

OCCA REGULAR GSO MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 2ND, 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**".
 - Jessica M. read The Twelve Traditions.
- ⇒ **Chairperson:** called on an addict to report on Tradition #11.
 - Mathew C. reported on Tradition 11 which states: "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of all public media."
- ⇒ **Chairperson:** called on an addict to give a report on the 11th Concept.
 - Melanie R.G. reported on Concept 11 which states: "While the Trustees hold final responsibility for C.A.'s world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees and service boards, staffs and consultants. Therefore, the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the system of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers will always be matters for serious care and concern."
- ⇒ **Chairperson** asked for an addict to give a report on the 12th Tradition for next month.
 - Liz M. volunteers.
- ⇒ **Chairperson** asked for an addict to give a report on the 12th Concept for next month.
 - Mathew M. volunteers.

Remaining GSO Meeting 2024 Dates: December 7th.

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

ARE THERE ANY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS?

STEVE C. ON THE 11TH WITH 5 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: Dan S. for "Chore Boys Men's Stag"

- **Chris J. makes a motion to accept Dan S. as the new GSR for the "Chore's Boys Men's Stag Meeting". Seconded. Passes unanimously.**

⇒ **Chairperson:** read the **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 announces quorum.

- **Present:** Frank P., Nick B., Melanie R.G., Betsy L., Donovan B., Alonzo M., Dan S., Nolan O., Carlo P., Mathew M., Jose A., Liz M., Ron D., Chris J., Angel G., Matt A., Evan L., Jenn C., Bryce W., Celia T., Kathy W. & Gina G.
- **Absent:** Matt S., Anthony D., and Alex G.
- **Quorum:** 17 constitutes quorum of 25 present.

⇒ **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 accept the minutes from the GSO meeting in October. 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."

⇒ **Agenda Item that was tabled from the last GSO:** Approval of the OCCA Service Manual.
The following were the motions made at the October GSO:

- **Matt A. makes a motion to approve the OCCA Service Manual. Seconded.**
- **Nick B. makes a motion to table to next month. Seconded. Passes unanimously.**
- **We resume debate:** Nick B. acknowledges that it seems people have read it, and he is in favor of the document. Chris J. asks if changes can still be made. Steve C. says, "bring them to the S&B and they will happily work with anyone." Melanie R.G. speaks in favor, because she thinks the section on the GSR's duties and responsibilities is a solid guide.
- **Frank P. asks those to vote in favor. The approval of the OCCA Service Manual passes unanimously.**

BOARD OFFICER'S REPORTS

⇒ **Chairperson's Report**

- Frank P.-

714.514.4150

- Report: **Upcoming elections**

- Melanie R.G. reiterates that at the last GSO she went through a chart she made that listed the position, what positions were up for election and the requirements and qualifications. There is a change as Donovan B. will be staying to complete the second year of his term so the position of Vicechair will not be up for reelection. The corrected flyer was sent out via email, on the WhatsApp and there are copies here.

She notes that Nick B. as vicechair is granted an automatic nomination for the chair position but he will not be in the running as he has a different focus.

- o Steve C. says that the OCCA Service Manual is a good resource to understand the positions at the GSO and reads each one:
 - **Chairperson:** is responsible for conducting both the board meeting and the GSO meeting every month. At least two years of continuous sobriety, two years prior service at the GSO level, and ideally one year of prior service at the board level. Shall ideally have spent the previous year as board Vice Chairperson, and an automatic combination is given to the Vice Chair for this position. Shall know how the GSO and the board meetings operate, shall have a working knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order, the 12 traditions of CA and the 12 concepts of World Service. Shall have a good working knowledge of these bylaws and the standing rules of OCCA. Shall have a general knowledge of the workings of all the standing committees of the GSO, and shall have adequately fulfilled all the obligations of an executive officer of the board, unless otherwise needed to be selected from the body due to removal or lack of numbers
 - **Vice Chairperson:** responsible for supporting the chair and should be capable of fulfilling the position of board chairperson in the event of their absence. Shall have at least two years of continuous sobriety, at least one year of prior service at the GSO level or as a meeting officer.
 - **Secretary:** is responsible for keeping the minutes of the board and GSO meetings, preparing the agendas for those meetings, and for communicating those things with members of the area. Will have at least one year of continuous sobriety, at least six months of previous service at the GSO level or as a meeting officer. Manages the master schedules and the roll of OCCA board and GSO.
 - **Structure and Bylaws Chair:** Is responsible for making sure that the board and GSO are operating within the bylaws. They are responsible for chairing the S&B committee. Shall have at least three years of continuous sobriety. Shall have at least one year previously on the GSO board. Shall have adequately fulfilled all obligations as a previous member of the Board shall have a working knowledge of these bylaws and standing rules of OCCA. This is also a demanding job that may, from time to time, require them to fulfill other duties in the GSO as a member at large defined as a qualified substitute for committee chairs and keep track of legal issues relevant to OCCA.
 - Steve C. encourages GSR's to announce elections but when it comes to the Board positions, he is of the opinion that you will find them in this room.
 - **For elections, you must be present, in person or on Zoom. No proxies or substitutions.**
- o Mathew A. brings up that in the flyer the previous GSO experience required for Chair and Vice Chair needs to be corrected.
- o Frank P. says he was at a retreat last month and tried to give us a shot of where "Hope, Faith & Courage" chapter one had happened with the description of the cocaine that they found in a man's pocket. He was there because Father Francis, the only non-addict member of CA, who was a friend of his had passed away. His sponsor did fourth and fifth step there as did Frank P.

- **Insurance Update:**

- Frank P. reports that he has spoken with two people in insurance and will have to now go back and revisit this and ask Steve C. about looking into other fellowships and what they're doing. The problem we're having is in California, insurance is a very difficult thing to deal with. The person who the board talked to seems to be at an impasse. Frank P. believes that it was his charge to do this in his position before he leaves. David Flournoy quoted us \$ 2,000 for insurance and Navid originally around \$600 but that was not possible.
- **Discussion:** Alonzo M. believes we should start by insuring this body (the GSO) and then work through the events and the meetings. He believes that if we get sued, they will go for every avenue possible. Alonzo M. offers to share his expertise on his (501c3) and his fictitious license. Steve C. agrees that we need insurance for the officers and believes we should put insuring the meetings on the back burner while considering insuring some of our major events.

- **Frank P.** reminds us that we you're going to hear difficult things from people who sit on the board because we have to run it as a business. Frank P. has had requests for private contributions and when you reach out, people will respond. Frank P. "we've got to be more responsible. We've got to go back to meetings and ask about contributing to these things if we want to have events so we could pay for the insurance." Frank P. states that we have to

seriously look at how we are doing events. He prefers if requests for funds are put forth in the total amount rather than by pieces as was the case for the \$500 deposit for the Halloween and after the \$75 for insurance for the event. He doesn't mean to discourage enthusiasm but believes we have to present better. There is cause for concern when you look at our treasury this month.

- Our nonprofit status is in effect, and we are just waiting on the fictitious name business.

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

- Report: Nothing to report except Nick B. states our prudent reserve is down to \$ 3,500, and almost nothing in our checking, there will be money coming in today, but we need to keep an eye on this.

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

- Report: Nothing to report at this time.
 - Election announcement flyer-covered above.

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

- Report: Betsy L. reports that we had to transfer \$ 1,500 from savings because of the large disbursements and notes that we are definitely spending more than we are bringing in.
- Our prudent reserve is down to \$ 3,507.19
- We transferred \$2,500 in the last two months.

Previous Balance	\$ 1,014.65
Donations	\$ 971.00
Disbursements	\$ 2,426.62
Ending Balance	\$ 1, 059.03

- Nolan O. says he is expecting to recover the check for the deposit for the Halloween Party.
- **Treasurer:** will ask for 7th tradition donations. OCCA Venmo: @betsy-Lyons-1 949.220.3504

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

- Report: Donovan B. reports that they are still waiting on the fictitious business name so that they can open accounts in our new name.

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

- Report: Steve C. talks about how he was being more formal with Robert's Rules when he chaired the GSO last month, don't take it personal if you are called out of order, it just means it is not the right time. He also doesn't want to discourage the enthusiasm for wanting to do things but sometimes the board is just going to have to say, "we are not there yet." That is why we have the S&B's and the service manual, so you have the tools you need to go through all of this legally and with some structure.

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

- Report: Alonzo M. says that Chris W. is going to be sending him several documents on archives, and he is waiting for those. Alonzo M. congratulates Steve C. on his wedding last night and Frank P. was happy to officiate it.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

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

- Report: Dan S. encourages everyone to make it a goal this next year to make it out to every meeting at least once and see how other groups do their recovery.
- Celia T. contributes that in the Inland Empire they do "meeting of the month" and all the meetings come to support it. Donovan B. says he started this many years ago and it started growing until it was 10-12 people showing up to support a meeting. He says all it takes is two people to get it started and then it begins to grow and in L.A. each committee sends a representative and they pick a meeting out of a hat. Nick B. said he participated in the past

and what happened is "meeting of the month" morphed into "Change for Change". Nolan O. says that by compressing "Change for Change" into 2 and a half months, it makes it into an event. "Meeting of the month" would be more of mutual support and fellowship.

- **Nolan O. makes a motion to refer the idea of "Meeting of the Month" back to the Unity Committee under Activities and Fundraising Subcommittee. Seconded.**

- **Debate:** Dan S. and Melanie R.G. speak against the motion in that they believe this initiative is better suited to be referred to the GRC committee. Dan S. has the time, and the Unity Committee is so busy.
- Nolan O. accepts a friendly amendment to refer it to GRC Committee instead of the Unity Committee.
- There is more discussion and support for targeting the meetings that need the support instead of pulling a meeting name at random. Although you could say that the meetings that are not bringing in money are the ones in need of support, Frank P. mentions that some meetings with just a handful of people are taking responsibility for them still giving.

- **Amended motion: Nolan O. makes a motion to refer the idea of "Meeting of the Month" back to the GRC Committee under Activities and Fundraising Subcommittee. Seconded. Passes unanimously.**

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

- Hotline Sub-committee: Jason S. reports that we doubled the number of calls on the Hotline.

Total Calls:	24
Avg Duration:	46 seconds
Longest Call:	33 minutes
Voicemail:	0

- Webservant Subcommittee: Jason S. reports that the website is updated. Melanie R.G. let him know the S&B document on the site is outdated.
- **ACTION ITEM: Matt A. will send the current S&B document to Jason S. to upload onto the website.**
- Jason S. makes an urgent call to all GSR's to please announce that he really needs more volunteers with the IT committee.

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

- Report: Liz M. reports that tomorrow is the "God Shot Card Draw" at Doheny State Beach, cookout and speakers. There are 18 open panels on the roster and are looking for panel leaders. The updated roster of panels will be emailed at the end of the weekend. H&I is also having a hike on December 8th in Laguna Beach with Frank P. as our speaker.
- The committee had elections and Liz M. will continue to be chair, Niko B. will be Vice Chair, Secretary is Neelam A. and Activities is open. Our secretary will be Neelam, and activities is open.
- Liz M. asks GSR's to consider having their groups donate a percentage of the 7th tradition to H&I as some meetings do. Ron D. suggests having the roster at the literature table and during the report at meetings.

- **Liz M. makes a motion to request \$ 200 for little Big Books. Seconded. Passes unanimously.**

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

- Report: Jose A. reports that the Back-to-Basics three-day mini marathon was a great success with groups from all over the county, the Inland Empire, and San Diego County. It brought in \$1,116 in anonymous donations.
- They will be serving food to the homeless community of Santa Ana and Orange in an event called "Grateful, thankful and fed" and pass business cards. They are looking at community boards in colleges, coffee shops. For the holidays they will have an event to give out warm clothing items and blankets for the homeless.

- **Jose A. makes a motion to approve the business card. Seconded.**

- Nick B. clarifies that the funding was approved but that there was concern about the way the logo is displayed with "Hope Dealers" around it. Issue is resolved as Angel G. notes that it was pulled from the PI World Service Materials guidelines.

- It is reported that these cards are specifically for use of PI and that the other more general cards that we have are to be used in other occasions.
- **Social Media Subcommittee Report:** -Angel G.- 714.369.4813
Report: Angel G. reports that last month social media blew up with 7,400 views on social media and 207 interactions. Our followers are around 333 with our top audience being still L.A. but also with activity in Orange County with the exception of south county having only minimal interaction. Angel G. asks GSR's in South County to promote social media. Our total view is usually 40% of our followers and 60% of non-followers. These are people that are being hit in the algorithm now.

- The "Anonymous Pedalers" had six people and they had a good meeting and contacted a couple of individuals.

- **Angel G. makes a motion to request \$30 to continue to boost our ad. Seconded. Passes with minor opposition.**

- There is some debate about the expense, and it is clarified that the \$30 lasts a couple of months and that the results have been really great with other counties talking about the job Orange County is doing on social media.

- **CPC Subcommittee Report:** - Jenn C. - 714.605.0322
Report: Jenn C. reports that CPC is reaching out to the professional community. She has called and left voicemails for the probation office in Anaheim, the public defender's office, and the Fountain Valley administrative assistant. If anyone has any contacts and leads for her to follow, please reach out.

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

- Report: Nolan O. reports that the Halloween event went well. There weren't as many people as anticipated, and we might need to reach out to more treatment centers in the future and could use more support from OCCA members. A total of \$902 that was donated through contributions from meetings and individuals. We had expenses of \$ 223, \$ 259 on food and supplies, \$ 260 on Kim's food and supplies, and \$20 and propane. We had a remaining balance of \$190 which was donated to the GSO. The \$ 500 deposit check was shredded. Insurance was \$120 bucks for that event. People dressed up, there was plenty of food. \$500 came from individual personal donations. \$ 40 dollars came from the recommended donation of \$ 5- \$ 10 per attendee.
- Chris J. reports that for the Turkey Bowl we have I have enough money to fulfill our four spots prepaid, he saw some more interest so he is going to call the bowling alley and see if we can just reserve another lane near our lanes without having to pay for it, since we've already put a deposit down.
- Neelam A. reminds us of the God Shot Card Draw taking place tomorrow and there are many prizes.
- Neelam A. says that she had a conversation with Melanie R.G., and they have decided to push out the idea of the gratitude banquet till maybe May but Steve C. says that is a heavy month for Delegates. Dates will be considered further down the road. Nick B. says that at the moment we should focus on smaller events to ascertain that we can get our delegates to conference. We passed a budget which was progress for OCCA and now we need to stick to it, and he agrees with others that we want to do the banquet successfully, so probably take a whole year to plan it.
- **Activities and Fundraising Subcommittee** - Niko B.- 949.278.3784
- Report: Niko B. wants to keep trying the idea that a meeting will have a cookout once a month. Nolan O. says they are also looking into selling merchandise, hats and charging small amounts for tickets for food.

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

- Report: Mathew M. reports:

Number of Sales:	\$ 231
Request for Funds:	None
- Dan S. says he did pick up the books in Arizona and was not charged tax. If he can do it again, we are going to have them include a few Newsgrams inside the order as they used to.

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

- Report: Nick B. reports that there was one attendee in the workshop in October. The workshop in November will be on the 16th with the cutoff to sign up on the 13th. \$ 25 dollars covers materials, food and beverages.

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

- ⇒ **Chip Committee** -Carlo P.- 714.587.1258
- Report: Carlo P. reports that we are only buying chips every other month as this way we get 20% off and they did not charge us shipping last time either. There is some discussion around being able to use the credit we have on the books for the chips. We are getting the maximum discount on chips by spending above \$400. Betsy L. advises that we keep the credit in literature in literature.

Amount of Sales: \$ 420.90
Request for Funds: \$ 500.00

- **Carlo P. makes a motion to request \$ 500 to purchase chips. Second. Passes unanimously.**

WORLD SERVICE DELEGATES

- ⇒ **DELEGATE** -Dan S.- 714.403.8326
- Dan S. has nothing to report at this time.
- ⇒ **DELEGATE** -Nolan O.- 407.687.8656
- Nolan O. has nothing to report at this time.
- ⇒ **DELEGATE** -Steve C.- 714.330.0416
- Steve C. has nothing to report at this time.
- ⇒ **ALTERNATE** -Liz M.- 714.266.4081
- Liz M. reports that she learned at the H&I World Service Committee that you can join the committee without having to be a delegate or alternate.
- ⇒ **ALTERNATE** -Melanie R.G.- 714.675.2731
- Melanie R.G. reports that the Literature, Chips and Formats World Service Committee continues to work on the projects she reported last time.

BUSINESS

- ⇒ **Old Business**
1. Robert's Rules Workshop -Steve C.
 - Steve C. says he is planning on holding one in January perhaps before the GSO meeting.

⇒ **New Business:**

- ⇒ **Chairperson** entertains a motion to Adjourn.
- **Steve C. makes a motion to adjourn. Seconded. Passes unanimously.**
 - Upon adjournment, **Chairperson** calls for a moment of silent meditation and requests an individual to lead the GSO in a prayer of their choice.
 - Steve C. leads us out in a prayer of his choice.
 - Meeting adjourned at 11:58 AM.