

JUNE 2021 MINUTES

District 06 (San Francisco) General Service Meeting

Tuesday, June 8, 2021 / 7:30 – 9:00pm

Zoom ID: 840-2738-0768 PW: 1935

Opening of Meeting:

- Serenity Prayer
- Article 12 of the Conference Charter -- read by Yanz C.
- Tradition 6 and Concept 6 – read by JB B. and Julie M.

- New GSRs
 - Ranee T, Alt GSR Each Day A New Beginning
 - Walter L, GSR Valencia Smokefree

- Visitors
 - Jennifer B, Area Delegate
 - Kathleen W, Anything is Possible
 - Carla H, Lush Lounge
 - Julie M., District 10 GSR
 - Russ H, member-at-large

- AA Birthdays
 - Riaz A., 11 years
 - JB B., 8 years

- Service Sponsorship statement

- DCMs
 - JB B., DCM 225 Subdistrict
 - Riaz A., DCM 250 Subdistrict
 - Jill G., DCM 270 Subdistrict
 - Vanessa H., DCM 310 Subdistrict
 - Hemanth S., DCM 315 Subdistrict
 - Dennis H., DCM 320 Subdistrict
 - Tony A., Alt-Chair and covers any meetings not in the above subdistricts

- Approval of Prior Month's Minutes – approved

Delegate Report from 71st Annual General Service Conference

- Jennifer B. reported on what she saw and heard at the conference
- She shared an audio clip of Bill W. speaking at a conference in 1960 about communication within AA -- this clip was shared at the General Service Conference on the same day 51 years later! This was used to illustrate on how we use the past to create our future
- There was a graph shared about how our financial matters were a bit of a rollercoaster in 2020 due to fluctuations in literature sales and 7th tradition contributions
- Leslie B. (Class A nonalcoholic trustee) gave a presentation on Finance which is available for us to access → we did not go over this presentation as it is 64 pages but Jennifer shared the link to this for us
- 2020 cost of services per member - \$7.34
- 2020 cost of services per group - \$151.85
- Conference committees met 3 times during the first few days in a Zoom room to discuss the agenda topics pertinent to their specific subject -- Jennifer was a member of the Trustees committee.
 - They were able to use the principles of AA traditions to inform decisions
- On Tuesday the delegates were put into breakout rooms to discuss a variety of questions
 - What would we do if we were 10x bolder?
 - How we communicate?
- On Wednesday, they had trustee elections
 - East Cenral Regional Trustee: Cathi C.
- Agenda Items:
 - In order to get through everything, the amount of time being able to speak at the mic was reduced from 2 minutes to 1 minute -- other concessions were made as well to ensure all topics were covered
 - It was passed that a 5th edition of the Big Book in English begin development -- it would have new stories to reflect updated membership and keep in mind the 1995 Advisory Action (no changes to first 164 pages, etc.). It would include a new foreword, an updated preface, and updates to expand on certain appendices.

- It was passed that a 4th edition of the Big Book in Spanish begin development due to some errors in the translation, etc.
- It was passed to change the phrase “opposite sex” to “partner” in the 12x12 and there will be a footnote explaining the change. It was also passed to remove the phrase “lustful enough to rape” and include a footnote. The sentence will now read “No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust, or gluttony”.
- It was also passed that a draft version of the 4th edition of the Big Book be translated into plain and simple English. This will make the Big Book as accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible. Jennifer got quite a bit of input from our Area about this item and shared support for this measure at the microphone.
- It was passed to develop a new pamphlet “Spanish-Speaking Women in AA”. Also passed to make updates to “AA for the Black and African-American Alcoholic” and “AA for the Native North American Alcoholic”, including new stories from folks within the community and different titles.
- Other items that passed: official AA podcast, recognition of online-only groups participating in General Service, Instagram account for Grapevine/La Vina,
- Jennifer also shared the structure of floor actions and how they used floor actions to discuss revising the A.A. preamble
 - There were 3 floor actions, but the ultimate vote: the Preamble revision replacing the words “men and women” with the word “people” was passed by the General Service Board as the new revised A.A. Preamble
- Jennifer closed her presentation with a quote from Bernard Smith at the 1953 General Service Conference: “In the area of principles, we should conceive certainty; in the area of policy, comparative certainty; and in the area...” and thanked us for helping her bring our voices to the conference
- Next year they should be able to meet in Brooklyn in person with the theme “A.A. Comes of Age 2.0 - Unified in Love and Service”

7th Tradition -- Venmo was shared on screen

Q&A

- Ken H (Sunday Morning Gay Men's Stag) asked about the foreword/preface for the 5th edition -- if we had any details about what it will say and will it address some of the concerns folks had with the 1st 164 pages. Jennifer was not sure what will be in the foreword or preface, but she likes to think some of that will be addressed.
- Julie S. asked who will be writing the plain language version of the Big Book. Jennifer said Publishing will find a translator who specializes in that and move forward from there and hopefully we will have a product in a couple of years.
- Yanz C. asked about the Preamble revision and his group was concerned that since part of the Preamble is in the first 164 pages, would this go against the 1995 Advisory Action? He wanted clarification that the Preamble is technically copyrighted and owned by Grapevine. Jennifer confirmed that this is owned by Grapevine and it can be changed, but since it was such a big change, it was brought to the groups and board for discussion.
- Jackie B. asked if Jennifer could give some advice on how GSRs can share the conference results with their group. Jennifer suggested sharing about the agenda topics your group voted on, what other "hot topics" that might be exciting, etc. -- it doesn't have to be shared all at once too!
- Tony A. asked Jennifer to share her experience what impact this involvement had on her sobriety/spiritual growth/etc. -- she said it reminded her to be open to the possibilities and listen to others. It was an incredible experience for her!
- Brad K. asked if any of the gender-neutral language or religious language concerns would be addressed in the plain language version that was approved, even though those other concerns weren't technically approved. Jennifer stated that due to the nature of plain language, some of those concerns will be addressed as part of the translation process.
- Sunil K. asked Jennifer to repeat how something becomes a floor action. Anyone at the conference can make a floor action -- like making a motion on the floor -- about a topic that was not brought forth by the specific committee.
- Someone in the chat asked if there was any discussion around keeping the conference virtual. Jennifer said there was not discussion about it formally. Folks were looking forward to getting together in person soon, but it may

be a possibility for future conferences if it is warranted (cost, travel safety, etc.)

Officer Reports: These were included in the GSR packet via email and not shared at the meeting

Discussion about whether we will stay on Zoom or start meeting in person

- Started with a poll about whether we should begin discussions or wait and how often we would like to meet in person if at all
- 61% of folks said they would like to start talking about it; 42% said wait
- 48% of folks said they would like to meet in person at least a few times a year; 27% said they would like to meet in person all the time; 14% said they would like to stay virtual

Presentation of New Business

- Phil S. (co-chair of Bridging the Gap Committee) presented a motion that the District establish a budget line item of \$500/year for San Francisco specific outreach materials. This would include printing materials that would include contact information for Bridging the Gap, Central Office, etc. -- since Bridging the Gap is a sub-committee of District 06, the thought is that the District should pay for the printing costs. By adding this item to our budget now, it would be a part of our budget going forward. Riaz said that we currently have a surplus of money in our funds and it should not impact us greatly.

Old New Business

- That the Area Newsletters (CNCA Comments/Comentarios) will be delivered either electronically or via US mail to all eligible recipients. If new recipients do not specify that they wish to receive a hard copy via mail it will be assumed that they wish to receive it electronically. The recipient can change the delivery method at any time.
 - Reminder to update your mailing address through the Registrar
 - Someone asked about the financial impact -- we currently spend roughly \$9,400/year on printing and mailing

- That the District adopt the payment platform Stripe as a plugin on our existing WordPress-powered website www.sfgeneralservice.org in order to accept online contributions from AA groups and AA members. The cost of Stripe per successful credit card charge is 2.9% + 30¢.
 - Sunil asked if other forms of online payment platforms were considered. Riaz clarified that they drew upon research that Dennis and others did, which included other payment platforms. The charge was found to be comparable to other platforms and more user-friendly. Dennis and Riaz will bring back comparisons for next month though.
 - Julie asked if we would need an account to use it. Jackie clarified that it's not a separate application like Venmo; it is like entering your credit card information to make an online purchase.
 - Tony shared his experience as Treasurer for another meeting and their use of a similar payment platform -- it made it easier for him as Treasurer and easier for members to use versus manual or other online forms of payment

No Old Old Business (lol)

Liaison Reports -- these were included in the GSR packet via email and not shared at the meeting

What's on your mind?

- JB shared that he's trying to figure out ways to contact groups in his sub-district (especially ones who don't have a GSR) -- do we have a list of contacts for groups? Also could we do a bash for new GSRs? Jackie suggested working with the Registrar as a starting point
- Since we had a couple of minutes left, Alison T. shared a couple of items from Intergroup:
 - Election of new board members
 - New treasurer (Jim M.)
 - Financial status is "Excellent"
 - Town Hall takeaways -- always check with most up-to-date info from your county's Dept of Health
 - Founders Day events: SF is virtual on June 12 and Marin is hybrid

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.