
OCCA REGULAR GSO MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 5TH, 2024

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

- ⇒ **Chairperson:** called the meeting to order, requesting all cell phones be turned off or silenced.
 - **Steve C.** is acting chair for this meeting. (Frank P. is on Zoom)

- ⇒ **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**".
 - Liz M. read The Twelve Traditions.

- ⇒ **Chairperson:** called on an addict to report on Tradition #10.
 - Chris J. to report on tradition #10 which states "Cocaine Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the C.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy."

- ⇒ **Chairperson:** calls on an addict to give a report on the 10th Concept.
 - Nolan O. reports since Jose A. is absent, concept #10 which states "Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority — the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws."

- ⇒ **Chairperson** asks for an addict to give a report on the 11th Tradition for next month.
 - Mathew C. volunteers.

- ⇒ **Chairperson** asks for an addict to give a report on the 11th Concept for next month.
 - Melanie R.G. volunteers.

Remaining GSO Meeting 2024 Dates: 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 OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS?

Mathew M. on October 7th for 5 years, Chris J. on October 18th for 30 years, Matt A. on October 6th for 1 year, and Bryce W. on October 25th 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: 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 roll and remind 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:** calls the roll and announces quorum.

- **Present:** Frank P., Nick B., Melanie R.G., Betsy L., Donovan B., Alonzo M., Steve C., Dan S., Nolan O., Jason S., Neelam A., Mathew M., Liz M., Ron D., Chris J., Angel G., Matt A., Evan L., Jenn C., Bryce W., Celia T., Gina G., and Alex G.
- **Absent:** Carlo P., Jose A., Matt S., Anthony D., and Kathy W.
- **Quorum: 16 out of 23 in attendance**

⇒ **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.

- **Chris J. makes a motion to accept the minutes from the last GSO meeting. Seconded. Passes unanimously.**

⇒ **Parliamentarian:** reminded members "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: Steve C. as acting chair explains that he wants to keep things orderly when we engage in debate and so he reiterates Robert's Rules and explains procedure including Melanie R.G. acting as parliamentarian since he can't judge himself. He explains Frank P. is at a retreat and Nick B. is subbing in for chips.
 - Nonprofit status update
 - Steve C. reports that our 501c3 has been approved and we are once again, a legal nonprofit. We are awaiting our fictitious tax business name and once it's filed, it has to be posted for a certain amount of days before we can use it to get a new bank account. We used a CPA, and with all of the filings that we had to do, it's probably going to cost us about \$500. The business address for the CPA will be where our tax filings go to and the Treasurer is responsible for making sure that those filings are done.
 - Insurance Update:
 - Steve C. reports that we spoke to our insurance person who now has a full understanding of what our needs are. We got an update from the Unity committee about their planned events. We also have the updated schedule from the Secretary, so we're going to be looking at a blanket policy

that will cover all of our meetings and events. (Not every meeting needs one.) We should have it resolved by the Halloween party or the next GSO.

- Frank P. reports from Zoom saying he spoke to Navid who is the person working on our insurance. He also shows us the site of where the first CA business meeting was held as represented in the book "Hope, Faith and Courage" Chapter 1.

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

- Report: Nothing to report.

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

- Report: Melanie R.G. reports that she put together a flyer that lists the positions and the basic requirements for each. There is a mistake in the flyer as Donovan B. will complete the second year of his term and that position is not open, she will make the corrections and have fresh copies at the next GSO meeting and send an electronic copy promptly.

- Election positions and requirements: Melanie R.G. reports on the open positions:

Executive Board Positions:

- **Chairperson:** Frank P. has served two years and steps down in December. For that position, you need two years of sobriety, two years previous GSO experience and preferably have been vice chair or and at least on the executive board.
- **Vice chairperson:** Nick B. is also completing his two-year term in December. For that position, you need two years sobriety, one year previous GSO experience and ability to act as Chair.
- **Secretary:** Melanie R.G. will be completing her two-year term. For that position, you need one year of sobriety and six months of previous GSO experience.
- **Treasurer:** Betsy L. has completed one year of her two-year term so she will be completing her term in December 2025 and that position is therefore not open, which is a good thing for continuity.
- **Vice treasurer:** Donovan B. has completed one year of his two-year term so he will be completing his term in December 2025 and that position is therefore not open.
- **S&B Chair:** Steve C. has served for three years. It's a two-year term. The requirements for that position are three years sobriety, one year previous Executive Board experience, and preferably vice chair and or executive board person.
- **Archive Chair:** Alonzo M. has completed one year of his two-year term so he will be completing his term in December 2025 and that position is therefore not open.

GSO Committee Chairs:

All of the committees have a one year term for chairs, with the exception of Unity and PI that have two. Thus, the following positions are up for elections:

- **GRC Committee Chair:** This is the advisory role that Dan S. has right now. That position must be filled by a delegate or alternate delegate.
- **IT Committee Chair:** up for reelection, one year sobriety required.
- **Unity Committee Chair:** Neelam A. is finishing out Dreia M.'s term, so that that position is also up for election. For that position, you need two years of sobriety and six months of GSO experience.
- **Chip Committee Chair:** up for reelection, one year sobriety required.
- **Literature Committee Chair:** up for reelection, one year sobriety required.
- **PI Committee Chair:** Jose A. started in January of 2024, so he has one more year to go, so that position is not open.
- **H&I Committee Chair:** up for reelection, one year sobriety required.
- **Workshop Committee Chair:** one year of sobriety required in addition to training under Nick B. on how to run the 4th Step Workshop.

Delegate and Alternate Delegate Positions:

- Dan S. is going to be an outgoing delegate in December, so that position will be open. Requirement is four years of sobriety and GSO experience. Nolan O. and Steve C. still have through the end of their term in December 2025.
- Alternate delegates, Melanie R.G. and Liz M. need to be ratified for two more years. Alternate delegates requirement is two-year sobriety and GSO experience.

- Election announcement flyer: Melanie R.G. passes around the flyers and lets people on Zoom know that she has emailed a copy of it to them.
- At this point Steve C., with permission from the GSO, will take Jason S.' IT committee report out of order due to a previous engagement Jason S. has.

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

- Hotline Sub-committee:

Total Calls:	12
Avg Duration:	54 seconds
Longest Call:	3 minutes and 39 seconds
Voicemail:	0
- Webservant Subcommittee:
 - Follow up on uploading meetings to the new app: Jason S. reports that we finally got all of our meetings on the app. Our Zoom meetings are not showing up in our area since they are virtual, and Jason S. will work with Cameron on figuring that out. Everything is updated on the website, and Jason S. says that with the new app he will really need help so please announce that he is looking for a volunteer that is tech savvy.
 - There is a discussion on how to get the website updated more often, Jason S. attends to it once a month and he can do better if we can find someone to help that knows WordPress. Six months sobriety required.

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

- Report:

Previous Balance	\$ 954.32
Donations	\$ 1,616.25
Disbursements	\$ 1,555.92
Ending Balance	\$ 1,014.65

- Betsy L. reports that this included a donation of \$150 to World Service. We have \$ 5,719.00 left in savings.
- **Treasurer:** asks for 7th tradition donations. OCCA Venmo: @betsy-Lyons-1 949.220.3504

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

- Report: Donovan B. reiterates our nonprofit status has been reinstated. He points to the fact that we want to do big events, but our accounts are down \$ 1,000 in our savings and we need to recuperate that. We made only \$100 dollars last month and he is noticing that we are collecting either very little money from some meetings or none at all. We are already in October and all year long we have seen for example the "Chore Boy's Meeting", and "Upstairs Downstairs" have donated \$0, \$5 from "Live Free", \$20 from "The Madd Realm, as an example. Donovan B. states that if we want to have big events we have to go back to our meetings and put it out there that we need funds.
- Discussion: Neelam A. explains that the big event of the "Gratitude Banquet" scheduled tentatively for early next year would be an opportunity to bring the fellowship together in a black-tie event and our nonprofit status gives us some discounts for the venue, catering, etc. The plan is to create opportunities such as an auction of major items to fundraise. About 123 people. While newcomers are often strapped for money, Donovan B. believes they can contribute something. Jessica M. says the people at treatment centers are not allowed to carry any money on them. Melanie R.G. reiterates that we have three events coming up and getting people there will help bring in funds.

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

- Report:
 - Service manual update: Matt A. reports.
 - **Matt A. makes a motion to change the wording under Article four, Section 11, subsection Roman numeral one, from "nominations for Executive Board positions shall be held at the GSO meeting in the month of November" to "nominations for open Executive Board positions shall be**

announced in October and November. Nominations for these positions shall be held in December.” Seconded. Passes unanimously.

- **Matt A. makes a motion to change the wording to article 10, section four, subsection Roman numeral one from “nominations for chairperson positions shall be held at the GSO meeting in the month of November” to read “nominations for committee chairpersons shall be announced in October and November. Nominations for these positions shall be held in December.” Seconded. Passes unanimously.**

- Nick B. explains the vote on elections timeline was done in two motions because they are in two different sections of the S&B's, one for the Executive Board and another for the Committee Chairs.
- Matt A. presents the finished OCCA service manual. We have been hard at work on this for a while, about 40 pages, and is essentially a guide for anyone new to service at the area level. Matt A. passes it around so people can see it and it was also emailed to all. The Executive Board has approved it to come for a vote at the GSO.

- **Matt A. makes a motion to approve the OCCA Service Manual. Seconded.**

- Nick B. expresses that he thinks it is best to give all the opportunity to read through it and vote next months.

- **Nick B. makes a motion to table to next month. Seconded. Passes unanimously.**

- Discussion: if you have changes or corrections, you can join the meeting, like Angel G. did for social media, or you could make a referral and have S&B committee do all the work. It is noted the document is long in part because every committee starts on a new page so you can isolate what is relevant to you. Email to send to S&B is areasbofficer.occa@gmail.com

⇒ **Archivist's Report**

-Alonzo M.-

714.715.0405

- Report: Alonzo M. reports that he attended the first Saturday of the month Archives meeting of CA world Service and connected with Veronica.
- Steve C. suggests that Alonzo M. host a symposium session on OCCA history probably for our anniversary and in conjunction with the Unity Committee so it can be an event.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

⇒ **Group Relations Committee**

- Dan S.-

714.403.8326

- Report: Dan S. reports that due to his being sick he has not gone around as much as usual, but he has received no phone calls about any issues or concerns from meetings. The social media issues we've had with posting pictures with CA logos in the background on public platforms has died down. The Monday night meeting seems to be struggling a little with participation as is "Chore Boys Stag Meeting." Dan S. recommends we all go to a new meeting each month and participate in the fellowship and help spread the word so that the fellowship is there for the newcomer. Announce other meetings during the secretary portion of the meeting on C.A. related announcements.
- Steve C. requests that Dan S. ask the "Chore Boys Men's Stag meeting" to send a GSR. Dan S. says he will volunteer and bring it up at their meeting on Sunday.

⇒ **Hospitals and Institutions Committee**

- Liz M. -

714.266.4081

- Report: Liz M. reports that she emailed out the roster to the GSO and has paper copies here if anyone needs one. We currently have 10 open panels thus we're always looking for speakers. GSR's please announce this with 3 months sobriety required to speak on a panel and 6 months to lead a panel.
- The "God Shot Card Draw" is coming up on November 3rd. Tess M. and Katrina G. are speaking, there will be food and an opportunity raffle.

- **Liz M. makes a motion to request \$200 for the H&I God Shot Card Draw event on November 3rd.**

Seconded.

Debate: Neelam A. speaks in favor and explains that the idea is to also fundraise at this event to recuperate what we are spending with the opportunity raffle and fundraising, and she asks that if you have any ideas or if meetings could perhaps assemble a basket that would be helpful. Nolan O. speaks in favor and suggests that if you have a bike around the house or any items that you could donate it would help bring in money.

Motion passes unanimously.

- There is a discussion to clarify that meetings have the discretion to set aside a certain percentage of the 7th tradition towards H&I like the Tuesday and Thursday meeting in Costa Mesa does. Liz M. encourages GSR's to make the announcement in favor of H&I.

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

- Report: Jenn C. reports for Jose A. saying on October 12th they will have the "Anonymous Pedalers event" where they will be biking along a route, and she has a flyer.
- Jenn C. reports that they are also planning a "Grateful, thankful and fed" event on November 16-17 and are checking city ordinances, location TBD. December 12, we have the cozy Christmas goody bags to include gloves, socks, blankets, etc. PI is also making another video off of a pamphlet.
- Both the Thanksgiving meals and the goody bags are being done by the group individually with the hope of reaching people in active addiction to let them know we are here for them.

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

Report: Angel G. reports that for the month of September, we had a total of 5,119 views on our social media. 47% of that were followers, 52 were not. Our top reels for this month were the "God Shot Card Draw" with 184, "Madd Realm" with 257, "Anonymous Pedalers" was 259 and the "Back to Basics Mini Marathon" with 600. The ad that we're boosting has a total of 5,764 views, 25 interactions. Somebody's been sending it out to somebody else and it lands on somebody's algorithm, and it sends them right to our page. We've spent \$18.19 of the requested \$30.

- Angel G. requests that flyers be sent to him for posting or if you need help creating flyers, he is using AI for many of them, so all the people are not real. At this time, there is no more need for funds to boost.
- Melanie R.G. says that for those who are not on social media, if you go to the website and press the buttons on the right side for Facebook and Instagram it will take you to our active pages.

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

Report: Jen C. reports that they are working on getting some of our literature and C.A. information to the Fountain Valley City Hall and trying to get in with the District Attorney's Office. Nothing has been solidified, other than the probation office in Anaheim, but it is in the works.

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

- Report: Neelam A. reports that the committee has three positions open: scheduler, planner and coordinator to work with the people that are working on the event. For example, our Halloween party, Nolan O. and Kim are working on it, for the Turkey Bowl, Chris J. and Niko B., for the "God Shot Card Draw" its Neelam A. with the committee and with Melanie R.G. on other stuff. These positions could help coordinate so that it does not fall on a just a few people and avoid burnout.
- Nolan O. reports on the Halloween Party at Barn Life, a great property, on October 27th, 5-9, we need volunteers to help, donations of \$5-\$10 are being asked for the food. (Spaghetti dinner with salad and bread). Costume contest, desert contest and mystery box contest ending in a speaker meeting. There is a request for a donation of \$25 from each meeting to help offset expenses. He has \$ 225 donated already found an additional \$100 from an individual and Kim gets the treatment centers that she invites to donate money for their clients to attend. We have been asked to put in a damage deposit of \$500 and it's refundable. We have use of the whole property with bathrooms, no porta potty needed. Nolan O. is trying to not have to ask for funds from OCCA as we are low in funds right now.

- **Neelam A. makes a motion to request \$500 for the security deposit.
Seconded. Passes unanimously.**

- Since OCCA has been unable to secure insurance yet we can purchase it through them for \$75 for \$500,000.

- **Neelam A. makes a motion to request \$ 75 for insurance for the event at Barn Life. Seconded.**

- Alonzo M. speaks for the need to pay for the insurance.

- **Dan S. makes a friendly amendment that we authorize the \$75 for a one-time insurance coverage unless our own insurance kicks in by then. Seconded.**

- Friendly amendment is accepted by Neelam A. and the body.

- **Motion passes unanimously.**

- Neelam A. reports that the Turkey Bowl will be November 9th at Irvine Lanes from 7:30 to 9. Chris J. passed around the flyers. We have four lanes for six people each. GSR's are encouraged to announce the event and have people reserve their spot by presale and they can collect the money.

- **Neelam A. makes a motion to request \$ 50 to reimburse Chris J. for the deposit on the bowling alley. Seconded.**

- Neelam A. responds to a question that the cost of the event is \$500, and we are hoping to recuperate all that. A small poll at the H&I meeting already showed 8 people going. Chris J. corrects the event to be \$520. Donovan B. has concerns about the next request as after we pay this \$50, we will be left with \$100 in our accounts. Chris J. speaks in favor by saying that the presale will give us an idea of how many lanes we will need. GSR's can collect the money, and send it to Chris J. via Zelle, Venmo, cash or check.

- **Motion passes with substantial unanimity.**

- **Neelam A. makes a motion requesting \$520 to cover the cost of the bowling lanes for Irvine Lanes. Seconded.**

- Nolan O. speaks in favor as he believes that by the end of the event we will break even if not turn in a small profit.

- **Motion passes unanimously.**

- Neelam A. says that maybe we can organize something for Christmas to give comfort to those far from home and maybe team up with PI to do something together.

Activities and Fundraising Subcommittee - Niko B.- 949.278.3784
Report:

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

- Report: Mathew M. reports that we are doing very well with AA literature. Since the sales for C.A. literature just opened up he did some calculations on how to best save money when buying literature.

Number of Sales: \$ 227.00
Request for Funds: \$ 744.58

- **Mathew M. makes a motion to request \$ 744.58 for C.A. literature books. Seconded.**

- Mathew M. speaks in favor because we need the literature, and the money will come back. All books would need to be sold at \$13 and the Companion Guide at \$17. If you buy a case, you get some free books. Shipping is \$97.

- Dan S. says he will be driving to Arizona monthly to visit his mother-in-law and will pick up the books for us and we can save the \$97 for shipping.

- **Dan S. makes a friendly amendment that he goes and pick up the literature.**

- **Mathew M. accepts the friendly amendment.**

- **The motion now reads as requesting funds in the amount of \$ 647.58 for literature.**

- Debate: Frank P. is grateful that Dan S. can pick up the order, but he raises the point that, in his role of being fiscally responsible, he needs to raise the issue that if, for example, the literature gets stolen out of Dan S.' car, who is responsible. In the past, Mathew M. and Carlo P. would be the ones driving to the office to pick up literature and chips. He adds that using the prudent reserve to stock up on books could be a good thing because the money will come back to us. Frank P. says that any money coming in today should be taken care of while the treasury is open and deposited to the bank as soon as possible. Dan S. takes full responsibility for the books as a service to C.A.

- **Motion passes unanimously.**

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

- Report: Nick B. reports that we had 4 attendees at the workshop in September. The next one will be on October 19th and the cutoff date to sign up will be the 16th. \$25 for all the materials, breakfast, lunch and beverages. Please announce this at your meetings.

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

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

- Report: Nick B. reports for Carlo P. that we will not be requesting funds as we are now buying chips every other month.

Amount of Sales: \$ 73.00
Request for Funds: \$ None

WORLD SERVICE DELEGATES

⇒ **DELEGATE** -Dan S.- 714.403.8326

- Dan S. thanks all for their support over the last four years, allowing him to be of maximum service. He spent every moment that he was there attending all the sessions, networking, talking to people, being of service where he can. Dan S. gifted C.A. bags to everyone. He talks about the spiritual experience of being there and knowing hundreds of people around the world. Dan S. says he is putting together a service resume and asks that the group support him in his efforts to become a trustee as he feels strongly that that is the next step. He took his duty as delegate seriously.

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

- Nolan O. has his World Service Committee call tomorrow for North America, there are two connection calls in the beginning of the month. They do a lot in the PI calls and Angel G. has showed up numerous times there which is great to see. He is looking forward to next year which will be his last.

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

- Steve C. has nothing to report at this time.

⇒ **ALTERNATE** -Liz M.- 714.266.4081

- Liz M. says she has her first H&I World Service Committee meeting next Saturday and Lifeline subcommittee this afternoon.

⇒ **ALTERNATE** -Melanie R.G.- 714.675.2731

- Melanie R.G. reports that she attended the Literature, Chips and Format Committee meeting via Zoom this month. Most of the work happens as documents circulate and people make comments or edits to it.

- Currently a "I thought I was only hurting myself" pamphlet has been circulating. There is also a new blurb in regard to Hope, Faith and Courage Volume III that asks for contributions from newer members that have had experiences with the substances that are circulating now, with the voice of a new generation. A document on safety for online meetings is also circulating. Melanie R.G. adds that she is grateful for the guidance of Dan S. during the conference, his straightforwardness and authenticity.

BUSINESS

⇒ **Old Business**

1. Tax Exempt Status-already covered
2. Robert's Rules Workshop –Steve C. says he will hold it whenever anybody wants to learn the basics or improve their skills.

⇒ **New Business:**

1. Upcoming elections process-covered above.
2. Jenn C. reminds us that the Back-to-Basics Mini Marathon is taking place October 25th-27th at the Fountain Valley Alano Club. There is a slot from 8:00 am-9:45 am for OCCA groups and passes out flyers.

- **Jessica M. makes a motion to adjourn. Nick B. seconded.**

- Since there is still pending business to discuss she is ruled out of order.
- Steve C. explains that if we vote to adjourn any pending business will be pushed to next month. There is a standing vote.

Motion passes with substantial unanimity.

⇒ **Chairperson** entertained a motion to Adjourn.-Covered above.

- Upon adjournment, **Chairperson** called for a moment of silent meditation and requests an individual to lead the GSO in a prayer of their choice.
- **Meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM.**