

**10am - Sharing Session Opened with the Serenity Prayer by Coree H. Chair.** DCMs, visitors, and GSRs attended. Our meeting is open to everyone to learn and participation on the topics. **Please bring radios.** Translation by Juan. Thank you for your service!

**Announcements.** Marianne announced availability of radios, please return them at the end. Recording secretary announced signing in and checking accuracy of email on sign-in sheet.

**Presentation - Dispelling the Myth that General Service is political by Barbara from District 04 →** Political is a multifaceted word with multiple meanings that run the *connotative* gamut from good to bad. Connotations produce and support myths hence we ought to question and clarify how we use each word in our communication. Rejection of General Service is often due to lack of knowledge. The traditions guide the principals through which we operate. *Our Great Responsibility* is a valuable resource. We are not born leaders, we become leaders through continuous learning and sharing. Our leaders are fallible, not superior and practice communication of the heart. Certain qualities and experiences make us more useful, not more important. Principles that fortify us: 1) petition: an ancient device to protect minorities; 2) appeal: protection against the tyranny of the majority; 3) participation: delegates, trustees, directors are voting equals at the conference level; at the headquarter level members' authority is commensurate with their actual duties and responsibilities; and 4) the definite power of decision. Since we live in a society, our decision-making is democratic in its structure. Our uncompromising honesty may clean up politics. The usual election troubles were often caused by personal nominations, whether from the floor or from some committee in the back room. Another cause of trouble was in close elections. These always left a large and discontented minority. A.A. is a counterpoint to the current politics.

**Members Share.** Chair asked volunteers to share, each person had 90 seconds to share on the topic. **Highlights:** Many people shared that they perceived General Service as political until they got involved and participated in General Service; local business meetings are often much more political than meetings in General Service.// Politics are about biases, power, and trying to get others to see our way. Understanding our history, listening to new people, and trying to respect one another helps protect A.A. from negative effects of politics.// The difference between politics and democracy is in the outcome or goal; ours is love and service.// The importance that everyone votes to ensure the democratic nature of A.A.// People have different perceptions of what "political" means, which influences their perceptions of the extent that General Service is political.// Practicing the principals (Traditions and Concepts) protects us from getting involved in politics and protects us from ourselves; especially keeping my mouth shut and keeping it simple.// Hearing the A.A. Preamble helped her stay in A.A. and stay sober.// We have a responsibility to help others understand what General Service is to dispel the negative connotations.// Understands politics as advocating for causes; A.A. can advocate for causes but has to be careful about that.// If something is done out of ego, it's politics; if it's done out of love, it's service.// It would be helpful for meeting/group secretaries to understand the role and importance of GSRs.// Humbling of our ego allows us to live together in A.A.// We have a structure that resembles a government, but we don't do a lot of governing.// The weight of the minority opinion sets apart General Service.

**Discussion of possible topics for next month.** Chair suggested the Sharing Session conduct a group inventory in August.// A member suggested discussion of groups changing aspects of their meetings under **Tradition 4.**// A member suggested how we implement better communication (**best practices for communication and service**).// The group voted. **Next Month's Topic → Tradition 4 by Gabrielle J. from District 10 Marin.**

**What's on Your Mind.** Unity and Service conference July 19-21.// Mental health workshop July 20<sup>th</sup> in Santa Rosa @ Community of Christ Church// Purpose of politics is to enable the members of society to collectively

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achieve important human goals they cannot otherwise achieve individually (i.e., politics is not a bad thing).//  
AA function in Crescent City July 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM with the Responsibility Statement**

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah B., DCM Sharing Session Recording Secretary