

OCCA REGULAR GSO MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 1ST, 2025

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

Meeting started at 10:02am.

- ⇒ **Chairperson:** called the meeting to order, requesting all cell phones be turned off or silenced.
- ⇒ **Chairperson:** reads 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 Marcus K. to read: **"The Twelve Traditions"**.
- ⇒ **Chairperson:** called on an addict to report on Tradition #11
 - Melanie R.G. 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** asked for an addict to give a report on the 12th tradition for next month.
 - Steve C. volunteers to give a report on 12th tradition next month.

Remaining GSO Meeting 2025 Dates: December 6th

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

ARE THERE ANY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS?

- ⇒ STEVE C. 11/11/2019 CELEBRATED 6 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: 0

- ⇒ **Secretary:** prepared to call role 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:** calls the roll and announces quorum.
- **Present:** Chris J., Melanie R.G., Neelam A., Betsy L., Donovan B., Steve C., Liz M., Marcus M., Jason S., Angelina T., Carlo P., Russ S., Nick B., John L., Matt A., Evan L., Matt S., Frank P., Jessica M., Cierra J., Amy G., Isis M., Katie S.
 - **Absent:** Gina G., Nolan O., Marco M., Nichol M., Spenser B., Brayden S., Mathew M., Jenn C.
 - **Late:** Angel G.
 - **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. reminded the group that nominations and elections will be held in December. He noted that if anyone is interested in a position, the group will review available roles later in the meeting, likely toward the end. He closed by thanking everyone for being present.
- ⇒ **Vice-Chairperson's Report** -Melanie R.G.- 714.675.2731
- Report: No report at this time.
- ⇒ **Secretary's Report** -Neelam A.- 559.306.4551
- Report: Neelam explained that the group will discuss expectations and procedures further during new business, with Chris J. providing more details. She shared that the group has been handling issues by communicating with the group relations person to understand what's going on. Neelam encouraged members to reach out if they need help, including finding a proxy or joining via Zoom if they can't attend in person. She emphasized that the leadership is available for support and that members should feel comfortable coming to them if they're struggling.
- ⇒ **Treasurer's Report** -Betsy L.- 949.220.2504
- Report: Betsy mentioned that the budgets were emailed out, and if anyone has questions about the numbers or anything in that email, they should reach out for clarification.
 - Frank P. asked if everything was settled with the CPA. Betsy answered that we are still waiting on a nonprofit our state but that it's going to take a minute. He did our taxes for free and we are grateful for that.
- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Previous Balance | \$ 873.91 |
| Donations | \$ 1068.50 |
| <u>Disbursements</u> | <u>\$ 1758.86</u> |
| Ending Balance | \$ 683.55 |
| Transferred from savings | \$ 500 |
| Savings | \$ 4000.86 |
- **Treasurer:** asked for 7th tradition donations. OCCA Venmo: @betsy-Lyons-1 949.220.3504

⇒ **Vice-Treasurer's Report**

-Donovan B.-

949.910.0901

- Report: Donovan B. mentioned that we need a vice-treasurer nominee. Donovan explained that serving as Vice Treasurer is essentially a learning role where Betsy L. teaches you everything needed to become Treasurer after two years. He emphasized that Betsy L. is highly skilled and handles most tasks, including spreadsheets, annual budgets, reports, Excel spreadsheets, writing checks, and managing the bank account. As Vice Treasurer, you help oversee these responsibilities, become a signer on the bank account, go to the bank with Betsy L. to make deposits, and generally learn the process from her.
- Betsy L. explained that the only budgets she still needs are from Unity, H&I and Delegates, since she has already discussed H&I with Liz. She does not need budgets from Unity, H&I, Secretary, or PI, because she can estimate those based on last year's numbers and the current year's activity. The remaining budgets are important because she doesn't yet know what events those committees are planning.

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

-Steve C.-

714.330.0416

- Report: S&B has completed its housekeeping review, cleaning up minor issues and simplifying overly complicated processes while adjusting a few that needed more structure. He wants this work mostly finished before he steps down on January 1. This is his second-to-last meeting because he was elected Vice Chair of the World Service Conference and can no longer hold leadership roles locally, though he remains available for guidance.
- He expressed strong confidence in the current leadership, the executive board, and the GSRs, encouraging newcomers who may feel overwhelmed and reminding them that the groups have the ultimate authority. He highlighted that Roberts Rules is mostly about knowing when people can speak, and S&B's goal is simply to maintain structure.
- Steve invited anyone to attend S&B's final December meeting to give input, emphasizing that the Structure & Bylaws document belongs to the groups and should reflect their voices. He shared his belief that God places the right people in roles and praised the enthusiasm of new members, noting it should be encouraged—just not so wild it stresses Betsy L. with spending.
- He explained that the person elected to replace him will finish his remaining one-year term and then may serve their own two-year term. That role also sits on the executive board and serves as the main connection for bylaws, structure, and legal issues. Steve noted he already has someone in mind for the nomination and closed by thanking everyone.
- Melanie R.G. asked if digital copy of the service manual be sent so it can be sent out of everyone. Matt A. responded by saying he would send that out.
- Matt A. explained that he still doesn't have the printed service manuals because he miscalculated the cost of the paper they wanted to use. He presented updated printing quotes: \$199.34 for 20 copies and \$317.38 for 40 copies, noting that all copies would be used and serve their purpose. Since doubling the amount only costs about \$100 more, he wanted to make a motion for funds. He acknowledged the group's tight budget and said he would understand if the motion failed. He added that although he was originally approved for \$140, S&B had discussed covering the remaining cost if the group couldn't afford it right now.

Matt A. made a motion for \$177.38 to print out 40 copies of the service manual. Seconded.

- Donovan B. asked if we could use a digital copy to send out and those who wanted their own copies could print them out on their own.
- Steve C. explained that physical copies of the service manual are more effective for newcomers than PDFs, as they are more likely to read and refer to something tangible. He noted that while printing 40 copies is slightly more expensive, it is manageable and will be very useful. He emphasized that S&B usually stays well within budget and rarely asks for funds, but in this case, requesting money for the manuals is reasonable and worthwhile.
- Melanie R.G. expressed that she is willing to pay for her own physical copy of the service manual, similar to what Matt did. She suggested offering copies as a donation-based option so that anyone who can't afford one would still receive it.
- Betsy L. asked for clarification on the cost, confirming that the \$177.38 is in addition to the previously approved \$140. She also inquired whether ordering 40 copies would simply double the price or if there would be a discount.
- Matt A. confirmed that the prices include a discount, explaining that there is a 20% discount for 40 copies, with larger discounts for higher quantities. He also noted that a quote from Staples for 20 copies would have been \$750, showing that their current option is significantly more cost-effective.

Melanie R.G. made a friendly amendment for the motion of \$177.38 and to sell the service manual for \$8 for those who can afford it. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- ⇒ **Archivist's Report**
• Report: Absent.

-Gina G.-

657.456.8178

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

⇒ **Group Relations Committee**

- Gina G.-

675.456.8178

- Report: Absent.

⇒ **IT Committee**

- Jason S. -

818.263.3500

- Hotline Sub-committee: Jason S. reported that the website is up to date.

Total Calls:	10
Avg Duration:	1 minute and 52 seconds
Longest Call:	9 minutes and 14 seconds
Voicemail:	0

- Webservant Subcommittee:

⇒ **Hospitals and Institutions Committee**

- Liz M. -

714.266.4081

- Report: Liz M. announced that next month, on December 13, there will be a God Shot Card Draw event at Doheny State Beach. A flyer is available, and anyone who needs a copy can get one from her. She also reminded everyone that all service positions will be voted on next month and encouraged H&I representatives and GSRs to make that announcement in their meetings.
- Liz shared that she has been covering about five open panels and emphasized that speakers are needed. People can be added to the speaker list through the website, and although she doesn't have printed rosters, she can send digital copies for others to share.
- Finally, she gave a reminder about the tradition, noting that some meetings split donations—such as H&I versus the meeting—or donate a percentage.

⇒ **Public Information Committee**

- Russ S. -

714.631.7640

- Report: Russ S. reported that the Nomadic OC event went very well—so well that he felt it put their own CMA/CA efforts to shame. He noted they were unprepared with food, literature, and materials, but after going to the storage unit with Ambler, they found what they needed for future events. The Magic House event was nice, though extremely hot, and they needed more people present.
- For the Saddleback Valley Chili Cook-Off, they had initially been approved to bring literature and interact with attendees, but the organizer revoked that permission the Thursday before the event. It became like the Charlie Street cook-off—just shaking hands and making anonymous introductions. Canyon Club remains a “no-go,” but Russ S. is still trying to get them in.
- He also announced they are looking to fill a social media subcommittee position, that Angel will train someone for (minimum one-year commitment), since it involves managing passwords and accounts. They want to spread the word about the Monday 8 PM meeting, work on posters, and improve visibility because many people still don't know about Cocaine Anonymous—which he finds heartbreaking.
- Russ S. expressed that they're making progress, not perfection, and believes by the second or third attempt, outreach efforts will really gain traction. He also reflected on trying to help as many people as possible, even though he knows that approach can be challenging.
- Matt A. explained that their focus has been learning how to properly and efficiently run a Public Information (PI) booth. Both he and Russ are still new to PI work, even though Matt has previous service experience at the area level, so they're still figuring things out as they go. He said they're improving, staying active, and gaining experience through the process.
- Matt A. took a moment to commend Russ S. for the effort, time, and dedication he's put into PI as a new area-level servant and committee chair. He said he's proud of the work they've accomplished together so far.
- He also reminded everyone that the PI committee meets on Mondays at 8 PM on Zoom for anyone who wants to join.

- Steve C. offered strong affirmations and praised the team for their hard work and dedication. He highlighted Russ's comment about wanting to save 100 people but remembering the importance of helping one person at a time. Steve C. reminded the group that even if events don't allow literature on the table, members can still represent CA by wearing shirts or hats, introducing themselves, and offering help—because connection is still possible without materials.
- He said every event is getting better, and the progress is visible from the photos. Steve C. was impressed by the large volunteer turnout, noting that PI involvement has historically been difficult, and credited Russ for his ability to rally people together.
- Steve C. closed by saying he's excited to see what the committee accomplishes in the coming year and offered to volunteer himself, saying he's happy to "hit the ground running" with them anytime.

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

- Report: Angel G. reported the October Instagram analytics, showing 2,634 total views, with 60% coming from non-followers — about 700 views generated from boosted posts. The top cities engaging with the content were Huntington Beach, Westchester, and Cathedral City. The main age group viewing the page was 25–34 years old. Angel noted there was about a 10% decrease in activity from September to October, but overall, the metrics still look good.
- Angel G. also shared that his commitment ends this month, but they are willing to stay on long enough to train a new person. They mentioned ongoing efforts to reactivate the Facebook account, which requires contacting the previous admins so it can be properly reset and started fresh.

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

⇒ **Unity Committee** - Angelina T. - 657.342.0470

- Report: Angelina T. reported that they have submitted the flyer for the upcoming chili cook-off and T-shirt design contest. She requested that the flyer be approved during the meeting so they can move forward quickly—because the sooner they receive design submissions and choose a winner, the sooner they can get T-shirts made.
- She explained that the flyer is double-sided, with example designs on the back to help guide participants. The flyer also includes all the necessary guidelines once approved. Angelina finished by making a motion to approve the flyer for OC.

Angelina T. makes a motion to accept the flyer. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- Neelam A. wanted to confirm what the prize was going to be \$50 worth of merchandise.
- Chris J. explained that the prize for the T-shirt design contest has been anonymously donated. Originally, the winner would receive just a T-shirt and recognition, but now the prize includes a T-shirt, admiration, and \$50 worth of merchandise.
- He reminded everyone that the submission deadline is December 30, giving people about two months to create and submit artwork. The goal is to have the winning design selected and T-shirts printed before the chili cook-off in March.
- Chris J. emphasized the importance of letting people know about the deadline and encouraged anyone interested to start drawing or preparing artwork. He also noted that the final design must be submitted in a vector format that printing companies will accept.
- Angelina T. mentioned the pancake breakfast and said she will coordinate with others to figure out storage unit access and review last year's budget with Betsy, planning to bring updates to the next meeting.
- She also discussed the ongoing rebrand for "Change for Change" and "Meeting of the Month," encouraging anyone interested to join a brainstorming session on Saturday, November 8 at 10 AM.
- Angelina T. reminded everyone to buy tickets ahead of time for the "Turkey Bowl" to ensure availability. She noted that the event will include pizza, soda, and shoes, and the winner will receive a \$30 gift card. Finally, she mentioned that the flyer is available in the GSO chat, and she and Jessica will coordinate to make sure everything is ready.
- Steve C. asked whether the event is open to the public and if it's family friendly, specifically asking if he could bring his kids and spouse. He confirmed that the event is indeed family friendly.

⇒ **Activities and Fundraising Subcommittee** – Nolan O. - 407.687.8656
Report: Absent.

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

- Report:
Number of Sales: \$26
Request for Funds: \$0

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

- Report: Nick B. reported that there were 3 people in attendance for last months workshop. The next workshop will be on the 22nd cut off is 19th. \$25 donation will supply the materials, a light breakfast, and light lunch.

- **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: \$72.60
Request for Funds: \$100

Carlo P. requested \$100 for more chips. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

WORLD SERVICE DELEGATES/ALTERNATES

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

- Absent.

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

- Steve C. shared an overview of his delegate responsibilities over the past four years. He explained that he spends one hour weekly on Zoom with the Conference Chair reviewing parliamentary procedure and the minutes from past conferences, and two hours weekly with the conference secretaries, who are in Johannesburg, South Africa, and London. In addition, he spends much of his week fielding calls from members seeking guidance or favors, which he must handle carefully because he cannot intervene in certain matters.
- Steve C. described the delegate role as demanding but spiritually rewarding, encouraging others to get involved in service, as it broadens perspective and shows the global scope of Cocaine Anonymous. He highlighted the ongoing need for support, noting his involvement in helping establish meetings in Romania and emphasizing the serious impact of cocaine use worldwide.
- He reminded everyone that delegates sacrifice personal time, work, and family time, including using vacation days, to serve the fellowship. Steve C. concluded by expressing gratitude for being allowed to serve and encouraged members to show appreciation to their delegates for the important work they do.

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

- Melanie R.G. reported that the book "Recalling the Early Days" is now available through World Service. The initial run of 100 hard cover copies sold out, but soft copies are still available. She explained that the project was led mainly by the archives team, with the World Service Office handling publication and the Literature Chips and Format (LCF) Committee, where she serves as vice president, responsible for reviewing the text. She noted the approval process for literature is complex and involves 17 steps, often causing delays and tension among parties.

- Melanie R.G. described a postmortem review of the process, which involved committee officers, World Service Office staff, and others. She emphasized that the LCF committee is actively seeking volunteers for ongoing projects, including pamphlets on managing illnesses and recovery, the Hope, Faith, and Courage Volume III, and a glossary of 200 commonly used CA terms to standardize language for translations worldwide.
- Finally, Melanie R.G. shared that the LCF committee meets once a month on Sundays at 10 AM to accommodate international members and encouraged anyone interested to join. She expressed gratitude for the progress made by the "Glossary of Terms Subcommittee" (Betsy L., Chris W., Frank P., Steve C. and herself) and noted the work has important implications for translations and global use of CA literature.

⇒ **ALTERNATE**

-Liz M.-

714.266.4081

- Liz M. shared that she will not be running for delegate next month but expressed gratitude for her time as alternate delegate. She said the role has taught her a lot about how the fellowship works, noting that she initially thought it would involve attending the convention rather than the conference. She reflected that, although it was challenging at times, the experience was valuable and educational.
- Liz M. thanked Melanie R.G. for her support as a partner in service and acknowledged feeling a bit overwhelmed, noting the need to balance her service commitments. She concluded by expressing openness to answering any questions from the group.

⇒ **ALTERNATE**

-Gina G.-

657.456.8178

- Absent.

BUSINESS

⇒ **Old Business**

- Positions open for Nominations to vote in December:
 - Executive Board Positions:
 - Vice chair Treasurer
 - Committee Chair Positions:
 - Structures and Bylaws Committee Chair
 - Literature Committee Chair
 - H&I Committee Chair
 - GRC (Group Relations Committee Chair)
 - It Committee Chair
 - Literature Committee Chair
 - Chip Committee Chair
 - 4th Step Workshop Committee Chair
 - New delegate election.
- Chris J. reminded everyone that voting on open positions will take place next month. He encouraged members to review the list of open positions under old business and emphasized that they are looking for new people to fill these roles.
- Steve C. clarified that the Structure and Bylaws Committee is part of the executive board and operates separately from the December votes. He then made a motion to open nominations for the Structure and Bylaws Committee Chair through the executive board.

Steve C. nominated Frank P. to take of Structures and Bylaws for him and to finish his term.

Frank P. accepted the nomination.

Steve C. makes a motion for Frank P. to be our new S&B Chair. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

⇒ **New Business:**

- GSR Attendance
 - Chris J. addressed GSR attendance, explaining that the secretary takes roll call to track who is present. He noted that according to the guidelines, if a GSR misses three or more board meetings, the board has the right to remove them from the meeting schedule. However, he emphasized that the goal is to maintain representation and encourage consistent participation, rather than strictly enforcing removal.
 - Neelam A. mentioned that "Ups and Downs" has a total of 4 absences and "Where the Fiends Come Out to Recover" has 6 absences and is looking to the body on what to do. Neelam A. mentioned that she has already spoken to Gina G. as the group relations chair about the absences.
 - Melanie R.G. mentioned that she supported tabling the discussion for one meeting to allow more time to understand and address community needs. She emphasized the importance of listening to the community to determine why some people aren't participating and how they can better meet those needs.

Steve C. made a motion to table this until our next meeting. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Jessica M. makes a motion to adjourn. Seconded. Motion passed 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.

Meeting ended at 11:25am.