
OCCA REGULAR GSO MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 6TH, 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**".
 - Russell E. read the twelve traditions.
- ⇒ **Chairperson:** called on an addict to report on Tradition #4.
 - Jenn C. reported on tradition 4 which states: "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or C.A. as a whole."
- ⇒ **Chairperson:** called on an addict to give a report on the 4th Concept.
 - Dreia M. reports on the 4th concept which states: "Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional "Right of Participation," taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge."
- ⇒ **Chairperson** asked for an addict to give a report on the 5th Tradition for next month.
 - Liz M. volunteers.
- ⇒ **Chairperson** asked for an addict to give a report on the 5th Concept for next month.
 - Nick B. volunteers.

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

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

ARE THERE ANY APRIL BIRTHDAYS?

RUSELL E. ON 4/3/2022 for 2 years and ANTHONY D. ON 4/10/2023 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:

New GSRs: Celia T. for "When the Fiends Come out and Recover"

- **Nick B. makes a motion to accept Celia T. as a new GSR for "When the Fiends Come out and recover. 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 role and reminded 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., Donovan B., Steve C., Dan S., Nolan O., Jason S., Dreia M., Jose A., Liz M., Chris J., Doc E., Angel G., Matt A., Evan L., Jenn C., Russell E., Neelam A., MacKenzie C., Celia T., Anthony D., Kathy W., and Gina G.
- **Absent:** Alonzo A., Carlo P., Mathew M., Ron D., and Matt S. (Proxy)
- **Quorum: 16**

⇒ **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.

- **Dreia M. makes a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded. Passes unanimously.**

⇒ **Parliamentarian:** reminded 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

⇒ **Chairperson's Report**

- Frank P.-

714.514.4150

- Report:

1. Tradition 11 vote update

- Frank P. states that he has the vote for Tradition 11 change from the following meetings: Upstairs, Downstairs, Starting Point, Not in Vein, Last House, Clean and Serene, and Keep it Simple. Doc E. states he has the one for the Chore boys meeting and Matt A. states he has the one for The Zoo. Nolan O. explains that since Kyandra transitioned out, he knows how they voted but does not have the document.
- Back to Basics needs a copy of the ballot, as does Lady Caine and All the A's.

- It is clarified that our region is Pacific South, and the area is Orange County.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Melanie R.G. to send the PDF ballot on tradition 11 to Dreia M., Dan S., Angel G., and Nolan O.**
2. Budget completion—Unity and GRC still pending
 - Betsy L. reports that the completed budget is done and has been passed around to everyone.
 3. Tax Status name change “OC Cocaine Anonymous” doing business as (DBA) “Orange County Cocaine Anonymous.”
 - Donovan B. reports that the Executive Board has voted to apply for a new nonprofit tax status under the name “OC Cocaine Anonymous” doing business as (TBA) “Orange County Cocaine Anonymous”. He explains that because we haven’t filed taxes for over a decade our status has been revoked even if we did not actually owe any money but still needed to file thus the change of name allows us to start over which, we have been advised, is our better option.
 - Nick B. explains the new name “OC Cocaine Anonymous” is solely for tax purposes, it does not change our name as it appears on the website, and all other materials.
 - Nolan O. says that there are many cases in which we can receive a discount for being a nonprofit. It is restated that we haven’t been a nonprofit for over ten years but that this is what we are working on. Frank P. says it should go through in the next 60 days or so.
 - Jason S. brings up the issue of event insurance. Steve C. clarifies that the calendar of events listed in the S&B are the one part of the S&B that can be changed at will and currently there are events for every month of the year, but it is up to us whether to have those events or not. When it comes to insurance, we need more specific information such as where, when, what and what the cost of the event is to be.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Anyone running events needs to reach out to Donovan B. with the specific information so that we can arrange for insurance.**
 - Doc E. offers a sample for event insurance in California that we can use.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Doc E. to email a copy of the sample event insurance to Frank P.**
 4. Update on Ad hoc committee for sponsorship: Chris W. to report back.
 - Chris W. is not present.
 5. Unity and Activities discussion
 - Dreia M. needs more time, so this will be treated later in the meeting.
 6. Alternate Delegate Vacancies
 - Nick B. states that Kyandra has stepped down from her position as alternate delegate and so he pronounces the position officially vacant. Since Nick B. has stepped down at the last meeting that means there are two vacant positions for alternate delegate that need to be filled.
 - Frank P. holds a vote if to handle the election for new alternate delegates at this time or at the end of the meeting. The group votes to handle it at the end.
 - Frank P. talks to the group about the importance in participating in service as part of our recovery, volunteering to report on the traditions and concepts for example and responding in a timely fashion to requests. He adds GSR’s are required to be there one Saturday morning a month and take the report back to their groups with the goal of encouraging them to be of service at the area level. The Fountain Valley Alano club has brought people to the GSO to encourage participation. Frank P. believes that his job now that he is 76 years old is to pass it on to the next generation. When called upon we show up, he affirms.

- Report: No report.

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

- Report: Melanie R.G. thanks Neelam A. for making copies of the agenda, minutes and meeting schedule as she was proactive, and on top of it.
- She notes that the meeting schedule for this month has a listing of Change for Change for April and May and next month she will do May and June and so on.

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

- Report:

Previous Balance	\$ 2,196.88
Donations	\$ 1,202.05
<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>\$ 2,165.92</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 1,233.01

- **Treasurer:** asked for 7th tradition donations. OCCA Venmo: @betsy-Lyons-1 949.220.3504
- Steve C. comments that Betsy L. has done a terrific job in assembling the budget and as our new treasurer. This will allow us to set fundraising goals so that PI and Unity can reach out to grow our fellowship. Frank P. states his appreciation for Betsy L.'s work on the budget and says that last year we brought in about \$24,000 and our budget this year currently stands at \$28,000 which means it is important to keep bringing in the donations.

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

- Report: Donovan B. says that his one goal at the moment is to secure our tax status as a nonprofit organization.

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

- Report: Steve C. comments that when the work on the S&B started three years ago the goal was to create a framework that could help us as we grow and adapt it as necessary and feels proud of all that has been done through the lens of the S&B.
- Steve C. says the committee did not meet this month but did meet last month. They are working on some housekeeping and making parts less rigid to better enable others to do their job with language that is more accessible.
- Steve C. announces that his term as S&B Chair will be ending at the end of this year, he has stayed more than the two years elected because of the ad hoc. He is looking for someone to step in for next year and wishes to start their training as soon as possible. The person should have attention to detail, be open about listening to the fellowship to make reasonable and positive changes if necessary. Anyone that is interested is encouraged to come to the S&B committee meetings. It was crafted with the democratic principles of the warranties of the conference and intends that we conduct our business beyond reproach. He is excited to see how others will take this forward. It's important to keep the spirit of rotation.
- Steve C. comments that the committee is dealing with some legal issues but that its nothing to be concerned about and he will give us information on it when he is able. The goal of the S&B's is to make sure that all the members are acting lawfully.
- The meeting time for this month will be provided by the S&B secretary Chris W. or by Steve C. on WhatsApp. All are invited to attend and if you wish to have a vote, it is the only committee who's voting members need to be approved by the executive Board.

- Frank P. mentions that the spirit of rotation is very important. Nick B. will be rolling off at the end of the year and the plan that the Vicechair would step into the role of chair might not happen since Nick B. might be pursuing further studies and other things in his life.

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

- Report: Absent.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

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

- Report: Dan S. reports that he has not been able to do the rounds lately due to the conventions but believes all is going well. He has not heard any complaints regarding social media breaking anonymity and reminds the group that if you see something that does not seem right to call him so it can be discussed.

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

- Hotline Sub-committee: Jason S. reports that calls were down this month. Numbers below:

Total Calls:	<u>16</u>
Avg Duration:	<u>45 seconds</u>
Longest Call:	<u>2:58</u>
Voicemail:	<u>0</u>

- Webservant Subcommittee:
 - Jason S. says he has just updated the website in accordance with the minutes and the agenda. He reminds people that if you seem something that needs to be updated to please reach out to him.
 - Nick B. mentions that it was brought to his attention that there is a link after doing a Google search for Cocaine Anonymous that takes you to an old schedule. Jason S. responds that he spoke to Cameron about this and what's happening is that we don't delete our past posts from our web server and the SEO bots are crawling over our stuff, however if you click on the link you get to our current website with up-to-date information. Cameron suggested we leave it alone because it helps with traffic, and it gives a chance to get to our website.
 - Steve C. states that the World Service App that allows people to find a meeting in their vicinity is now available on Google Apps and requests that Jason S. reach out to IT at World Service for us to be able to upload all our meetings since they don't have the bandwidth to do it since there are so many meetings around the world.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Jason S. is to reach out to IT world Service this month to arrange to get our meetings uploaded to the new App.**
 - There is further discussion about this issue, and it is clarified that if we delete the old materials we will get pushed down because the search engine will find the most clicked on link. Jason S. states that one way we could get the updated information for the website is by including it on the top of our agendas, minutes, so that whenever any of the documents gets crawled, indexed, and ranked if people click, they will get the website.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Melanie R.G. to put the website at the top of all our templates.**
 - Jason S. could use help with a volunteer to be Webservant and we are asked to announce this at meetings.

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

- Report: Liz M. reports that we have and H&I Unity event coming up on May 5 at Doheny State Beach with two great speakers, food and opportunity drawing.
- Liz M. talks about Lifeline, which is basically a phone list of people being willing to be of help to people in treatment centers such as giving addicts rides or signing up to sponsor. You can talk to Nolan O. about this.
- Liz M. announces that there are two new panels and that we keep getting more.
- Steve C. reports that the law in California regarding raffles has changed for 50/50 raffles. Now, any raffle has to be along a 90/10 split, meaning that the organization originating the raffle needs to receive 90% of the proceeds and the winner can keep only 10%. They are enforcing it, so we need to be careful. Both amounts need to be disclosed to the IRS so keeping meticulous documentation will be key. In addition, changing the name from raffle to opportunity drawing is not a solution as it is still considered gambling. In the case of raffling an item if there is money exchanged it is still unlawful if it is not a 90/10 split with 90% going to the charity. In case of auctions, those are legal as all proceeds will go to the charitable organization.

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

- Report: Jose A. reports that they have made updates online, recruited people to help with PI from the Fountain Valley Alano Club, they have had panels at high schools, they will be working with Cypress College and have more panels in high schools in the area lined up.

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

- Report: Angel A. reports that we have 445 accounts, some from our followers and others not followers but that seem to come back to our account. We have also had visibility through reels and one post for women's month was successful. Angel G. has also been creating some posts with videos that tend to engage people for longer. He learned that it was best to post between 11-2.
- The possibility of buying some boosting power is mentioned and we will work on getting material that is not copyrighted to do that.
- Steve C. brings up the issue of us not using the CA logo circle to cover people's faces in the posts. While it is good that we are respecting anonymity we do need permission every time we want to use the logo. It is decided that they shall create a nontrademarked circle design for that purpose.
- The possibility of using our nonprofit status in the future to receive a technology grant that could boost our visibility in social media is raised and Nick B. clarifies that Google offers a grant but to boost our visibility on the Google search engine not for social media.
- Angel G. made reels of milestones such as a meeting having an anniversary or a count of clean years and requests, we send him facts like that so he can create something around them.

⇒ **CPC Subcommittee Report:** -Matt M.- 714.585.1829

- Report: Jenn C. reports in place of Matt M. saying that they have reached out to probation departments in Santa Ana, Irvine and Anaheim and there is a request for literature. She is needing racks and Nolan O. has the four tier plastic racks from H&I that can be given to CPC.
- A stamp is also discussed with Dan S. saying you can get them online for about \$17.
- Frank P. notes that the enthusiasm for PI coming out of the Fountain Valley Alano Club is exceptional and they are getting so much done.
- **ACTION ITEM: Next PI meeting date and time to be announced on the WhatsApp.**

- ⇒ **Unity Committee** - Dreia M.- 909.446.2647
- Report: Dreia M. reports that the Chili Cook-Off went well with almost 80 people at its peak. PI came and did great in their setup. We received \$878 in donations from the 50/50 opportunity drawing, (7th tradition drawing) and \$75 back from the winning group. 7 meetings participated with a chili. The speakers Chris J. and Gina G. did a great job. Although we had to move because there was a problem with the designated site, we still managed to create a good event. Keep it Simple meeting got third place, Lady Caine second and Live Free first. Dreia M. thanks all of those who helped, especially Neelam A. who is so dedicated to helping where she can.
 - Dreia M. states that they are working on upcoming events such as the God Shot Card Draw which is mostly Activities.

- ⇒ **Activities and Fundraising Subcommittee** - Nolan O.- 407.687.8656
- Report: Nolan O. reports that Change for Change just started and went well with donations in the change bucket still uncounted, \$475 on t-shirt sales that started at the Chili Cook Off. The next one will be at the First Friday night meeting at Church of the Foothills in Santa Ana with Chris West speaking.
 - Nolan O. says he has been thinking for some time about taking a break from activities to focus on his career and some personal things. He will finish up Change for Change and be there to support whoever comes in his place. He asks that we spread the word that we are looking for someone to replace him.
 - Dan S. announces that a popular AA meeting called Rush Hour has moved to the location of church of the Foothills and asks that anyone attending that meeting announce the Change for Change event immediately after. He encourages at least one person from every meeting to attend.
 - Nolan O. says that once we receive our nonprofit status back, we can get donations of auction items from businesses. To solve the issue of our seventh tradition it is mentioned we can give them something nominal like a \$1 for the donation.

- ⇒ **Literature Committee** - Matthew M. - 714.585.1829
- Report: Jenn C. reports for Mathew M. stating we are not in need of funds at this time.
- Number of Sales: \$131.50
Request for Funds: None for now.

- ⇒ **Workshop Committee** -Nick B.- 949.382.9288
- Report: Nick B. reports that the next 4th Step Workshop is on the 20th cutoff on the 17th. Nick B. is looking for an assistant and eventual successor as Ryan S. who had been helping him for the past year just moved to Nevada. Doc E. volunteers.

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

- ⇒ **Chip Committee** -Carlo P.- 714.587.1258
- Report: Nolan O. is standing in for Carlo P. today and reports:
- Amount of Sales: \$ 161.85
Request for Funds: None at this time.

WORLD SERVICE DELEGATES

- ⇒ **DELEGATE** -Dan S.- 714.403.8326
- Dan S. reports that he missed the last convention committee meeting, currently working on their structures and bylaws, doing some housekeeping. There is the World Convention happening in Holland in July, and Arizona next year.

- He was asked to launch an H&I meeting in Newport Shores across from Hoag hospital and although he will run it for the next two times, he needs someone to take over.

⇒ **DELEGATE**

-Nolan O.-

407.687.8656

- Nolan O. missed the last assembly meeting because he was busy with a convention. Aurora asked him to nominate people for the dead slate.
- Nolan O. explains that he has secured his plane ticket, registration and hotel for the conference.
- **Nolan O. makes a motion to request \$1,149.28 in reimbursement for the costs of attending the conference. Seconded. Motion passes.**

⇒ **DELEGATE**

-Steve C.-

714.330.0416

- There is a discussion about the need for OCCA to have two delegates with experience to train an alternate since Dan S. is rolling off this year and we do not want to end up with two new delegates that have no experience on the conference floor. We will lose one delegate count due to the amount of meetings for the area. There is the need for a good alternate to step up at this time.
- It is stated that the delegate position is time consuming and requires spiritual fitness. The alternate does not have a vote on the floor unless they are carrying a proxy. Since Dan S. will be stepping down at the end of this year it would be recommended that an alternate that has had experience of conference be elected to the position. Knowledge of Robert's Rules, the 12 traditions and the 12 Concepts are fundamental. The commitments regarding meetings, caucuses, conferences and other obligations are stated.
- The question is put as to anybody having objections to opening nominations at this time. **The vote is to move forward with nominations.**
 - **Chris J. nominates Liz M. as alternate delegate. Seconded.**
- Melanie R.G. states that she is interested in being an alternate delegate as well and after discussing requirements she wishes to do so.
 - **Melanie R.G. nominated for alternate delegate. Seconded.**
- There is some debate as to whether to close nominations at this time or if to wait a month so that it can be taken back to the meetings to announce the openings for alternates to the fellowship. The requirements for the position are read and examples of how they may succeed a delegate are explained. For alternates they need two years of continuous sobriety, and six months of service at the area level.
- There is more discussion as to close nominations or consider that there are two candidates present and willing in the room.
 - **There is a motion to close nominations. Seconded. Motion passes.**
- Doc E. speaks to his voting against by stating that he reads that it should be taken back to the meetings, but he is ok either way.
- Liz M. is asked to state her qualifications. She has commitments at her meetings, she is H&I chair, has sponsees, attended her first convention recently and really enjoyed it. Can see herself being of service and is reliable and is very excited and passionate about doing this.

- Melanie R.G. is asked to state her qualifications. Melanie R.G. states that service has been important to her from the beginning. She has a commitment at meetings, she is OCCA secretary, she has a passion for the work of CA and does spend time thinking of the traditions and how CA operates and is diligent in her work.
- Steve C. asks of Melanie R.G. and Liz M. to affirm that they have two years of continuous sobriety, that they are able to spend the next two years as part of this commitment to learn to do the delegate role and are able to take over a delegate if they cannot fulfill their position. They affirm this. As an alternate there is going to be a small financial burden of about \$800 and OCCA can help with an approved amount for airline. Both can assume the financial burden.
- Melanie R.G. and Liz M. leave the room. There is a discussion followed by a vote.

- **Vote for Liz M. as alternate delegate is held. Liz M. is voted in.**

- **Vote for Melanie R.G. as alternate delegate is held. Melanie R.G. is voted in.**

- **ACTION ITEM: Frank P. will be registering Liz M. and Melanie R.G. to the conference.**

- Steve C. reiterates to the alternate delegates that a Robert's rules Workshop will be mandatory.

⇒ ALTERNATE	-Vacant-	---
⇒ ALTERNATE	-Kyandra M.-	928.503.2328
• Now declared vacant.		

BUSINESS

⇒ **Old Business**

1. Robert's Rules Workshop –Steve C.
2. Tax Status—addressed previously.

⇒ **New Business:**

- **Chris J. makes a motion to donate \$50 to World Service. Seconded. Motion passes.**

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

- **Jose A. makes a motion to adjourn. Seconded. Motion passes.**

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:03 PM