

**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 participate on the topics. **Please bring radios. Announcements.** Recording secretary announced providing your email to be included on the email list.

**Presentation - Generous Orthodoxy and the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous by Jackie B. from District 06** → Jackie shared her experience with resistance to the word “God” and the use of “he” in A.A. during early recovery and how she came to be more comfortable with these terms with time. Upon participating in a back to basics group, she became passionate about carrying the Big Book message and studying A.A. history. She believed that the message of A.A. was diluted by “pop psychology.” She shared about the different “styles” of A.A. “Orthodox” is committed to one’s tradition and “generous” means openness to change; generous orthodoxy is incorporation of both principles. She shared the history and evolution of various individuals and groups in and out of A.A. demonstrating either principle, and cited sources she used to gather this history (see bibliography and presentation outline). She encouraged the group to reflect on what it takes for members who value tradition to be open to change and what it takes for those open to change to also value tradition? She also encouraged the group to reflect on whether recovery was more successful in the past where some groups embraced a “back to basics” approach to recovery, suggesting that perhaps these practices encourage the idea of a plain language Big Book.

**Members shared.** Summary/take home points:

- Members shared experience on how these ideas/approaches manifest themselves in groups and in recovery (including working the steps themselves and working with newcomers)
- Suggestion that orthodox points of view in carrying the message may be fear based
- How each member’s right to speak (especially in group business meetings) allows us to open our minds and better form a group conscious
- It takes a balance, which we can seek through our high power, to be open to the spectrum of protecting tradition and openness to new ideas
- The value of asking questions to better understand the messages we are receiving regarding recovery
- How our tendency toward black and white thinking can manifest in the adoption of an orthodox versus generous points of view
- Members shared their experience of how they became more open-minded as they progressed in recovery
- Importance of the singleness of purpose and protecting the warranties in guiding our actions
- Experience of business meetings not being representative of the diversity of groups and the tendency of those that attend to be members that are more “rigid”
- The dangers of rigid thinking with respect to how it can make newcomers feel unwelcome, leave A.A., and die

Discussion of topics for next month: 1) Reaching out to the African American alcoholic, 2) Homeless newcomers and 3) Treatment centers saying “relapse can be part of recovery” **February’s Topic** → **Homeless newcomers by Meg B.**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM with the Responsibility Statement**

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah B., DCM Sharing Session Recording Secretary