

OCCA REGULAR GSO MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2026

- ⇒ **Chairperson:** called the meeting to order at 10:02 am, 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 a member to read: "**The Twelve Traditions**".
 - Jessica M. read The Twelve Traditions.
- ⇒ **Chairperson:** called on an addict to report on Tradition #9
 - Adam A. does 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** asks for an addict to give a report on the 10th tradition for next month.
 - Alejandra volunteers.

Remaining GSO Meeting 2026 Dates: 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 SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS?

Matt S. 9/19

Betsy L. 9/25

Damien D. 9/28

New Meetings Petitioning to Join Area: None

New GSRs: None

- ⇒ **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.
- ⇒ **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., Amy G., Betsy L., Jessica M., Frank P., Gina G., Rick G., Marcus K., Kyle W., Carlo P., Kim O.(proxy Betsy L.), Nick B., Dave W., Nathan E., Matt S., Amber G., Cierra J., Adam A., Matthew M., Damien D., Isis M., Alejandra, Serena M., (proxy.)
 - **Absent:** Russ S., Russ E., Michelle D., Keith D., Jenn C., Vincent M., Chris W. (No vote)., Katie S., and Matt A., Angelina and Jason no longer have positions at the GSO, and the Travis meeting closed
 - **Quorum:** 21 present, quorum is 14. Quorum is always met at the beginning of the meeting, the question is that if several people leave halfway through we might then not meet quorum. Can explain tomorrow.
- ⇒ **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. made 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: none
- ⇒ **Vice-Chairperson’s Report** -Melanie R.G.- 714.675.2731
 - Report: Melanie stressed the importance of the GSRs in the GSO. GSR’s are the backbone of area and are the bridge between area and the individual meetings. Their presence and involvement is so important to CA.

- ⇒ **Secretary Report:** -Amy G.- 909.261.7368
- Report: Amy G. asks the group to look at the roll sheet and the meeting schedule as there has been quite a few changes and we want to make sure everything is accurate.

- ⇒ **Treasurer's Report** -Betsy L.- 949.220.2504
- Report: Betsy reports that disbursements were larger this month because of reimbursements for delegates for conference.

Previous Balance	\$ 2,587.5
Donations	\$ 1602.25
Disbursements	\$ 614.37
Ending Balance	\$ 3575.38

Savings: \$4,500.00

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

- ⇒ **Vice-Treasurer's Report** -Jessica M.- 714.381.0037
- Report: Jessica M. updates the group on an update on the tasks she is learning as vice-treasurer.

- ⇒ **Structure and Bylaws Officer's Report** -Frank P.- 714.514.4150
- Report: Frank reports that the housekeeping meeting took place on September 8th. He is hoping for others to join. The quarterly meeting will be September 13th in Huntington Beach.

- ⇒ **Archivist's Report** -Gina G.- 675.456.8178
- Report: Gina reports that she and Chris W. need to meet and continue to identify long-time members of CA to conduct interviews. She also discusses that she has some memorabilia from early CA days, (flyers, pictures, etc.) and asks the group to contribute anything they can find.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

- ⇒ **Group Relations Committee** - Kim O.-
- Report: Betsy L. proxy for Kim O. reports that Kim is wanting to get supplies for PI, one of those being a canopy.

- ⇒ **IT Committee** - Kyle W. - 310.803.0684
- Website:

Total Calls:	12
Avg Duration:	45 seconds
Longest Call:	1 minute and 45 seconds
Voicemail:	0

- Kyle reports that he will be reaching out to members that are signed up on the hotline and verify they would like to continue being on the list. There was discussion about advertising the hotline and whether there would be a script people could go off as a guide for when individuals call. There was also a question if there would be any individuals that would volunteer to do "night shift" for the hotline vs whoever connects first with the call. There was also a question posed by Melanie R.G. about how to route the call if the individual was Spanish speaking.
- Kyle also reported that he was going through the online meeting schedule, including GSRs and secretaries, and making sure that all information was correct.

- Current billing and efficacy of the website was also discussed and no need for any funds at this time.

⇒ **Hospitals and Institutions Committee** - Rick G. - 949.307.1764

- Report: they have 20 active facilities, 54 panels with 8 open spots for leaders. Their monthly meeting took place this morning and was encouraging. Ed E. will be the new temporary vice chair for H&I while Alejandra trains for the position. Rick thanks Marcus for assisting in literature.
- Encourages individuals to get involved in a panel. There are time requirements with a minimum of 3 months of sobriety. There is a WhatsApp for H&I that people can be added to if they are interested. H&I is still in the process of getting clearance to take our meetings into orange county jails. Currently our contact is Kelly who has been working on this.

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

- Report: Absent.
- Discussion regarding CA having an Instagram. Currently our previous account has been taken down but there are individuals that would like to put one back up. Discussion among some in the group of whether or not this would be a risk to CA. For now, the position is to do nothing and open the topic open for discussion at a later date.

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

- Report: none

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

⇒ **Unity Committee** - Vacant -

- Report: Unity is still in need of a chair. Jessica M. reported that there is a Change that Counts meeting September 17th at Spiritual lines with other meetings to follow. She is currently working on a flyer.
- Adam A. has been working on the upcoming Turkey Bowl. The cost for 3 lane reservations is \$435.00 with the ability to add additional lanes as needed. Tentatively the date Unity is considering is Nov. 14th.

〉 **Motion made by Adam A. for \$435.00 for reservation of 3 lanes for the Turkey Bowl. Kyle W. seconded. Motion passes unanimously**

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

- Report: Absent

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

- Report: Marcus K. reported that he was fully stocked for literature. Melanie R.G. requested that the pamphlet "Power of PI" be added to our literature.
Amount of Sales: \$160.00
Request for Funds: \$ 0.00

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

- Report: Nick reports that next 4th step workshop will be September 19th with a cutoff on September 16th, 7 inquires. Workshop is \$25.00. Includes binder, light lunch and beverages. Get your 4th step done in one day.

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

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

- Report: Frank P. filling in for Carlo P.
Amount of Sales: \$170.00
Request for Funds: \$200.0

› **Carlo P. made a motion to request \$200.00 to restock chips. Melanie R.G. seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

WORLD SERVICE DELEGATES/ALTERNATES

- ⇒ **DELEGATE** -Melanie R.G.-
714.675.2731
• Melanie R.G. goes over the results from World Conference. (see below)
- ⇒ **DELEGATE** -Gina G.-
657.456.8178
• Report: see above
- ⇒ **ALTERNATE** -Kim O.-
949.310.6824
• Report: see above.

HERE IS A SUMMMARY:

- Melanie opened the report as the World Service Delegate, saying she and Gina would focus on the most fellowship-relevant conference items. She had prepared a “cheat sheet” (website, NewsGram, conference/convention info, etc.) to show what World Service offers, then invited Gina to begin.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- Gina reported that the Finance Committee reviewed the old and new budgets as usual. The main issue was a \$16,000 hotel bill for one trustees’ meeting. Melanie confirmed it was a single meeting. Gina said there was a long debate about why the trustees could not use Zoom instead; in the end the trustees agreed to “tighten their belts” going forward.

LITERATURE, CHIPS & FORMATS (LCF) COMMITTEE:

- Gina said she moved from Archives to the LCF Committee. Melanie reminded everyone that any CA member (not only GSRs) can join a World Service committee or an LCF subcommittee and shared that it was valuable to meet in person people she had only known on Zoom.
- Melanie reported that LCF passed all its guideline motions and a motion Gina brought to create an illustrated service manual. LCF is also working on an illustrated 12 & 12 and on “Hope, Faith and Courage, Volume Three.” Members can join specific subcommittees (such as the Hope, Faith and Courage subcommittee) to help with these projects, and LCF has many referrals and thus a lot of work ahead.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE:

- Gina reported that next year's conference will be in Dallas, and the following year in Dublin, Ireland. She noted there was a lot of debate about the cost of Dublin but also that conference had been in Los Angeles for about 40 years.
- Melanie said there were three options: remain at the Dallas-Fort Worth airport hotel, move to Chicago, or go to Dublin. She expected Chicago to win, but European delegates made a strong, emotional case for Dublin, explaining that more than 50% of the fellowship now lives in Europe, yet only about 22% of their delegates can afford to attend when the conference is in the U.S. Dublin would increase their representation and let Europe "see what conference is about." The appeal was emotional but persuasive; the final vote for Dublin was nearly unanimous and the European delegates were visibly moved. Melanie noted it will cost more for their own area and will require extra fundraising.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE:

- Gina reported convention sites: Seattle (next convention), Scotland (2028), Toronto (2029), and Lake Tahoe (2030). Lake Tahoe had only one bid, which raised concerns, but it was approved.
- Melanie explained that conventions are usually hosted by a single area that takes on the organizing and fundraising. For Lake Tahoe, because Seattle is already in the Pacific Northwest, a coalition of Pacific Northwest areas (Vancouver, Washington, Oregon, Northern California) submitted a joint bid, which is new. Melanie said she and others had misgivings about the coalition's ability to coordinate and fundraise, especially since Tahoe is about an hour from the nearest airport and those areas will already have stretched themselves for Seattle. Gina pointed out that the World Convention normally provides roughly 75% of the World Services annual budget (about \$140,000-\$200,000).

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE:

- Gina briefly noted a recent visit to the Nevada repository and saying the World Archives work is impressive. Chris joked it is basically "just a cold room." Melanie added that there is an online virtual museum, linked on her cheat sheet.

Note: TRUSTEES VS. OFFICE: Gina clarified the difference between the World Service Board of Trustees and the World Service Office (WSO) Board. Trustees run CA business throughout the year between conferences ("bottom of the triangle"). The Office Board supports all of World Service and is where paid employees ("special workers," as Melanie added) work. The office manages literature warehousing and shipping, fellowship communications, the Meeting Finder app, and the website.

Melanie added that there are actually two separate nonprofits: one for the Office and one for the Board. The trustees' board does not hold money; the Office nonprofit holds funds and pays for trustee work, licensing fees, taxes, etc.

PUBLIC INFORMATION (PI) COMMITTEE:

- Gina reported that PI approved a new, brighter slideshow and posters as resources for local use. She described how conference even debates details like whether an

image is “too dark,” mentioning one rejected poster that looked like a dead body on a bench.

- Melanie recommended the pi.org site, where members can customize approved posters; she mentioned the “Free from Origami” poster as one that passed. She stressed that areas can choose which materials to use. She also mentioned a controversial “druggy bag” sticker from South Africa. She had gone to the mic at conference to say her fellowship found it triggering and unclear and could not recall whether it ultimately passed. Gina reiterated that PI materials are optional. Melanie said some items were voted down as offensive while others passed because opinions varied by fellowship.

IT COMMITTEE:

- Gina reported that the IT/Technology committee maintains the meeting app and produced an AI educational document. Melanie noted they had reviewed the draft locally and that their tech contact Kyle said it would date quickly. Gina said the main message was “AI can’t be a sponsor.” Many delegates agreed, citing the need for human connection, the fact that AI has never been an addict, and lacks compassion and a higher power; a few delegates disagreed.
- Melanie said the AI document is available for anyone with questions about using AI in recovery.

UNITY COMMITTEE:

- Gina said the Unity Committee tried to pass a new logo. Melanie reminded everyone of the logo she had shown earlier. Betsy said she loved it, but Melanie reported that conference delegates criticized it as looking like clip art; using Canva, she quickly found nearly identical graphics online. It was also considered too busy. The logo did not pass, although Unity can still use it for its own purposes.

STRUCTURES & BYLAWS (S&B) COMMITTEE:

- Gina said all committee reports were cut short because of a later trustee crisis. S&B’s main project is drafting a new version of the 12 Concepts, because CA had been told it did not have AA’s approval to reprint the long form.
- Melanie explained that last year they were told to stop using the long form after an alleged cease-and-desist. LCF, working on a Concepts book, contacted AA and was told CA did not have rights to the long form. Trustees and S&B then began rewriting it “in their own words.” LCF thought the draft was poor. Later they learned there was no actual cease-and-desist and that the long form might be public domain. S&B pulled its motion and agreed to work with LCF.
- Frank added that AA has never formally given CA permission to use the long-form Concepts, though other texts do have written permission. He used this to illustrate a pattern of poor leadership and miscommunication.
- Melanie then clarified that LCF produces CA literature, chip designs, meeting formats, and pamphlets (not PI flyers) and that even details like tri-fold vs bi-fold pamphlets

receive debate. Gina remarked that every motion triggers debate; Chris agreed there is “always debate.”

H&I COMMITTEE:

- Gina said H&I (Hospitals and Institutions) had very little to report because of time limits. Melanie noted that World H&I is limited because H&I work is mostly local. Gina said they had updated labels for cans and books.

PETITIONS AND ONLINE AREAS:

- Melanie then reported on New Regions and Areas. A new “New England” region was created, bringing together Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and other parts previously under the Massachusetts area. Nick and Frank confirmed those meetings had been under Massachusetts’ structure; the New England regional petition passed.
- Melanie described another petition to form a new region including Australia, South Africa, and parts of Southeast Asia, which had all been reporting to the European region. Because a region gets its own trustee, this was a major structural change. The new region—a large geographic circle covering the tip of South Africa, parts of Southeast Asia, and Australia—was approved. She related this to their own structure: Orange County is an area in the Pacific South region (with Dan as trustee), while Northern California is in the Pacific North.
- Gina then discussed the Online Service Area (OSA), which has represented online meetings for over 20 years. Great Britain, with about 180 online meetings, petitioned to create its own online region, arguing OSA was not meeting their needs. Melanie said she was disappointed the petition failed. She saw it as a self-determination issue: Great Britain felt lost among all global online meetings and wanted more local control. Opposition focused on one issue: their proposal included a single AI chatbot meeting, which many delegates found unacceptable. Melanie felt the region should have been approved with the condition that the chatbot meeting be removed.

CONCEPT FIVE APPEALS AND TRUSTEE CONTROVERSY:

- Gina emphasized Concept Five’s “traditional right of appeal” and said there were two Concept Five appeals at the very start of conference, making the opening dramatic.
- The first appeal came from a young woman. Melanie clarified that she alleged sexual harassment or misconduct involving Gary P., chair of the Board of Trustees, reportedly involving confidential Fifth Step information being inappropriately shared and read publicly at an area meeting. Melanie and Gina believed Gary bore responsibility and that he should have stepped aside for an independent investigation. Instead, most trustees became defensive, although a few (Dan and Richard) tried to do the right thing.
- A motion was made to remove Gary as chair, requiring a two-thirds majority, and it failed narrowly in a secret ballot (~180 delegates). Frank noted Gary had only two days left in his term, which many delegates considered, and he tied the episode to Concepts Eight, Nine, and Ten about electing competent leaders who lead by example.

- Melanie said her main concern was the lack of procedures for handling such allegations. She found no whistleblower policy or protocol for sexual harassment complaints and described the relationship between the Office Board and Trustees as poor. Frank, drawing on his time on the WSO Board “between the two boards,” said that tension has existed for years and that trustees had become a kind of “secret society,” recalling a past incident where he and another member resigned over what they believed was a removal driven by personal agenda.
- Gina described the second Concept Five appeal from a removed trustee accused of making a “reverse racist” remark. They later learned she had been board secretary, had secretly recorded an executive session, and then kept that recording and the material needed for minutes when she was removed, leaving the board without documentation and prompting an uproar when minutes were not released.
- Melanie stressed that, even though the trustee behaved improperly, this still happened “on their watch.” The trustee later released the recording widely, fueling controversy. Melanie went to the mic asking the trustees to acknowledge responsibility for mishandled documentation; after pressure from several delegates, the trustees eventually said they had “screwed up.”
- Chris added that at one point a motion was made to vacate the entire Board of Trustees; the room went silent, and the motion failed. A later motion to remove three trustees (including Gary) was withdrawn for lack of support, so no trustees were removed, though they faced heavy criticism. Sessions ran late into the night, and Melanie said it was unlike any conference she had attended.
- Gina noted that a renewed motion to remove Gary later in the week also failed, but she took hope from how many delegates clearly cared and scrutinized trustee actions. Chris said the European region had even discussed withholding Seventh Tradition contributions over financial and transparency concerns. Melanie and Gina left conference far from satisfied; Chris remarked this level of chaos is almost never seen.
- There is concern that Gary later appeared confidently as the proposed chair for the South Talk at convention, showing no visible humility. Melanie questioned how he had been selected in the first place, given the rigorous vetting process. Frank replied that, despite everything, CA survives “no matter how much hits the fan,” and called the situation a massive waste of time that could have been avoided had trustees acted earlier, noting that in his tenure WSO finances had once been strong enough that convention revenue was not needed.

BUSINESS

⇒ **Old Business**

- Open Positions:
Unity chair

⇒ **New Business:**

- None
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⇒ **Chairperson** entertained a motion to Adjourn.

› **Frank P. made a motion to adjourn. Kyle W. seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

- Meeting ended at 11:39.