

DCM Sharing Session Minutes – CNCA 06 Area Meeting July 22, 2017

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

Translation by Nicholas. Thank you for your service!

A few radios were lent for translation

46 DCMs, GSRs and visitors attended. Erica S. facilitated.

Presentation – How to Be an Effective DCM, Erika Ruiz, Dist. 08, DCM SD 09, Pittsburg, CA

Main Points

- The reason she is presenting this month is because she was moved by her Higher Power to offer her experience, strength and hope. She was sitting in back at our June meeting. “It’s easy to sit in back, now it’s time to show up.”
- Showing up is “her thing” and she doesn’t say ‘no’ to AA
- She reported that she doesn’t think highly of herself, but two trusted servants asked her to step forward as a DCM.
- She trusts if her fellows see something in her. She got sober at age 24 in the SF Mission district and has “grown up in AA.” At age 30 she was asked to do service and she did; service deepens her experience as a sober woman
- She is surrounded by sober women who care about and love her so she remains sober and keeps learning. They let her know it’s time to step up her involvement and to have a voice
- Her sponsor invited her into her home, to her kitchen table, with shared meals. To her, it is important to feel connected to GSRs and she makes herself available to them. Whether they seek her out is a whole other question
- She reports her experience is that many GSRs want someone to come and introduce them and to hold their hand. She is willing.
- She is grateful to be a DCM. A lot of life as happened and a service position like DCM keeps her sober. Her GSRs support her through the tough times.
- AA is the primary purpose in her life; it’s a soul-fulfilling purpose. She is grateful to be of service to GSRs.

Members Share

- As a DCM, this member wants to be inviting, warm and welcoming. When she visits groups, she tries to show her passion for General Service. She reminds groups and members that their voices are only heard through the GSR, through the District and Area and to World Service
- Page S31 in the AA Service Manual has a general outline of the levels of service
- Most districts have job descriptions for the various service positions. If your District doesn’t have job descriptions, ask someone from Dist. 12 for theirs. This member spent years visiting other Sub Districts and observing many levels of organization or non-organization
- Some GSRs said they want to get together quarterly, so their upcoming meeting is based on a fall theme of district and area inventories. This DCM has visited all his groups and they now know about General Service but whether they want to participate is the question.
- In San Francisco, there are 40 meetings a week and just 20 GSRs. More emphasis can be put on Tradition One, and on GSRs participation. This member suggests that one’s sponsees can ask dark meetings about a GSR and announce the GSR need at the Sub District meetings.

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- District 10 DCM has a contagious passion for General Service. When she came in she had no idea about Sub Districts; now she is slowly learning. Being of service shows rather than says that General Service is important
- What this member wanted when she became a GSR was someone to take her to the District and Area meetings to explain what was going on. She visited other meetings where there was a GSR who knew how to run a business meetings. She was invited to participate at Assemblies and PRAASA.
- This DCM lives in a rural area with small meetings and there is DCM for Sub Districts. She has visited every meeting, and talked up service before or after the meeting to one or two folks who seemed to have a spark. She interests members to serve as GSRs at most meeting. She attended their sharing session, volunteered to run it and thus the GSRs learned. At Sub District meetings, GSRs study the service manual. She brings GSRs to assemblies, where they each attend different break-outs and share what they learned. Connecting individually with each GSR was important and uniting the group to work together was also important. Meeting with a GSR on a one-on-one basis was very important
- This DCM in District 40 held Sub District meetings in his home, which seemed to be a good idea.
- This DCM from District 09, Benecia/Vallejo, likes to meet with his GSRs to help them understand that through General Service, the individual member is represented. His message is “If you want to express some opinion about AA, that information goes to the GSR. If you are interested in having your voice heard, then get a GSR.” He meets with as many GSRs as possible to inform them about preconference assembly and group consciences on agenda items.
- This DCM from District 4 notices that many times members prefer to hold a large sponsee load rather than participate in General Service.
- This DCM has 35 meetings and has attended 24. Of those, four meetings have GSRs. Each meeting deserves a GSR. He is establishing a bulletin board at his district’s Alano Club to illustrate the importance of the GSR and General Service.
- A DCM from Pacifica notes that the travel time to come “over the hill” often prohibits members to step up to general Service She likes to share a controversial or mind-opening topic when visiting her Sub District meetings. She has two GSRs over 30 meetings.
- This DCM suggests to be of service and be persistent. They got their first GSR in 20 years and no one else stepped forward. Even if meeting does not have a GSR, talk about General Service during announcements.
- This member classified herself as a “bad DCM” but then she made a list of things done well and things to improve on. Attendance is one of her strengths. Enrolling others to “want” to attend is something she can improve upon. She talks about her service at a meeting, which can either inflame or inspire others. She is mindful about how she presents herself. Her job is to teach her sponsees to be participant in AA. How my life cannot be all about me. Shows up when she doesn’t want to and came when she hated it.
- Former DCM from Dist. 10 noted Delegate Joanne’s report in the June 2017 *CNCA Comments*, which listed the responsibilities the GSR performs for the home group. As a DCM, she has gone to groups with no GSRs to encourage the meeting. These are the kinds of things that one can say that are not offensive: “General Service is the conduit between the group and GSO. In General Service, we can do things for the groups that they can’t do for themselves.” These things do not offend the old-timers who often say, “We get along perfectly well without you, good-bye.” She keeps track of inspiring messages. **Here are highlights from Joanne’s June report:**

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- ⇒ General Service came into being to help do those things that a home group could not do by itself.
 - ⇒ See page S18 of our service manual, which summarizes these services, including:
 - publication of uniform literature
 - public information resources
 - helping new groups get started
 - publishing an international magazine
 - and carrying the message in other languages into other countries.
 - ⇒ Can you imagine trying to carry our message if there were not a Big Book or literature to refer back to?
 - ⇒ How would anyone find us if there were not a public relations format on our website (or a phone number to call and people who would answer) that told professionals who we were, what we did and did not do, and how to get ahold of us?
 - ⇒ Our message reaches those in prisons and institutions by means of the *Grapevine* and our volunteer work.
 - ⇒ But most of all, our message has been translated into 69 languages with 15 pending, and it is spread world-wide. It works in other languages.
 - ⇒ All of this is how we carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the still suffering alcoholic. But by doing what we do in General Service, we ourselves get to stay sober another day and grow in this spiritual awakening.
- A GSR from Santa Cruz notes that he always tries to bring something back to his meeting from the Assemblies. To newcomers, General Service may seem like another language. He says simply, “If you’re curious, please ask me about it.”
 - A DCM from Contra Costa county reminds members who don’t do General Service, that General Service was designed for them. She tries to speak to members who are not part of her circle. She has a group who don’t do General Service, or never thought it was “their cup of tea.” She reminds them that their opinion has the potential to affect AA, as a whole. There are 80% of AAs who forget that if they don’t participate in General Service, then it will be the 20% of AA’s who will bring their opinions.
 - A District 12 DCM attending a “dark” meeting asked to make a General Service announcement and was told by the secretary to “Make it quick.” Since she began regularly attending that meeting, the secretary now makes announcements for General Service. “Whatever works!”

Next Month’s Topic – Helping GSRs with Controversial Topics (Barbara)

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

Respectfully submitted,
Recording Secretary Jacqueline Perlmutter
DCM, District 10, Sub-District 03