

**DISTRICT 12 GENERAL SERVICE MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, July 2, 2020**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

- Call to order by Romy at 7:30
- Serenity prayer
- GSR Preamble read by Tommy D.
  
- **New GSR Introductions** (with service sponsors)
  - Jess (Lauren)
  - Julie (Lacy)
  - Lori (Melanie)
  - John (Mario)
  - Kaeri (Jenny)
  
- **Tradition 7 Workshop Recap: Lauren O.**
  - Short form: “Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”
  - Long form: “The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other 2 outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.”
  
- **Concept 7 Workshop Recap: Chris L.**
  - Concept 7: “The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness.”
  - Synopsis: “This Concept attempts to clarify the relationship and ‘balance of powers’ between the Conference and the General Service Board. ‘This . . . may look like the collision of an irresistible force with an immovable object.’ On the one hand, ‘the board is invested with complete legal power over A.A.’s funds and services; on the other hand the Conference is clothed with such great influence and financial power it could overcome the legal rights of the board.’ Thus, the practical power of the Conference is, in the final analysis, superior to the legal power of the board. This superior power derives from the traditional influence of the Conference Charter itself; from the fact that the delegates chosen by the groups always constitute more than two-thirds of the Conference members’; and finally from the ability of the delegates to

cut off financial support by the groups. 'Theoretically, the Conference is an advisory body only; but practically speaking, it has all the ultimate power it may ever need.' The Conference 'recommends' — though its recommendations have the force of directives to the board. The board executes these recommendations. The board does have the legal authority to veto a Conference recommendation — but in actual practice, it never has done so. As Bill tactfully puts it, the trustees 'simply refrain from using their legal right to say 'no' when it would be much wiser, all things considered, to say 'yes.'" If the Conference will always bear in mind actual rights, duties, responsibilities and legal status of the General Service Board, and if the trustees will constantly realize that the Conference is the real seat of ultimate service authority, neither will be seriously tempted to make a 'rubber stamp' out of the other. In this way, grave issues will always be resolved and harmonious cooperation will be the general rule."

- **Panel Reports:**

- DCMC – Romy
  - Upon motion duly made, and seconded, June 2020 minutes approved
  - Email Romy with any questions or feedback -- [DCMC.District12@gmail.com](mailto:DCMC.District12@gmail.com)
  - Attended Area 09 meeting in June. Virtual meetings have made it easier to attend since they are typically held in various cities, near and far, across the area. All A.A. members are encouraged to attend Area 09 meetings
  - Attended the Love & Service Seminar
- Alternate DCMC – David
  - Absent
- Treasurer – Bob
  - Deferred to old business report discussion on budget
- Secretary – Lynne
  - Please email Lynne if you are not receiving District 12 emails, such as meeting minutes -- [mscadistrict12@gmail.com](mailto:mscadistrict12@gmail.com)
- Registrar – Alex
  - Absent

- **Old business**

- Due to events being cancelled, we have a surplus in our budget. Is this an opportunity to be of service to GSO and/or other AA service entities with contributions?
  - Current balance of \$18,408
  - \$6,300 budget surplus due to cancellation of various 2020 events
  - Nearly \$12,000 surplus plus future incoming contributions
    - Estimated \$5,000 in future contributions is less than usual due to suspended meetings
  - Contributions to GSO are down and they are dipping into prudent reserves to continue operations
    - Should we consider contributions to GSO?
    - Contribution of \$4,000 is a comfortable amount for District 12 without compromising our 2020 expenses

- Consider contributing \$2,000 to South Orange County Hospitals & Institutions (SOCHIC) to carry the message through literature
- Motions:
  1. Motion made by Dominick to contribute \$2,000 to SOCHIC – PASSED
  2. Request made by David B. to contribute \$1,000 to Southern California H&I Intergroup (Socalhandi) Intergroup specifically for Grapevine and La Viña subscriptions
    - Danny moved to table – TABLED
  3. Motion made by Ryan S. to contribute \$4,300 to GSO
    - Danny moved to reconsider given the fact that the \$1,000 request for SOCHIC Grapevine/La Viña subscriptions has been tabled
    - Motion made by Dominick to contribute \$3,300 to GSO – PASSED
- **New business**
  - Consider reinstating district meeting time of 90 minutes – 7:30pm to 9:00pm
    - Chris L. moved to extend meeting time to 90 minutes – PASSED
  - Re-opening meetings: How can we help our groups with questions on this?
    - A.A. GSO, area, district, etc does not render decisions for individual meetings reopening or how to handle reopening.
    - Each meeting is autonomous in deciding if/when/how to reopen
    - A.A.'s role is to share information so individual meetings can make their own informed decisions.
    - We must follow local laws and respect rules of our meeting landlords/hosts
    - Examples of how some meetings are handling:
      - Hybrid in person/virtual
      - In person with mandatory social distancing
      - Park/outdoor location
      - Phone outreach to regulars that have started dropping off from virtual meetings
      - Many meetings are subject to the rules/criteria of their host location (church, club, hall, etc)
  - GSC: Do you want a physical copy of the General Service Conference final report?
    - 13 copies requested
- **Birthdays for June**
  - Chris – 5 years
  - Casey – 6 years
  - Joshua – 3 years
- **Close with Responsibility Pledge:**
  - I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that, I am responsible.

*\*\*\* For corrections or changes to the minutes, please email [mscadistrict12@gmail.com](mailto:mscadistrict12@gmail.com) \*\*\**