
OCCA REGULAR GSO MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 7TH, 2026

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

Meeting started at 10:01am

- ⇒ **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 Angelina T. to read: "**The Twelve Traditions**".
- ⇒ **Chairperson:** called on an addict to report on Tradition #2
 - Frank P. did the report on Tradition 2 which states "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern."
- ⇒ **Chairperson** asks for an addict to give a report on the 3rd tradition for next month.
 - Matt A. volunteered to give a report on the 3rd tradition.

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

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

ARE THERE ANY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS?

JOHN L. CELEBRATING 4 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: Dave W. for "Not in Vain" and Gayle for The "Messengers" Meeting

- **Nick B. made a motion to accept the new GSRs. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

- ⇒ **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:** calls the roll and announces quorum.
 - **Present:** Chris J., Melanie R.G., Neelam A., Betsy L., Frank P., Gina G., Russ E., Marcus K., Jason S., Angelina T., Carlo P., Russ S., Amy G., Nick B., Nolan O., Matt A., Evan L., Matt S., Jessica M., Cierra J., Adam A., Katie S.
 - **Absent:** John L., Michelle J. Issis M., Mathew M., Jenn C., Travis M.
 - **Quorum: 13**
- ⇒ **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.
 - **Melanie R.G. 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 while there is a lot going on and some service positions remain open, Cocaine Anonymous Orange County is doing well overall. He highlighted that H&I is particularly strong, encouraged members to continue their efforts, and expressed appreciation for their work.
- ⇒ **Vice-Chairperson's Report** -Melanie R.G.- 714.675.2731
 - Report: Nothing to report at this time.
- ⇒ **Secretary's Report** -Neelam A.- 559.306.4551
 - Report: Neelam asked whether it had been determined if the “Where the Fiends Come Out to Recover” meeting currently has a GSR. She also asked if anyone had attended that meeting to find out what is going on.
 - Russ shared that he briefly spoke with the group and that they agreed to reconnect and follow up. He noted that a group conscience was held, but his participation was only via Zoom while others were in person. He explained that the in-person members planned to discuss the issue further among themselves to find a solution before the meeting potentially goes dark. Russ committed to checking back with them and providing an update.
- ⇒ **Treasurer's Report** -Betsy L.- 949.220.2504
 - Report: Betsy reported a beginning balance of \$1,118.28. From total funds of \$1,554.35, she transferred \$500 into savings, bringing the prudent reserve back to \$4,050.01, which she noted is exactly where it should be. She stated that expenses for the first month totaled \$1,224.85, leaving a remaining balance of \$947.78. Betsy also shared that most groups have already contributed their “seventh,” bringing in \$773 so far, with expenses totaling \$567.39, and emphasized that additional funds are still needed.

Previous Balance	\$ 1118.28
Donations	\$ 1554.35
<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>\$ 1224.85</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 947.78

- **Treasurer:** will ask for 7th tradition donations. OCCA Venmo: betsy-Lyons-1 949.220.3504

⇒ **Vice-Treasurer's Report** -VACANT-
 • Report:

⇒ **Structure and Bylaws Officer's Report** -Frank P.- 714.514.4150

- Report: Frank shared that, according to the Structures and Bylaws documents, there are established instructions and bylaws regarding GSR roles. He mentioned he was trying to follow along on his phone, which was challenging, and therefore planned to defer the detailed report to Matt. Frank took a moment to welcome Evan to the Structures and Bylaws committee and acknowledged Nick Bento as a valuable addition. He also recognized the efforts of Matt, Steve, Chris, and others who carried much of the work, noting that the committee had a very productive meeting.
- Matt reported that the Structures and Bylaws committee met the previous week and finalized their internal guidelines. He shared that these guidelines can be used as a simple template for other committees that need help establishing their own internal structures, emphasizing that they do not need to be complicated—just clear roles (chair, vice chair, secretary) and defined responsibilities. He stated that the committee is available to help any group that needs assistance with this.
- Matt also explained that the committee will soon begin "housekeeping" on the Structures and Bylaws document to ensure it is current, accurate, and up to date, with that process starting later in the month. He noted that they are always looking for new members and confirmed upcoming meetings, including one on March 28, with an additional meeting beforehand to work on housekeeping details, which will be posted in WhatsApp.
- Lastly, Matt referenced the Structures and Bylaws regarding loss of accreditation, explaining that meetings must be published in the meeting schedule and attend at least two GSO meetings per calendar quarter (two out of every three months) to maintain accreditation. He cited page 10.4, noting that this information helped clarify the discussion about the meeting in question.

⇒ **Archivist's Report** -Gina G.- 675.456.8178

- Report: Gina shared an update from the World Archives Committee, noting that their meeting took place just before the current one. She highlighted that the archives repository is in good shape after significant organizing work done by volunteers, specifically recognizing Karen, Jennifer, and Chris West for their nine days of service and dedication. Gina expressed appreciation for the level of volunteer commitment involved.
- She also reported that she conducted her first interview as Archives Chair with Pablo Medrano and learned about his major contributions, including translating CA pamphlets into Spanish and helping translate the book *Hope, Faith and Courage*. Gina stated that she is waiting for Pablo's permission before sending the interview to Cameron. Once approved, she hopes to work locally—possibly with Jason—to make these interviews accessible on the OC CA website. She concluded by noting how interesting the work has been and thanked the group for the opportunity to share.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

⇒ **Group Relations Committee** - Amy G.- 909.261.7368

Report: Amy shared that Danny will be helping her with North County responsibilities. She mentioned that Danny is new with Fountain Valley and will assist by visiting meetings to check in and see if they need support. Amy noted that Danny has already attended one meeting, and that was the main update she had to share.

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

- Hotline Sub-committee: Jason reported that the website is up to date and thanked Melanie and others for providing the necessary information. Additionally, someone had expressed interest in helping with the website, but he misplaced her contact information and asked that she reach out to him again.

Total Calls:	6
Avg Duration:	2 minutes and 15 seconds
Longest Call:	9 minutes and 46 seconds

- Webservant Subcommittee:

⇒ **Hospitals and Institutions Committee** - Russ E. - 714.396.2796

- Report: Russ reported that the H&I committee is doing well overall. He shared that there is an issue with the literature commitment, which is currently open due to a recent resignation by Marcus K. He explained that this was addressed through a group conscience, and he will continue covering the role until a replacement is found.
- Russ also noted that there are vacant positions within H&I, including open panels and leader roles. He encouraged members to regularly check their H&I rosters, as some panels still need participants. He mentioned that both he and Chris West are seeking people to fill leader positions. Additionally, Russ shared that due to a job change, he will be stepping away from evening positions and may be available to take on morning panels instead.

⇒ **Public Information Committee** - Russ S. - 912.314.3275

- Report: Russ introduced himself and explained that he will defer his report to Matt. He shared that he recently took a job in admissions and detox and has been highly focused on that role. Russ emphasized his commitment to performing at his best in his service position, acknowledging the serious commitment and mentioned that he is working on achieving balance in his life to manage both responsibilities effectively.
- Matt reported that their committee met on Monday and is preparing documents for an application to the OC Fair, which begins accepting applications at the end of the month. He noted he will coordinate with Melanie or Chris to locate the required documents. He also shared that their internal guidelines are nearly complete, with only one remaining item to finalize by next month.
- Matt requested help finding a booth coordinator to identify potential event booths, inquire about costs and requirements, and manage logistics. He also mentioned an upcoming poster campaign in Fountain Valley, noting that some posters with drug imagery were not suitable for public posting, so they plan to print additional family-friendly posters.
- He concluded by announcing the next committee meeting on March 2, the first Monday of every month at 8 PM, and encouraged anyone interested to attend.

⇒ **Social Media Subcommittee Report:** -Chris W.- 714.980.1186

Report: Matt shared social media analytics for the last 30 days on behalf of Chris. The Instagram account had 10,300 views, with a total of 27 posts during that period. The account now has 631 followers, including 132 new followers gained in the last month. A three-day boosted post was done, costing \$90 as a donation from Chris. All scheduled flyers—including paychecks, meeting flyers, OC API monthly flyer—were posted. The account reached 15,308 people, received 16,637 views, 1,639 engagements, and 196 link clicks to orangecountyca.info. These link clicks generated 10 additional followers.

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

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

- Report: Angelina provided updates on upcoming events and related logistics:
- **Pancake Breakfast** – Scheduled for the 21st of the month at 9 AM in Fountain Valley. Speaker event with tickets at \$10, \$5 for those in treatment. She mentioned a spreadsheet prepared by Jessica to request \$180 for supplies and food, with any leftover funds to be returned.
- **Cook-Off** – Scheduled for Sunday, March 8, from 11 AM to 2 PM at Wakem Park in Costa Mesa. Tickets are \$10, \$5 for those in treatment, and \$50 to enter as a chili contestant. The venue cost \$125. A planned location at Santiago Park was too expensive (~\$900 with multiple permits), so they chose the current location instead. Donations to help cover event costs are welcome through her or Chris J.
- **Flyers** – She has a flyer ready for approval but had printing issues (logo stretched). She sent the correct version in the GSO chat and asked for approval so it can be printed and distributed. She also requested help from anyone in South County to distribute flyers.
- **Merchandise** – T-shirts and sweatshirts with the 19th logo are available for sale. She showed hers as an example, pre-ordered through Nolan.
- Overall, she provided event details, funding needs, volunteer requests, and merchandise updates.

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

Report: Nolan O. stated he got 13 long sleeves, 13 long sleeves, and 13 hoodies.

- Russ commented that the merchandise (hoodies and shirts) will likely sell well, noting that his four regular meetings would probably want five or six hoodies each. He suggested that sales of the shirts would also be strong. He emphasized that it is ultimately up to the group to make the motion. He also referenced the current cost, which is \$442.
- Chris J. shared that we need more shirts and hoodies.
- Nolan O. said he can order more but that they won't be here in time for the chili cook off
- Amber suggested that even with a limited number of hoodies and shirts, wearing them at the chili cook-off would generate interest. She believes that interested people would contact them to order the next shipment. She emphasized that having some members represent the merchandise at the event would be enough to spark interest, noting that the design is very appealing.
- Nick commented that while the design is great, merchandise tied specifically to the event may not sell well afterward. He suggested using the same design in a more general format—representing Orange County Cocaine Anonymous—to make it more appealing for future sales. He also cautioned that funds are limited, so the group should be careful with spending.
- Chris J. shared that the price could be higher for the merch.
- Amy suggested that we can do a preorder for the merch if we do sell out at the Chili Cook Off.

- **Melanie R.G makes a motion to reimburse Chris J. \$125 for the venue. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

- Melanie clarified that the Executive Board has discretion to approve up to \$250 for urgent needs that arise between GSO meetings. She emphasized that the preferred process is to bring funding requests to the GSO for a full group conscience. However, if a committee is in a bind—such as needing to move quickly on items like sweatshirts—the issue can be brought to the Executive Board. She noted that while the Board's authority is limited, they can help cover part of the cost or discuss how to move the request through the proper channels to secure full approval.
- Nolan shared that he went ahead and ordered the merchandise after being assured by the vendor that it would arrive by the first week of March. He acknowledged that he sometimes bends the rules but stated that he does so with the intention of benefiting the organization. Nolan clarified that he is not requesting reimbursement at this time and is willing to wait a month or two if needed.

- **Nolan O. made a motion to be reimbursed for \$442.99 for the merchandise. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

- **Angelina T. made a motion for \$180 for the pancake breakfast. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

- Angelina requested virtual approval of the updated flyer for the chili cook-off and noted that the event details had been adjusted. She provided a financial update, sharing that \$162.97 was raised at the first meeting in January. She announced that the next meeting will be held on February 20 at Back to Basics at the Fountain Valley Alano Club.
- Angelina emphasized the importance of continued promotion of events at meetings, explaining that all funds raised support the area and will help fund future events, increase flexibility for the Unity Committee, and support PI efforts such as booths. She concluded by asking for ongoing support in spreading the word and stated that this was the end of her report.

- **Nick B. made a motion to approve the Chili Cook Off flyer. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

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

Report: Marcus reported spending \$93 on literature, which brought inventory back to the needed level. He noted that Big Books and 12 & 12 books now cost \$16 each. Marcus made a motion to approve approximately \$200–\$220 to replenish Big Books and 12 & 12s, stating that he would pay out of pocket upfront and then submit a reimbursement request to simplify the process with issuing a check.

- Betsy explained that reimbursement checks must match the exact amount spent, which makes estimating costs in advance difficult, especially since literature prices and discounts can vary. To address this, Marcus will use his own funds to purchase the literature, submit the receipt afterward, and Betsy will reimburse him

via Venmo for the exact amount. She clarified that the current dollar figure is only an estimate and asked to confirm that this approach is acceptable to everyone.

- Melanie clarified that while Russell mentioned the H&I literature role, H&I had already decided that Marcus would remain in that position until a replacement is found. She emphasized that the current discussion involves a different matter—Marcus's role as the OCCA Literature Chair—which is a decision that must be made by the GSO through a group conscience, not solely by H&I. Melanie suggested that the group pause to have a fuller discussion about this distinction and consider possible solutions, such as shared or tandem responsibilities for a period of time, rather than making assumptions or conflating the two roles.
- Nolan spoke about fairness in handling the situation, noting that in the past, other members in similar circumstances were allowed to remain in their positions as long as they were willing, consistent, and showing up. He expressed concern that treating this situation differently could be unfair. Nolan stated that if the member is committed and participating, they should be treated the same as others, and that any personal struggles are for the individual to address. He emphasized that, in fairness, the group should handle this member the same way it has handled others in the past.
- Chris explained that Marcus had been transparent about his situation, sharing last month that he had a slip and was willing either to step down or continue in the position. At that time, the sobriety time requirement was temporarily suspended, allowing him to remain. After a second slip, Marcus again disclosed it, and H&I then decided to begin looking for someone else to fill the position.
- Chris emphasized that Marcus has been consistent, reliable, and effective in the role, and that he is willing either to step down or stay. However, Chris stressed the importance of maintaining integrity and adhering to the one-year sobriety requirement for the position, noting that someone with only a short amount of time sober would not normally be voted into that role. He stated that H&I decided to keep Marcus for now while actively searching for a replacement, and he suggested the same approach could apply here. Chris added that if a replacement is found and Marcus later meets the sobriety requirement, he could return to the position.
- Russ stated that he is willing to support Marcus as much as possible but does not want to take over the Literature Chair role. He explained that he has been helping Marcus for the past few months by providing transportation and maintaining regular communication, which adds accountability. Russ suggested that by working together, they could develop a shared solution rather than focusing solely on the issue of Marcus's slips.
- Chris expressed appreciation for Russ's support and for Marcus, stating that he wants Marcus to continue in the role. However, he emphasized the need to follow the rules, so the position will be considered officially open. Marcus will continue filling the role temporarily, with Russ helping him, until a permanent replacement is found or an unexpected issue arises. Chris asked the group if everyone agreed with this plan.

Number of Sales: \$93
Request for Funds: \$220

- **Marcus K. made a motion for \$220 for more literature. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

⇒ **Workshop Committee**

-Nick B.-

949.382.9288

Report: Nick reported that the January Fourth Step Workshop had five attendees and went well. The next workshop is scheduled for January 21st, with the sign-up deadline on Wednesday, January 18th. He asked that the workshop be announced at meetings. Nick explained that the workshop, facilitated by him and Evan, is held in person, costs \$25, and includes breakfast, lunch, and a binder with all necessary materials for the Four Step process.

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: \$63
Request for Funds: \$80

- **Carlo P. made a motion for \$80 for chips. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

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- **Melanie R.G. nominated Carlo P. for the Chip commitment. Carlo P. accepted the nomination.**

Nolan O. made a motion to waive the time requirement. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Carlo has been elected as the Chip Chair.

WORLD SERVICE DELEGATES/ALTERNATES

⇒ **DELEGATE**

-Melanie R.G.-

714.675.2731

- Melanie, as a GSO delegate, provided an update on her work and upcoming events. She mentioned the regional caucus for the Pacific South region on February 15th, where delegates share reports about their areas—including meetings, events, challenges, and successes—which are sent to the regional trustee, Dan.
- She highlighted the literature glossary project, explaining that her committee has created a mini dictionary of about 200 words and phrases from CA literature, with standard definitions and contextual meanings. This resource will help countries translating CA materials to maintain consistency. She noted that the translation committee, including members from Orange County, has been recognized internationally for facilitating these translations.
- Melanie encouraged members to join the Literature, Chips and Format committee, emphasizing that participation does not require perfect grammar or punctuation; input and perspective are what matter. She also noted that HFC three, a subcommittee, is struggling and could use additional help.

⇒ **DELEGATE**

-Gina G.-

657.456.8178

- No report at this time.

⇒ **ALTERNATE**

-Vacant-

BUSINESS

⇒ **Old Business**

- Positions open for Nominations to vote
 - Executive Board Positions:
 - Vice chair Treasurer
 - Committee Chair Positions
 - IT Committee Chair
 - Chip Committee Chair-handled
 - Alternate Delegate

Melanie R.G made a motion to nominate Jessica M. as Vice Chair for Treasurer.

Jessica M. accepted and spoke to her qualifications.

Jessica M. is elected Vice Chair for Treasurer.

⇒ **New Business:** None.

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

- **A member made a motion to close. 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 11:27am