

10am - Meeting Opened with the Serenity Prayer by Erica G.

Translation by Nicholas. Thank you for your service!

48 DCMs, GSRs and visitors attended. Erica G. facilitated.

Welcome to three newcomers. Our meeting is open to everyone to learn and get ideas on the topic

Presentation – Why the AA Service Manual is Important – Reynaldo, District 18

- The manual is our introduction to AA General Service. I am a member of AA and have my home group and then I give myself as a volunteer. My sponsor helps me to motivate myself through my service commitment
- The manual exists to give the groups and the GSR a voice. That voice comes to the group, then the district and then to AA World Service
- The manual gives us a picture of the circle of service and how it's structured
- In order to stay in the circle of General Service, the GSR is the conduct and needs to be informed to carry the communication from the World Service Conference, which we see in the final report from the General Service conference
- His service sponsor told him that in order for him to understand this service structure, "you have to put this inside your head." The Service Manual is a guide to follow, an instruction book about AA as a whole
- The service manual teaches us about the right of participation and all of the concepts help support our sobriety and our service
- The fourth concept gives us the right of participation and it tells us not take anything personally.
- This leads into second concept and the second tradition where we are trusted servants and it's the same with the Grapevine and La Vina in the general service structure.
- A service sponsor tries to guide us and motivate us to service and become responsible but ultimately we have to be willing to be of service and to be responsible
- Everything is here in our manual – our guidelines – you just have to read the book
- He still has his first Service Manual – it means a lot to him
- All of "us" is made up of groups
- If anything in our Concepts and Traditions need to be changed, it will take a three-quarters vote to change
- Regarding decision-making in AA: It's not me who is deciding. Everyone has to be in agreement. Although we have trustees and a General Service board, we each have to contribute.
- The most important part is that you have a service sponsor to help you find what you are looking for

Members Share

Round the table, sharing session-style

The chair reminded members that everyone has something valuable to share. If you have a question, it may be answered in the room or you could talk to someone after the meeting to help you find what you need

- What caught him, was that the presenter said his sponsor helped motivate him to do service. Having a service sponsor to motivate and encourage him when he doesn't want to participate is very important. He needs other people motivate him because he can find any excuse in the world to NOT participate
- He was grateful that a Spanish-speaking member presented. It motivated him to attend today
- He likes that the service manual is that it is a guideline. It helped him with each service job that he did and to understand what the next level of service is. The chapter about the GSR helped him get a good understanding of the tasks

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- Thanks for talking about service sponsors. When he tried to read the service manual, it was uplifting and also difficult to understand. Without the guidance of another person, he doesn't think he could have understood it. This is a "shout out" to service sponsors
- His book was under the covers for a long time, so the presentation motivated him to get it out from the under the covers to study it and find the message that he can pass on
- The more he comes to Area General Service, the more passion he has
- Service sponsorship has meant a lot to him and helps him understand what service is all about. He's often lost but without the manual, he would be more lost
- The more she sees in General Service, the more she gets interested. When she started working the steps, she just read them but could not understand. Now she tries to live the concepts and is becoming even more engaged. That has motivated her to find a service sponsor and, with his help, she's motivated to keep coming back to the ACM. When she sees people who are doing service, it motivates her.
- Her experience is that ACM is a long day, with lots of talk and information to take back to the meeting. AA saved her life, so she continues to learn to be a trusted servant at her meeting and her group
- The presentation reminds us all that we have this great guidebook that can always help us snap back when we go off track. It keeps us all in the same place at the same time. His sub-district holds a sharing session about the service manual, chapter by chapter. This sharing session is an eye-opener for him.
- When she started, she didn't read the book for the first year, she had no service sponsor and she did not like General Service. Then she started going to the service manual study. She knew she loved AA but she didn't know how much General Service continues the journey of AA. That got her into General Service and it's year four. She is re-upping as a GSR and can't say enough good about General Service. It has done for her what she could not do for herself
- She just completed her first year as a GSR and the presentation is very much the tip of the iceberg for her
- She started reading the concepts with her regular sponsor who had not read them either. This is an eye-opening process. A lightbulb went off. Neither one of them knew the depth of the service manual and they're both learning.
- He remembers when the service manual was revised to make it easier to understand. We should be grateful. He looks at it as a guide and practical application of the second and ninth Traditions on how we arrive at decisions. We have a benign anarchy that emphasizes autonomy and we have lots of ways to arrive at decisions. Our structure requires time and effort to understand. We might want to explore other media, such as animation to augment concepts and to make it easier to understand our structure and how it works.
- He carries a copy of the service manual to every meeting he goes to and his knowledge is increasing
- If the manual has been made simpler, what was it like before? As a new GSR, reading the service manual was like taking a tooth out. Today, the more he reads, the more he understands.
- He meets monthly with his GSRs and they work out of the service manual. Thanks to the DCM Sharing Session chair for presenting the duties of Area Assembly Coordinator
- He started carrying his service manual to imitate others he admired and he's glad he did. The manual allows us to discuss our differences and autonomy. The manual doesn't take that away, it adds to it. The service manual is our protective umbrella.
- He is very glad we have our structure documented in the service manual. He has a feeling if it were left up to us without instruction, what we have right now would be a lot different. We like to make s**t up as we go, and he imagines it may have been a lot different than what Bill W. had in mind
- She applauds when we talk about the service manual. We need it
- Something she picked up sitting here today is that some districts actually study the service manual and they go through the concepts. She's motivated to bring it up to her district. She thinks a service manual

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study would help GSRs. She went through the steps, traditions, concepts and that was it. When I heard about the AA warranties, she had to tell on herself that she didn't know them. So, she volunteered to give a presentation at our DCM sharing session.

- The presentation had so many good points. Her service sponsor says that until she raises her hand she can't participate or be of service. It's easy to sit back and not get involved but General Service is what keeps giving me a new life
- She's read the manual once through with her service sponsee. She had found that she can't read it on her own and that the meaning really comes through when she works with someone else. She finds there's a back and forth between them as they read and dig into the meaning. Her district has been talking about creating a study at the district. Thanks for your visuals!
- He tried to read the Big Book and work the steps without a sponsor. That didn't work. He also tried reading the service manual with a sponsor. It's the most meaningful working with a service sponsor
- He really appreciates the amount of time and energy the presenter took for the presentation. He had technical difficulties and wants to be more prepared for next month's presentation. He is grateful for the communication at ACM. It makes him feel that we can be more unified.
- He hasn't been to ACM and he feels great about it. He's happy to be here. He loves General Service and the service manual. Just as others have said, just as we take people through the Big Book, a service sponsor takes us through the service manual. He had a cool experience and got a lot out of it and gives it back to service sponsees.
- Reading the service manual with her service sponsor puts her in touch with the spiritual principles that created and hold our organization together and guide our lives. Her attitude on life is changing, so working with a service sponsor seems to be life changing. It is very moving for her to witness the spiritual principles of love, tolerance, understanding and service brought to life in General Service through studying the service manual
- She really wanted to be "Vanna White" on Wheel of Fortune and display the presenter's visual aids. They spelled out service. The difference is at the DCM Sharing Session, we all get to be winners - thank you!
- The service manual to him is like the Big Book - he can't hear too much of it or discuss it too much. He got his GSR packet with the service manual, set it aside and picked it up again. One day he picked it up and it was all in there. He now carries it all the time. It answers a lot of questions for him
- His district holds a service manual study in before the district meeting. He recommends this practice. He thanked the presenter for a fantastic presentation
- She appreciated the presenter's enthusiasm. The service manual can be daunting. The presentation reminded her that the service manual is her friend. She misses being her district's registrar and being with us at the sharing session

Next Month's Topic - Jacqueline - How to maximize the delegate's report and motivate GSRs to share information

- ALL - Please bring radios. We need everyone to have an opportunity to share.
- Thank you, Nicholas, for translating.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM with the Responsibility Statement

Respectfully submitted,
Jacqueline P., Recording Secretary