

---

# OCCA REGULAR GSO MEETING MINUTES

---

SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

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

- ⇒ **Chairperson:** called the meeting to order, requesting all cell phones be turned off or silenced.
  - Meeting started at 10:08 AM
  
- ⇒ **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"**.
  - Gina G. read the 12 Traditions.
  
- ⇒ **Chairperson:** called on an addict to report on Tradition #9.
  - Celia T. reported on tradition #9 which states "C.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."
  
- ⇒ **Chairperson:** called on an addict to give a report on the 9<sup>th</sup> Concept.
  - Steve C. reported on Concept #9 which states "Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety."
  
- ⇒ **Chairperson** asked for an addict to give a report on the 10<sup>th</sup> Tradition for next month.
  - Chris J. volunteered.
  
- ⇒ **Chairperson** asked for an addict to give a report on the 10<sup>th</sup> Concept for next month.
  - Jose A. volunteered.

**Remaining GSO Meeting 2024 Dates:** 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

---

## ARE THERE ANY JULY BIRTHDAYS?

---

Betsy L. on September 29<sup>th</sup> with 9 years, Jose A. on September 17<sup>th</sup> with 5 years, Matt S. on September 19<sup>th</sup> with 10 years, and Celia T. on September 27<sup>th</sup> with 1 year and Gina G. on September 23<sup>rd</sup> with 37 years.

- ⇒ **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:** None

- ⇒ **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., Steve C., Alonzo M., Nolan O., Jason S., Neelam A., Carlo P., Mathew M., Jose A., Liz M., Ron D., Chris J., Angel G., Evan L., Jenn C., Bryce W., Celia T., Kathy W., Gina G. and Alex G.
  - **Late:** Matt S. (did not get counted in quorum)
  - **Absent:** Donovan B., Dan S., Matt A., and Anthony D. (Proxy)
  - **Quorum: from 23 present, quorum is 16**
- ⇒ **Secretary:** Passed the Master Contact list for any changes or updates to the Roll, Schedule, and Website.
- ⇒ **Chairperson:** entertains a motion to accept the minutes for the last GSO meeting.
  - **Steve C. makes a motion to accept the minutes of the last GSO meeting. Seconded. Passes unanimously.**
- ⇒ **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

---

- ⇒ **Chairperson's Report** - Frank P.- 714.514.4150
  - Report: Frank P. reports that he was really happy to be at the conference. Melanie R.G. and Liz M., had a small stipend but for the most part paid their own way, and they found their committee to join. He was there to support the delegates and made himself available to help the two alternate delegates. He was proud by how prepared our delegation was compared to many others and the amount of work that was put into preparing. Dan S. did a heck of a job when he simplifies things, and all worked hard.
  - Frank P. says that regarding our tax-exempt status we are waiting for the state to return some paperwork so that we can settle the bylaws, and we can also get our checking accounts changed. Since the CPA working on this is the one that works with his company, he will try to see him next week to move things along.
  - Frank P. explains that if we had gone back to trying to reinstate "Orange County Cocaine Anonymous," we would have to pay back taxes adding up to \$5,000, which would be reimbursed, but it would take time. OCCA does not have that money right now. We will make sure to file from here on forward.
- ⇒ **Vice-Chairperson's Report** -Nick B.- 949.382.9288
  - Report: Nick B. has no report.
- ⇒ **Secretary's Report** -Melanie R.G. - 714.675.2731
  - Report: Melanie R.G. has no report.

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

- Report:

Previous Balance	\$ 2,363.24
Donations	\$ 1,058.10
<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>-\$ 3,468.38</u>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 952.95</b>
<b>Bank Balance</b>	<b>\$ 954.32</b>
<b>Savings</b>	<b>\$ 5,006.97</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.

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

- Report: Steve C. reports that they are finishing the service manual "How it Works." They will post the details of next month's meeting on the WhatsApp so that anyone can join.

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

- Report: there is some discussion around a package that Alonzo M. was supposed to receive regarding the archives, and it is clarified it should come from Veronica. Alonzo M. states that he will make some calls to see that he receives it.
- Alonzo M. was unable to attend the Archives Committee Meeting of CAWS but will get on the next one.

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

---

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

- Report: Absent.

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

- Hotline Sub-committee: Jason S. reports that someone reached out to him to help him with IT but still has only 5 months sobriety, so Jason S. asked him to please call in a month. He thanks GSR's for announcing that his committee needs volunteers. Calls were down.

Total Calls:	13
Avg Duration:	2 minutes and 6 seconds
Longest Call:	9 minutes and 30 seconds
Voicemail:	0

- Webservant Subcommittee:
  - Jason S. reports that he has added two widgets on the website that link to our Facebook and Instagram, that's new.
  - He also has access to the portal to upload our meetings to the CA app and will reach out to Cameron again to answer a couple of questions.
  - There is some discussion about the need to keep the website up to date as Ron D. comments that not everyone has access to the WhatsApp account. Jason S. responds that he needs people to pitch in by sending him any event flyers or posts. He makes updates at least once a month.
  - Jason S. requests that Melanie R.G. confirm the password for one meeting by talking to Alex G., GSR for the new women's meeting.

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

- Report: Liz M. announces they have a hike coming up at Carbon Canyon on September 15<sup>th</sup> with Jenn C. as a speaker. They are planning another “God Shot Card Draw” for November and will have a flyer next month. Liz M. requests that if anybody has anything they can donate to the opportunity drawing like a TV, or any other item, it would be appreciated.

- **Liz M. motions to request \$200 for little big books. Seconded. Passes unanimously.**

- Liz M. closes by reminding us that there are many open panels, you need six months to lead one, three months to speak at one. Rosters are available. If the meeting does not have an H&I rep, GSR's please make the announcement. Nick B. requests that the roster be emailed monthly.

- **ACTION ITEM: Melanie R.G. sends the flyer for the hike to Jason S.**

⇒ **Public Information Committee** - Jose A.- 714.615.1167  
 • Report: Jose A. reports that they are working on some ideas and scouting some new areas.

⇒ **Social Media Subcommittee Report:** -Angel G.- 714.369.4813  
 Report: Angel G. reports that we've had 1,200 views on social media, the reels are doing well, with 400 interactions. stopped posting the advertising that had gotten 10,000 views.

- **Jose A. makes a motion to approve \$30 for boosting again. Seconded. Passes unanimously.**

⇒ **CPC Subcommittee Report:** - Matthew M. - 714.585.1829  
 Report: Mathew M. reports that they are still working on getting some of the probation officers in Santa Ana and are busy with other outreach.

⇒ **Unity Committee** - Neelam A.- 559.306.4551

- Report: Neelam A. states that firstly she and Niko B., vicechair of Unity, would like to apologize to the group as they had a miscommunication and neither of them attended the beach clean-up and we have no information about how the event went.
- Neelam A. announces the nature hike in Carbon Canyon on September 15<sup>th</sup> and that for those that do not want to hike there are many other activities at that park but in a discussion, it is clarified that we cannot sponsor all those other activities, only the walk as we do not have people to run all the other activities. Jose A. says that PI can help with getting the word out.
- The Halloween event is likely going to be held at The Barnlife in Costa Mesa from 5-9. Tentative date: October 27. Nolan O. and Kim will be touring the facility this week and getting approval by the board.
- The Turkey bowl in November is in the planning stages with several venues under consideration.
- The gratitude banquet, originally scheduled for December has been moved to January. And now will be more modest in scope, to be mostly for our CA community in Orange County with about 100 people.
- There is a discussion about insurance for these events. The insurance agent is at the ready and we need to give him a list of the events with some detail and should come in at \$30-\$40 a month. If the date or place change, we just need to let the insurance person know. Steve C. thinks we should get medical liability so somewhere between \$ 500,000 to a million. Alonzo M. thinks it is important we move on it.

⇒ **Activities and Fundraising Subcommittee** - Niko B.- 949.278.3784  
 Report: Already covered above.

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

- Report:
 

Number of Sales:	None reported
Request for Funds:	\$ 200

- **Mathew M. makes a motion to request \$ 200 for Big Books and 12 & 12's literature. Seconded. Passes unanimously.**

- It is stated that literature and chips are now available out of Arizona. There is a discussion about the need to learn what our shipping expenses are going to be now that the World Service Office is going to be in Arizona and how we will adjust to those added expenses.

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

- Report: Nick B. reports that we had seven attendees at the workshop in August. The next workshop is going to be on September 21<sup>st</sup> with cutoff for signups on the 18<sup>th</sup>. \$25 cost covers breakfast, lunch and the printed materials to get the fourth step done.
- In response to a question Nick B. says that if someone wants to help him, he suggests that they have at least worked their 12 steps, and that they have a year. They could, in the meantime, help with the food shopping and making copies of the materials.

• **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:	<u>\$ 262</u>
Request for Funds:	<u>\$ 420</u>
- Carlo P. reports that he is now ordering every two months to save on shipping. (Motion to request funds was done at the end of the meeting.)

## WORLD SERVICE DELEGATES

---

⇒ **DELEGATE** -Dan S.- 714.403.8326

- Dan S. is out sick.

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

- **Nolan O. reports about the conference:** he is still serving on the World Service PI committee. He will try to go back into the North American Chair position as he has ideas on things that can be improved.
- Some things that we had motions on the past, were changed. We had an eight-point process that changed to a five point to approve posters and other like materials to make it a little easier. Posters passed: a "Sick and Tired", "PI needs hands", "PI Champions", "PI Road Show", "Young People's", "Color the World", "Survey Poster", etc.
- There will be a survey to be sent out to the fellowship that will result in a Fact File that can be used by CPC and PI. Nolan O. will do the survey.
- If you want to use any of those posters or flyers go to <https://pi.ca.org/>
- The CA app is out on Android and Apple, Jason S. will be working to upload all our meetings. It is suggested you download the app.
- Nolan O. expresses how he has appreciated working alongside Dan S. and Steve C. and gives credit to Melanie R.G. and Liz M. for attending and working through the initial challenges of being new. Nolan O. describes how a seemingly easy issue around approving flyers can have multiple things to consider and working at CAWS is not easy.

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

- **Steve C. reports about the conference** Steve C. reports that the OC delegation to conference was very well prepared and ready to go. Melanie R.G. and Liz M. got the experience which is very valuable and heard people speak well off the alternate delegates. It is Dan S.'s last year and his work as a delegate has been important and he will be missed.
- Steve C. reports on the work of the S&B committee at conference: Tradition 11 was passed and that was a big deal. Ballot counts: 997 in the affirmative, 225, against and 44 abstentions. There was some controversy around the points and the polling process being based off of the number of groups that responded while all we had is the number of meetings. Once the process was done 82% of the groups had responded in the affirmative with about 55% of the fellowship actually responding. It doesn't sound like a lot, but it is for a 12-step fellowship. In the end, the conference floor passed the change. It now reads as "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion. We need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of all public media."

- In order for the GSO to understand how conference works, Steve C. explains the amount of back and forth it took to finally pass an organogram, or organizational flow chart. What they put together as requested was torn down and they had to work into the night to redo it to finally have it pass on the floor. You must find something everybody can agree on.
- Other work of S&B at conference: a lot of argument about what constitutes an open meeting, and they tried to change what the definition of an open meeting is, family members and others, like professionals may attend, but they cannot participate. These are the things that if people at OCCA have strong feelings about, let us know so we can represent our constituency.
- There is a brief discussion in favor and against nonaddicts sharing at meetings. Steve C. points out that this is exactly what happens on the conference floor, when you have two differing but valuable opinions and there is a need to reach a decision.
- Frank P. states that the materials for conference were sent out months in advance and that contrary to other delegations, ours did go through the materials previous to the conference and were prepared.
- Steve C. reports that the TEC (trustee election committee) elect the new trustees and this year they elected Kurtina Rubio, who Steve C. has served with, and she is an amazing woman.
- For the (WSO) World Service Office: moved the WSO to Phoenix, Arizona, and hired new staff. In the last month they have shipped 66,925 pamphlets in 4 languages, 241,000 chips in 8 languages, they published the second edition of the "12 Step Companion Guide", and printed 1,000 copies of "Hope, Faith and Courage" volume 1 and 2.
- Two new areas: CA France and CA Poland. England, broke off from another area. The fellowship is growing like crazy in Europe and Asia.

⇒ **ALTERNATE**

-Liz M.-

714.266.4081

- **Liz M. reports about the conference** Liz M. reports that she joined the H&I World Service Committee. The committee is looking for a vice chair to be from Europe since the chair is from the U.S. and they want the European representation. We voted new positions: Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.
- Working on the H&I World Service Committee Guidelines and will borrow the template from PI North America in order to have more structured and detailed board position suggestions.
- Continuing to work on the pamphlet that's called 25 commonly asked questions since a motion was brought to the floor to consolidate it in 10 questions, but it did not pass.
- Liz M. notes that she learnt OCCA has a very solid H&I compared to other areas.
- Liz M. reports on the Pacific South Region caucus meeting where she heard that "when it when H&I and PI are strong, the outreach is really good." Also, after the year 2026, if your area has 25 meetings or less, you will get two delegates. We currently get three delegates. But any area with 26 or more meetings can have three and with 25 meetings we can have 3 delegates but are allotted only two votes.
- Liz M. says she recommends the experience and speaks of how Dan S., Nolan O., Steve C. and others were there to guide us. She is grateful for the opportunity.

⇒ **ALTERNATE**

-Melanie R.G.-

714.675.2731

- **Melanie R.G. reports about the conference:** Melanie R.G. thanks the group for giving her the opportunity and the help they received by the OCCA delegation and others in the fellowship that had experience with conference.
- Melanie R.G. joined the Literature, Chips and Format Committee (LCF) and was surprised by how much is going on. These are the current projects:
  - **Projects completed** 1. 12 Step Companion Guide 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition and 2. Service Sponsorship Pamphlet. (Both are currently with the WSO and will be made available to the Fellowship by October 2024.)
  - **Major items begun or in progress:**
    1. 12 & 12 Book
    2. 12 Traditions & 12 Concepts Illustrated
    3. Traditions Group Inventory
    4. HFC III
    5. I thought I was only hurting myself
    6. Yes, You Can Start a C.A. Meeting
    7. Recalling the Early Days of C.A. (215 pages)
    8. Glossary of Terms
  - **New subcommittees to begin work on:**
    1. Amendments of the Tools of Recovery Pamphlet
    2. Concept for a new pocket-sized meditation book
    3. Update of the Step Study Meeting Format to a Literature Study format

4. Concept for a new pamphlet concerning long term illness in recovery
  5. A new Safety statement and definition of crosstalk to be included in meeting formats
  6. Creation of a new Topic Meeting Format
- **Other projects:** Review and revise the committee guidelines. This is a step to help streamline our processes, improve quality of our project outcomes and enhance clarity for our members. The committee also plans to create an engaging video and/or flyer aiming to attract new members to the LCF committee.
  - Our PI team got a shout out for their video that other groups had seen and were talking about.
  - **Motions Passed for LCF:**
    - **Motion 40** to restore the previous text "However, take away the drug of choice, substitute another, and eventually it becomes a problem drug." to the Alcohol Reading, as follows: "Alcohol is a mind-altering substance in liquid form. Many people don't realize it is no different from cocaine or other drugs in its ability to lead to addiction. One drink is never enough, just as one hit, fix, pill or snort is never enough. We are masters at combining and substituting one drug for another to get high. Many of us never felt that alcohol was part of our problem. However, take away the drug of choice, substitute another, and eventually it becomes a problem drug."
    - **Motion 41:** Motion to approve a flyer to solicit HCF III story submissions.
  - Melanie R.G. printed out small versions of the flyer and passed them around for people to take back to their meetings. **To contribute:** If you would like to contribute to any ongoing projects, please contact the LCF Chair, Nadz L., at [lcf@ca.org](mailto:lcf@ca.org).
  - **Finance:**
    - Melanie R.G. reports that the World Service Organization's budget fiscal year runs on the calendar year January to December. The budget approved at this conference starts in January 2025.
    - The first motion that they passed was the amended 2024 budget that was voted at last year's conference. By the time conference has arrived, you've had eight months of your budget being spent from January to end of August thus you're much closer to the actuals. A budget is just a planning tool.
      - Motion: Review FY'2024 BUDGET vs. ACTUALS financial report with PROPOSED AMENDMENTS. This report compares the Actual Income and Expenses (YTD) in a comparison with the 2023 Conference Approved FY'2024 Budget and proposes Amendments for the Budget through the end of FY'24. Review the YTD Balance Sheet (Attachment 2).
        - Approved budget: **-\$ 162,282.00**
        - Amended: **-\$ 45,883.00**
        - Difference is **-\$116,399**
      - What changed? \$ 31,000 more in contributions, higher than expected, \$ 77,000 in convention income. They did have higher office expense in furniture and copier, \$30,000 to create a brand-new website.
      - Take aways: extraordinary year due to historical office move, planned for in the budget but considered a financial burden (planned worst case), donations are strong, and people have responded and have continued to promote the Freedom Fund (through "Give Butter" -free fundraising platform for nonprofits).
    - We approved the proposed budget for 2025 that starts in January. The budget for 2025 that was approved has a deficit again, smaller, and they are hoping it will narrow. (This Budget is based upon the reported needs of all standing committees, the WSBT, and CAWSO.)
      - Budget 2025: **-\$ 62,962.00**
      - Budget 2024: **-\$ 162,282.00**
      - Amended: **-\$ 45,883.00**
      - Difference is **-\$116,399**
    - There were some motions regarding internal committee guidelines and fundraising guidelines.
    - Steve C. adds that we did not see the actuals, and there was some grumbling about that, and in those we are not ending the year in a deficit. This is the accountability that the WSO provides for the donations that the fellowship is sending.
    - Melanie R.G. encourages all to sign up to give a recurring donation to the Freedom Fund, it can be as little as \$5 a month. Information is on the CAWS website: <https://ca.org/>
  - **Convention:** (Dan S. is sick): Melanie R.G. reports that Convention in 2025 will be in May 22-26 in Scottsdale, Arizona and the main hotel is already booked so you can book on the overflow. The bid for 2028 was between Toronto, Canada and Glasgow, Scotland, the latter winning by a significant majority.
  - Melanie R.G. adds that the conference was a humbling experience in things like seeing a 5<sup>th</sup> concept play out and realizing the magic of the group conscience.
  - **ACTION ITEM: respond to the request of posting these reports in the WhatsApp.**

⇒ **Old Business**

1. Tax Status-covered above
2. Robert's Rules Workshop –Steve C.

⇒ **New Business:**

1. Upcoming elections: announcements of elections to be done in October.
  - Discussion about the process for election. In the current S&B's, announcements go out in October, nominations are in November and elections are in December. Some think keeping it that way gives us an opportunity to better understand who is considering certain positions. Chris J. has proposed doing both nominations and elections in December. Melanie R.G. considers that the announcement can start going out in October for nominations and elections in December. Frank P. does a poll and there is substantial unanimity for the proposal Chris J. put forward.

- **ACTION ITEM: S&B committee to draft the change, give it to the board and bring it to the GSO for final approval.**

2. Insurance: Steve C. says it was brought to us that there is a meeting that in order to get the location they have to have proof of insurance and it's something we have considered before and including our events. Our insurance agent confirmed that they would cover every single meeting, physical meeting, up to a million dollars in liability. The cost could be anywhere from his estimate, \$500 to \$750.

**Discussion:** concerns about us not having the funds, but Nick B. and Alonzo M. think it is imperative that we carry insurance as one thing could affect us tremendously and our finances do not have the capacity to absorb that.

- **Nolan O. makes a motion to approve up to \$750 to purchase insurance for our meetings and events. Seconded.**

**Discussion:** Nolan O. has some new ideas for fundraising. Frank P. says it's his responsibility to be fiscally responsible and now know Dave F. could do both things. If we needed insurance, you need to talk at your meetings to get this in the seventh tradition. Others express support saying it's a numbers game. The insurance won't necessarily be cheaper if we have nonprofit status.

**Motion passes unanimously.**

- **Chris J. makes a motion to be reimbursed \$ 52.80 for copies. Seconded. Passes unanimously.**
  - **Betsy L. makes a motion to pay \$ 155 to renew our domain name. Seconded. Passes unanimously.**
  - **Carlo P. makes a motion to request \$ 420 to buy chips for two months. Seconded. Passes unanimously.**
    - **Chris J. makes a motion to donate \$ 150 to World Service. Seconded. Passes with substantial unanimity.**

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

- **Chris J. makes a motion to adjourn. Seconded.**

⇒ **Meeting adjourned at 12:13 pm.**

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