

MINUTES OF THE SERVICE MEETING
GA BOARD OF TRUSTEES, FRESNO, CALIFORNIA
May 14, 1961

Jim W., Chairman, called meeting to order at 10:00a.m.

Those present were Herb P., Al J., Jim S., Elliott F., Jim F., Steve P., Frank G., Vern W., Box W., Don B., Jim W., Larry R., Bill T., Ray M., Jack B., and Ed E.

Cities represented were Los Angeles, San Jose, San Francisco, Downey, Santa Barbara, Culver City, Las Vegas, Nevada, Fresno, Oakland, Gardena, Sacramento and San Mateo.

Jim W. related brief history of GA Conference, its origin, growth and success to date.

First order of Business: To select next year's Conference Chairman (who will assume total responsibility for planning and administration); and to select a location.

Larry R. suggested we have a centrally located Conference next year in Chicago.

Elliot F. suggested we continue our Fresno Conference on a regional basis, with delegates appointed to go to Chicago for a National Conference (based on their ability to afford this trip out of their own pockets).

Al J. suggested that we consider holding two Regional Conferences (one on the West Coast and one on the East Coast) – prior to the National Conference meeting in Chicago.

Jim W. pointed out since vast majority of members cannot afford a trip to Chicago, cancelling the Fresno Conference in favor of a Chicago meeting would eliminate too many people who would otherwise want to attend a Conference.

Ray M. suggested to hold a Conference in Chicago would only destroy what we have built up to date. He maintained the Chicago meeting would be more successful and better attended, if out-of-state (out of California i.e.) members attended our Regional Conference in Fresno first.

Jack B. emphasized the need for Regional Conferences, and suggested we hold a national Conference every three years.

Jim W. agreed, and added this National Conference could be rotated from city to city.

Jim W. summarized the above discussion:

1. All agree that we need and should have annual Regional Conferences.
2. Suggested we appoint a Chairman to investigate the feasibility of a National Conference (by contacting groups in New York, Virginia, Washington, etc.) to see how many would attend a meeting in Chicago in 1962.
3. Larry R. was appointed Chairman of this Committee.
4. Don B., relative to a National Conference, suggested all groups could appoint a delegate to represent their group. For example, his city, Gardena, would send one member to such a meeting as a Gardena delegate (provided ample funds could be raised). If Gardena could not afford such a delegate, they would agree to pool their funds with the cities nearest their group, to send one delegate from all their groups, to represent them in Chicago. Perhaps this would even be limited to one delegate to be sent from each State (to be paid for by all groups within the State represented). Don B. suggested we call such a meeting in Chicago a Board of Trustees meeting. It was decided to call it a General Service Conference.

Jim W. then directed the discussion back to next year's Fresno Conference, and opened nominations for Chairman for 1962.

Jim W. was elected by secret ballot, and appointed Elliott F. assistant Chairman.

On the basis of the excellent job they had done this year, Al J. (San Jose- Northern California) and Herb P. (Los Angeles – Southern California) were appointed as sub-committee chairmen for the 1962 Regional Conference.

Discussion of a national General Service conference was resumed:

Jim F. suggested that during the next 6 months, we set a pattern and cement unity on a National basis. To begin, he suggested we appoint a committee Chairman to correspond with other groups outside of California, to find out how many would send delegates to a National Conference.

Motion made by Elliott F. and seconded by Ray M. that Larry R. be appointed as Representative of Western Region to explore and make preliminary plans to establish a National General Service Conference. It was voted and carried.

Bob W. stated it should be up to the Chairman Larry R. to establish the pros and cons regarding the feasibility of a meeting in Chicago, after contacting other groups outside of California, and reporting back to the Board of Trustees. He said we are otherwise discussing this thing in the dark, without being fully informed.

Vern W. brought out we are helping ourselves more than anyone else, if we can successfully plan and hold a meeting where all groups from all over the nation can participate. When each group becomes strong enough, he said, and is built up enough, the meeting we are discussing will inevitably occur...not because of us, perhaps, but in spite of us. In other words, the first National Conference will take care of itself.

We don't get it until we are ready for it – but then it will surely happen.

Ray M. stressed the main thing is to really have the largest Fresno Conference we have ever had, in 1962, and make every effort to get members from New York and other states to Fresno. He said this would assure the best success of the Chicago meeting when it finally becomes an eventuality.

Discussion of the Chicago meeting was closed. Larry R. agreed to correspond with out-of-state groups and report back to the Board of Trustees.

Jim W. opened the next order of business:

Jim W. stated we are at a vital turning point in GA. We can proceed in the “horse and buggy” fashion we have so far used – or attempt to streamline our operation, in order to make it more efficient and successful. He briefly outlined last year's decisions (by the Board at Fresno Conference) to set up a General Service Office.

The purpose of the GSO is to carry the message of hope to the compulsive gambler who still suffers, on a national and international level.

This is primarily a task of correspondence. Another important purpose it can serve is as an unifying force to bring all GA groups together, wherever they may be. But this and other purposes are secondary to the main aims of the GSO – to carry the message.

It has not been possible for the GSO to do this efficiently during the past 12 months. Since May, 1960 – to May 1961 – Jim W. has been attempting to do the best job possible. He had \$67.00 when he started, and an avalanche of mail has come in. 1,500 letters (mostly in response to national publicity) have come in. There is now a steady flow of these letters, coming in every week, whether we get additional publicity or not.

The GA Publishing Company also was formed last year (1960) in Fresno. Our GA Pamphlet and our 20 questions pamphlet was needed and supplied.

A monthly General Service Bulletin was planned. But this effort suffered from a lack of sufficient time and money.

Jim W. further has carried the responsibilities of bookkeeping and accounting over the past 12 months.

Jim W. stated he is not satisfied with the job he has been able to do during the past year, and that he and the GSO of GA simply has to do a far better job. He has, however, done the best he could do with limited finances and a lack of help.

The General Service Office ought to have:

1. A paid Staff worker, with the ability and training to do clerical work, correspondence, etc. (Jim W. pointed out he has discussed this privately with some Board Members, and most agreed to the necessity of a paid Staff Worker).

Jim W. gave a Treasury Report of the GSO and the GA Publishing Company, (as detailed to all groups in the last General Service Bulletin).

He explained he has separated these two services into two entities. He stated he feels, for the time being at least, that the GA Publishing Company is sufficiently organized and staffed to continue to supply the two pamphlets we have been supplying. But he pointed out we should attempt to broaden our horizons, to print more pamphlets and our own book as soon as possible. In the meantime, he urged the Board to carefully consider the need for a paid staff worker for the GSO.

Discussion followed:

The Board generally agreed that a staff worker would accomplish:

1. Every letter of request for help would receive a warm personal reply, dictated by Jim W. and typed and mailed by the staff worker.
2. The General Service Bulletin could be published on a regular, monthly basis, to insure better unity and communication between all groups on a national basis.
3. Bookkeeping could be made more accurate.
4. With these problems solved, more attention could be given the GA Publishing Company. More and better pamphlets could be turned out. Our Big Book might get underway much sooner.
5. GA would no longer be a "horse and buggy" operation, and the vital need to carry the message to compulsive gamblers who still suffer would be better served.

Bill T. pointed out our primary problem at this meeting is not "how" a paid staff worker will work... but that we are making a policy decision... whether we should have such a staff worker. The Board agreed that it should be up to Jim W. and the staff worker to worry about the mechanics of operation.

Jim W. pointed out, before we can agree to have a staff worker, we must figure out how to pay for it.

The Board counted up how many cities now have groups formally organized, in California alone. It was decided there are 16 such cities, with more starting groups every month. At least 12 of these groups have 5 or more members attending on a steady basis. We, therefore, have a minimum of 60 members, attending meetings in California, on a weekly basis. The Board agreed that the number of regular attending members is probably closer to 100 or 150, in California, with about that many members also participating regularly in other states.

Jim W. then explained the cost of operating the GSO (without a staff worker) is approximately \$50.00 a month. Together with the suggested cost of \$50.00 a month for the staff worker, the total expenses will be \$100.00 a month, or \$1200.00 a year. At present, there is no income to support the GSO, other than small contributions by groups on a sporadic basis, from the small cans where coins are deposited each week. This plan, put in force last year, has been insufficient to supply the need for \$1200.00 a year.

The Board agreed that each group will certainly respond, as soon as they realize their moral obligation to carry the message on a national basis. It was estimated, based upon the number of members we have at present, that 10% of the contributions received each week, by all groups, would be expected to defray the \$1200.00 expense necessary.

Bill T. moved that "We, as the Board of Trustees empower the GSO Secretary to employ a secretary (not named) at a cost of \$50.00 per month, (to cover expenses incurred); and that this secretary be employed as soon as possible."

Seconded by Don B.

Carried.

Discussion again turned to the best method of financing \$1200.00 a year. The Board agreed that we should make every effort to assure all groups and every individual member that this financial burden shall be distributed on as fair, equal and just a basis as possible. The Board further agreed that no assessment, dues or fees can be established, and that they should not be, in accordance with our unity program. It was agreed that this financial support of \$1200.00 a year must be on a purely voluntary basis by each group.

Ray M. moved that "Every member in GA be made aware of this need. GSO and the Board of Trustees suggests that every GA group in all states, set aside 10% of its collections, on a weekly basis, for voluntary contributions to the GSO. This seems to be the best way of automatically assuring a fair, just, and equal contribution by every GA member to support our most vital need.

Larry R. seconded.

Carried.

The Board agreed it shall be the responsibility of the Secretary and/or the Treasury of each group to:

1. Present this motion to his group for approval or disapproval.
2. If approved, arrange for 10% of each week's contributions to be set aside for the GSO, and mailed to the GSO on the last meeting date of each month.

Jim W. suggested we compile a list of names of members (as underwriters) who can be contacted privately, on a personal basis, and asked to give money as needed, not to exceed \$100.00 per month collectively. This would be a form of insurance, in the event groups are unable to raise or contribute \$100.00 per month. Each secretary present agreed to send as many names as possible of members who are willing to underwrite this plan at \$1.00 to \$5.00 per month, out-of-pocket, as necessary, total contributions not to exceed \$100.00 per month.

Ray M. suggested the GSO correspond with out-of-state groups to notify them of the decisions reached by the Trustees at this meeting.

In order to start a treasury for the GSO, to meet the first month's expenses of \$100.00 (effective June 1st, 1961), the following groups contributed out of their present treasury:

1.	San Francisco contributed	\$45.00
2.	Oakland contributed	16.00
3.	San Mateo contributed	5.00
4.	Sacramento pledged	<u>20.00</u>
		86.00

(Note: Later in the day, at adjournment, a hat was passed, and members of the Conference donated

	<u>82.15</u>
Totals	\$168.15

Jim W. accepted \$168.15 on behalf of the GSO, and promised a financial report would be published each month in the General Service Bulletin. This report will contain the contributions received from each group (by cities), on a monthly basis, and will detail where those contributions are expended. He stated he feels certain such a report will instill confidence that has been lacking up to now, by groups in the GSO.

Discussion was opened regarding the GA Publishing Company.

Steve P., Secretary of the GA Publishing Company, gave a financial report:

Cash on hand	\$24.20	
Inventory (pamphlets)	30.00	
Accounts Receivable:		
From GSO		\$24.00
From Groups owing GA Pub.Co.	<u>21.80</u>	
	\$54.20	\$45.80

Bill T. moved “That present GA Publishing Company budget be balanced, by GSO paying \$45.80 into GA Publishing Co. Treasury. In the meantime, it was urged that any groups still owing for pamphlets pay GA Publishing Company as soon as possible”.

Seconded by Steve P.

Carried.

It was further suggested that the GSO supply 8 to 10 pamphlets to new groups requesting literature, at no charge, and that thereafter, it is suggested groups shall buy these pamphlets from the GA Publishing Company on a cash in advance basis.

The price for GA Pamphlets is 10 cents.

The price for 20 Questions Pamphlets is 5 cents.

Ray M. moved that “We instruct the secretary of GSO to take steps to make GA a recognized Non-Profit organization, by filing form #1023 of the United States Treasury Department of Internal Revenue”.

Seconded by Elliott F.

Carried.

Meeting adjourned, 12:30 p.m. with the reciting of our Serenity Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry R.
Recording Secretary