

OCCA REGULAR GSO MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2025

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

Meeting started at 10:04am.

- ⇒ **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"**.
 - Evan L. read "The Twelve Traditions".
- ⇒ **Chairperson:** called on an addict to report on Tradition #9
 - Nolan O. did a report on tradition 9 which states "CA., as such ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."
- ⇒ **Chairperson** asked for an addict to give a report on the 10th tradition for next month.
 - Russ S. volunteered to give a report on the 10th tradition next month.

Remaining GSO Meeting 2025 Dates: 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 SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS?

- ⇒ BETSY L. 9/25/2015 CELEBRATED 10 YEARS
- ⇒ DONOVON B. 9/4/2005 CELEBRATED 20 YEARS
- ⇒ GINA G. 9/23/1987 CELEBRATED 38 YEARS
- ⇒ MATT S. 9/19/2014 CELEBRATED 11 YEARS
- ⇒ **Chairperson:** entertains 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

- ⇒ **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 please announce your principal for the record."
- ⇒ **Secretary:** called the roll and announces quorum.
 - **Present:** Chris J., Melanie R.G., Neelam A., Betsy L., Donovan B., Steve C., Nolan O., Liz M., Gina G., Carlo P., Mathew M., Nick B., Daniel S., Angelina T., Amy G., Evan L., Matt S., Spenser B., Frank P., Jessica M., Alex G., Marcus K.
 - **Absent:** Alonzo M., Jason S., Jenn C., Angel G., Marco M., Adam S., Brayden 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 from the last GSO. 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. wanted to let everyone know the meeting might run longer than usual because there is a lot of business and delegate reports to cover.
- ⇒ **Vice-Chairperson's Report** -Melanie R.G.- 714.675.2731
 - Report: Melanie R.G. but is working on consolidating correct meeting information across platforms and will discuss it further later.
- ⇒ **Secretary's Report** -Neelam A.- 559.306.4551
 - Report: Neelam A. reported the roll call: 22 present, 10 absent, with a quorum of 14.
- ⇒ **Treasurer's Report** -Betsy L.- 949.220.2504
 - Report: Betsy L reported that last month's beginning balance was \$8,831, with \$1,631.82 in support and \$1,045.30 in disbursements, leaving a balance of \$1,474.83 plus \$4,500 in savings. She noted plans to rebuild savings to \$6,000, a \$165 domain name expense, and an increase in the storage unit cost from \$133 to \$146 per month.
 - Steve suggested adding a line on the report to show the prudent reserve, so everyone can clearly see the savings balance. He confirmed it would be fine if the treasurer agreed.

Previous Balance	\$ 8831
Donations	\$ 1631.82
<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>\$ 1045.30</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 1474.83
Savings	\$ 4500

 - **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. reported that the reserve is at \$4,500, noted the treasurer has been doing a great job, mentioned he only has a few months left, and is seeking a replacement for his role, with one person possibly interested.

⇒ **Structure and Bylaws Officer's Report**

-Steve C.-

714.330.0416

- Report: Steve C. reported that his committee completed its annual housekeeping and is reviewing procedures to ensure they work effectively. He encouraged members to send suggestions for improvements and praised his vice chair for their hard work.
- He noted that PI and Unity committees currently lack chairs, so he has been taking on those responsibilities. He is working on fundraising initiatives, including merchandising, and suggested a new approach where members directly ask individuals to help rather than waiting for volunteers. He emphasized building stronger unity by collaborating with other regions and organizing events to spread the message of Cocaine Anonymous.
- For PI, Steve stressed outreach to professionals, schools, jails, shelters, and the homeless population, highlighting that CA's primary purpose is to help addicts who still suffer. He urged members to get involved, take ownership, and invited them to upcoming meetings, emphasizing that service strengthens personal recovery.
- Dan S. suggested that delegates should function as their own independent body, separate from GSO and Structure & Bylaws, to create checks and balances like a three-way triangle of authority. He proposed the idea of delegates holding their own meetings, possibly monthly, to help maintain order and oversight. He emphasized that delegates serve the conference and should have their own authority, suggesting this could lead to a possible restructuring of how things are organized.
- Steve C. responded by saying he had already noted Dan's suggestion and added it to the next Structure & Bylaws agenda. He explained that they plan to refine the language about delegate duties, clarifying the difference between their role at the World Service Conference and at the Orange County area level. He emphasized aligning authority with responsibility, per Concept 10, and defining delegates as a kind of judicial branch that provides checks and balances on the executive board. He likened the executive to a Board of Trustees and the full body to a legislative branch, stressing the importance of clearly outlining how each part checks the others. He thanked Dan for the referral and confirmed it would be addressed.
- Frank P. expressed appreciation for members stepping into new roles and growing through service. He highlighted Dan becoming a trustee, Steve serving as vice chair and parliamentarian, and Melanie elected as the vice chair of Literature, Chips and Format Committee of World Service, noting how each has developed as leaders. He emphasized that growth comes from helping others and rising to responsibilities, even from the "lowest rung" of service. Frank also mentioned that some commitments will be opening up and stressed the importance of introducing and acknowledging those changes. He closed by thanking everyone for their service and for representing Orange County.

Archivist's Report

-Alonzo M.-

714.715.0405

- Report: Absent
It was stated that according to Structures and Bylaws, anyone who misses three or more meetings in a row can be removed. The option exists to have someone cover if a member can't attend, but there has been no coverage in this case, and the issue may be discussed later.
- It was discussed giving the person a chance to step up rather than removing them immediately. They suggested having someone suitable reach out, explain the concern, and see if the person is willing to recommit before moving toward formal removal.

Motion was made for Chris J. to reach out to our archivist chair, Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

⇒ **Group Relations Committee**

- Gina G.-

675.456.8178

- Report: Gina G. reported that Amy G. has joined the committee to help her reach more meetings.
- Steve C. raised two main issues:

- Fundraising / meeting support: Even though a delegate count will drop (due to the 25-meetings change in 2026), he urged continuing fundraising. He proposed "meeting support" packages — banners, newcomer chips, meeting packets, etc. — to present a professional image, compete with AA/NA, and help new meetings attract and retain members. He suggested the GRS/GSO consider taking responsibility for this.
- Issue with a meeting lacking representation at the GSO: He reported that the Spiritual Lines meeting" has had unreliable representation (GSR only showing up sporadically), a past theft by a GSR, and with which we have had difficulty communicating with. He recommended removing that meeting from the schedule until a confirmed GSR is provided (per S&B guidelines). He won't vote on it and asked the body to deliberate and decide by group conscience (per Tradition Two).
- It was discussed that Amy and Gina from GRC would try to reach out to meeting and report back to the group.

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

- Hotline Sub-committee: Absent. Report given by Melanie R.G

September
 Total Calls: 6
 Avg Duration: 20 seconds
 Longest Call: 1 minute and 6 seconds
 Voicemail: 0

August
 Total Calls: 18
 Avg Duration: 1 minute and 47 seconds
 Longest Call: 8 minute and 46 seconds
 Voicemail: 0

- It was suggested that our hotline number can be put on our social media accounts and have cards on our literature desk at our meetings.
- Dan S. suggested that the hotline number can be bolder on our meeting schedules, so it stands out. He also mentioned that on the meeting finder app you must search the city the meeting is in to find meetings. He will find out if that can be changed to distance from where the user is currently.
- Webservant Subcommittee:

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

- Report: Liz M, the H&I Chair, reported that there are 59 active panels in 18 facilities, all with speakers. She asked members to share this information at meetings and encouraged donations or literature bins to help fund pamphlets, books, and rosters. She mentioned the active WhatsApp chat where open panels and rosters are posted and offered support to anyone who needs help. Liz noted that the Activities Chair position is open, requiring one year of sobriety, six months of continuous service, and a one-year commitment. She also brought up the idea of allowing multiple people to help with the activity's role.

⇒ **Public Information Committee** - Vacant -

- Report: Steve C. acting PI Chair, said he is building a strong foundation with help from experienced PI members. He emphasized starting with basics, then growing outreach by distributing literature, attending events, and working with professionals. He assured that whoever steps up as PI Chair will be fully supported, trained, and equipped to run the committee. Steve encouraged excitement around PI, stressing its potential to expand CA's reach and grow Orange County. He also mentioned plans to bring a booth to the Magic Castle event in Anaheim.

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

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

⇒ **Unity Committee**

- Vacant -

- Report: Steve C. as acting Unity Chair, emphasized the need to keep pushing fundraising and change how Unity events are approached. He suggested starting small with low-cost, fun events, then expanding as fundraising grows. He promised full training and support for whoever takes the Unity Chair role, including help with meetings, communication, and recruiting. Steve stressed the importance of delegation and individually asking people to help with events, crediting Melanie for that idea.

- **Steve C. nominated Angelina for Unity Chair.**

- Angelina T. accepted the nomination for Unity Chair. She admitted feeling a bit nervous since it's her first big commitment but said she's ready to step outside her comfort zone to grow. She believes Unity is a good fit because she enjoys planning activities, something she also does at work. Angelina emphasized she'll need training, support, and will likely have many questions, but she's confident she can succeed with the right tools and guidance.

Motion to appoint Angelina T as unity chair. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

⇒ **Activities and Fundraising Subcommittee**

Report:

⇒ **Literature Committee**

- Marcus K.-

479.305.9708

- Report:
Number of Sales: \$191.50
Request for Funds: \$200

Marcus K. makes a motion for \$200 for more literature. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

⇒ **Workshop Committee**

-Nick B.-

949.382.9288

- Report: Nick B. reported that the 4th Step workshop is going strong. In August, four people attended and completed the step. The upcoming September workshop is already over capacity, with people being turned away and placed on the October list. The workshop costs \$25, which covers expenses like a binder and breakfast, and the next session will be held on October 18.

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

⇒ **Chip Committee**

-Carlo P.-

714.587.1258

- Report:
Amount of Sales: \$252
Request for Funds: \$300

Frank P. makes a motion for \$300 for more chips, Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

WORLD SERVICE DELEGATES/ALTERNATES

⇒ **DELEGATE**

-Nolan O.-

407.687.8656

- Nolan O. reported that he is rotating out of his four-year commitment and looks forward to focusing on area work, which he feels better suited for. He served in H&I and PI but admitted he checked out toward the end of his PI service since it was very time demanding. He praised the PI committee for their great work and plans to stay connected by joining their Zoom meetings, as he's interested in the more mechanical aspects.
- He shared updates from the conference: PI created a new website (it.ca.org), with Happy Harry from LA elected as the new OC chair. A debated motion about adding five speakers to the CA Meeting Finder app was revised and passed with vetting requirements. Media platform content guidelines were also approved. Several PI flyers and resources (summit handbook, flyer approval guide, CA meeting finder flyer, professional weeks flyer) were passed. Conference officers elected included Dwayne M. as chair (Pacific South), Steve as vice

chair/parliamentarian, and Mel from South Africa as new co-secretary. He closed by saying it was a great experience and he's ready to continue contributing locally.

⇒ **DELEGATE**

-Steve C.-

714.330.0416

- Steve C. gave an emotional farewell report as he completed his four years as delegate, expressing deep gratitude for the trust, growth, and unity he experienced in service. He highlighted how the conference dealt with challenging and divisive issues but ultimately demonstrated unity through the application of traditions and concepts. He also shared his honor in facilitating the 12 Concepts workshop for 200 delegates on short notice.
- Key updates from his report:
 - **World Service Board of Trustees (WSBT):** Developed new legal/licensing agreements, trademark protections, and intellectual property protocols. Approved official CA logos in multiple languages, secured a European chip manufacturer to reduce costs, finalized the move of the World Service Office to Arizona, and ratified all WSOB members.
 - **Literature Motion:** The long form of the 12 Concepts from AA will no longer be used by CA. Instead, CA will develop its own version written by members, marking a historic and spiritually significant step.
 - **New Areas:** WSBT supported the petition of two new CA areas.
 - **Elections:** Richard E. was elected as Mainland European General Trustee, and Jennifer as Pacific North Regional Trustee.
- Steve C gave his final delegate report with gratitude and pride, highlighting major updates and offering praise to Orange County's delegation.
- Key points from his report:
 - New Trustees Elected: Jonathan H (World Service Office trustee), Carmen K (World Service Trustee), and Dan Snow (Pacific South Regional trustee). Steve praised Dan's heart, common sense, and commitment.
 - Structure & Bylaws Changes: Expanded approved meeting literature to include all Hope, Faith, and Courage volumes; updated WSOB residency requirement to 150 miles due to the Arizona office move; reduced Pacific South trustee candidates from six to four; clarified secretary duties in the WSM to avoid redundancy and shifted focus to simply having working knowledge of the 12 Traditions.
 - Delegates' Performance: He commended Melanie (vice chair of Literature & Chips Committee), Liz (who found her voice in debate), and Gina (who showed courage and growth as a new alternate). He also recognized Nolan's steady work on standing committees.
 - Orange County's Impact: OC has the largest H&I outreach per capita in all of CA, is highly respected at the conference, and has strong representation in leadership roles.
 - Final Reflections: Steve reminded members to appreciate the sacrifice of delegates and alternates, who give up time, money, and family commitments to serve. He closed with gratitude, humility, and a reminder that trusted servants serve in love, not governance.
- Steve closed by emphasizing the importance of protecting CA's intellectual property, honoring traditions, and appreciating the spiritual significance of CA creating its own Concepts for the future.

⇒ **DELEGATE**

-Melanie R.G.-

714.675.2731

- Expressed gratitude for being part of the body and reflected on the importance of contributions that make service possible.
- Reported on the Literature, Tips, and Format Committee:
 - Eleven motions were brought forward, with about two-thirds passing.
 - Major update: Recalling the Early Days is ready for release, with 1,500 copies ordered.
 - Clarified committee processes: once LCF approves literature, the World Service Office is responsible for production and distribution.
 - The "Power of PI" pamphlet was approved and will be published soon.
 - Changes were approved to update the Step Study Meeting Format, moving toward more inclusive "literature study and topic meeting" language.
- Items that did not pass included:
 - Proposed inclusive language change in the preamble (from "fellowship of men and women" to "fellowship of people").
 - A customizable meeting format tool.
 - A pamphlet on medication and recovery with chronic illness (sent back for further work).
 - A multi-year chip proposal.
- Committee work is ongoing on HCF 3, with updates pending.
- Reported on Unity Committee:

- Unity workshops on the 12 Traditions continue.
- Unity events (breakfasts, socials) are organized at conferences.
- A new Unity logo for “Celebrate Around the World” was approved, though concerns about design quality were noted. Members were encouraged to submit alternative designs in the future.
- Reported on the World Service Office Board:
 - Celebrated the first anniversary of the office move to Phoenix, noting increased professionalism.
 - A new CRM platform has been implemented to improve order management.
 - A new modern website is in development, estimated for launch within a year.
 - Translation processes are being refined, including a five-year moratorium on changes to literature after translation to prevent issues with revisions.
- Finance Committee highlights:
 - Current budget for World Service is approximately \$1.2 million.
 - Primary revenue sources: conventions, literature sales, merchandise, and 7th Tradition contributions.
 - Salaries for special workers and office operations are the largest expenses.
 - Budget discussions included concerns about trustee travel costs, which remain approved.
 - A deficit budget of \$977,420 for the next year was approved, with the expectation of actual performance exceeding budgeted forecasts.
 - Freedom Fund contributions totaled around \$30,000 from 55 people worldwide. Members were encouraged to contribute monthly to support stability.
 - It was noted that out of each \$1 contributed at a meeting, only about 1/10 of a cent makes its way to World Service, highlighting the importance of direct support.
- Melanie concluded by emphasizing the ongoing work of committees, the importance of fellowship unity, and the need for broader participation in committee service.

⇒ **ALTERNATE**

-Liz M.-

714.266.4081

- Liz reported on H&I and petitions. Two H&I motions were approved:
 - A *Lifeline Letter* initiative that will allow local areas to connect with facilities and provide phone lists of available sponsors.
 - An *H&I Outreach Survey* designed to collect data on growth and decline across areas to identify what is working and what is not, with results to be presented at the next conference.
- On petitions, two new areas were recognized: Belgium and Australia, reflecting fellowship growth. A name change was approved for the West Country (UK) area, which is now the Southwest UK Area. A proposal for an Online Service Area region in China did not pass due to cost concerns and existing online activity there.
- Additional updates included that 270,000 chips have been sold through WSO. Liz expressed gratitude for serving alongside fellow delegates and congratulated Steve on becoming Parliamentarian and Dan on being elected Trustee.
- She also emphasized the importance of keeping sponsorship and commitments within Cocaine Anonymous to strengthen the fellowship, while acknowledging many members also participate in AA. Finally, Liz encouraged donations to the Freedom Fund and highlighted the value of learning from other areas at conferences to help CA continue growing.

⇒ **ALTERNATE**

-Gina G.-

657.456.8178

- Gina G. alternate delegate, shared her experience attending the conference, noting the high level of commitment and work required by delegates, which gave her a deeper appreciation for their service.
- She reported joining the Archives Committee, which collects, preserves, and catalogs historical and current CA documents, recordings, and items. Key initiatives include:
 - Digitizing World Service Convention speakers to create a listening library accessible at ca.org.
 - Developing a virtual museum (museum.ca.org) cataloging memorabilia, T-shirts, and other artifacts.
 - Establishing a dedicated physical archives room at the Phoenix World Service Office, though further improvements in humidity control are needed.
- Gina also briefly reported on the Convention Committee:
 - 2026: Orlando, Florida
 - 2027: Seattle, Washington
 - 2028: Scotland
 - 2029: Ontario, Canada
- She expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve and learn through these committees.

⇒ **Old Business**

- **Meeting Schedules:** making sure meeting information is accurate online, on the printed calendar and on the CA Finder App.
 - Nolan O. mentioned he noticed errors with meeting times in the meeting finder app. He wants everyone to look and make sure they're meeting times are correct so he can reach out once with all errors to be fixed.

⇒ **New Business:**

- **Spiritual Lines**
 - It was discussed that GRC would reach out to Spiritual Lines.
- **New Trustee**
 - Dan S. newly elected trustee, outlined his upcoming service priorities and events:
 - Plans to form a committee to involve newcomers in attending events in other areas.
 - Upcoming events:
 - Breakfast in Rhino Valley (attending tomorrow).
 - Halloween masquerade in San Diego in October.
 - Santa Monica Pier event in two weeks including games, a speaker meeting, and a dance.
 - Emphasized the need to rotate responsibilities at smaller meetings; will be stepping down as GSR for Chore Boys due to time commitments.
 - Committee responsibilities as Trustee:
 - LCF (Literature, Chips, and Formats) – primary committee.
 - Unity Committee – secondary focus; encourages hybrid participation.
 - Will raise formation of a committee at the November caucus to support these efforts.
 - Literature Platform: Orange County may consider printing its own literature and paying royalties rather than relying solely on the World Service Office, potentially saving costs and increasing flexibility.
 - Delegate Planning: Next Orange County delegate should be in place before the November 30 caucus; may require adjustment of alternates.
 - Canada Convention & Future Bids: Discussed support for upcoming conventions; San Diego is considering a bid for the 3030 World Convention and will need assistance from OC members.
 - Newsgram Distribution: Plans to improve dissemination of the quarterly Newsgram at meetings and events; seeking two volunteers (one from South County, one from OC County) to help with distribution and promotion.
 - CA Store: Announced the launch of the new Cocaine Anonymous online store (ca.org → Store tab), offering merchandise like hats, memorabilia, and coffee cups.
 - Steve will step down from his current positions due to his role at the World Service Conference. He will continue to assist committees until January and help identify a replacement for his S&B Chair position; he has a candidate in mind. A strong Vice Chair and Secretary are already in place; the Vice Chair is expected to become an excellent teacher more experience. Steve recommends passing his Parliamentary responsibilities to the Vice Chair, who is already well-versed in Robert's Rules. He will remain available to support the transition as needed.

Nolan O. makes a motion for \$500 for more fundraising items. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

⇒ **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 requests an individual to lead the GSO in a prayer of their choice.

Meeting Ended at 12:50pm