

# OCCA REGULAR GSO MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2026

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

Meeting started at 10:00am.

- ⇒ **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:** calls on Cierra J. to read: "**The Twelve Traditions**".
- ⇒ **Chairperson:** calls on an addict to report on Tradition #1
  - Cierra J. will do the report on tradition 1 which states "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon C.A. unity."
- ⇒ **Chairperson** asks for an addict to give a report on the 2<sup>nd</sup> tradition for next month.
  - Frank P. volunteers to give a report on tradition 2.

**Remaining GSO Meeting 2026 Dates:** February 7<sup>th</sup>, March 7<sup>th</sup>, April 4<sup>th</sup>, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, June 6<sup>th</sup>, July 11<sup>th</sup>, August 1<sup>st</sup>, September 5<sup>th</sup>, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, November 7<sup>th</sup>, December 5<sup>th</sup>

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

## ARE THERE ANY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS?

Ron celebrated 23 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:**

**New GSRs:** Michelle for Madd Realm and Adam for Starting Point

**Melanie R.G. makes a motion to accept the new GSR. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

- ⇒ **Secretary:** prepares 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., Betsy L. Donovan B., Frank P., Gina G., Russ E., Marcus M., Jason S., Angelina T., Russ S., Amy G., Nick B., Nolan O., Matt A., Evan L., Cierra J., Isis M., Jenn C., Travis M.
  - **Absent:** Neelam A., Carillo P., John L., Matt S., Jessica M., Katie S., Angel G.
  - **Quorum: 14**
- ⇒ **Secretary:** Passes the Master Contact list for any changes or updates to the Roll, Schedule, and Website.
- ⇒ **Chairperson:** entertains a motion to accept the minutes for the last GSO meeting.
- ⇒ **Parliamentarian:** reminds 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

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- ⇒ **Chairperson's Report** - Chris J.- 714.713.8280
  - Report: Chairperson Chris J. wished everyone a Happy New Year, shared that CA is going well, highlighted that H&I remain strong, and encouraged everyone to continue doing their best in the coming year.
- ⇒ **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: Absent.
- ⇒ **Treasurer's Report** -Betsy L.- 949.220.2504
  - Report: Betsy L. reported that finances are in good shape, reviewed recent income, disbursements, and current balances, noted that \$500 was transferred to savings bringing the premium reserve to \$4,500, shared that the 2026 budget has been prepared based on last year and appears solid, and reminded the group that the Seventh Tradition is being collected with a Venmo option available.

Previous Balance	\$ 1105.74
Donations	\$ 1555.25
Disbursements	\$ 1042.71
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 1118</b>

  - **Treasurer:** will ask for 7<sup>th</sup> tradition donations. OCCA Venmo: @betsy-Lyons-1 949.220.3504
- ⇒ **Vice-Treasurer's Report** -Vacant - 949.910.0901
  - Report:
- ⇒ **Structure and Bylaws Officer's Report** -Frank P.- 714.330.0416
  - Report: Frank P. shared that he is temporarily filling in for Steve, noted that he will be working with Matt, Chris, Nick, and possibly another person, invited others to participate in structure and bylaws, and deferred to Matt to present the report.

- Matt A. explained that following last month's quarterly business meeting, the group will meet on January 31 at 9 a.m. to finalize internal guidelines and begin the annual housekeeping process. He noted that while official business meetings are held quarterly, S&B meets monthly to refine and streamline processes and keep them simple. Matt invited anyone interested to participate, emphasized his goal of mentoring others to move into leadership and service roles, and shared that while structure and bylaws may not seem exciting, the work is essential. He added that housekeeping can be done via Zoom with a manageable time commitment and expressed his hope to eventually pass leadership on to others.
- Evan L. shared that after speaking with Frank, he has decided he wants to be involved with structure and bylaws. He reflected on taking time to think and pray about it, expressed appreciation for Frank's encouragement, and stated his interest in learning more and staying engaged with the group. Evan also mentioned that he recently completed his term as GSR after four years and wants to remain active and of service.

⇒ **Archivist's Report**

-Gina G.- 675.456.8178

- Report: Gina G. reported on the most recent World Service meeting, highlighting the C.A. museum website, museum.ca.org, where members are encouraged to help identify historical items. She shared that she has connected with an archive member who is training her on conducting interviews and developing local archives, with plans to begin interviews this month. Gina mentioned starting with an early member and expressed enthusiasm about preserving and sharing these recordings, including eventually linking them to the local website for broader access.

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

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⇒ **Group Relations Committee**

- Amy G.- 909.261.7368

- Report: No report at this time.

⇒ **IT Committee**

- Jason S.- 818.263.3500

- Hotline Sub-committee: Jason S. expressed gratitude for being able to attend after a long absence, reported that the website has been updated, and shared hotline statistics from the past month, including call volume, average and longest call times, and no voicemails. He also stated that he is looking for someone to help or eventually take over the role, noting he is willing to continue but would welcome support.

Total Calls:	12
Avg Duration:	50 seconds
Longest Call:	3 minutes and 13 seconds
Voicemail:	0

- Web servant Subcommittee:

⇒ **Hospitals and Institutions Committee**

- Russ E.- 714.396.2796

- Report: Russ E. reported that everything is going well, that he is staying in contact with leaders and chairs, and noted there is a funding request for Marcus related to Big Books that will need to be addressed.

**Marcus M. requested \$109.30 for Big Books. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

⇒ **Public Information Committee**

- Russ S.- 912.314.3275

- Report: The speaker discussed possible staffing options for having a booth at the OC Fair suggesting either one week or two weeks of coverage with daily shifts of about six hours to help involve more people. They emphasized that the event would be a valuable opportunity for public exposure at a reasonable cost and wanted to bring the idea forward for discussion. They clarified that no motion was made and that details such as specific days and a volunteer roster are not yet available since the application has not been submitted.
- Russ S. explained that the \$100 per week fee covers parking, admission, and full access to the fair, noting that two weeks would amount to a \$1,200 value.

- Frank P. asked about the six-hour shifts, inquiring how many people would be on each shift and what the rotation plan would be. Russ S. suggested having at least two people per shift, with one person engaging with the public and the other managing the booth or tasks, to ensure effective coverage.
- Chris J. noted that the fair opportunity is still just being discussed and may not happen. He said people can be informed about the possibility, expressed surprise at the low \$100 cost, and mentioned past challenges with staffing, including the difficulty of getting enough people to attend and the requirement to have two people in the booth at all times. He also recalled a past issue where the group was asked not to return for failing to meet this requirement.

**Russ S. makes a motion for \$200 to apply to the OC Fair. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

⇒ **Social Media Subcommittee Report:** -Chris W. 714.980.1186  
 Report: Russ S. reported that Chris West has taken over social media, is currently learning the role, and has received a brief overview from Angel. He noted that Chris is still getting familiar with the responsibilities, so there isn't much to report yet.

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

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

- Report: Angelina T. shared that she distributed flyers for an upcoming breakfast event and asked members to take them back to their meetings to encourage advance purchases for planning purposes. She noted that discounted or free options are available for those in need, possibly in exchange for helping with setup or cleanup. She thanked everyone for generous donations that fully cover the event and mentioned the potential for making it a quarterly event. She also highlighted the "Change That Counts" fundraiser starting this month, emphasizing that proceeds support C.A. and sending delegates to the World Service Conference, and encouraged informing meetings so members understand the purpose of their contributions.
- Angelina T. provided details about upcoming events, including a breakfast on February 21 at 9 a.m. with a speaker and a chili cook-off planned for March 8 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., noting she has forms for contestants and will share information in the GSO chat. She encouraged members to collect donations or have people contact her directly, praised the chili cook-off venue, and mentioned submitting the site plan. She also invited members to join the next Unity Committee meeting tomorrow at 10 a.m. to help with event planning, ticket sales, volunteering, and to share ideas.

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

Report: Nolan O. shared that he had planned to turn the items in today but decided to hold onto them for another month and reassess how he feels.

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

- Report: Melanie R.G. moved to adjust time constraints for Marcus (a one-time exception) due to a recent relapse, citing a precedent with Carlo after a relapse.

Number of Sales: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Request for Funds: \$230

**Melanie R.G made a motion to adjust Marcus's sobriety time requirement. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**  
**Marcus K. made a motion for \$230 for literature. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

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

- Report: Workshop: Nick (Workshop) reported on the last workshop (December) with four attendees and announced the next workshop on Wednesday, February 14 (cutoff February 17), costing \$25 to cover expenses, breakfast, lunch, and materials, facilitated by Nick and Evan; Chris J. thanked Nick and Evan for their service.

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

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

- Report: Nick B. is covering for Carlo P.  
Amount of Sales: \$295.30  
Request for Funds: \$300.00

**Nick B. made a motion for \$300 for chips. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

## WORLD SERVICE DELEGATES/ALTERNATES

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

- World Service Delegates: Melanie R.G. described World Service delegate work: the main committee of the Literature, Chips and Format of World Service meets the third Sunday at 10 a.m., and subcommittees include Glossary of Terms (with Frank, Betsy, Steve, Chris, and Melanie), Hope, Faith, and courage III (needs more volunteers, monthly commitment), and 12 Concepts and 12 Traditions Illustrated; she urged members to contribute opinions and perspectives from around the world and to bring motions from World Service to the group for discussion.
- HFC3 update: Frank P. shared that an early interview with Ray Grosser (co-founder) led to a book (Recalling the Early Days) he asked members to submit stories for the new HFC3 book (online at ca.org), noting a 2500-word limit; Gina G. asked about the "chip" concept, and Frank P. explained the early days' skepticism and the importance of the book; Frank P. encouraged members to focus on one commitment (e.g., Glossary of Terms) to stay sober and serve.

⇒ **DELEGATE** -Gina G.- 657.456.8178

⇒ **ALTERNATE** -Vacant-

## BUSINESS

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⇒ **Old Business**

- Positions open for Nominations to vote
  - Executive Board Positions:
    - Vice chair Treasurer
  - Committee Chair Positions
    - IT Committee Chair
    - Chip Committee Chair
  - Alternate Delegate/s
    - Open positions: Chris J. asked for nominations for Treasurer Vice Chair but no one stepped forward, and the voting was deferred to the next meeting; Chip Committee remains open, with Carlo P. indicating he wants to keep it and should be present next month; Alternate Delegate is also open.
    - Service and sobriety requirements: Melanie R.G. clarified Alternate Delegate requires two years sobriety and six months of service at the GSO level; she explained Alternate Delegate is a substitute role with less responsibility than a Delegate but includes possible conference attendance and automatic nomination to Delegate after the term; Delegates require 4 years of sobriety, with a four-year commitment (renewable), and Vice Treasurer requires two years sobriety and nine months of continuous service.

⇒ **New Business:**

- Event results: Nolan (Activities and Fundraising) reported that the event funded with \$300 raised \$100, resulting in a \$200 surplus; they raffled off a couple of game systems; turnout was modest, but the event ran smoothly; Chris J. thanked Nolan and acknowledged the outcome.

- Budget approval: Chris J. requested to approve the 2026 budget; Melanie R.G. noted it is a small decrease from 2025 (\$25,027), and Frank P. asked whether it was an increase or decrease; Betsy L. confirmed the 2026 budget is slightly lower; the motion to approve the budget passed unanimously.

**Frank P. moved to approve the budget. Seconded. Motion almost unanimously.**

- Matt (Structures and Bylaws) mentioned working on internal guidelines and asked where to find them; he had given copies to Steve, who was absent; Chris West said he has access to the schedule and can add Matt to North America World; Matt expressed appreciation for the forgiveness foundations and service manuals, noting he has 30 copies and others have 10, and that they were supposed to be brought but he had not thought to include them.
- Materials availability: Matt and Chris West discussed having paper and digital copies of service manuals and internal guidelines; they noted they only brought one copy due to typing the digital version, and they would check availability; the group expressed appreciation for the resources and the need to get the next generation involved in service and continuity.

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

**A member made a motion to adjourn. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

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

Meeting Ended at 11:16am.