

SETA 67 Grapevine Committee

Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2014

The meeting opened by Barbara G. at the Sheraton North Houston (15700 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Houston 77032) with Serenity Prayer at 5:00 p.m. Introductions were made and a sign in sheet was passed around the room. Grapevine Reps present were Barbara G., Cassandra D., Lisa V., Rodney G., David C., Joe S., Sarah H., and Kristina F. Visitors were Sean W., Kelly M., and Ruth E., from District 70. Carol M. was there from District 90. Welcome all.

- Minutes were available for April and May meetings. Minutes for May 2014 Meeting were given in a brief synopsis as well, but due to a low attendance (and therefore a lack of general business decisions made), minutes for both meetings were accepted at July meeting. We didn't have a meeting in June. Gratitude was expressed for large attendance at July Meeting. Motion made to accept previous meeting minutes by Cassandra, the motion was seconded by Sarah H., and was accepted unanimously.
- Barbara asked for someone to stand for the Alternate Grapevine chair, in the hopes that that representative would stand for the Grapevine Chair in October. Committee members requested information in terms of what that position entailed- the position description can be found online at <http://aa-seta.org>. No one at this time was able to stand for this position, and this matter was tabled until the next meeting, so that representatives could have additional time to gather information.
- Barbara asked someone to stand for Grapevine secretary- Kristina F stood for the position until the end of the year. Discussion was had in terms of any possible requirements and Kristina qualified her service history. An opportunity was given for additional members to step forward for the position and it went unchallenged. When voted upon, it was approved unanimously.

Old Business

Review GvR Handbook (16 page booklet will be available at meeting)

-Barbara postponed this until next month's meeting.

Wrap up of District 20 Spring Fling Workshop with Area Grapevine Committee. Any suggestions, questions, comments on ways to improve or keep things that worked.

-Overall, a huge success. Two people who attended the workshop had never heard of the Grapevine. With over 20 people present, we received 16 written articles, uploaded three photos for "If These Walls Could Talk", and sold one Grapevine subscription. In addition, the information given was priceless, including a brief history of the Grapevine given by Barbara, the Guidelines for Writing presented by Lisa V., and an Audio Recording discussion led by Dave C. The PowerPoint presentation was given by Rodney G. A raffle was held for the book, Language of the Heart, and lunch was provided by District 20. With this being our first writing workshop, it was very successful, considering the new friendships formed, laughter, food enjoyed, and heartfelt writings received.

New Business

District 81 will be holding another "Traditions and Concepts Weekend on the Beach" at the Victorian Condo Hotel & Conference on September 19-21, 2014. They have asked the Grapevine Committee if some GvRs will attend, bring display, man table and offer Grape Guessing Contest.

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-Judy from District 81 asked if we could make our presence known at "Traditions and Concepts Weekend on the Beach". Additional information to this event can be found on the SETA Website and will take place September 19-21. If at all possible, any committee members or interested parties who can bring materials and be present to represent the Grapevine and man the booth are appreciated. Should you want to rent a room and stay the weekend, they are \$99/night and sleep up to 5 people. This retreat is very informative should you have any interest in learning more about Traditions and Concepts, and all are thoroughly encouraged to attend.

-Kelly made a motion that we approve a budget of roughly \$20 for Barbara to buy supplies (grapes, etc...) for "Traditions and Concepts Weekend on the Beach". The motion was seconded by Lisa and approved unanimously.

SETA Elections in October. Anyone from Area Committee interested in standing as Grapevine Chair? Two year positions with qualifications on SETA website.

-SETA elections are in October. This process was explained by Barbara to the Committee (see following):

When SETA elections are held (October 2014), the current chair (Barbara) stands and will submit the name as a suggestion to the SETA Assembly. The Committee will hold the suggestion in high regard, trusting that the outgoing Chair is entrusting the position to someone who has a full understanding of the requirements and a willingness to do what is needed in a spirit of service. Should there be no suggestion from the current Chair, the position will go to whoever will stand for it and is elected by majority vote. The prayer is that someone on the current committee will stand for Grapevine Area Chair. The perks are that your room for every Assembly is paid for. However, your gas is not. Attendance is required for all meetings and assemblies, but all other work can be done electronically. Area 67 does not believe that you rotate out, but that you rotate on to other positions. All are encouraged to come to elections, even group representatives, regardless of if you have a vote or not. The spiritual aspects of the electoral process within AA are phenomenal, and to see people stand for every position just to see "where God wants them to serve" is an experience you must not miss.

Possible workshop at Shady Dale Group in the fall combining District 31 Literature and the Grapevine products.

-Shady Dale has requested a Workshop in the fall in conjunction with District 31 Literature and Grapevine products, similar to the District 20 function. They are located off Laura Koppe Road and want to do a Writing Workshop and talk about the Grapevine, and the Literature Representative (Maury) wants to do a Literature presentation about Alcoholics Anonymous. There are people there who are also unaware that you are able to do online subscriptions to The Grapevine. Literature such as Language of the Heart, Grapevine Quotes, No Matter What and other recovery books will be utilized.

Open Floor:

Sarah H. asked if we could do a Grapevine Representative Training:

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-The majority of the training would be just strictly for myself and Sarah, the majority of the how to is learned on the job. Handbook is online at link below and has all the complimentary information necessary:

WWW.AAGRAPEVINE.ORG

Any incoming group representatives can be given information and materials accordingly- discussion concerning packet that could be put together for new groups was had. Can be more proactive in finding out which groups have grapevine representatives and keep record of those, enabling us to encourage them to take a more active part in service on a district and area level?

After more discussion and a definite show of interest from the current Grapevine Representatives present, it was decided that a workshop would be had, designated to training Grapevine Representatives. This decision was made unanimously, and more discussion will be had at next meeting to begin ironing out details.

Update on ice cream social:

Barbara is currently working on getting with Intergroup and the CPC representative for the "Adopt an Inmate" initiative to get subscriptions to both Grapevine and to La Vina and send it into the prisons.

A question was asked if we could get a subscription and order two, in order to split it between ourselves and an inmate. Instead of paying \$28.97 twice, you can pay \$40.00 for two, and send one to a second person (the inmate, friend, etc...). This discount is available to anyone and can be taken advantage of online.

The next meeting will be held at the DELTA CLUB (6400 Westpark Dr, Ste 355, Houston, TX 77057) ON AUGUST 21, 2014 AT 7:30 P.M.

We closed with "The Responsibility Statement" at 6:00 p.m.

In love and service,
Kristina F.

**I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,
I want the hand of AA always to be there. And, for that, I am responsible.**