

Minutes for GSR Committee Meeting (Approved)

March 22, 2020, 1:30 – 3:00 pm ET, 10:30 am – Noon 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 H

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

Reading of UA 12 Traditions - Seth

Spiritual Timekeeper - Gina

Roll Call

GSRS Present: 28

Amin (Iran), Iran Intergroup.

Andy (Australia), Southern Hemisphere Daily (Phone), 5 am ET

Arden V. (CA), Beyond 6 Figures Meeting (Phone), Wednesday, 8 pm ET

Anita (NJ), Out of the Cave, Jersey City, NJ (F2F) Tuesday, 6:30 pm ET

Celia (MA), Being in Somerville (F2F), Wed, 9 am.

Chuck M. (CA), First Presbyterian Church, (F2F) Santa Monica, Fri 6 pm PT & Sat 9 am PT

Debora G. (CA), Evening Step & Speaker (Phone), Tu & F 8:30 pm ET; Wed 9:30 pm ET

Gina (Vancouver, CAN), Spiritual Marketing for Coaches and Consultants, Tuesday, 10 am ET

George (IL), From Hiding & Biting to Shining & Receiving (Phone) M–F, 1:30 pm ET

Graciela S. (CA), Selling with Serenity (Phone) 6 am ET.

Janine (CA), 9:45 am ET Step and Tools Meeting, Daily (Phone)

Jeff (NY), NYC UA (F2F), Sun, 11 am ET

Jennifer (MA), Amherst Steps to Prosperity (F2F), Mon, 5:30 pm ET

Jessica (NY), Business UA Visions in Action (Phone), Fri, 12:15 pm ET

John (AZ), Basic Recovery (Phone), Sunday, 9:45 AM ET

Leanne (CO), Step and Tools Meeting, Daily, 8:30 am

Leila (KY), Underearning & Solvency Meeting (Phone) Daily, 7:15 AM ET

Quin (CA), Fresno Friday Freedom and Prosperity (F2F), Fri, 7 pm PT

Rebecca (CO), Heartfelt Prosperity Step and Tools (Phone), Daily, 8:30 am ET

Rich S (CA), Artists in Prosperity meeting (F2F), Los Angeles, Tues., 6:15-7:15 pm

Rita (CA), Early Bird Turning Point, Silverlake (F2F/Zoom), Sunday, 4:30 pm PT

Robin (NY), Healing the Inner Child (Phone), Wed, 7:15 pm ET

Seth (NY), New York Intergroup

Shari Lynn (CT), Prosperous Possession Consciousness (Phone), Sat 1:30 pm/Sun 2 pm ET

Stuart (CA), Actioning Recovery Group (F2F), San Diego, Sat 10:30 am PT.

Toni T. (CA), Daily Prosperity & Vitality (Phone), 12:15 am ET

Wendy (OR), From Hiding & Biting to Shining & Receiving (Phone), 11 pm ET

Zeus W. (NY), Time for Prosperity Friday evening meeting (F2F), Brooklyn, 6:30 pm ET

GSB Committee Officers

Heidi (CA), Vice-Chair, GSB Phone & Tech Committee

I. Reading and Approval of February 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

Motion to accept the February 23, 2020 Minutes as emailed to the GSRC and read, with no corrections.

Proposed by Anita; Seconded by Gina

Motion passed by vote of acclamation.

II. Welcoming Notes by Arden/ GSR Committee Chair.

Thank you very much for being here today to participate in the evolution of UA, and in our individual and collective recovery. In these global and difficult times, underearning and underbeing, along with fear and discouragement, can grab onto us, clinging like a heavy, wet cloak, hard to shake off, as though held hostage by a negative force greater than love, healing and peace.

Because we are in a spiritual 12-Step program to become our best selves, we support each other to grow, become stronger, and shine our light into the world where needed. We do not do this alone, but always in community, together, and guided by the Higher Power of our understanding, for which I have deep gratitude.

I want to clarify a comment I made at our last meeting. I spoke of the GSR Committee as the only World Service Level Committee. Actually, it is not; there are GSB Committees at the World Service level. The correct language is that the GSRC is the only World Service Conference-Approved Committee.

Here are some follow-through actions since our last GSRC meeting:

Regarding the UA and GSRC websites: the GSB Vice-Chair said at the February GSB public meeting that the GSRC will have its own page (or tab) on the UA website, and that we can put on it what we want.

There will not be a direct link from the UA Website going out to our upcoming GSRC website, but we can state on our UA page the URL for the GSRC website and direct the Fellowship to our site to find more detailed information. Our site will be managed by our elected Co-Webmasters. The UA site will be managed in-house.

The GSB Treasurer and I spoke as a follow-up regarding the delayed literature order made by a GSR who reported it last month. Due to a change in the administrative staff in the main General Service Office, there was a delay in billing. It was handled; everything was shipped.

One GSR via email expressed an interest in reviving the literature that was developed before 2016 by a committee sometimes referred to as the UA Legacy Literature Committee. The GSB Traditions Committee Chair said it will reach out to the former Legacy Literature Committee members as to the origin of the materials regarding copyright laws. If you want to participate in this process, contact the Traditions Committee at Traditionscommittee@uagsb.org.

In response to the request for help from one of our Iranian GSRs, one of our UA Sponsors who is also a GSR, arranged to give a 2-hour workshop for 270 UA Iranian Fellowship members. The workshop was a huge success and another one is planned.

We have six months in which to prepare for our next World Service Conference in October. The WSC PC and GSB will inform us as needed on whether it will be held in the New York City area, or whether it will be held by phone or video conferencing.

Be well, stay well and thank you again for being here today. You are important.

III. Announcement regarding GSB Meetings. (Read by Arden)

The General Service Board has invited us all to attend their meetings and listen. Note that only GSB members may participate in the meetings. The GSB public meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month, at 8:30 pm ET. The dial-in information is on the UA Website Events Calendar. At times there has been a need to shift to another number, unpublished, due to disturbance on the line.

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 Vice-Chair, Clara T, at: clarat@uagsb.org.

IV. Reports given by the FISC, Co-Webmasters, and WSC PC.

See Addenda for the Reports.

V. Old Business

Chair's Statement: The main purpose of the GSRC Treasury is to collect funds to pay for our Committee's operating expenses, including website costs and printing/copy charges. If we collect more money than we need for our expenses, we can distribute funds as we deem appropriate. For example, we can contribute to the UA WSC Scholarship Fund, or support GSR members of the GSRC whose Groups do not have adequate funds to send their GSRs to the WSC.

1. Election of Treasurer

No one expressed interest in the position. We will address this at our next meeting.

VI. New Business

1. Motion that the GSRC Standing Rule Regarding Recording Be Amended as follows:

M. GSRC Committee recordings are solely for Committee members' use. The GSR Committee official recording playback telephone number and access code will be emailed to GSRs and not posted on the internet. ~~printed on the GSR Committee agendas.~~ Unauthorized and unofficial recordings of GSR Committee meetings will not be accepted by the GSR Committee.

Rationale: This is based on concerns for anonymity on the internet and privacy in our discussions.
Proposed by Debora; Not presented yet.

Motion tabled per decision of Chair.

2. Motion to Approve the FISC GSR Fundraising Strategies Packet (Version 7).

Proposed and presented by Debora; Seconded by Chuck

Discussion began, but needed to end due to lack of time.

Motion tabled per decision of Chair.

VII. Motion to Adjourn Meeting and Close with the 'We' Version of the Serenity Prayer.

Proposed by Leila (KY); Seconded by Graciela

Motion passed by Vote of Acclamation.

Closed at 3 pm ET with the 'We' version of the Serenity Prayer.

Greeting of new GSRs / Q & A / Phone Number Exchange.

Hosted by Arden and Debora.

ADDENDA

I. Reports/Presentations

GSR WSC Fundraising Information Subcommittee (FISC). Report from Debora

Changes were made by the subcommittee to the Fundraising Strategies Packet. We added two more suggested fundraising ideas to the Packet. Also added in creating a checking account as a possibility for the Group's Treasurer, and suggested qualifications for the Group's Treasurer.

(See the FISC GSR Fundraising Strategies Packet, v7, attached as a document to the email sent with the Agenda, Standing Rules, etc.)

One GSR asked the question of how to create a checking account under nonprofit status. She said that her Group's Treasurer was concerned that they collected so much money under her name that the Treasurer might need to pay taxes.

Response from GSR from Vancouver: In Canada, can just list it with your bank as a 12 Step Group.

Response from two GSRs from the U.S: Need an EIN to be listed as a non-profit in the US. Stuart is available to answer questions regarding this topic.

Co-Webmasters Report from John N and Zeus W

Since the report from last month, these are the changes made to the mock-up Website:

- Put link to international numbers on Home Page
- Removed unapproved minutes
- Changed "Reports" to "Reports to GSB."
- Added About Us, Contact Us, Announcements, GSRC Positions, Summary of Actions and Motions that have been passed.
- Put a large version of UA logo at bottom of website page and also put on bottom of the page that this website is for the GSR Committee and not UA's Official Website. Also included a link to UA's website.

They are only sending screenshots to the GSR Committee members and not sending the link to the GSRC website, since the GSRC needs to first approve the design and costs.

Zeus: Her request is that both she and John be included on any communications regarding the website.

Quin: Before the website can get approved, they need to provide the GSRC members with the costs for the website, because we may have to change the design depending on who hosts the site.

Response from John: He sent the costs several weeks prior to the GSRC email.

Janine – Suggests that on top menu there should be a tab that has subcommittees.

Response from John: We do have that. You'll see it when you click on "More."

Arden asked about the GSRs impressions of the different visual designs of the Home Pages:

Response from Shari Lynn: Likes the second one, which had clouds with sun shining through and white font.

Response from Gina: prefers dark font, rather than white font since it's easier to read.

(See the sample possible Home Pages of the draft Website that are attached to the email sent with the Agenda, Minutes, etc.)

GSB Phone/Tech Committee (PTC) Report from Heidi, Vice-Chair

Our purpose is to serve the fellowship as a whole within the Traditions, including meetings, dashboard board trusted servants and the members. One of our missions is to consider the use of the dashboard within our Traditions.

First mini-tutorial ,which addresses a vulnerability with the Free Conference Call meeting settings, will be uploaded to the UA website.

Website is being modified for each committee to have its own page. There will be an option to select dashboard, so anyone can submit a request or concern about the dashboard to the PTC. We would like to be available to serve face-to-face meetings and help them transition to virtual during this environment.

Invite people to join the PTC. It's been a fantastic experience for her.

Creating a primer for more effective use of the more details section of the website for each meeting.

Leanne: When is the tutorial to be uploaded?

Response from Heidi: It's being uploaded currently.

Shari Lynn: Will the transition of face-to-face Groups to virtual be used to only help the Group's members, or will international members also be included?

Response from Heidi: Yes. The transition will help all UA members. We do need more members on our committee to serve.

Zeus: Can you provide PTC meeting information?

Response from Heidi: PTC meets the first Sunday of the month at 3:30 pm ET.

WSC Planning Committee (WSCPC) – Report from Jessica, Chair

Jessica here reporting on what has been a most unusual month. We had our last committee meeting on the first of March and very shortly after that date much in the world changed. At our last meeting we created and populated a Hospitality Subcommittee, whose responsibility is to provide facility and location related support to GSRs and those attending the WSC 2020. We also passed a motion to create a FAQ sheet to be posted on the UA website. We quickly reviewed the rough timeline leading towards the event. Lastly, we discussed and voted digitally on the top three conference theme

suggestions. Since most of the world has been put on hold since then and there is not yet clarity on how things will unfold, much of what we discussed at that meeting is stuck in the holding pattern of the entire world.

Since we are still in the early stages of the unfolding of this situation, Seth and I have discussed the importance of taking things one step at a time, acknowledging what we are powerless over and what actions we can take to move forward with the uncertainty that is the reality of our world at this moment. We are also in dialog with the GSB and will be discussing next right actions at our next committee meeting. As with any critical life change, whether it be the death of a loved one, stopping the use of a substance, diagnosis of a major illness, etcetera, the general advice is to not make major decisions when in the initial stages. This is where we are at now. This is an opportunity for us to strengthen our recovery, to not let fear be our master and to shine one step at a time.

Jeff asked about cancellation policy in the contract with the conference center.

Response from Jessica: Whether refunds apply will depend on the situation as we move forward. This will be a topic for discussion with the GSB later in the week.

Chuck asked about proximity to airports and cost of ground transportation.

Response from Jessica: Nearest airport – Westchester; next is Newark or Stuart, next is JFK or LaGuardia

Makes sense to rent a car with other GSRs so ground transportation is not costly.

Quin. Any discussion about virtual conference instead of face-to-face?

Jessica: Yes. We will be planning for virtual as well as face-to-face.

II. Open Shares about GSR Concerns and Special Event Announcements.

GSR 1– GSRC is the only WSC Approved-Committee. Not GSB?

Response from Arden - Correct. The GSB is not a WSC Approved Committee. Also, the GSB Committees were created by the GSB, and were not approved by the World Service Conference.

GSR 2– Issue that is urgent that applies to UA as a whole. Calendar keeper – problem is that Face-to-Face meetings are not connected to Google Calendar. Needs to be manually updated by Clara – takes 4 to 6 weeks to two months. Her face-to-face meeting has changed to video. There is no way for that to be changed on the website in any reasonable timeframe.

Heidi's Response – PTC working on streamlining the process. Would like to connect with Anita and others interested.

GSR 3– has not been able to update their Group's format for a full year. They don't know what to do.

Heidi's Response – Proper channel is to update the meeting registration on the contact section of the website. Goes to contact person. Then goes to the Calendar Keeper. There was a back-log for a while due to not having Calendar Keeper. Hopefully, backlog is beginning to change.

GSR 3— The Group has filled out the form twice – one year ago and 6 months ago. Heidi suggests doing it again.

GSR 2: Once they receive the form, they change it within the day. The backlog is 4 to 6 weeks, because of being held up by the Board. Our primary purpose is to help the underlearner who suffers.

Heidi's Response: You have been heard.

GSR 4: Believes that the Traditions Committee Chair is actually responsible for the website. It seems like this person may be trying to do too much.

GSR 2: All the forms could be directed to calendar keeper page

GSR 5: It's very important that this problem gets handled. Can Arden ask at the GSB meeting if the GSB needs help from GSRC members?

Arden: She will bring this message to the GSB.

GSR 2: She has a suggested simple solution: All the forms go to the General Service Office. All of those forms could be directed to Calendar Keepers and not put through a committee, with the exception of the face-to-face meetings that need to be done by Clara.

Heidi: She said that the current situation is not acceptable. Will work with Randy to find out where the back-log is.

GSR concerns about phone issues that our Committee has received since our last meeting:

1. First, there has been an increase over the past month in vulgar disrupter activity on phone meetings.

Debora's response: This situation is being addressed well by groups that have trained dashboard monitors.

2. Second, we received an email from one of our GSRs that a threatening disrupter may have taken his phone number from the UA Website Meetings Calendar.

Debora's response: Members may want to update their Group's registration to remove their phone numbers from the website.

3. Third, some members are experiencing disruptions on our carrier's lines.

Debora's response: We spoke to a representative of FreeConferenceCall.com who advised that this is due to the high capacity of calls that are coming into FreeConferenceCall as a result of social distancing to protect against the Corona Virus. It is also caused by some of the large phone carriers not having enough capacity to handle the surge of calls.

If you cannot connect to our meeting's phone line, your group's phone line, or experience trouble with the quality of your connection, please **dial this back-up number: (425) 535-9125**. Then follow the prompts and enter our meeting's dial-in information and access code.

Alternatively, we were encouraged to use the FreeConferenceCall.com App to handle this problem. However, when this App is used by any attendees, your dashboard monitor needs to do a one-time change of the settings so only the dashboard monitor, not all the attendees, can see the attendees' phone numbers. This is important to do, because it protects the anonymity of your members and protects your meeting from disrupters getting phone numbers of the meeting attendees.

We sent out an email to the GSRs today with a screenshot you can email to your dashboard monitor to show which two settings need to be changed.

If people have any questions or feedback, I will be available to speak about it after the close of our meeting.