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# OCCA REGULAR GSO MEETING MINUTES

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MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2024

## **\*\*NO SMOKING OR VAPING ON CHURCH PROPERTY\*\***

- ⇒ **Chairperson:** called the meeting to order, requesting all cell phones be turned off or silenced.
- ⇒ **Chairperson:** read the "CA Preamble".  
Cocaine Anonymous is a Fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength, and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others recover from their addiction. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using cocaine and all other mind-altering substances. There are no dues or fees for membership; we are fully self-supporting through our own contributions. We are not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization, or institution. We do not wish to engage in any controversy and we neither endorse nor oppose any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay free from cocaine and all other mind-altering substances, and to help others achieve the same freedom.
- ⇒ **Chairperson:** called on an addict to read: "**The Twelve Traditions**".
- ⇒ **Chairperson:** called on an addict to report on Tradition #3.
  - Nolan O. reports for Matt M.: "The only requirement for C.A. membership is a desire to stop using cocaine and all other mind-altering substances."
- ⇒ **Chairperson:** called on an addict to give a report on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Concept.
  - Melanie R.G. reports on Concept 3 which states: "As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the Groups, the Conference, the World Service Board of Trustees and its service corporation, staffs, and committees, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of World Service with a traditional "**Right of Decision.**"
- ⇒ **Chairperson** asked for an addict to give a report on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tradition for next month.
  - Jenn C. volunteers.
- ⇒ **Chairperson** asked for an addict to give a report on the 4<sup>th</sup> Concept for next month.
  - Dreia M. volunteers.

**Remaining GSO Meeting 2024 Dates:** April 6<sup>th</sup>, May 4<sup>th</sup>., June 1<sup>st</sup>., July 13<sup>th</sup>., August 3<sup>rd</sup>., September 7<sup>th</sup>., October 5<sup>th</sup>., November 2<sup>nd</sup>., and December 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Location:** Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church  
2845 Mesa Verde Dr. E Costa Mesa CA, 92627 Suite 8

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## ARE THERE ANY MARCH BIRTHDAYS?

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Alonzo M., March 14<sup>th</sup> for 35 years, Steve C., March 14<sup>th</sup> for 4 years and Liz M. March 17<sup>th</sup> for 2 years and Neelam A. March 24<sup>th</sup> for 1 year.

⇒ **Chairperson:** entertained a motion to affirm the new GSRs or confirm a new meeting, if any, as Directors of OCCA and arrange for them to receive a new GSRs packet.

**New Meetings Petitioning to Join Area:** None.

**New GSRs:** Gina G. for the Online Paychecks Meeting.

- **Nick B. makes a motion to accept Gina G. as the new GSR for Online Paychecks Meeting. Seconded. Passes unanimously.**

⇒ **Chairperson:** read **GSR Duties** for new GSRs.

**GSR Duties:** The G.S.R. (General Service Representative) is a very important position. One year of sobriety is required to hold this position and it is a one-year commitment. The G.S.R. is required to attend the monthly business meeting, the G.S.O. (General Service Organization) to get chips, literature, schedules, flyers, and any other pertinent info, to bring back to the meeting.

⇒ **Secretary:** prepared to call roll and reminds members that "During Roll Call, when you hear your name, announce "Present", your current Position (if carrying more than one, state positions following this precedent: Officer, Delegate/Alternate, Committee Chairperson, GSR.) and if you are carrying a Proxy vote. If you are a proxy, please announce your principal for the record."

⇒ **Secretary:** called the roll and announced quorum.

- **Present:** Frank P., Nick B., Melanie R.G., Betsy L., Steve C., Alonzo M., Dan S., Nolan O., Jason S., Dreia M., Carlo P., Mathew M., Jose A., Liz M., Ron D., Chris J., Doc E., Angel G., Evan L., Jenn C., Russell E., Neelam A., MacKenzie C., Nate M., Anthony D., Kathy W., and Gina G.
- **Absent:** Donovan B., Matt A., Matt S., and Kyandra M.
- **Quorum is 17.**

⇒ **Secretary:** Passed the Master Contact list for any changes or updates to the Roll, Schedule, and Website.

⇒ **Chairperson:** entertained a motion to accept the minutes for the last GSO meeting.

- **Steve C. makes a motion to approve the minutes from February. Seconded.**

- Nick B. brings up a discrepancy in the minutes of the treasurer's report where the math doesn't add up.

- **Steve C. makes a friendly amendment to accept the minutes and correction in treasurer's report will be made by the secretary. Seconded. Motion passes.**

⇒ **Parliamentarian:** reminds members to "To keep things orderly, when wishing to engage in debate/make motions, you will be placed on a list after being acknowledged by the chair, it will then be your turn to debate or make motions when you are called upon relative to your spot on the list. When in debate, please state if you are in favor, not in favor, or asking a question. For any questions of procedure, call for a Point of Parliamentary Inquiry (waiting till someone is done speaking) to ask the Parliamentarian directly."

## BOARD OFFICER'S REPORTS

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⇒ **Chairperson's Report**

- Frank P.-

714.514.4150

- Report:

1. Reminder: Frank P. reminds GSR's to please go to get literature and chips before the meeting and not during the meeting.

2. Tradition 11 vote reminder due April.: Frank P. reminds all that this vote is due in April.
  - Steve C. reminds GSR's that we need to complete this by April so that it meets the SR14 deadline. It is clarified that you can vote yes, no or abstain and that there is space to present your feedback with the vote. In addition, it is the meeting GSR who is in charge not the meeting secretary and ballots can be given to the OCCA chair (Frank P.) or to Steve C. or Melanie R.G. who will pass it on to the Chair. It is also clarified that the new language "public media" is under the same principle of anonymity and that in the case of Zoom meetings that is not considered a public space since you need a passcode to log on. Facebook page is also a private group. It is recommended at these groups that we use only first name and last initial, again for anonymity.
  - Doc E. expresses he does not think the camera on the Zoom should show the people at the meeting given the amount of treatment centers that log on and don't have a choice of meetings they attend. Steve C. responds that the groups are autonomous and thus the group needs to have a group conscience on this and decide what is right for them. Ron D. suggests having a disclaimer for the hybrid and online meetings.
    - **Ron D. makes a motion to have a disclaimer on the website and the meeting schedule noting that this meeting utilizes a video platform.**
    - There is further discussion some saying that when you walk into the meeting you can see and are aware of the video portion and can adjust your location. Dan S. offers that it was discussed at CA already and there is an approved disclaimer that can be tagged to information on any particular meeting. The Fountain Valley Alano Club had some strangers bombing meetings, so they installed a method where you have to confirm your email to attend. Nick B. mentions there might already be a PI disclaimer text. It is discussed that this be sent to committee.
    - **Melanie R.G. makes a motion to refer this to the S&B committee for further evaluation. Nolan O. seconded. Passes unanimously.**
3. Reminder: committee meetings needing to be announced.—not discussed.
4. Budget completion: Have not received budgets from Dreia M. for Unity and Dan S. for GRC.
  - Frank P. says that they met with Mathew M. to go over his Literature Committee budget and that is now squared away. He asks if everyone is clear on what they have to do to create their budget.
  - It is clarified that the budget that Nolan O. submitted had a big piece that was directed towards H&I and so the numbers were allocated appropriately between H&I and Activities.
  - Frank P. reiterates the need to have a budget to better track our income and expenses.
  - Steve C. requests that all the delegate budgets get lumped into one budget so that they are uniform.
    - **ACTION ITEM: Betsy L. will make that adjustment to the budget.**
    - Reasons for the budget: fiscal responsibility, setting fundraising goals, and funding initiatives form the separate committees. Storage is under the area expenses. Frank P. thanks Betsy L. for her hard work on the budget.
    - Frank P. asks Dreia M. and Dan S. if they need help in creating their budgets as they are not yet in.
    - Frank P. reminds us that to meet our financial obligations we need to have some money coming in. We do have a prudent reserve that is set aside to be able to send the delegates and alternates to conference.
5. Update on Ad hoc committee for sponsorship: Chris W. to report back.
6. April Events:
  - Prepare for World Service Conference: Which Delegates/Alternates are going? What are the estimated travel costs for the Delegates? When are Delegate/Alternate registrations due? (Chairperson/Delegates)
    - Steve C. reminds delegates and alternates that "the rule five of the World Service Conference, which states that to be credentialed and carry votes the World Service

conference, the chair of the body you are representing must submit complete names complete mailing addresses, email addresses, phone numbers, a number of votes being carried in writing to the World Service Office 30 days prior to the World Service conference."

- **ACTION ITEM: The credentialing is open in March so Frank P. and Steve C. will follow up with this process.**
- It is clarified that for chips where Carlo P. requests funds for buying chips that the money comes back since he then sells them and that that is accounted for in the budget.
- Museum Visit (Unity Committee)—not discussed.

⇒ **Vice-Chairperson's Report** -Nick B.- 949.382.9288

- Report: no report.

⇒ **Secretary's Report** -Melanie R.G. - 714.675.2731

- Report:
  - Melanie R.G. requests that you please check every part of the roll sheet. Neelam A. and Kathy W. did not receive the email notification with the information for the GSO. The sender is [areasecretary.occa@gmail.com](mailto:areasecretary.occa@gmail.com).
  - Melanie R.G. also requests that when you proof the meeting schedule master to check your meeting, any activity you have ownership of and the directory listing on the back.
  - Survey completion: methods of communication.—Melanie R.G. reports that she has been having challenges with people not responding to her emails or notices, including requests to complete the survey to better calculate printing quantities and the budget process. She asks that if there is a communication method that you would prefer to make it easier for you to respond, please let her know.

⇒ **Treasurer's Report** -Betsy L.- 949.220.2504

- Report:

Previous Balance	\$ 2,751.71
Donations	\$ 1,664.54
Disbursements	\$ 2,219.37
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 2,196.88</b>

- **Treasurer:** will ask for 7<sup>th</sup> tradition donations. OCCA Venmo: @betsy-Lyons-1 949.220.3504

⇒ **Vice-Treasurer's Report** -Donovan B.- 949.910.0901

- Report: Absent, no report.

⇒ **Structure and Bylaws Officer's Report** -Steve C.- 714.330.0416

- Report:
  - Steve C. reports that the OCCA exclusive "How it Works" pamphlet is here, and you can take some copies for your meetings. It talks about the structure of OCCA, brief history of OCCA, what we do, what the board is, how we support ourselves, the role of GSR's and the committees. It is intended to give information to interest people in participating in service. Steve C. asks GSR's to announce the opportunities so that more people come to the GSO to look for ways in which they can get involved.
  - Steve C. says this initial printing was paid by S&B and that they are considering handing it over to Literature to print according to demand. The PDF can be sent to you and the group can print as many as they wish.
  - Steve C. reports that the service manual is almost finished, we will be printing copies of the section on GSR's for next month and feedback is welcome. It took many hours to build so please read it carefully as it will be brought for a group conscience at next meeting.

- Lastly, Steve C. says S&B has been in housecleaning mode and that thoughtful referrals for changes to the S&B are welcome.

⇒ **Archivist's Report** -Alonzo M.- 714.715.0405

- Report: Alonzo M. reports that he has received the flash drive from Melanie R.G. with the minutes from 2023. Melanie R.G. says that per the S&B, the secretary needs to hand over a copy of the minutes at the end of each year as an act of transparency.

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## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

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⇒ **Group Relations Committee** - Dan S.- 714.403.8326

- Report: Dan S. reports that he has been able to get out to many meetings and that anonymity issues are being respected. He understands the Monday night "Keep it Simple" and Wednesday "Clean and Serene" meetings are struggling.
- **ACTION ITEM: GSR's are asked to announce this at their meetings in addition to events like the Chili Cook-Off, the upcoming convention, and other opportunities at our meetings to get people here and grow our fellowship.**

⇒ **IT Committee** - Jason S. - 818.263.3500

- Hotline Sub-committee:
  - Jason S. reports:
    - Total Calls: 23
    - Avg Duration: 1:29
    - Longest Call: 4:05
    - Voicemail: 1 - junk
- Webservant Subcommittee:
  - Report: Jason S. reports that he will try to get analytics on the website to better track our data.
  - Jason S. bring up the idea to have a mass texting platform to communicate across the GSO so the secretary could send out reminders or other communications, but it would fall withing Melanie R.G. line of responsibility. Unlike the WhatsApp not everybody sees everything so it could work nicely.
  - Melanie R.G. reiterates her challenges with getting responses so she thinks that if texting is something that might get that done that, she would support it but if it just becomes another way in which to keep repeating the same messages then it would just be more work. Nolan O. and Nick B. are of the opinion that the WhatsApp that we have been using for over a year is working well. With that feedback Jason S. does not put forward a motion and lets us know should we want to use it in the future it is easy to set up.
  - Nolan O. mentions that the schedule on the website is really old and he has been struggling with getting the flyers up. He used the Webservant link on the website and believes Cameron from Toronto helped. Jason S. confirms that the process is the following: note any changes to the schedule to the meeting directory that Melanie R.G. passes around at the GSO, she documents all the changes and sends them to him. Jason S. notes that he will be putting together a helpdesk email to better address these changes and track responses. Steve C. adds that he would like to see the IT committee get more support and requests that people that are tech savvy or know someone who is, consider volunteering. There is a need for a vicechair of IT.

⇒ **Hospitals and Institutions Committee** - Liz M. - 714.266.4081

- Report:
  - **Liz M. makes a motion requesting \$200 for literature. Seconded.**

- **Steve C. makes a motion to reconsider. Seconded. Passes unanimously.**

- **Steve C. makes a friendly amendment to Liz M.'s motion: \$100 little Big Books to A.A. World Service and \$100 for pamphlets to OCCA Central Office. Seconded. Motion passes.**

- Liz M. reports that the H&I committee discussed asking GSR's to consider having a group conscience with their meetings about donating a certain percentage to H&I and/or passing around a second collection for H&I during the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition. Nick B. likes the separate request but reminds us that each group is autonomous. Steve C. opines that H&I will never have a lack of funds since the GSO has the authority to grant it funds. Others of the opinion that the second can that gets passed around for H&I can be distracting at meetings, so it is concluded that it is up to the groups. However, every meeting is encouraged to have an H&I representative.
- Chris J. mentions that there was a request by a group of veterans to start something for that particular group and that we have a veteran present willing to do this.
- Liz M. concludes by reminding us of the upcoming God-shot Card Draw H&I Unity event coming up on May 5<sup>th</sup> at Doheny State Beach, 12-4, with guest speakers, Chris F. and Tom P., and free food.

- **Nolan O. makes a motion to get reimbursed for \$170.20 for literature racks. Seconded. Motion Passes.**

⇒ **Public Information Committee** - Jose A.- 714.615.1167

- Report:
  - Jose A. reports that they are active in social media and trying to get the message out about the standing meetings. He adds that he will be working on outreach to veterans.

⇒ **Social Media Subcommittee Report:** -Angel G.- 714.369.4813

- Report:
- Angel G. informs: 22 additional followers this month on Instagram, reached 417 people viewing our account in addition to 115 following us, Chili Cook-Off page has been viewed frequently, music helps. 48% of followers are women and 50% men. Reels of "A quiet Peace" reading by Chris W. are also running. If you want to send him a recording, he will post it. Five people clicked on the link to our website from a post.
  - Melanie R.G. points out that there are two QR codes on the printed schedule, one takes us to the website and the other to our social media accounts. Melanie R.G. will correct the wrong date on the schedule for the H&I May event.
  - It is noted that the Chili Cook Off is not on the website and since Jason S. is not on WhatsApp, Melanie R.G. emails him a copy of the flyer.

⇒ **CPC Subcommittee Report:** -Matt M.-

- Report:
- Matt M. reports that they are reaching out to women's services and other institutions in Santa Ana and Anaheim. He welcomes any suggestions as to where they should be present. Police department, social services and drug court are suggested.
  - Mathew M. announces the new Wednesday meeting at Kaiser in Orange and requests a literature rack. Frank P. and Nolan O. offer one.

- **Jose A. makes a motion to request \$113 for tablecloths, copies and paper. Seconded. Motion passes.**

⇒ **Unity Committee** - Dreia M.- 909.446.2647

- Report:
- Dreia M. reminds us of the upcoming Chili Cook-Off with 4 meetings expressing interest so far. If it rains Alonzo M. has offered use of the Fountain Valley Alano Club nearby. She adds that it is \$5 for people in treatment or sober

living and \$10 for others. \$50 to enter a chili and the winner gets half the pot. There will be an opportunity drawing and free food to go along with the chili. Dreia M. asks all to please keep announcing it. Chris J. and Gina G. are the guest speakers. Steve C. requests that Dreia M. keep receipts.

- **Dreia M. requests \$300 for food, tickets, and beverages for the Chili Cook Off. Seconded. Motion passes.**

- Ron D. notes that the Chili Cook-Off is a “Celebrate Around the World” event and that this is not apparent in the materials. “Celebrate Around the World” is the main event for fundraising to send delegates to the convention. Dreia M. says that they will include it for next year, at this point most flyers have been printed.

- **Ron D. makes a motion to add that it is a “Celebrate Around the World” event and unity event to all materials announcing the event. Seconded.**

- There is some discussion from the minority vote against the motion that it is too late, and the money has been spent on printing and getting the word out. In the verbal announcements we can and should mention it.

- **Dreia M. makes a motion to reconsider.**

- Discussion includes opinions that on anything that is printed at this point it can't be changed but the change can be made to the electronic flyers and notices.

- **Motion to reconsider does not pass. The original motion stands and passes.**

⇒ **Activities and Fundraising Subcommittee** - Nolan O.- 407.687.8656

Report:

- Nolan O. reports that the t-shirts for the Cook Off have been made and whatever is left over will be sold at the upcoming Change for Change events. He is currently booking the speakers for April and May and asks for Spanish speaking speakers. The event takes over each meeting in turn, people bring their change, there is an opportunity drawing and t-shirt sales.

- **ACTION ITEM: Steve C. makes a request that Melanie R.G. add “and fundraising” to “Activities and Fundraising Subcommittee.”**

- Nolan O. mentions that there is a discrepancy between some of the activities in the S&B and what they have been working on and it might affect the budget. He needs to get with Dreia M. and figure it out and make some amendments.

- **ACTION ITEM: Steve C. to send Nolan O. and Dreia M. the next meeting date of the S&B committee so they can attend and request the changes they wish to see.**

⇒ **Literature Committee** - Matthew M. - 714.585.1829

Report:

Number of Sales: \$ 351.00

Request for Funds:

- Mathew M. explains that if he orders \$300 at CAWSO he gets a discount, and it makes the trip there worthwhile.

- **Mathew M. makes a motion to request \$250 for Cocaine Anonymous Central Office and \$300 for CAWSO. Seconded. Motion passes.**

⇒ **Workshop Committee** -Nick B.- 949.382.9288

- Report: Nick B. reports that there were 3 attendees at the last workshop. Next one will be held on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Workshop fee of \$25 dollars covers breakfast, lunch, all day coffee and materials. This month we had someone from Riverside.

**Capo Beach Church: 25976 Domingo Ave, Dana Point, CA 92624**  
**Call Nick B. 949.382.9288**

⇒ **Chip Committee** -Carlo P.- 714.587.1258

• Report:

Amount of Sales: \$ 160  
Request for Funds: \$ 160

- **Carlo P. makes a motion to request \$160 for chips. Seconded. Passes unanimously.**

## WORLD SERVICE DELEGATES

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⇒ **DELEGATE** -Dan S.- 714.403.8326

- Dan S. reports that he has been doing committee work and there have been contracts for Florida and Seattle. Phoenix is on their way. Upcoming convention in Holland is looking well.
- Dan S. speaks to the Unity of the Valleys convention happening in two weeks at the Hilton in Costa Mesa. He has ten Serenity Keepers lined up.
- On the delegate end there was some trouble with errors appearing on the website that he is working on with Aurora and from which the area pulls the information. Dan S. urges us all to make sure the website is accurate and that all the buttons work so that we can make sure the newcomer has a good experience.

⇒ **DELEGATE** -Nolan O.- 407.687.8656

- Nolan O. says that he was working with Aurora in conversation to get everything right on their end. They added the meeting "All the "A's".
- Nolan O. says he is hoping to get all the votes on the change to Tradition 11 so they can submit them on the 24<sup>th</sup> when they go to caucus. If you have your forms, please submit them to Frank P.
- Pacific West Regional caucus will be on the 24<sup>th</sup> and he will be attending via Zoom. He adds that doing an enthusiastic GSR report, attending activities and that he could use the support at the area level with activities.
- Nolan O. says he has submitted a budget for his delegate expenses, and it has increased from \$1,500 to \$1,700 because prices have gone up. He will meet with Dan S. and Steve C. to see if they will be flying together or not and might request funds next month.
- Nolan O. states that he is also the North American PI chair which involves many Zoom meetings because they are very active with ideas, and he can make some materials accessible to the rest of us.

⇒ **DELEGATE** -Steve C.- 714.330.0416

- Steve C. mentions that he has American Airlines Gold status and if they fly together, it could represent a savings of \$600 total. He thinks there might be other cost cutting measures the delegates could take.
- Steve C. says he is working as vicechair of the S&B of World service and right now their most important effort is the change to Tradition 11 because we need a ¾ majority of the fellowship, a high threshold. He mentions that as a delegate Dan S. is very good at the networking and personal relationships, Nolan O. hits the ground running when he gets to conference and expresses himself clearly.
- Steve C. also will need a new vicechair for S&B and it is a job that requires dedication and will need to train for six months to be able to take over as chair as he plans to roll off at the end of the year. If there is more than one person interested, that would also be good.
- Dan S. makes the important statement that if you meet the sobriety requirement you can attend conference, you do not need to be a delegate. GSR or world service member.

⇒ **ALTERNATE** -Nick B.- 949.382.9288

- Nick B. states that he apologizes but that he is stepping down from the position as alternate delegate as he does not have the time for it.
- Since the vicechair is the one that can pronounce the position vacant, Steve C. steps in for him as member at large and declares the position open.



- It is requested that people think of candidates to nominate for next meeting. There is a possibility that we might have the two alternate positions vacant.

⇒ **ALTERNATE**

-Kyandra M.-

928.503.2328

- Absent.

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## BUSINESS

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⇒ **Old Business**

1. Robert's Rules Workshop –Steve C.
2. Tax Status—Frank P. says we are still working on this item.

⇒ **New Business:**

- **Chris J. makes a motion to donate \$250 to World Service. Seconded. Motion passes.**

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⇒ **Chairperson** entertains a motion to Adjourn.

- **Kathy W. makes a motion to adjourn. Seconded. Motion passes.**

- Upon adjournment, **Chairperson** calls for a moment of silent meditation and requests an individual to lead the GSO in a prayer of their choice.

⇒ Meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM.