

## **Minutes for GSR Committee Meeting (Approved)**

**October 25, 2020, 1:30 – 3:00 pm ET, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm PT**

**The dial-in information is: 605-313-4400 / Access code 645104#**

This meeting was recorded to aid in the preparation of accurate Minutes.

Chair, Arden V; Interim Co-Chair, Debora G; Vice-Chair, Quin B

Spiritual Timekeeper, Libby

The meeting started on time with the 'We' version of the Serenity Prayer.

**Reading of UA 12 Traditions: Seth**

### **I. Roll Call**

#### **GSRs Present - 27**

1. Arden V. (CA), Beyond 6 Figures (Phone), Wednesday, 8 pm ET, GSRC Chair
2. Andy (Australia), Southern Hemisphere Daily (Phone), 5 am ET
3. Chuck M. (CA), 1st Presbyterian, (F2F) Santa Monica, Fri 6 pm & Sat 9 am PT
4. David O. (VA), Sunday Night Video Community Meeting (Zoom), 6:30 pm ET
5. Debora G. (CA), Evening Step & Speaker (Phone), Tu & F 8:30 pm; Wed 9:30 pm ET, GSRC Interim Co-Chair
6. Denise (PA), Thriving Therapists (Phone), Thursday 8:30 am. ET
7. Denyse (CA), Selling with Serenity (Phone), M-F, 11 am ET
8. Greta (Louisiana), UA Artists Meeting (Phone); Sat and Sun 5:00 pm ET
9. Janine (CA), 9:45 am ET Step and Tools Meeting, Daily (Phone)
10. Jeff N (NY), NYC UA (F2F), Sun, 11 am ET, GSRC Treasurer
11. Jennifer (MA), Amherst Steps to Prosperity (F2F), Mon, 5:30 pm ET
12. John N (AZ), Basic Recovery (Phone), Sunday, 9:45 AM ET
13. Jessica (NY), BUA Visions in Action (Phone), Fri, 12:15 pm ET, WSC PC Chair
14. Leanne (CO), Step and Tools Meeting, Daily, (Phone) 8:30 am
15. Libby (CA), Sherman Oaks Prosperity Meeting (F2F/Zoom), Wed, 7 pm PT
16. Lydia (CT), Selling with Serenity (Phone), Daily, M-F, 6 am
17. Michele (MI), Last Gaspers (Phone), Mon – Fri, 7:15 AM ET
18. Michelle (OR), Artists in Prosperity meeting (F2F), Los Angeles, Tues., 6:30 pm PT
19. Moira (VA), Beyond 6 Figures (Phone) Mon and Fri, 7 AM ET
20. Quin (CA), Fresno Friday Freedom/Prosperity (F2F), Fri, 7 pm PT; GSRC Chair
21. Rebecca (CO), Heartfelt Prosperity Step and Tools (Phone), Daily, 8:30 am ET
22. Rich F (UK), Alternate GSR for the UK Intergroup
23. Robin R (NY), Healing the Inner Child (Phone), Wed, 7:15 pm ET
24. Rita (CA), Early Bird Turning Point, Silverlake (F2F/Zoom), Sunday, 4:30 pm PT
25. Seth (NY), New York Intergroup; WSC PC Vice-Chair
26. Teresa (GA), (Alternate GSR), Southern Hemisphere Daily (Phone), 5 am ET
27. Zeus W. (NY), I Can See Clearly Now Visions Meeting (Phone) Mon., 7:00 am ET, GSRC Co-Webmaster

## **Non-GSRs Present**

Toni - Board Trustee

Clara - Board Trustee

## **II. Reading and Approval of October 14, 2020 Meeting Minutes.**

**Motion to accept the October 14, 2020 Minutes as emailed to the GSRC, read, and corrected.**

Proposed by Lydia; Seconded by Denyse (San Francisco)

**Passed by Vote of Acclamation**

## **III. Reading and Approval of October 17, 2020 WSC Committee Work Session Minutes.**

**Motion to accept the October 17, 2020 Minutes as emailed to the GSRC, read, and corrected.**

Proposed by Lydia; Seconded by Seth

**Passed by vote of acclamation.**

## **IV. Announcement regarding GSB Meetings.**

The General Service Board has invited us all to attend their meetings and listen. Note that only GSB members may participate in the meetings.

Per Toni T, GSB Treasurer, if the GSB doesn't have a quorum, they won't have a meeting. They are waiting for a 4<sup>th</sup> person to join the Board in order to have a quorum. When confirmed, the next GSB meeting will be announced on the UA Calendar.

The GSRs are the communication link between the Groups they represent and the GSB. In order to receive the GSB Meeting Agendas and Minutes, please email the GSB Chair, Clara T, at:

[clarat@uagsb.org](mailto:clarat@uagsb.org).

## **V. Welcoming Notes**

### **A. Welcoming Notes by Arden, GSR Committee Chair**

Welcome to our first GSRC meeting following the World Service Conference, 2020. This is a highlight of important events that took place. It went well for a first-time Zoom conference.

The GSRC focused as a team during our 3.25 hours of work sessions, on Friday and Saturday. The GSRC prepared three main motions, dating back to WSC 2018, with amendments. Most happily, the Convocation unanimously passed the "Motion to Amend the Motion to Establish the Role and Guidelines of the GSR Committee," with updates in language to allow our Committee to elect its Chair at any time. This is a big win.

Today, we will hold nominations and elections for the Chair, Co-Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. The Secretary position is a valuable contribution to offer in service. Debora will continue to be the Temporary Secretary for today's meeting, and she will prepare the Minutes from today for the Agenda of the November 22 meeting.

We have another important win. The GSB Literature Committee, under the leadership of Interim Chair, Joshua, proposed a Motion on the Sponsorship Pamphlet; it was passed.

On an important note: the Traditions Committee presented only one Motion. It stated with amendments, "These special focus groups - Men's, Women's, BIPOC [Black, Indigeneous, People of Color], God-Free and LGBTQ groups - grounded in the UA Steps, Traditions, Symptoms and Tools can choose to close their meeting per Tradition 4, if that is the group conscience." It passed by an exact 2/3rds vote, therefore the Fellowship has granted this new Group Registration guideline.

It was a major change to the WSC 2018 motion that mandated that special focus groups (aka specialty groups) "are open to all who have the desire to stop underearning." It can be amended at another World Service Conference if the "closed meetings" formula has negative effects on recovery. As Tradition One reflects Fellowship Unity, Tradition Four reflects each Group's autonomy, so there is room for both.

Since safety is the main concern on the personal and Group levels, and world peace is important to our safety, may the Fellowship find peace and safety together.

Debora and I have created a new document for the Committee to use for our GSRs and their Groups. It is called the "UA GSR Committee Guidelines Handbook, October 24, 2020 Edition." It contains many of the primary motions that have been passed by this Committee and at the World Service Level that give structure and foundation for this Committee and its work.

We sent out a voting ballot on the amendments to the "Motion on the Suggested Duties and Qualifications of the GSR." It was not ready for a final WSC Convocation 2020 vote. There were amendments proposed from the floor that need further discussion among the UA Groups. The voting ballot that was sent out earlier this morning is to initiate discussion and gather information among the Groups about these amendments. Please fill out the ballots and send them back in. Thank you.

I have 'healthy pride' about gathering up so many motions and documents generated since 2016 into one location in the new Handbook. It can be printed out, shared and eventually, it will be posted on the GSRC website. You, GSRs and the GSRs before you, have created it out of your work by discussing and voting on the Motions. You and Higher Power are the authors! I truly congratulate you, and all of us, for making this Committee a solid contribution to the happiness of UA.

I once again feel blessed with gratitude and joy that I have had this volunteer work experience as your Chair since May, 2019, and on this GSR Committee since March, 2017. The Committee has grown strong and the future looks bright! Thank you!

As always, please be well, stay well, prosper with abundance, and lots of blessings,

Arden

## **B. Welcoming Notes by Debora, GSR Committee Interim Co-Chair**

It's been a pleasure to be of service in a leadership role as the Interim Co-Chair for the GSR Committee. It's been a lot of hard work, and I have learned a vast amount from assisting Arden and

from all of you GSRs in how to effectively grow and manifest a large democratic committee in a fellowship that is based on the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. Thank you so very much for all of your contributions to our Committee.

A question came up about the Minority Opinion at our September GSR Committee meeting. Arden and I checked with our parliamentarian, Jackie, and the Minority Opinion is part of Robert's Rules, but the procedure is very different than in the Voting and Procedural Guidelines of our WSC Convocation. We have updated our Robert's Rules Summary to include the Robert's Rules version of the Minority Opinion, which will be the operating procedure for our Committee, unless the GSR Committee decides to adopt a different procedure. The Robert's Rules Summary is in the GSRC Handbook that we sent to you.

Another question came up regarding whether a GSR may be a GSB Committee Chair. The answer is yes, but a GSR cannot be a GSB Trustee. Also, the GSRs who fulfill leadership service positions of the GSRC (including the Chair, Co-Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Webmaster) cannot serve in leadership positions of a GSB Committee or the WSC Planning Committee. A motion regarding leadership autonomy will be presented at an upcoming meeting.

The GSRC needs to maintain its autonomy from the GSB and the WSC Planning Committee per the "Motion to Establish the Role and Guidelines of the GSR Committee," that was unanimously passed at the WSC 2018 and amended at the WSC 2020.

I'd like to share with you one of my favorite quotes from the AA literature. It's from the AA 12 & 12, page 93 on Step 10: "Courtesy, kindness, justice and love are the keynotes by which we may come into harmony with practically anybody. When in doubt we can always pause, saying, 'Not my will, but Thine, be done.' And we can often ask ourselves, 'Am I doing to others as I would have them do to me--today?'"

As one of our GSRs, Seth, has said, "UA is a 'be kind' program," as well as a time program. I'm wishing you all a year filled with good money and time management, financial success, as well as kindness toward yourself and others--all practiced one day at a time.

### **C. Welcoming Notes by Quin, Vice-Chair**

I want to say thank you to this committee for allowing me the opportunity to be of service. I apologize to the committee for being silent for so long. I have been focusing on recovering from a concussion while still working with the Chair and Co-Chair to the best of my ability. I just want to say that I want to give the voices back to the GSRs that are in this meeting. This is a space where we serve our meetings; not ourselves; not existing agendas. I've been kind of silenced because I have spoken out against that. I thank you for the work that you are doing.

My big message for the newcomers, for the new GSRs: I thought I had to push everything down the line to fit in, but learning that this is a spiritual program, I do need to connect in with my Higher Power and that I represent my meeting - that I speak from a place of authenticity. I have been really saddened by the things that I saw presented at the World Service Conference. I was deeply shocked about the misrepresentation around the funding for the Parliamentarian. I was really upset that we were not going to be able to ask where the funds were going to go, so I'd like to ask that our

Treasurer present that information. With that I will pause and say thank you for giving me the opportunity to be of service, and I will be more outspoken in the future. Thanks.

## **VI. Reports/Presentations**

Due to time constraints, we ask each report presenter to include their email address in their report, so GSRs may send follow-up questions.

### **Webmasters Report from John N and Zeus W**

Report from John N: I have not done anything regarding the GSRC website since our last meeting except looking at other 12 Step Fellowship Websites that we may want to emulate, especially the Debtors Anonymous Telephone Intergroup and the AA Area 31 Intergroup websites. They have done an excellent job on their websites, and I think we can do the same.

Report from Zeus W: I'm gratefully recovering and prospering in this program. My only concern for the website is that we have the utmost security for the members of this community.

Email questions to: [phonemeetings@gmail.com](mailto:phonemeetings@gmail.com). and [zeusstyle8@gmail.com](mailto:zeusstyle8@gmail.com)

### **Treasurer Report from Jeff N**

Email questions to: [uagsrctreasury@gmail.com](mailto:uagsrctreasury@gmail.com)

Our opening balance was \$37.22. In October we received \$33.97 in donations, including a \$10.00 donation specifically earmarked for the GSRC website. There is a total of: \$71.19 in the GSRC Treasury.

There was a question about how the Treasury handles the parliamentarian. I am not the one that authorizes the expenditures. That is up to the GSR Committee. Nothing is spent without authorization.

Also, from what I understood there were some donors that were going to make in kind donations to pay for a parliamentarian separately from the Treasury. So none of this came through me. I just heard about it at the World Service Conference.

From Arden, Chair: The money for the Parliamentarian for the WSC 2020 Convocation was paid for from the UA General Fund by the GSB.

The Parliamentarian did not attend the GSRC work sessions at the World Service Conference, and no money was paid to her from our GSRC Treasury funds.

There was a Group that voted to donate the money for the Parliamentarian's attendance at the GSR Committee work sessions at the WSC. The funds were never transferred from the UA Group's treasury to the Parliamentarian.

### **WSC Planning Committee (WSCPC) Report from Jessica, Chair**

We had the World Service Conference last week. It was a success!

The WSC Planning Committee has not yet met. We will be meeting on the first Sunday of the month. We will be putting together a lot of information and all of the data. A few weeks thereafter we will be posting the Minutes from the Conference pursuant to the motion that was passed at the WSC regarding how the WSC Minutes will be handled for approval moving forward.

Thank you all for your participation. It was a really great experience, and it was really great to do service for the Conference. I have so much gratitude for this Fellowship and for all of you for showing up and being present through the whole process and being present at the committee sessions and making the whole thing work both in the committee and business sessions and in the Fellowship activities.

Email questions to: [uawscservice@gmail.com](mailto:uawscservice@gmail.com).

## **VII. Open Shares: postponed until the November GSRC meeting.**

## **VIII. Unfinished Business**

### **Elections**

Election Procedure:

1. Nominations, with stated one year term, beginning on 10/25/20.
2. Candidates' statements. Members may then ask candidates questions.
3. Election - Candidates will be put on music hold, so they cannot hear the voting. There will be no discussion about the candidates during the voting.
4. 30 days transition support from Arden V, Chair, and Debora G, Interim Co-Chair and Temporary Secretary.

### **Election for Chair Position for One Year Term, beginning on 10/25/20**

Jessica nominated Quin; seconded by Jeff  
There were no other nominations for Chair.

Duties and Qualifications were read by Debora

The Vote:

Abstentions on the vote: 3; Opposed: 0

**Quin elected as Chair by vote of acclamation**

### **Candidate's Statement by Quin:**

"I want to say thank you for the nomination. I wish to bring the spirit of recovery to this committee. It's been hard. I joined UA in 2013. I have since worked the Steps a total of 7 times in this program and 5 in others. I am an active sponsor and have a total of 6 sponsors in my recovery life. I have 4 action partners, a life coach, a therapist, and a judgmental cat. The other one doesn't care!

What I'm saying is that I am serious about my recovery work and am qualified to do the job. I would like to empower others to speak their truth. I'm no longer interested in going with the status quo. I will



disrupt dysfunction, and I invite you all to do the same. As I stated earlier, I was saddened during our Committee sessions at the World Service Conference. And I just have to say that if manipulation and coercion are kindness, I'll choose to be honest and direct, even if it makes some people uncomfortable. I will invite you to get uncomfortable.

I believe that our service here is to support our meetings; not to exercise our symptoms in opposition to serenity. If I am elected, I will encourage this Committee to be one that supports our recovery, and holds space to hear grievances and to foster fellowship.

I'll implement structures to allow members to see what motions are in the pipeline and to help us to see what the timeline is that we are working on. I will eliminate extending time in our meetings. What we get done in the moment is spiritually what is needed to get done, and I can accept that.

If you like vagueness, manipulation, control or rolling in dysfunction, I'm not the candidate for you. That's OK. I'm not for everybody. A capable black woman is often seen as a threat by those who are insecure.

If you will have me as a Chair, you will have me as my authentic self, an underlearner who prioritizes and values her recovery over prestige. I will make mistakes, and I will swear a lot. I swear like a sailor. You guys know that, but I will make amends, and I will sing Karaoke.

I'm not ashamed to let you see me like this, because it gives you permission to make mistakes, to grow and to forgive yourselves. In this way we can "serve from our saucers and not from our cups." This is how I honor the spirit of the program."

### **Election for Secretary Position**

Robin (New York) was nominated by Quin; Seconded by Zeus. Robin said she will think about it. Jeff nominated Chuck. Chuck declined.

Motions regarding qualifications and duties of the Secretary were not read at this meeting; to be read at our next GSRC election meeting.

### **IX. Motion to Adjourn Meeting and Close with the 'We' Version of the Serenity Prayer.**

#### **Motion to adjourn the meeting.**

Proposed by Jeff; Seconded by Debora

#### **Passed by vote of acclamation.**

Closed with the "We" version of the Serenity Prayer at 3:00 pm ET / 12:00 pm PT.

### **Greeting of new GSRs / Q & A.**

Hosted by Quin and Debora

Minutes were prepared by Debora G, Interim Co-Chair, and Temporary Secretary, and reviewed by Arden V, Chair