

OCCA REGULAR GSO MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 2ND, 2025

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

Meeting Started at 10am.

- ⇒ **Chairperson:** called the meeting to order, requesting all cell phones be turned off or silenced.
- ⇒ **Chairperson:** skipped 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 Twelve Traditions
- ⇒ **Chairperson:** called on an addict to report on Tradition #8
 - Adam read the report on tradition 8 which states "Cocaine Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers."
- ⇒ **Chairperson** asked for an addict to give a report on the 9th tradition for next month.
 - Nolan O. volunteered to give a report on the 9th tradition next month.

Remaining GSO Meeting 2025 Dates: September 6th, October 4th, November 1st, and December 6th

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

ARE THERE ANY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS?

- ⇒ NICK B. 8/4/2015 CELEBRATED 10 YEARS
- ⇒ EVAN L. 8/2/2021 CELEBRATED 4 YEARS
- ⇒ ALEX G. 8/20/2022 CELEBRATED 3 YEARS
- ⇒ JESSICA M. 8/20/23 CELEBRATED 2 YEARS

New Meetings Petitioning to Join Area:

New GSRs: Amy G. for the Zoo.

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.

A member makes a motion to accept the new GSR. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- ⇒ **Secretary:** prepares to call roll and reminds 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 please announce your principal for the record."
- ⇒ **Secretary:** calls the roll and announces quorum.
 - **Present:** Chris J., Melanie R.G., Neelam A., Betsy L. (proxy), Steve C., Nolan O. (proxy), Gina G., Carlo P., Mathew M., Jose A., Nick B., Daniel S., Angelina T., Amy G., Evan L., Spencer B., Adam S., Frank P., Jessica M., Brayden S., Alex G.
 - **Absent:** Liz M., Donovan B., Alonzo M., Jason S., Jenn C., Ángel G., Marco M., Matt S., Cierra J., Nichol M.
 - **Quorum: 14**
- ⇒ **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. Motion passed unanimously.
- ⇒ **Parliamentarian:** reminded members to "To keep things orderly, when wishing to engage in debate/make motions, you will be placed on a list after being acknowledged by the chair, it will then be your turn to debate or make motions when you are called upon relative to your spot on the list. When in debate, please state if you are in favor, not in favor, or asking a question. For any questions of procedure, call for a Point of Parliamentary Inquiry (waiting till someone is done speaking) to ask the Parliamentarian directly."

BOARD OFFICER'S REPORTS

- ⇒ **Chairperson's Report** - Chris J.- 714.713.8280
 - Report: Chris J. reported that the Unity Chair position is currently vacant, which is a significant role involving event planning and fundraising. He encouraged anyone interested, or GSRs who know potential candidates, to share the opportunity and bring it up during new business at the end of the meeting.
- ⇒ **Vice-Chairperson's Report** -Melanie R.G..- 714.675.2731
 - Report: Melanie R.G. asked Amy for her phone number to add her to the WhatsApp group and confirmed that everyone who wants to be on the group is already included.
- ⇒ **Secretary's Report** -Neelam A.- 559.306.4551
 - Report: Neelam A. reported needing assistance with the secretary position, specifically with taking minutes, and mentioned exploring a new transcription program to ensure accurate records. She invited anyone interested to help.
 - Josh H. offered to help Neelam with secretary duties.
- ⇒ **Treasurer's Report** -Betsy L.- 949.220.2504
 - Report: Frank P. reported that the state exemption process, initially expected to take seven months, is actually taking about eleven months. Approval is anticipated by September or October. Since it's the first year, Tony will file the taxes at no charge while they await the exemption, and their status is fine for now.

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|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Previous Balance | \$ 866.29 |
| Donations | \$ 1487.10 |
| <u>Disbursements</u> | <u>\$ 2965.08</u> |
| Ending Balance | \$ 888.31 |
| Transferred from Savings | \$1500 |

- **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: Absent.

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

- Report: Steve C. reported that planned Structure and Bylaws meetings last month did not occur but will take place next month when he's not at conference. Upcoming discussions include possibly splitting the Unity Chair role into separate Unity Events and Fundraising positions and redistributing some Secretary duties to make the role less burdensome. He noted the position has been challenging for past secretaries. He is also seeking more volunteers, including someone detail-oriented to eventually take over his role as S&B Chair when he retires in about a year and a half.
- Steve C. explained that the Structure and Bylaws Chair role involves quarterly main meetings lasting 2–3 hours, plus ongoing subcommittee work reviewing documents for errors, which totals about 4–5 additional hours a month. The role also requires attending monthly Executive Board and GSO meetings, handling legal matters for the board, and providing guidance when needed. He emphasized that it's a significant commitment suited for experienced, sober members and encouraged appreciation for the board's work.

Matt A. made a motion for \$140 for 20 bound copies of the service manual.

- Steve C. stated that every current and new GSR should receive a service manual, which is simpler than the legal Structure and Bylaws document. The manual outlines Orange County procedures, especially providing a clear, step-by-step guide for GSRs so even someone new can quickly understand their responsibilities.
- Melanie R.G. asked if this was in the budget for S&B. Betsy L. reported that S&B has only spent \$31 to date and have a budget of \$180.
- Nick B. expressed opposition due to the treasury's current balance of less than \$900 and the recent depletion of about a quarter of savings, despite agreeing that the service manual is valuable.
- Steve C. spoke in favor of the motion, acknowledging Nick B.'s financial concerns but arguing the benefits outweigh the costs. He emphasized that not everyone has easy digital access, and that a bound, physical copy of the service manual is more engaging and shareable than a digital file. He noted his committee consistently stays under budget, spends very little, and would assist with fundraising if needed. He believes the manual is an important tool for attracting and retaining quality members in service.
- Jose A. spoke in favor of the motion, noting that while the group regularly donates \$200–\$500 to World, investing \$140 in Orange County is a better priority to strengthen the local fellowship. He emphasized starting improvements locally before focusing on World and expressed that a hard copy of the service manual helps newcomers understand their commitments and responsibilities, reducing misunderstandings after accepting a role.
- Nolan O. expressed support for the motion, noting that although the checking account balance is low, the group has \$4,500 in savings and can afford to spend it, agreeing with others that it benefits the area.

Chris J. restates the motion: \$140 for 20 bound copies of the service manual. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

- Report: Absent.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

⇒ **Group Relations Committee** - Gina G.- 675.456.8178

- Report: Gina G. reported as GSR for Paycheck Online and treasurer for the Zoo. She shared that her meetings are working to increase attendance and practice spirit of rotation. At the Zoo, they addressed past issues of treasurers running off with funds by splitting duties—one person serves as treasurer for collections and reporting, while she securely holds the money after each meeting.
- Dan S. shared that he has been attending more meetings due to recent personal losses. He emphasized the importance of accurate meeting information, noting that 11 of 21 meetings had outdated or incorrect details between the website and printed schedule, including wrong secretary and GSR phone numbers. He urged GSRs

and secretaries to regularly check and update their contact info, respond to calls, and ensure meetings start on time so people in need can reliably access support.

- Neelam A. mentioned that the dominant link on the website leads to an older version of the meeting guide which can also be contributing to the issue.

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

- Hotline Sub-committee: Absent.

Total Calls: _____
Avg Duration: _____
Longest Call: _____
Voicemail: _____

- Webservant Subcommittee:

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

- Report: Nolan O. is filling in for Liz M. He clarified that the H&I event will be on Sunday, the 17th (not the 18th) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Top of the World in Laguna Beach. The event includes a hike, a talk by speaker David G., then hiking back up, with the possibility of eating together afterward.

Nolan O. makes a motion for \$215.50 for little big books. Seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

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

- Report: Jose A. reported that he is stepping down from his commitment, has returned everything to storage, and will provide the email IDs for the group's email and Instagram accounts.

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

⇒ **CPC Subcommittee Report:** - Vacant - 714.605.0322
Report:

⇒ **Unity Committee** Vacant

- Report:

⇒ **Activities and Fundraising Subcommittee**
Report:

⇒ **Literature Committee** -Marcus K.- 479.305.9708

- Report:
Number of Sales: \$256
Request for Funds: \$300

Marcus requested \$300 for literature. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

- Report: Nick B. asked GSR's to announce at their meetings about the next 4th step workshop on August 16th in Dana Point, with a \$25 fee covering printing, breakfast, and lunch. Sign-ups close on August 13. The workshop, facilitated by him and Evan, runs from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. He noted that July's session had four attendees and went very well, and there is already interest for this month.

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

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

- Report:

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| Amount of Sales: | <u>\$119</u> |
| Request for Funds: | <u>\$ 160</u> |

Carlo P. requested \$160 for chips. Seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

WORLD SERVICE DELEGATES/ALTERNATES

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

- Nolan O. reported that there isn't much new information yet. He plans to attend a meeting tomorrow to review SR-14 matters but hasn't found many updates so far. He noted that more information will likely come from World, and he will provide updates next month on items to be voted on there.

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

- Steve C., serving as World Service Delegate and Vice Chair of Structure and Bylaws at World, reported that upcoming votes will address major issues, including whether the online area should have its own region and trustee, which could significantly impact fellowship structure and finances. He emphasized the importance of financial responsibility while also ensuring global access to recovery, noting challenges in places like Eastern Europe and China where meetings face serious risks.
- He reflected on his service, sharing experiences such as helping start the first CA meeting in Romania, and explained the demanding responsibilities of delegates, including reviewing budgets and guiding policy. Steve highlighted the importance of the 12 Concepts for organizational governance, stressed the need for unity and strong participation, and encouraged GSRs to learn about service at all levels. He reminded members that anyone is capable of serving as a delegate and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to represent Orange County, noting this will be his last year in the role.

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

- Melanie R.G., serving as delegate and part of the Literature, Chips, and Format (LCF) Committee. She emphasized the importance of connecting newcomers to World Services, explaining that World exists to preserve unity, consistency, and the integrity of the program across the fellowship—preventing dilution of traditions and ensuring that literature and practices remain cohesive worldwide.
- She reported that LCF is addressing several major items: proposals for more **gender-inclusive language** in literature (similar to AA's preamble change), approval of a new *Power of PI* pamphlet, and a request for a **multi-year chip** to support smaller meetings. She also noted ongoing efforts to standardize meeting formats with customizable online templates.
- Melanie mentioned being elected as a temporary **vice chair**, in case she may need to step in as chair at the World Service Conference if travel issues prevent the current chair from attending. She also highlighted international developments, such as petitions from Belgium, China, and Australia, and Toronto's bid for the 2029 World Convention. She closed by saying more detailed updates will follow after the conference.

⇒ **ALTERNATE** -Liz M.- 714.266.4081

- Absent

⇒ **ALTERNATE** -Gina G.- 657.456.8178

- Gina G. shared that she is looking forward to attending the conference to learn, since she hasn't been before. She emphasized how important hybrid and online meetings are, noting that her group often has attendees from Europe—like two men from Scotland who rely on their meeting at 3 a.m. She stressed the need to ensure hybrid meetings are consistently available and follow traditions, since even small groups online can have significant impact, including reaching people in recovery homes. She concluded by saying she feels inspired and sees how it all connects to the purpose of World Service.

⇒ Old Business

- Discussion on Unity Committee

- Nolan O. reported that he and Josh H. rolled the change from our unity event which was a total of \$340.50.
- Steve C. said that as the S&B Chair he is the member at large for the committees and thus he will fill in for Unity and Public Information until more people step up and asked for quick help after the meeting. He appointed Nolan O. to handle fundraising through selling merchandise, and Chris J. to lead the Turkey Bowl event in November, forming a committee for it. He encouraged GSRs to bring enthusiasm back to their groups, highlighting that the key message is Orange County wants to grow, which requires members to show up, take commitments, and join committees. He stressed the importance of not discouraging newcomers to service, since enthusiasm is vital for retention and growth. Steve emphasized that service should be seen as an honor and an enjoyable experience, and that changing the culture around service could stop disillusionment and turnover. He concluded by reminding everyone that GSRs are the most important voices, representing the groups that ultimately drive decisions, as shown in the inverted service pyramid from the World Service Manual.
- Steve C. urged members to get more involved in service, stressing that excuses like being busy, in school, or living in sober living don't hold up—many people with full schedules, families, or businesses still step up and serve. He highlighted examples of members like Nolan, Melanie, Dan, and Frank who consistently help despite heavy responsibilities. His message was that everyone needs to pick up the slack, bring enthusiasm, and volunteer to support committees and events.
- Steve also explained the role of the Public Information (PI) and Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) committees. PI handles communication with the public and oversees campaigns, awareness, and social media—always mindful of the traditions, aiming for attraction rather than promotion. CPC focuses on building relationships with professionals outside the fellowship (like doctors, lawyers, judges, and others in recovery-related fields). Both committees ensure CA maintains respectful, effective, and tradition-consistent public relations.
- Frank P. shared that the biggest lesson he's learned is that service work goes largely unrewarded, and that's the point—you don't do it for praise or recognition, you do it to keep CA alive and to pass on what was freely given: sobriety. He described how he served as a delegate, trustee, and GSR without really knowing what those roles meant at first, but he learned by showing up and doing the work.
- Frank emphasized that service is often thankless—like keeping a meeting door open even if no one shows up—but it's necessary to ensure the fellowship continues. The real reward, he said, comes from knowing you accomplished something that helps others, not from external validation.
- Frank also pointed out that a small number of meetings provide the majority of contributions, showing the need for greater involvement. He stressed that while service can be tiring and lead to burnout, it's what has kept him alive and sober for 36 years. His message was clear: service is about responsibility, not recognition—we must give back many times over the effort we once put into getting high.

⇒ New Business: None

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

Steve C. makes a motion to adjourn. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Meeting ended at 11:21am.