meeting so they can vote in March. ← Editor’s note: the vote was actually held on February 3rd

- Sign up for The Buzz or aasfmarin.org for more information around the bequest issue

Public Relations (Rudy)

- Most of this committee is non-operational due to the lockdown. Most PR outreach is through media right now (newspapers, blogs, etc.)

Bridging the Gap (Phil)

- Picks up where H&I leaves off; getting folks from hospitals and institutions into AA meetings. Somewhat non-operational due to lockdown, but they are helping “bridge” folks from facilities to meetings where they can.
- Corrections correspondence through Central Office

Golden Gate Young People in AA (Leanna)

- Still having events via Zoom

Sample GSR Report

Closing with the Responsibility Statement

I am responsible, when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there, and for that I am responsible.

Note that we did not pause for a 7th Tradition at this meeting as there was much to cover.