

SOUTH EAST TEXAS AREA

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2015

DELEGATE



Hello South East Texas Area 67!!

As most of you know, the 65th General Service Conference was held in New York City last month, with the theme of "Celebrating 80 Years of Recovery, Unity and Service – the Foundation of Our Future."

During the conference week, we addressed the Agenda Items and completed the three-year inventory process. A full report of both the GSC Inventory and the 65th General Service Conference will be printed and made available to you later this year.

Now I would like to share information received from Clayton V., our Regional Trustee, which came out of the January Trustee Board Meeting:

Southwest Regional Trustee

We also elected a new Southwest Regional Trustee – Yolanda F. from San Antonio, Texas. Yolanda will hold the position previously filled by Clayton V. and her four-year term began immediately after the end of the conference. This election was unique in the sense that so many highly qualified candidates stood for the position. Every Area in the Southwest Region put forth a candidate and like our own Paul M., all of those nominees would be an excellent Regional Trustee. Yolanda has served on several service committees including the Grapevine, La Viña, Public Information and Literature; in addition, Yolanda has made her bilingual skills useful in many different capacities and areas of A.A. service. We'll have an opportunity to get to know Yolanda in the months ahead.

2015 International Convention

The International Convention is fast approaching - July 2-6 in Atlanta, Georgia. GSO has created an app for registered Convention-goers. It's available for downloading on iPhones, Androids (4.0 & up) and Kindle. The app will allow you to:

- view the Convention schedule,
- create a login to build a personal schedule, and
- use the maps to find your way around the Convention campus easily.

At most recent count, there were over 39,000 registered, but lodgings *are* still available!

The A.A. Grapevine

The new Carry the Message project is getting started and I've received a list of subscription requests from the A.A. Grapevine coordinator. This effort focuses on getting Grapevine and La Viña subscriptions to alcoholics in need and I'll be working with our Area Service Committee Chairs for possible fulfillment of these requests.

With this new project comes a new option for subscription sponsorship! In addition to passing along past issues or purchasing gift subscriptions, individual members, groups and districts can now purchase Subscription Gift Certificates on AAGrapevine.org. These would be passed to me and I will send them to our service committees for distribution to those alcoholics in need.

If you're interested in this new project, you may contact me or our Area Corrections Chair, Richard D. or Harold C., Area Grapevine Chair, for more information.

I want to express my gratitude for your participation in providing me with input on this year's Agenda Items and for the cards, gifts, emails and other demonstrations of love and support I received during the conference week. I look forward to sharing my experiences and the results of that week in NYC with you!

Thank you for the opportunity to learn, and therefore to better serve my beloved Area 67 and A.A. as a whole.

In A.A. love and service,
Melissa R
Delegate
Area 67, Panel 65
Email: delegate-65@aa-seta.org

ALTERNATE DELEGATE

Greetings Area 67 I am Ron C and I am an Alcoholic. I also have the honor of serving as Alternate Delegate Panel 65 for Area 67.

The Gratitude Dinner is fast approaching. It will be November 8, 2015 at the VFW Hall in Katy Texas. The address is 6202 George Bush Drive. The Host District, District 40 is hard at work planning the main dish and organizing the venue. The co Host, District 66 is learning and preparing to be the Host District in 2016. The Gratitude Dinner is self-supporting so if your District has not contributed and/or volunteered please consider doing so.

The International Convention "80 years – Happy, Joyous and Free" is in Atlanta Georgia July 2-5, 2015. If you have never been to an International Convention, don't miss this one. Registration and Hotel/Accommodations can be done on line. International Conventions are held every five years in different cities in the US and Canada. Pre-registration is already over 39,000 people.

The Texas State Convention is August 14-16, 2015 in Midland Texas at the Midland Center. The Hotel is the Double Tree Hotel with a room rate of \$124 per night. Make your reservation now.

The Regional Forum is October 9-11, 2015 in St. Louis Missouri. The Forum is hosted by Area 38 (Eastern Missouri), so save the date.

If you have questions about any of these events please let me know. Also flyers are posted on the SETA website on the Regional and State Events web page.

Rachel has finally finished in pre-k and after this summer will be going to kindergarten. She is excited about being in kindergarten but doesn't completely grasp that none of her former friends will be in kindergarten with her. We hope to be able to maintain some contact with her friends but from my experience with "rotation" that is almost impossible to do. I have found this to be the most painful process of growing up both in life and in service. The "rotation" allows you to grow into new experiences and helps you to become a more rounded servant of God. But one of the drawbacks is that not every one moves on to kindergarten with you. The friendships that were developed in pre-k that was such an important part of your life are severed and the new friendships of kindergarten have not developed yet. People

you thought were lifetime friends were really only in your life for a limited season or a special reason. So despite all setbacks and pain you have to continue to give away pieces of your heart to develop those relationships and live, as God would have you to do.

I first heard the "perfect heart" read at the International Convention in San Antonio 5 years ago and it has helped me get thru those times of "rotation". The source is anonymous which I think is very fitting.



One day a young man was standing in the middle of the town proclaiming that he had the most beautiful heart in the whole valley. A large crowd gathered and they all admired his heart for it was perfect. There was not a mark or a flaw in it. Yes, they all agreed it truly was the most beautiful heart they had ever seen.

The young man was very proud and boasted more loudly about his beautiful heart. Suddenly, an old man appeared at the front of the crowd and said "Why, your heart is not nearly as beautiful as mine."

The crowd and the young man looked at the old man's heart. It was beating strongly, but it was full of scars. It had places where pieces had been removed and other pieces put in, but they didn't fit quite right and there were several jagged edges. In fact, in some places there were deep gouges where whole pieces were missing.

The people stared -- how can he say his heart is more beautiful, they thought?

The young man looked at the old man's heart and saw its state and laughed.

"You must be joking," he said. "Compare your heart with mine. Mine is perfect and yours is a mess of scars and tears."

"Yes," said the old man, "yours is perfect looking but I would never trade with you. You see, every scar represents a person to whom I have given my love - I tear out a piece of my heart and give it to them, and often they give me a piece of their heart which fits into the empty place in my heart, but because the pieces aren't exact, I have some rough edges, which I cherish, because they remind me of the love we shared."

"Sometimes I have given pieces of my heart away, and the other person hasn't returned a piece of his heart to me. These are the

empty gouges -- giving love, is taking a chance. Although these gouges are painful, they stay open, reminding me of the love I have for these people too, and I hope someday they may return and fill the space I have waiting. So now do you see what true beauty is?"



The young man stood silently with tears running down his cheeks. He walked up to the old man, reached into his perfect young and beautiful heart and ripped a piece out. He offered it to the old man with trembling hands. The old man took his offering, placed it in his heart and then took a piece from his old scarred heart and placed it in the wound in the young man's heart. It fit, but not perfectly, as there were some jagged edges.

The young man looked at his heart, not perfect anymore but more beautiful than ever, since love from the old man's heart flowed into his.

Ron C
Panel 65 Alternate Delegate



CHAIR

If there is one thing I know that every sober alcoholic loves it's change! Ok, I really don't believe that at all. We all but hate it, especially when we are not in control of it. Change can be frightening and sometimes we would be fine with just doing the same things repeatedly to avoid change. I am sure I don't have to tell you what we call that, right? Still in my experience change, although scary at times always seems to help me grow.

So, I bring this up because our Area has a bunch of opportunities to change and grow. At the July Assembly we will begin talking about some ways we might change.



First, the Ad Hoc Committee, Ronald C. established last year (as a result of the SETA Inventory), to review the election procedures will be giving an update and demonstrating some electronic voting devices. The committee wants to get your feedback on these devices and the possibility of incorporating them into our election procedures.

Secondly, the Ad Hoc Committee, established by yours truly, to review the assembly weekend scheduling will give their final report. This committee has looked at our schedule and agendas and is ready to share their findings on how we might be more efficient with our time.

Finally, based on David A., Chair of the 2015 SETA Convention final report, an Ad Hoc Committee is being established to review the convention guidelines and the corresponding policies and procedures from the SETA manual. I am thrilled David A. has agreed to serve as Chair for this committee. He is putting his committee together now, so try to avoid David! Just kidding!

I hope you will be open minded and willing to discuss these new ideas and not let fear get in the way of change. May God grant us all the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can and the wisdom to know the difference.

Best,
Troy B
Area Chair
Southeast Area Assembly

PUBLIC INFORMATION

CAN A WORKSHOP BE FUN?

I know it seems like these two words should not be in the same sentence, but laughter was heard and smiles were seen at the Workshop the PI and CPC Committee gave at the April Assembly.

First, I want to thank the assembly for giving us the opportunity to inform our trusted servants about our committee work. Rick M, Betsy G and I were the planning team. Coordinating a workshop is fun when it involves food and fellowship. One of the goals of both committees is to have "total and candid communication within A.A." We shared with you about the need for us to reach out to the public and plant the seeds that may help even one suffering alcoholic find their way to A.A.

Bill W wrote "Public information takes many forms- the simple sign outside a meeting place that says AA meeting tonight; listing in local phone directories; distribution of A.A. literature; and radio and television shows using sophisticated media techniques. Whatever the form, it comes down to "one drunk carrying the message to another drunk" whether through personal contact or through the use of third parties and the media". Conversations with those in the fellowship confirm that the majority of people get to A.A. by contact with someone outside of A.A. whether it be a professional or just a concerned coworker.

"One drunk carrying the message to another drunk"

After the presentation the laughs came as we played the game "Truth or Dare", to help the attendees sort out some important information. It was fun to see people trying to figure out if someone was lying - something we were proficient at during our drinking but which comes harder in sobriety! In the end I felt like we had accomplished the goal of relating the importance of the work done by these committees to reach the still suffering alcoholic.



Please contact me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to seeing you at an Area PI Meeting, the 3rd Monday of every Month (except Assembly months) at 7:15 at the Council, or log on and join us via the "Go to Meeting" App.

Thanks for the opportunity to be of service
Kate E
Area 67 PI Chair



Participate in the 2015 Subscription Challenge

Introducing a state, province and territory-wide challenge to increase new* **GRAPEVINE** and **LA VIÑA** subscriptions

See Updates

Follow the progress! Month-end activity for Grapevine and for La Viña is available now

Get Involved

Download [single subscription forms](#) and [multiple subscription forms](#) for Grapevine Download [single subscription forms](#) and [multiple subscription forms](#) for La Viña.



Grapevine Quote

"Sanity begins with the admission of reality into the mind."

April 1976
"The Only Revolution"
AA Grapevine

COOPERATION WITH PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

CPC Committee Statement of Purpose: Members of CPC Committees inform professionals and future professional about A.A. – what we are, where we are, what we can do, and what we cannot do. They attempt to establish better communication between A.A.'s and professionals, and to find simple, effective ways of cooperating without affiliating. – *Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee Workbook – page 1.*

The CPC Committee has been very active this first quarter and several district CPC Committees have been very active as well. The second quarter is continuing to be quite busy. Newly formed CPC Committees in Districts 32 and 52 have hit the ground running and are contacting professionals in their districts. Districts 40 and 81 continue to be very active and have many ongoing efforts in their respective districts. District 82 with help from District 81 is making some contacts as well.

Due to an initiative by members of the Correctional Facilities Committee, the CPC Committee had the opportunity to give a presentation to a sizeable group of prison wardens in Huntsville. The information was well received and the Director of the group encouraged his wardens to allow CFC volunteers into their units to hold meetings.

Our outreach to Area probation departments is yielding results. We have received requests for literature, meeting schedules, and/or presentations from the departments in Wharton, Matagorda, Fort Bend and Brazoria Counties. A District 81 presentation to Brazoria County judges and Probation Department personnel went very well and there is significant interest from the DWI court program and the Probation Department.

With the help and cooperation of the Public Information Committee, a telephone information line will soon be in service for those seeking PI/CPC information. A huge thank you goes out to the Area

Assembly for approving the budget request for this service at the April Assembly.

The PI and CPC Committees also gave a joint presentation at the Third Tradition Group in early May. Vern P. also gave a practice presentation at this event so he is available for outside presentations.

Coming in June, the Committee will be staffing an exhibit at the request of the GSO CPC desk. This event is the annual convention of the Public Risk Management Association to be held at George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston. Also in June is the Family Recovery Resource Expo and Symposium and the CPC Committee will have our display at that event.

The CPC Committee meets at the Houston Council for Alcohol and Drugs at 303 Jackson Hill St in Houston. We meet on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 PM. We also use Go-To-Meeting for those who cannot or would rather not travel to the Council. Watch SETA-Announce for a meeting notice and instructions on how to use the Go-To-Meeting feature. We also meet at the Area Assemblies. If your district has a CPC committee we would very much like to hear about what activities they are involved in. If at all possible we would like a representative to attend our Area CPC meeting. We cordially invite you to attend and help us reach the professional who meets the suffering alcoholic before we do. Check out the CPC page on seta.org for meeting information, agendas and minutes.

Rick M.
SETA CPC Chair



TREATMENT FACILITIES

When I came to Katy, Texas in 2008 alcohol had beaten me down once again. I had been exposed to AA in the past, but only as a means to get out of the legal trouble I was in. Having lived in Katy for a month I decided to go to treatment. I picked one out of the phone book and checked myself in.

I was scared and felt all alone. The treatment facility in Houston included AA as part of my recovery program. I was required to attend AA meetings regularly. This was the start to a new way of life that I needed. But what would happen to me once I left the treatment facility? How would I stay focused and the road to lasting sobriety?

These are some of the questions many people have when leaving a treatment facility. That's where "Bridging the Gap" between treatment facilities and AA through the "temporary contact program" comes in. It's helps that transition from the front door of the treatment facility to the nearest AA group or meeting in ones area. I was given the name of women in my area who met me at my first AA meeting outside the treatment facility. What comfort it brought at an uncomfortable time.

When you sign-up with the temporary contact program you will (from time to time) be given the name of a person in your area to help get to local meetings. No treatment facility experience is required. This is not sponsorship. This is one alcoholic helping another alcoholic by getting them to meetings and introducing them to other alcoholics in the program.

For more information on "bridge the gap" or to sign-up for the temporary contact program ask you group GSR or your district TFC or visit the Area 67 TFC website at TFC@aa-seta.org. You can also contact Melanie M. TFC Chairperson Area 67 at that web site.

You were going to a meeting anyway...why not take a new friend with you!

Pam F.

TFC - D40



If you would like to help...

If you would like to help in this very important Twelfth Step work and have at least one year of continuous sobriety in the A.A. program, please complete the following information and give it to your group's treatment representative, general service representative (G.S.R.), or mail it to the chairperson of your area or district treatment committee or your general service delegate. In some areas, service committees and temporary contact programs are organized through the local intergroup or central office. Or send it to the Treatment Desk, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163, so that G.S.O. can forward the information to your area, district or other Treatment Committee.

DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE OR PROVINCE _____

ZIP OR MAIL CODE _____

PHONE: DAY _____

EVENINGS _____

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The SETA Information Technology Committee meets monthly on the 4th Saturday of each month at Spring Branch Memorial Club, beginning at 10:00 am. If you have an interest in learning more about our committee, please plan to attend our next meeting. We have several openings for participation through our various service positions and welcome your participation. We also meet at 4:30 pm during the April, July and October Assemblies.

You do not have to be well-versed in how computers operate in order to participate. In fact, one of our pressing needs is for a member who is willing to take on the duties of committee secretary.

We hope you will visit us at one of our upcoming meetings and see if you would like to join us. We always have a great time at our meetings, and they are always informative!

One of our services to the Area is hosting "GoToMeeting" sessions. Several of the committees are already taking advantage of this service, including our own committee. As an attendee of a GoToMeeting session, you can sign on to the meeting on your cell phone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer in several formats, e.g. Windows, Apple, Android and iPhone. The Information Technology Committee utilizes GoToMeeting at each of our monthly meetings, so please contact the committee and join us.

We also work behind the scenes to keep our web site up to date and host our SETA webmail service. We are currently moving our e-mail to a new service provider. Our current e-mail provider changed their terms significantly increasing the cost to the Area. To avoid the increase we are moving our e-mail to the same provider that we use to Host our Website. E-mail addresses and the Webmail log-in Website address will not change. The look and feel of the Webmail website may look different. We are working to minimize the impact on the users of our area e-mail. You will receive notices about mailing list subscribing and unsubscribing. Please ignore these e-mails. If you have any questions

please e-mail the postmaster@aa-seta.org and/or it-chair@aa-seta.org.

At the April Assembly the Committee presented a workshop on the proposed IT Guidelines. We would like to thank the Area for approving the Guidelines on Sunday. The effort has been a labor of love over the last few years. We thank the Ad-Hoc committee and all of those who contributed to this effort.

Waco, our IT Support lead has stepped up and is now the Alt-Chairperson of the IT Committee. His skillset and participation in the committee indicates that our committee is in good hands going forward.

The Ad-Hoc Committee working to streamline the Area's Assemblies has asked our committee to assist them. We are working to improve the voting process by improving the method used to post candidates for positions during the elections.

We attended District 40's May Meeting and presented a slideshow about the IT Committee. We also gave a tour of the Area's Website. We would like to thank Dist. 40 for the invitation and the warm welcome we received. It was a great opportunity to showcase the Area's IT Committee. We look forward to visiting other Districts in the Area.

Marshall W.
Area 67 Information Technology Chairperson

Southeast Texas Area (SETA)

Alcoholics Anonymous Area 67

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

www.aa-seta.org

STATE CONVENTION ATTENDANCE PROMOTION – (SCAP)



Originally known as the Texas Conference and Southwest Convention, the Texas State Convention started 69 years ago. From the Silent Rostrum published by an individual in Houston, “the story (as told by Ed H) goes that Marty M, the first woman in AA anywhere to stay sober was, coming to Austin from New York”, a good reason to Ed to have a party. Continuing, Ed said “We had the first AA State Convention in the Driskill Hotel in Austin, Texas on January 29, 1946.” Marty returned to Texas in October, 1946 and there was another convention. “June of 1948 we held another state convention and Bill W, our co-founder, was the speaker.” In 1954 Bill Wilson was again the main speaker.

The convention settled into rotation through five main cities until 1991 when Midland/Odessa in the NWSA was added. Today the Texas State Convention rotates through six major cities, they being: Midland/Odessa, Austin, San Antonio, Dallas, Houston and Ft. Worth in that order. However, The South East Texas Area 67 is the only Area that has incorporated the State Convention into its service structure: 1) by electing its chairperson; and 2) having a SCAP (State Convention Attendance Promotion) Committee, both elected by and accountable to the SETA Assembly.

Alcoholics Anonymous is celebrating 80 years in June 2015. A.A members from around Texas can come together in August for its 69th year. Come celebrate sobriety together. It is a time to see many old friends and to make new ones. So register now (aa-seta.org/Events for flyer), or at the July Assembly. We hope to have a drawing from paid registrations to award one lucky person a reimbursement of that cost. Look for the table with the Texas Boot.

Make plans to celebrate sobriety in a traditionally Texas fashion.... in MIDLAND, TX at the Double Tree Hotel AUGUST 14-16, 2015.

Area 67 SCAP Committee

69th ANNUAL TEXAS STATE A.A. CONVENTION

FOR 80 YEARS! "HERE ARE THE STEPS WE TOOK!"

*YPAA SPEAKER
Amy T., Jenks, OK*

GREAT AA SPEAKERS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

AUGUST 14th - 16th, 2015

*Spanish Speaker
Jerry T., El Paso, TX*

*WONDERFUL ALANON SPEAKER
Kelly P. - Helena, MT.*

*This will be the first time it will be held in Midland, TX.
Come and enjoy our West Texas Hospitality!
We look forward to a good turnout and hope to see you there!*

*Karl M. - Covina, CA (AA) Debra B. - Madison, WI. (AA)
Stacy S. - San Antonio, TX (AA)
Clay R. - New York, NY Speaker from the
General Service Office.*

Area Literature Book Club

Do you love AA?

Take your recovery to a new
level!!



When? First Saturday of the month
From 4:30pm To 6:00pm

Where? Houston Intergroup
4140 Directors Row
Houston, Texas 77082
("Conference Center" Door)

Coming September, 2015

New Book Selection

"Experience, Strength & Hope"

Stories from the first three editions of the Big Book

Q: What do you get when you mix alcohol and literature?

A: Tequila Mockingbird

This is an Area 67 Literature Committee Book Club

For current book/chapters and pamphlet to be discussed at the next meeting—www.aa-seta.org click on "Literature" (on left)

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

A Story From Behind the Walls

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Lying here on my bunk thinking thoughts of my past, I cannot believe that I wasted so many years seeking comfort from a bottle. Drinking myself into some sort of a daze not even living life, just existing numb.

Thinking back, I have come to the realization that a small child once gave me the answer to what I needed. I was just too caught up in a bottle to listen!

Some months prior to my incarceration, a little girl came up to me and said, "Mike, I want you to take me fishing," "Sure" I said thinking to myself 'Great, another excuse to drink cold beer!'

While at Walmart purchasing fishing licenses, Keri convinced me that we needed this \$150 raft so that we could get to where the "Big Fish" are. Once we got to the lake and I spent an hour blowing this thing up. We got in and I began to row us out into the water, after a while I said "is this far enough?" "Nope a little farther" she says. So we continued on until she was satisfied. I bated our hooks and we casted off. Keri begins to tell me why the fish keep the water muddy. "So that we can't see what they are doing," she tells me about the sky and the clouds, as she is filling me in with information e are slowly drifting back to where we began, and I would have to row us back out where she would tell me about the dragonflies and the birds. As we slowly drifted back! After the third or fourth time of this repetitiveness, Keri looked at me and said, "Mike, you know what we need?" "What?" I said. "An anchor! So we can stop drifting back to where we started," she answered.

Had I had an anchor, I wouldn't have kept drifting back to the bottle. Had I known God would comfort me, I wouldn't have continued to seek happiness out of a bottle. Today Alcoholics Anonymous is my anchor and God is my refuge, my comfort.

I encourage to use AA as an anchor, ground yourself, seek God, live life, don't drift back to the bottle. Or worse end up behind these walls, behind a bottle.

Mike J.
Current Inmate in TDCJ



CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

A Story From Behind the Walls

JAMES M. AS

Often times we do not recognize how our alcoholism affect the people around us, much less ourselves. Sitting in a prison cell thinking to myself, 'Why has it taken a pivotal incident for me to recognize that I have a problem?'

Alcohol has a way of disillusioning people into believing that they are smarter, funnier, and more acceptable. How could something so good be so wrong?

First you lose your ability to hold yourself accountable, then, you lose your ability to care. The next thing you know you're pushing loved ones away; you stop paying your bills, and lose sight of your goals, hopes and dreams. The demon of alcohol has taken over your life and you were too messed up to realize it.

Then one day when you least expect it "BAM!" you find yourself sitting in the back seat of a police car, or wake up in a jail cell. The charge, aggravated assault with a motor vehicle, manslaughter, you killed a family of four, robbed a bank or shot your own brother. Those charges are just as real as the slow burn of whiskey sliding down your throat. Just as real as your wife loading her stuff and your kids into her car, just as real as the tears sliding down your mother's face in the visitation room, and just as real as not being allowed to attend the funeral of a loved one.

At that point you find yourself recognizing exactly how something so good can be so wrong.

This demon, this disease does not discriminate. It doesn't care where you come from, where you've been, or where you are going, it doesn't care how older you are or what color you are, it can and will destroy your life.

There is good news within a program called Alcoholic Anonymous. You will find you are not alone. People who are struggling with the exact same demons as you are. Sharing and caring, serving one another, and battling this disease together, anchoring themselves and working the twelve steps. It's a spiritual journey; through your higher power you will find peace within yourself, this program works. I encourage you if you're tired of wondering what you did last night, seek this program out. There is an AA group near you

Current Inmate in TDCJ

What is the history behind AA's Responsibility Statement?

A. The Responsibility Statement reads:

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

It was written for the 1965 A.A. International Convention in Toronto. In an article titled, 'How I am Responsible became a part of A.A.', from the GSO newsletter, Box 4-5-9. The article identifies former AA trustee, Al S. as the author of the Responsibility Statement.

In the souvenir book for the 1965 Convention, Dr. Jack Norris writes:

"...We must remember that AA will continue strong only so long as each of us freely and happily gives it away to another person, only as each of us takes our fair share of responsibility for sponsorship of those who still suffer, for the growth and integrity of our Group, for our Intergroup activities, and for AA as a whole. It is in taking responsibility that real freedom and the enduring satisfactions of life are found. AA has given us the power to choose – to drink or not to drink – and in doing so has given us the freedom to be responsible for ourselves. As we become responsible for ourselves, we are free to be responsible for our share in AA, and unless we happily accept this responsibility we lose AA. Strange, isn't it?"

In a *Grapevine* article in October 1965, the Responsibility Statement is discussed, and Bill W. expresses his views:

Two major thoughts stood out in the remarks of the many speakers, alcoholic and nonalcoholic, at AA's July Toronto Convention. The first was admiration and gratitude for AA's startling success in sobering up hundreds of thousands of lost-cause drunks. The other was concern that the success which has come to AA over the thirty years since its start in Akron, Ohio in 1935 would not lead us to any complacency about the size of the job still to be done.

The theme of the Convention was: Responsibility. "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."

AA's co-founder, Bill, in his talk to over 10,000 attending the major sessions of the Convention, stressed the need for cooperation with all who work on the problem of alcoholism, the more than 100 agencies in the United States and Canada alone now engaged in research, alcohol education and rehabilitation.

"Too often, we have deprecated and even derided these projects of our friends just because we do not always see eye to eye with them," Bill said. "We should very seriously ask ourselves how many alcoholics have gone on drinking simply because we have failed to cooperate in good spirit with these many agencies. No alcoholic should go mad or die merely because he did not come straight to AA in the beginning."

"The first concern of AA members should be with problem drinkers the movement is still unable to reach," Bill said. He estimated that there are 20 million alcoholics in the world today, five million in the U.S. alone. "Some cannot be reached because they are not hurt enough, others because they are hurt too much," he declared. "Many sufferers have mental and emotional complications that seem to foreclose their chances. Yet it would be conservative to estimate that at any particular time there are four million alcoholics in the world who are able, ready and willing to get well if only they knew how. When we remember that in the 30 years of AA's existence we have reached less than ten per cent of those who might have been willing to approach us, we begin to get an idea of the immensity of our task and of the responsibilities with which we will always be confronted."

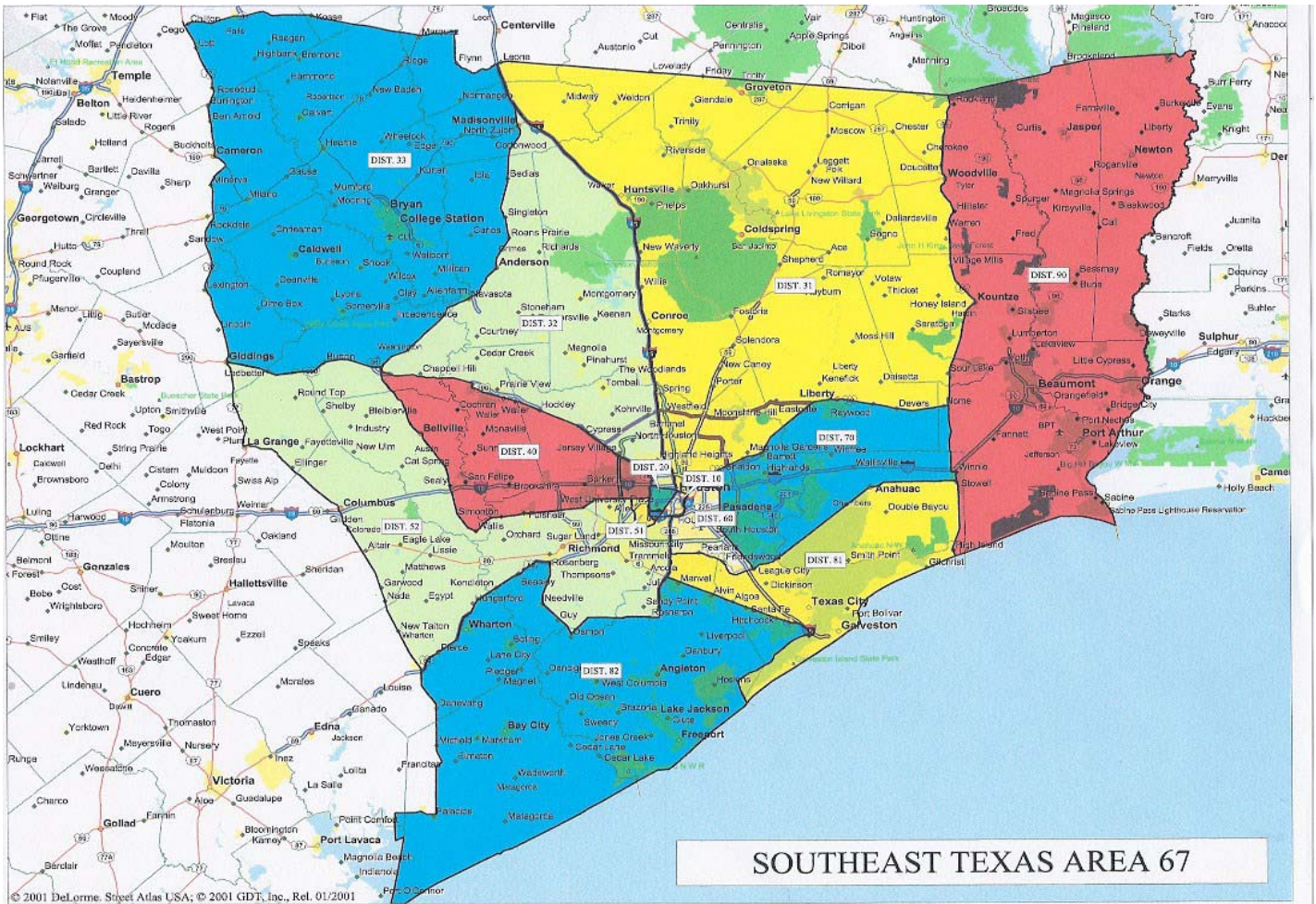
There have been two Advisory Actions from the General Service Conference regarding the Declaration of Responsibility since it was introduced. In 1971, the Conference recommended that:

The Literature Committee, following the general feeling of the Conference, reaffirm both the spirit and the wording of the "I am Responsible" Declaration from the International Convention held in Toronto in 1965.

And in 1977, the Conference recommended that:

The Responsibility Declaration not be changed, as it was made at the 1965 International Convention in Toronto.

ENGLISH DISTRICTS OF AREA 67



DISTRICT MEMBERS

District 10 DCM – **Michael A.**
District 10 Alt DCM – **Tracy W.**

District 20 DCM – **Charity D.**
District 20 Alt DCM – **Rachel R.**

District 31 DCM – **Andie H.**
District 31 Alt DCM – **Buddie M.**

District 32 DCM – **Ginny M.**
District 32 Alt DCM – **Brian D.**

District 33 DCM – **Bill W.**
District 33 Alt DCM – **Francia C.**

District 40 DCM – **Michelle H.**
District 40 Alt DCM – **Corrie H.**

District 51 DCM – **Amy E.**
District 51 Alt DCM – **Randy H.**

District 52 DCM – **Dana G.**
District 52 Alt DCM – **Diana S.**

District 60 DCM – **Jesse F.**
District 60 Alt DCM – **OPEN**

District 70 DCM – **Ron S.**
District 70 Alt DCM – **Terri H.**

District 81 DCM – **Melody W.**
District 81 Alt DCM – **Christina E.**

District 82 DCM – **Sherry B.**
District 82 Alt DCM – **Marty W.**

District 90 DCM – **A.B. B.**
District 90 Alt DCM – **Sal S.**

District 40

Being the DCM for D40 is so much more than I could have imagined! I was as prepared for the work load, responsibilities & duties as one can be walking into a new term. What I was not prepared for was all of the wonderful ways that God would show me His Grace, Love, Promises, Beauty & Purpose. He is showing up & showing off!

Several months ago I told my Alternate DCM that I was willing & able to work wherever she needed me to for the annual Traditions Dinner & she just ignored me. Then a little bit of time passed & we were at another event or meeting & several members were talking about meeting up for the Traditions Dinner planning meeting, only I wasn't supposed to hear that, they were all excluding me. Honestly, I wasn't sure how to feel about this because every single person talking about it was my friend, my family. Finally, I was told by Corrie to just stay away & stop offering because she was trying to give me a gift! So I stayed focused on other things & felt a bit like a slacker. It has been quite some time since I have seen so many people step up to volunteer so quickly & efficiently. I had the unfamiliar experience of just showing up with a veggie, greeting all of my friends, new & old, sitting down to enjoy the great speaker & then going home. The gift of just receiving was so unexpected & powerful. I took a gift of the heart away from every one of the volunteers that night. I walked away with such a feeling of gratitude, such a powerful feeling of belonging to something so perfect & strong. I hope that every single time I serve I can make at least one person feel the way they all made me feel that night.

We of D40 also presented Tea Time with Melissa, an afternoon tea party to hear her Delegate's Report & it was so much fun. To watch my volunteer's excitement over all of the tiniest details. They had a vision & the willingness to turn it into a reality. It was so much fun preparing for this event. We were so excited to give back to all of the volunteers from the Traditions Dinner & to give Melissa a pretty day. It was the funniest thing ever to have member after member come up to me & comment on the decorations, theme & food. I listened to members share some AA history with me because something there reminded them of it, I watched members become inspired personally, I saw members relax & actually participate in the report process, I watched my GSRs light up with questions, I watch a team work together in unity, I felt some friendships fill the room with a peace, I was so appreciative of the way my friend's took special care of things & I experienced a very dedicated & graceful Delegate make me feel proud to be an Area 67 member. During the Q & A session I truly felt inspired to be the best trusted servant that God can grow me into...all over a cup of perfect tea.

I am just as willing today as I was in January to do my very best to carry out the duties & responsibilities as DCM, I am as prepared as I can be for where my path as DCM will take me day to day & I will tell you that because of the last couple of months I am extremely honored & grateful to have received the ultimate gift, the gift of unconditional love.

Michelle H
D40 DCM

District 40

Our Primary Purpose

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking...being a newcomer there is no other statement that has affected the way this one has. If I finally surrender to this disease and I reached out and went to my first meeting, what if they told me that because I wasn't or didn't have enough money or DWIs that I could not join AA. I thank God that when I slowly became part of something that is so much greater than I that he would put people in my life to show me that there is so much more to sobriety than quit drinking. When I look around AA today, I see people helping people. I am moved to see a newcomer have a little hope as I did when first attending meetings maybe because this disease brings out the hopelessness in us. It is God's work to be so grateful to see a little hope in a newcomer and to gain that feeling, I always try to remind myself the responsibility statement and no matter what religion, race, status, health, job or no job, the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Bill A
Breaking the Chains Group

District 40

New Experiences

Sitting here tonight, in the last and final week of preparation for District 40's Annual Traditions Dinner, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the outpouring of support from our District and Area. Following many great district Alternate DCMs and Speakers, including our current DCM, my husband and my sponsor (it's a family thing J); I was a little nervous.

Like many Alcoholics, I am a get it done kind of person. Practicing self-care is more of a challenge than for me than asking for help; this I thank God for every day. After standing third legacy at our district elections last year; I quickly realized the amount of opportunities that would be offered to our DCM and I in our two year term.

I am grateful she left behind detailed information from her term as Alternate DCM and is by my side to guide me along the way. This year; I wanted to be a gift for her. I have watched her serve, guide, lead and encourage others to participate in AA, Service and this event in particular for years. I was one of them and have memories that will last me a lifetime as well as the friendships I gained as a result.

She taught me how to serve with gratitude and I now know why. In the beginning preparations, I e-mailed, announced and reminded our District the need for volunteers. Understanding life is busy; I anticipated a few volunteers; what happened next was beyond my imagination.

A new GSR at our district approached me after the meeting. She explained that she had a group of 15 or so women that were ready and willing to prepare something good for us to eat! Realizing that I may have looked like a deer in the headlights; all I remember is the overwhelming feeling of gratitude and excitement I felt and the thought that just maybe; they were excited too! In the coming days, my phone buzzed with e-mails, phone calls and texts saying various things such as "I'll be there!", "How can I help?", "How many of us do you need and what time should we be there?", "Thanks for the invite, I am looking forward to it." and "My group wants to donate, how can we help?".

I could go on. My friends jumped in helping with flyers, decorations, food purchases and meal prep; we even managed to enjoy a little coffee and shopping together. Just over 10 years ago, most of my requests only helped me, hurt others and mainly fell on deaf ears. This was indeed a new experience. This is why I fell in love with service years ago.

This is how you all continue to teach me how to act and this is why it is an honor and a privilege to be a part of protecting and celebrating the Traditions of a program that saved my life and reminds me of God's light through each one of you on a daily basis. I am beyond blessed to be a part of Alcoholics Anonymous, an active member in Service and a part of District 40 and Area 67.

In love and service,
Corrie H
District 40 Alternate DCM

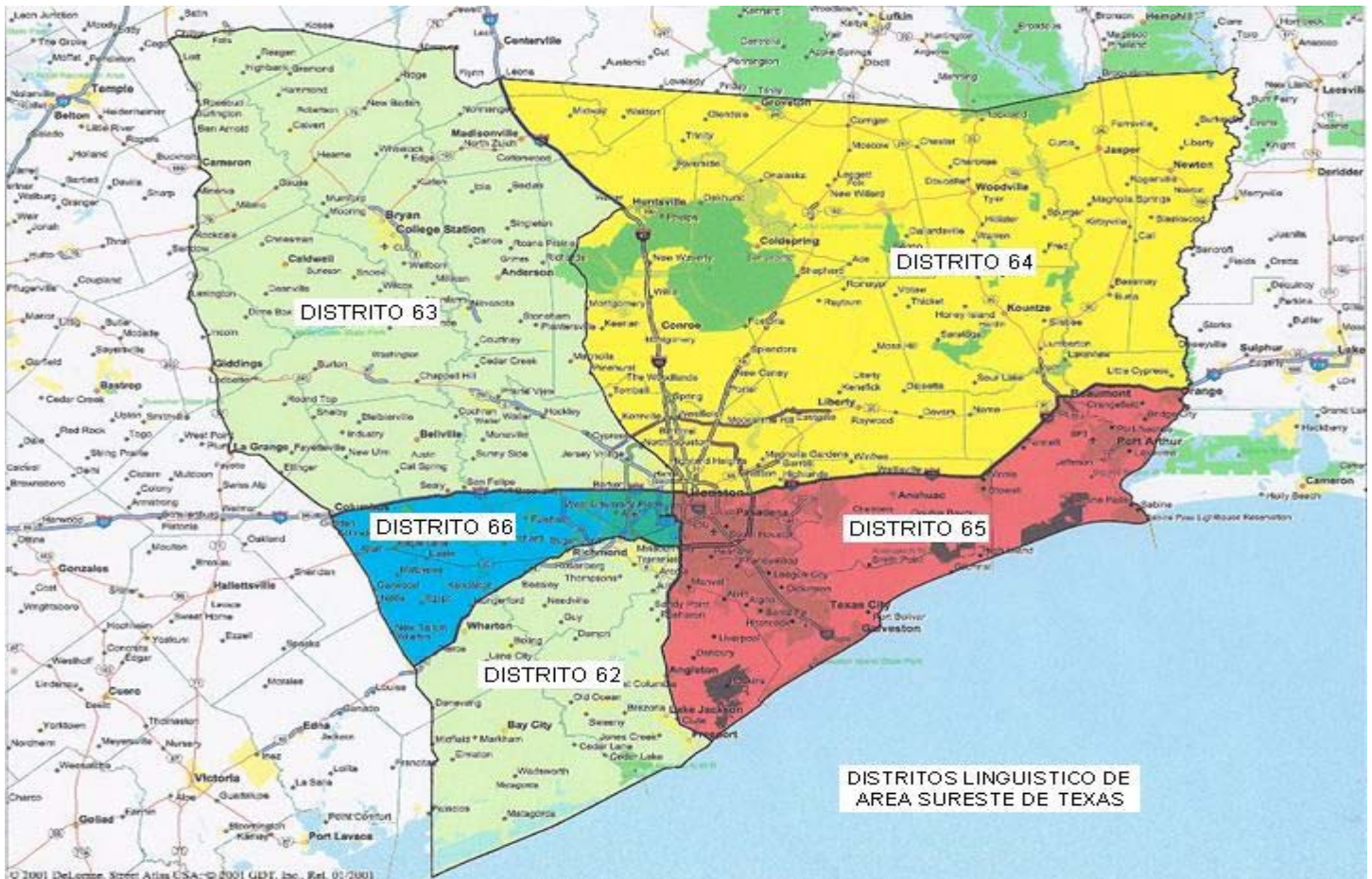
District 82

Hello from District 82 of Area 67

It is a new beginning for District 82, I have been honored to receive the service position as District Committee Member. Thank you for your help and support, as I am learning and growing, and looking forward to serving my district and you. District 82 is currently seeking a secretary and a Alternate DCM . The Beginners Group celebrated 27 Years, on May 2 Diane M. from district 81 was the AA Speaker and Linda F. from Lake Jackson was the AI Anon speaker. About 70 people attended. The Mouth of the Brazos Conference, held May 15-17 was a success as well with about 200 attendees. We are looking forward to hearing from our Delegate August 2, 2014. Our district meetings are moving from Bay City, to Surfside in August.

Thank You,
Marty W , DCM District 82

SPANISH DISTRICTS OF AREA 67



DISTRICT MEMBERS

District 62 DCM – **Agustin C.**

District 62 Alt DCM – **OPEN**

District 63 DCM – **Daniel F.**

District 63 Alt DCM – **OPEN**

District 64 DCM – **Octavio G.**

District 64 Alt DCM – **OPEN**

District 65 DCM – **Dimas S.**

District 65 Alt DCM – **Bernardino T.**

District 66 DCM – **Araldo G.**

District 66 Alt DCM – **Andres P.**

District 66

I am Juan D. an alcoholic on the road to recovery. I am from the group Accion from District 66 Area 67. I assisted in the 53rd Annual SETA Convention in Moody Gardens in Galveston. They were three enjoyable days, great for me because from the first day to the last, I felt very excited and happy. I was serving in the hospitality suite. The experience I had, it motivated me to continue to serve as I watched more than fifty Americans coexist with us, the Hispanics, in one room, the hospitality suite, was beautiful. An unforgettable experience for me, to see the power of God manifest in each one of us, the alcoholics, this for me is the joy of living in the grace of God and alcoholics that give me the opportunity to serve them.

Sincerely,
Juan D.



Oficina Intergrupul Hispana

4800 W. 34th Street, Suite C-5
Houston, TX 77092

Open:

Monday thru Friday
10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Saturday

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Tel: (713) 683-9277

12 Step Call: (281) 727-6648

Website: www.aaoficinaintergrupalhouston.org

Email: oficinaintergrupalhouston@yahoo.com

Unity Declaration

The Unity Declaration reads:

This we owe to A.A.'s future: to place our common welfare first; to keep our Fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives and the lives of those to come.

It was written for A.A.'s 35th Anniversary International Convention that was held in Miami Beach, Florida in July 1970. Unfortunately, it appears that the GSO Archives department does not possess records concerning the author of the Declaration.

Documents in our collection indicate that the statement was composed as a combined effort of both the Committee on International Convention and former A.A. trustee, Al S. The correspondence alludes to Al's involvement as a consultant in composing the statement. Certainly, Al wrote the "Responsibility" Statement that had been introduced at the 1965 International Convention.

The "Unity" statement was read by delegates from different countries on Saturday night during the Unity Ceremony. Below, I have presented brief highlights from that night's ceremony, as led by former General Manager, Bob H.:

"As you know the theme of this Conference is Unity Within Our Fellowship. We have asked several of our ex-delegates and members from overseas to be on stage and participate with us adopting our new Declaration of Unity..."

"A.A. unity is the special quality that makes our Fellowship unique. It is the cement that holds our society together, the platform which makes A.A. 'Service' possible. It is more than agreement on basic principles, more than freedom from destructive strife. It is a bond fashioned of shared experience, such as this one we share tonight.

"Unity is our most precious possession, our best guarantee of A.A.'s future. May we all value and preserve it, today and all the tomorrows to come."

Bob H. then asks all participants on stage to recite the Unity Declaration, which was led by Dr. Norris.

Following the International Convention (1973), the General Service Conference recommended that:

The Unity Declaration be added to all A.A. Literature when feasible and economical, and be referred to A.A. World Services, Inc., for follow-through.

CONTACT DATA FOR AREA 67 PANEL 65 TRUSTED SERVANTS

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Alternate TFC

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SETA 2015 Convention Chairperson

David A.

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Lisa F.
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Ninth District Alternate

Ron K.

Oficina Integroupa Hispana (D63, 64, 65)

OPEN

Integroupa Hispano Del SW (D66 & 67)

OPEN

Interpreter

Nancy P.

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Web/IT Support

OPEN

Postmaster

OPEN

Webmaster

Jeff H.
webmaster@aa-seta.org

Archivist

Sarah D.



Celebrating 80 Years
of Recovery, Unity and Service –
The Foundation for Our Future

AREA ASSEMBLY MEETING AGENDA
Hosted By District 32
Saturday, July 11, 2015

8:00 AM	Registration Opens	District 31	Lobby
8:30 AM	Area Committee Meeting	Area Committee	SFA Ballroom
8:30 AM	GSR Bi-Lingual Workshop	District 31/Multi-Lingual	El Paso
9:45 AM	Open General Assembly	Troy B	SFA Ballroom
9:50 AM	Tradition 12	District 31	SFA Ballroom
10:00 AM	District Committee Member Reports	DCMs	SFA Ballroom
11:00 AM	2016 Area Budget Q&A (Voting Item)	Gary S	SFA Ballroom
11:30 AM	Ad Hoc – 3 rd Legacy – Electronic Voting Demo Update	Ad Hoc Committee Members	SFA Ballroom

12:00 PM | LUNCH BREAK

1:00 PM	Opening of Afternoon Session	Troy B	SFA Ballroom
1:05 PM	Concept 12	District 31	SFA Ballroom
1:10 PM	General Service Conference Report	Melissa R	Breakout Rooms TBA
2:30 PM	Break		
2:45 PM	Ad Hoc – 3 rd Legacy – Electronic Voting Demo (#2)	Ad Hoc Committee Members	SFA Ballroom
3:15 PM	Cooperation vs. Affiliation Proposal Workshop (Voting Item)	Gus H	SFA Ballroom
3:30 PM	Ad Hoc - Assembly Weekend Scheduling Final Report	Ad Hoc Committee Members	Breakouts Below
4:30 PM	SETA Service Committee Meetings	Committee Chairs	Breakouts Below

Archives.....Embassy
CPC.....Galveston
CFC.....Houston
Finance.....Austin
ITC-Web...Ballroom

GVR.....El Paso
LaVina.....San Antonio
Literature.....Ballroom
Multi-Lingual...Ballroom

Newsletter...Forum
PI.....Galveston
SCAP.....Ballroom
TFC.....Riviera

5:45 PM | DINNER BREAK

7:00 PM	Opening of Evening Session	Troy B.	SFA Ballroom
7:05 PM	Service Committee Reports	Committee Chairs	SFA Ballroom
8:00 PM	GSR Ask it Basket	Kris H. & Panel	SFA Ballroom

All Standing Committees, DCMs, Area Officers, Workshops, & Delegates please submit written reports to the Area Secretary so they are included in the minutes of the Area's meetings.

2015 SETA ASSEMBLY DATE (Sheraton North Houston Hotel)
October 3-4, 2015