
OCCA REGULAR GSO MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 7TH, 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**".
 - Nolan O. read the 12th Tradition.
- ⇒ **Chairperson:** called on an addict to report on Tradition #12.
 - Liz M. reported on Tradition 12 which states: "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities."
- ⇒ **Chairperson:** called on an addict to give a report on the 12th Concept.
 - Mathew M. reported on Concept 12 which states: "General Warranties of the Conference: In all its proceedings, the World Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the C.A. Tradition, taking great care that the Conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that the sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Cocaine Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Fellowship of Cocaine Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action."
- ⇒ **Chairperson** asked for an addict to give a report on the 1st Tradition for next month.
 - Mathew M. volunteered.
- ⇒ **Chairperson** asked for an addict to give a report on the 1st Concept for next month.
 - Steve C. volunteered.

<p>Remaining GSO Meeting 2024 Dates: None Next GSO Meeting 2025: January 4th Location: Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church 2845 Mesa Verde Dr. E Costa Mesa CA, 92627 Suite 8</p>
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DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

JASON S. ON THE 13TH WITH 12 YEARS.

- **ACTION ITEM: Melanie R.G. will provide the Executive Board a calendar for GSO meeting dates in 2025. Next meeting will be held January 4th.**

⇒ **Chairperson:** entertained a motion to affirm the new GSRs or confirm a new meeting, if any, as Directors of OCCA and arranged 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 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., Neelam A., Carlo P., Mathew M., Jose A., Liz M., Ron D., Chris J., Angel G. (L), Matt A., Evan L., Bryce W., Celia T., Kathy W., Gina G., Jenn C. and Alex G.
- **Absent:** Alonzo M. (Proxy), Matt S., and Anthony D.
- **Quorum: 26 members present, quorum is 17**

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

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

- **Steve C. makes a motion to 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."

- Steve C. explains that for elections the S&B require we have two outside, nonvoting members of CA to validate the votes. Lili W. and Chris W. are here to do that.

BOARD OFFICER'S REPORTS

⇒ **Chairperson's Report**

- Frank P.-

714.514.4150

- **Insurance Update:** Frank P. reports that the Executive Board met to figure out insurance for the Board members since there are some high asset value members. It's been difficult because the major companies like Travelers and other bigger names are not sure they want to work with "Cocaine Anonymous" and also because it's a problem with the state and with the different venues we have. Frank P. has talked to four different insurers. He is now trying to go through a nonprofit. He recommends that when it comes to events, we insure each event separately as we did for the Halloween Party. Frank P. recommends we look at each meeting separately because some locations carry their own insurance. In order to move the process along Betsy L. had to put together a Profit and Loss Statement (P&L).

- The Executive Board has thought about using liability waivers and the S&B committee is drafting something.
- Frank P. reports that the accountant who worked on getting us our nonprofit status charged us around \$400 which is much less than the time he invested in this. Moving forward the accountant will be handling compliance for our 501c3 designation which requires filing yearly and rotating OCCA leadership needs to stay on top of this.
- Frank P. notes that he spent two years working on recuperating our status which should have never lapsed in the first place. He spoke with Betsy L. because right now we have some charges on our personal credit cards, and we need to formalize all this so that it goes through the treasurer.
- Frank P. thanks all the board members that were so helpful and the fellowship for letting him serve these last two years. He reflects that he is now 77 and believes the next generation of leadership should take over and they are ready. His goal was to leave CA in a better situation than he found it and he believes he has accomplished this.

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

- Report: Nick B. has nothing to report at this time.

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

- Report: Melanie R. G. has nothing to report at this time.

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

- Report: Betsy L. reports that the insurance check for the Halloween Party for \$500 deposit will not be cashed.

Previous Balance	\$ 1,059.03
Donations	\$ 1,982.40
<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>\$ 765.46</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 2,275.97

Savings \$ 3,507.71

- **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. has nothing to report at this time.

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

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

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

- Report: Absent.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

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

- Report: Dan S. has nothing to report at this time.
- Nick B. states that he reminds us that 50/50 raffles are illegal in California and that it puts in peril the work of the last two years in recuperating our nonprofit status. They are allowed with a permit for a 90/10 breakdown. He states that when he mentioned it on one of the chats for the fellowship he was disregarded. If a single person gets a resentment against CA, they can call up the lottery commission and we would go bankrupt. Melanie R.G. has it in order if we do want to move forward with a legal 90/10 raffle.

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

- Hotline Sub-committee: Jason S. reports that Betsy L. reached out to him because the Hotline's payment on the card was about to expire but it appears the Hotline did not go down.

Total Calls: 13
 Avg Duration: 39 seconds
 Longest Call: 4 minutes 34 seconds
 Voicemail: 0

- Webservant Subcommittee: nothing to report at this time.

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

- Report: Liz M. reports that tomorrow there will be an H&I hike starting at 10 am in Laguna Beach with Frank P. as a guest speaker.
- Liz M. has H&I rosters available with many panels and facilities needing panel leaders. She encourages GSR's to announce the need for volunteers and for donations.

- Liz M. makes a motion to request \$250 for pamphlets for use by H&I. Seconded. Passes unanimously.**

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

- Report: Jose A. reports that they held the first "Grateful, thankful and fed" serving meals to those in need. They conducted 124 engagements in Westminster, Santa Ana and Fountain Valley. It was moving that the people they served had never received anything anonymously and they asked questions about CA. On November 23 an anonymous panel hit the streets making 15 engagements with the community. On December 23, they will be lending healthy hands to 23 families in need.
- Jose A. thanks all who came through with gift cards. On December 22nd, the PI group will be going out on the streets to hand out beanies, scarves and socks. They have 50 beanies, 50 gloves, 50 scarves and 60 socks.

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

Report: Angel G. reports that there's a whole lot of swiping and liking. In November, we went up by 2% so we got a total of 7,945 views. 19% of those are part of our ads that's he's been boosting. Our reels are the ones that are coming in really well. Among our top reels for this round: "Anonymous Pedalers", the "grateful thankful", and the "Turkey Bowl".

CPC Subcommittee Report: - Jenn C. - 714.605.0322

Report: Jose A. is doing CPC for now and reports that they are working with the Garden Grove Unified School District to bring CA into their high school wellness room.

- There is some discussion on how to help with the baskets, Frank P. picked up some at Costco for \$30-\$40 and will try to pick up some more.

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

- Report: Neelam A. reports that they will be having a sponsorship workshop on December 15th at Nolan O.'s house and the hike tomorrow Sunday. Chris W. adds that the workshop has a tried-and-true format, have been done before, Yasmeen from Moreno Valley, Liz M. and Nolan O. will be speakers and there will be a free lunch. Clarification: some of the materials used at the workshop, as with the 4th step workshop, are not CA conference approved materials but the workshops are put on by CA members.

⇒ **Activities and Fundraising Subcommittee** - Niko B.- 949.278.3784

Report: Chris J. reports that the "Turkey Bowl" was a success with 32 people, they broke even, and he turned in \$595.

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

- Report: Mathew M. reports:
 - Number of Sales: \$ 103.50
 - Request for Funds: None

- ⇒ **Workshop Committee** -Nick B.- 949.382.9288
- Report: Nick B. reports that for the November workshop the person that signed up was unable to come so there was no workshop, but he will be coming next month. Our next workshop will be on December 21st, cutoff 18th. \$25 gets you a breakfast, lunch and all the materials. The course is done in a day, so please announce 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: Carlo P. reports that he is ordering every other month, but he is already short on 30-day chips.
Amount of Sales: \$ not counted yet.
Request for Funds: \$ 180.00

- **Carlo P. makes a motion requesting \$ 180 for chips. Seconded. Passes unanimously.**

WORLD SERVICE DELEGATES

- ⇒ **DELEGATE** -Dan S.- 714.403.8326
- Dan S. bids farewell to his term as Delegate.
- ⇒ **DELEGATE** -Nolan O.- 407.687.8656
- Nolan O. submitted our area report to Aurora and our Pacific South Caucus meeting is on December 14th on Zoom from 10-12. The caucus is a quarterly meeting for Delegates to talk about things that are happening in their area. All members of the GSO are invited to attend without a vote.
- ⇒ **DELEGATE** -Steve C.- 714.330.0416
- Steve C. reports that as the vice chair of S&B World Service, he is automatically now the copy editor for the World Service Manual. We just completed our final review and have turned that into the Trustees for their review. Hopefully this time in January, we'll have the new version of the WSM (World Service Manual.) and perhaps we will get an exclusive manual no one else gets.
- ⇒ **ALTERNATE** -Liz M.- 714.266.4081
- Liz M. reports that she has her next H&I committee meeting this month.
- ⇒ **ALTERNATE** -Melanie R.G.- 714.675.2731
- Melanie R.G. reports that she attended the Literature, Chips and Format World Service Committee this month and will be joining one of the projects.

BUSINESS

- ⇒ **Old Business**
1. Robert's Rules Workshop -Steve C.
 - a. Steve C. says he will hold a Robert's Rules Workshop in January for any new people by teaching us just the 10 basic things we need to know.

⇒ **New Business:**

ELECTIONS:

- Steve C. explains that per the S&B the nomination process shall be performed as follows:
 1. Robert's Rules of Order will be followed.
 2. The Secretary will read the qualifications for each position. The current board members may explain.
 3. Nominations for each position will be handled individually.

4. The person being nominated must be present.
 5. Each person nominated for a position shall be given the opportunity to accept or decline before the next person is nominated.
 6. Each person accepting a nomination must state that they meet the minimum sobriety and prior service requirements for the position they are nominated for.
 7. To waive any service requirement a super majority of two thirds must vote in favor.
- Melanie R.G. says that she has sent everyone ahead of time a document listing the positions, their eligibility requirements and a brief description of the position.

EXECUTIVE BOARD POSITIONS:

CHAIRPERSON:

- Melanie R.G. reads the requirements and a brief description of the position.
- Frank P. states that Nick B. as Vicechair would have an automatic nomination but he has declined the nomination to focus on personal goals.
- It is clarified that a nomination by our guidelines does not need to be seconded or if we want to go by Robert's Rules they do. Frank P. takes a poll, and it is decided nominations will not need a second.

- **Chris J. is nominated.**
 - **Chris J. accepts.**
- **Steve C. is nominated.**
 - **Steve C. accepts.**

- Chris J. speaks to his qualifications. He has 11,008 days of continuous sobriety, a willingness and plenty of experience.
- Steve C. says he has five years of continuous sobriety. He has been your board secretary, parliamentarian, S&B officer for almost four years now, and has done different stuff at the meeting level. He knows how the board works since he played a key role in setting it up. He knows what the standing rules of OCCA are. Steve C. says "that as chairperson we need to secure the general warranties of the conference for concept 12, he thinks it's incredibly important that we remain democratic in thought, indeed, because that's God's will for us. As far as the traditions go, he says he knows how the board, insurance and nonprofit stuff works.
- Nominations are closed. Steve C. and Chris J. step outside.
- There is a discussion on the merits of both candidates. There is a clarification that person can hold both a delegate position and be chair, if perhaps less recommended. The floor comes to a vote.

- **Chris J. is elected Chair of OCCA.**

- Nick B. asks if people are opposed to taking the Chip Committee Chair position out of order as Carlo P. has to leave early. None opposed.

CHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR:

- Melanie R.G. reads the requirements and a brief description of the position.
- Carlo P. describes the work he does.

- **Carlo P. nominates himself to be reelected chair of the Chips Committee.**

- Carlo P. steps outside.
- Discussion.

Carlo P. elected Chip Committee Chair.

VICECHAIR POSITION:

- Melanie R.G. reads the requirements and a brief description of the position.
- Nick B. states that as Vicechair you get a lot of service experience, to step in and run the meeting at the chair's request, and act as member at large, so if he needs to step in as S&B chair for example, he will do that.

- **Neelam A. nominates Melanie R.G.**

- **Melanie R.G. accepts the nomination.**
 - **Donovan B. nominates Steve C.**
 - **Steve C. accepts the nomination.**

- Melanie R.G. speaks to her qualifications by stating that she meets the sobriety requirement. As secretary she did the best possible job and believes that the board can attest that she works very hard and meets deadlines. As secretary Melanie R.G. says she became deeply familiar with the S&B, you get a close look at what was happening by creating the minutes and the agendas, you are communicating with members of the GSO, she is comfortable in Robert's Rules, and she is very willing.
- Steve C. states his qualifications are the same as previously listed and that he is willing to serve where the group chooses.
- Melanie R. G. and Steve C. step outside.
- There is a discussion about the candidates.
- The floor comes to a vote.

- **Melanie R.G. is elected Vicechair.**

SECRETARY

- Melanie R.G. reads the requirements and a brief description of the position.

- **Neelam A. is nominated.**
 - **Neelam A. accepts.**

- Neelam A. speaks to her qualifications by saying that she has been of service in a chair position at the GSO, she has commitments at meetings and likes coming here.
- Neelam A. steps outside.
- Melanie R.G. clarifies a question that Neelam A. would have been eligible to be reelected for Unity since she was finishing out Dreia M.'s term but in her discussion with Neelam A. about the secretary position she would step down from reelection to Unity chair. Nicko B. the Vicechair of that committee would have been granted a natural nomination, but he has stepped down from that committee so yes, we will have to elect a new Unity chair.
- There is a discussion about the candidates.
- The floor comes to a vote.

- **Neelam A. is elected Secretary.**

S&B COMMITTEE CHAIR:

- Melanie R.G. reads the requirements and a brief description of the position.

- **Nick B. nominates Steve C.**

- Steve C. accepts the nomination.
- Steve C. states he has listed his qualifications, principally that he was the main force behind the S&B's.
- Steve C. steps outside.
- Discussion: None.

- **Steve C. reelected S&B Chair.**

DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE DELEGATE

DELEGATE:

- Melanie R.G. reads the requirements and a brief description of the position.
- Steve C. points out that we have two automatic nominations for our two alternates, Liz M. and Melanie R.G.
- There is a discussion about the number of delegates representing OCCA going down to two, due to the number of meetings we have. Concerns about the financial responsibility of sending three delegates is raised. Steve C. points out that he and Nolan O. the two delegates with experience will be rolling off at the same time. If you went down to two now you've lost all of your experience, except for the alternates that have been there once. So, the idea is that you can have three delegates. You're actually not assigned delegates by the World Service conference; you're actually assigned votes. You could have 30 delegates and send them to the conference, but only three of them can vote. So, the idea is, is that you elect three delegates, and if we can't financially, feasibly send three, we

send two, but one with a proxy vote, who carries two votes throughout the entire world service conference. 2025, we still have three delegates, in 2026 we go down to two.

- **Liz M accepts the nomination.**
- **Melanie R.G. accepts the nomination.**

- They do not have the time requirement.
- Liz M. states her qualification by saying that besides the time requirement, she have been part of the GSO as H&I chair. She learned a lot from being at conference this year and in the company of the others she got to see how our tradition's, steps and concepts work. Liz M. says she is really good at listening to people and she can bring that back to when she votes at the World Conference.
- Melanie R.G. states her qualifications by saying that it was thrilling to be at conference this year. She states she is very studious and has been learning about the concepts to be able to bring the voice of OCCA to the conference floor. She takes her commitments seriously.
- Liz M. and Melanie R.G. step outside.

- **The time requirement for Liz M. is waived by a majority vote.**
- **The time requirement for Melanie R.G. is waived by a majority vote.**

- There is a discussion about the candidates.
- The floor comes to a vote.

- **Melanie R.G. is elected Delegate.**

ALTERNATE DELEGATE:

- Melanie R.G. reads the requirements and a brief description of the position.

- **Jose A. is nominated.**
- **Jose A. accepts the nomination.**
 - **Gina G. is nominated.**
- **Gina G. accepts the nomination.**

- Gina G. speaks to her nomination by stating that she was involved with the, quite a bit about 20 years ago and went through two chairs as a GSR. She has been talking to many of about what a delegate does, especially Dan S. and as she will be retired as of June, she has all the time and resources. She would really like to give back again, being an older member with a lot of sobriety she has a lot of experience and humility to bring.

- **Jose A. withdraws his nomination.**

- Gina G. steps outside.
- The vote is called.

- **Gina G. is elected as alternate delegate.**

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

GROUP RELATIONS COMMITTEE (GRC) CHAIR

- Melanie R.G. reads the requirements and a brief description of the position. The GRC should be a delegate or alternate delegate.

- **Gina G. is nominated.**
- **Gina G. declines the nomination.**
 - **Chris W. is nominated.**
 - **Chris W. declines.**
 - **Nolan O. is nominated.**
 - **Nolan O. accepts.**

- Nolan O. states that he has been wanting to get out to more meetings and break the chain of some of his regular meetings and move some things forward in this position.
- Nolan O. steps outside.
 - **Nolan O. is elected as GRC Committee Chair.**

UNITY COMMITTEE CHAIR

- Melanie R.G. reads the requirements and a brief description of the position.
 - **Jenn C. is nominated.**
 - **Evan L. is nominated.**
- It is stated that there is already support in that committee with people that are very helpful, experienced, and involved including Chris W., Nolan O., Melanie R.G. and Neelam A.
 - **Jenn C. accepts the nomination.**
 - **Evan L. declines the nomination.**
- Jen C. requests to know more about the position. Neelam A. tells her that right now we don't have an H&I activities chair, so Unity is in charge of all activities like the "God Shot Card Draw" and the hikes. In addition there are all the fundraising events listed in four pages alongside all the work that is currently happening. We are looking forward to doing financial spreadsheets to secure more detailed budgets and do more vigorous fundraising among other things. All of this needs to be done within the bylaws and making sure we do not break any traditions.
- Jenn C. steps off Zoom.
- The vote is called.
 - **Jenn C. is elected Unity Committee Chair.**

IT COMMITTEE CHAIR:

- Melanie R.G. reads the requirements and a brief description of the position.
 - **Nick B. nominates Jason S.**
 - **Jason S. accepts the nomination.**
- Jason S. says he will accept, however, he has family obligations that might make him have to miss a few meetings and Jose A. has offered to help him, so if he has the proper support, he accepts.
- Melanie R.G. reminds us that Jason S. has been asking for help, and it is incumbent on us to find someone that he could delegate the website to at some point.
- Jason S. steps off Zoom
- The vote is called.
 - **Jason S. is elected It Committee Chair.**

HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS:

- **Nick B. nominates Liz M.**
- Nick B. states that H&I held elections last month and the committee voted Liz M. in as chair again thus being ratified by her own committee.
 - **Liz M. accepts the nomination.**
- Liz M. steps outside.
 - **Liz M. is elected H&I Committee Chair.**

LITERATURE COMMITTEE CHAIR:

- **Mathew M. is nominated.**
- **Mathew M. accepts the nomination.**
- Mathew M. steps outside.
- The vote is called.

- Mathew M. is elected Literature Committee Chair.

WORKSHOP COMMITTEE CHAIR:

- **Melanie R.G. nominates Nick B.**
- Nick B. accepts the nomination.
- Nick B. steps outside.
- The vote is called.

- Nick B. is elected Workshop Committee Chair.

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

- **A motion is made to adjourn the meeting. Seconded. Passes. Unanimously.**

- 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 12:25 pm.