

DISTRICT 40 NEWS

Volume 26.8

August 2013

District 40 GSR Approved Meeting Minutes Southeast Texas Area Alcoholics Anonymous

12 Traditions & 12 Concepts **Reading and Summation**

August 2013

*Tradition 8/
Concept 8*

Michelle H./Jes K.

September 2013

*Tradition 9/
Concept 9*

Cindy M./Kate E.

July 9, 2013

Call to Order: Serenity Prayer, Preamble and Unity Declaration

Tradition 7/Concept 7 reading and summation by Jackie V. & Cheryl B.

Volunteers for next month....Tradition 8/Concept 8 will be Michelle H. & Jes K.

Introduction of Attendees = (16):

Amy M. (GSR, Fulshear Group), **Betsy G.** (Past D40 DCM & Area 67 Delegate, Working With Others), **Bob P.** (Alt. GSR, Taking Care of Business Group), **Cheryl B.** (D40 Treasurer, Katy Crossroads Group), **Cindy M.** (Alt. GSR, Katy Big Book), **David V.** (GSR, Spring Shadows Group), **Deborah G.** (D40 Alt. Secretary, GSR, Rule 62 Group), **Jackie V.** (D40 IT Rep, GSR, GOD Meeting Group), **Jes K.** (D40 DCM, First Light Group), **Jon O.** (Alt. GSR, GOD Meeting Group), **Kate E.** (D40 PI/CPC Chair, Memorial Going Home Group), **Libby S.** (GSR, Katy Crossroads Group), **Michelle H.** (D40 Alt. DCM, Rule 62 Group), **Nancy R.** (D40 Coffee Comm., GSR, Memorial Going Home Group), **Taylor K.** (D40 Literature Rep, The Broad Highway), **Wendy A.** (D40 Secretary), - ***Welcome New GSRs and Alt GSRs!***

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 1-2 | Secretary's Minutes |
| 1 | Concept IX For Supper |
| 3 | Treasurer's Report |
| 3 | District Servants |
| 3 | Upcoming Events |
| 4 | History Corner |
| 5 | SETA Committee's Meeting Schedule |
| 5 | District Map |

Concept IX For Supper~

When I first got my service sponsor I remember being excited about a lot of things, but I can't recall being really *excited* about studying the concepts. So of course, the first thing she had me do was study the concepts. I remember thinking it would be ok because I didn't know anything about the steps when I got here & my sponsor walked me through those. Same thing with the traditions. Maybe the concepts wouldn't be so terrible either. Then she shared with me a little story of her own & gave me a solution that from that day to this still works. She said "Just read it one sentence at a time" By reading the concepts one sentence at a time & sharing back & forth with my service sponsor what the readings mean; an understanding of the concepts have of course changed my perspective, my behaviors, my attitudes & my feelings. *Again*, my life changed! Today it is with great excitement that I can feel secure in all 36 principles that come alive through the steps, traditions & concepts.

Concept IX in the AA Service Manual on page 36 states, "No matter how carefully we design our service structure of principles and relationships, no matter how well we apportion authority and responsibility, the operating results of our structure can be no better than the personal performance of those who must man it and make it work. Good leadership cannot function well in a poorly designed structure. But weak leadership can hardly function at all, even in the best of structures."

As many of you know my children have taught me many a great lesson in this journey we call life, love & family. About the time I was studying this concept; my son gave me a deeper understanding of the above passage. One day I was out & about running errands when the famous question of "What's for supper?" was asked. My daughter & I proceeded to have a full conversation about what our options & cravings were. When I *finally* asked my son what he wanted, I never expected to hear what came out of his mouth, or rather from his heart. He told us in the smallest, little boy voice that it didn't matter what he wanted because we never listened to him anyway & that I always made the decisions. Now, maybe he was playing me, maybe he wasn't. Maybe it was just because the concept reading was fresh on my mind & I made a coincidence out of it, but I really don't care what the motive was, the result has been life changing. As I reread the passage in Concept IX on Leadership In AA: Ever The Vital Need; the words "Good Leadership will also remember that a fine plan or idea can come from anybody, anywhere. Consequently, good leadership will often discard its own cherished plans for others that are better, and it will give credit to the source." As a mother, we chose to be leaders to our children...I had discounted my son's opinions, feelings & right of participation (which is another concept). The small voice in the back seat was showing me the truth, I was driving by mandate.

I know that this may seem completely irrelevant when we generally speak of the concepts; but for me I learned that if I cannot apply these concepts to my own personal, everyday life how can I apply them to my life in service, to my participation in Alcoholics Anonymous. How could I ever hope to be a trusted servant! The steps rebuilt me, the traditions showed us how to build a strong, safe structure for our family, and this concept taught me that none of that matters if I am not willing to try my best to lead by example. Try my best to live the 36 principles in *all* of my affairs.

Just today, my son, who is now 14, shared with me his strong voice, his feelings, his fears & his idea of how we could compromise. We worked together & found a solution. He is also in the kitchen cooking supper!

Michelle H.
D40 Alt.DCM

Normal Business:

1. **Secretary's Report-** Motion to Approve as Amended – correction to the June 11, 2013 Unofficial Meeting Minutes.
2. **Treasurer's Report-** the June 2013 Treasurer's report was accepted as submitted; current balance \$5,423.98; total income for the period totaled \$526.23, total expenses were \$96.49.
 - a. Tradition 7 money (\$175.20) from Tradition Dinner – motion approved to hold in account and decide what to do with in October at budget meeting.
3. **News or Concerns from groups (GSRs) –** None.

Committee Reports:

- a) **Archives – OPEN POSITION.**
- b) **Coffee –** Nothing to report.
- c) **PI/CPC –** The committee met on June 29th and discussed ideas for additional mail outs we might want to pursue in the fall. We will not have a meeting in July due to the Delegate Report meeting. Our next meeting will be August 31, 2013 from 1-3 PM at the Spring Branch Memorial Club.

The area CPC and PI Committee's will be meeting at the Assembly at 4:30 PM on Saturday July 13, 2013.
- d) **CFC- OPEN POSITION.**
- e) **Grapevine-** *Not present/No Report.*
- f) **Intergroup Liaison – OPEN POSITION.** Open House/Tax Free Day being held Sat., July 20th from 10 am – 3 pm. Through September staying open until 8 pm on Thursdays and will determine if will be permanent. Voted to expand into the space next store and archives now has another plan.
- g) **Information Technology –** We are in the process of regrouping and updating the hardware and software we currently have on-hand.

Cheryl M., Alt. Chair, will stand for IT Committee Chair this coming Assembly (July 13th-14th). Other positions that we need to fill are Alternates for the following: Chair, Webmaster, Postmaster, Secretary and Support.

Because our rent is paid till the end of December, 2013 we will continue to meet at The Post Oak Club every 4th Saturday from 10:15am-noon.

- h) **Literature-** I have researched literature prices and the price of a literature rack for our district. The rack is \$20.00 and the pamphlets are between \$.08 and \$.45, so on average \$.25 each. I'm not absolutely sure on how many pamphlet spots there are in the rack, but the woman I spoke with at Intergroup said she thought it had something like 12-15 spots. If I were to buy 10 of 12 different types of pamphlets, it would cost somewhere around \$30.00. I plan on passing

out a few pamphlets at each meeting I outreach to, so I will need to replenish the supply throughout the year, and possibly buy different pamphlets depending on the district's needs. I would like to suggest a literature budget of \$75.00 for the rack and literature throughout the year.

AA pamphlets to go to PI/CPC.

- i) **TFC- OPEN POSITION.** In need of a flexible District 40 representative to takeover Bridging The Gap program at the PaRC every other Wednesday morning at 9-10 am.
- j) **Newsletter –** *Not present.*

Current Items For Discussion

1. 27th Annual Tradition Dinner Final Report – about 60-70 attendees at the function. Will be asking to increase budget so District provides meat for next year's dinner.
2. Area 67 Annual Gratitude Dinner (Sunday, Nov. 17, 2013 @ Jimmy Burke Ctr, 2-6pm) - Alternate Delegate is talking with other Districts whose rotations are up for co-hosting with D51 for 2014. If unable to find another, we will co-host.
3. Literature Budget – checking with Hill Top Group (no longer active) about utilizing their display rack. Motion approved giving \$100.00 budget to Literature Chair to use as necessary to accomplish her outreach program.
4. Olde Tyme Ice Cream Social, August 24, 2013 Update – will be held at SBMC from 1-4 pm. There will be longtime sobriety and diversity within the four speakers.
5. D40 Coffee Pots – the purchase of new coffee pots has been tabled until next month so the Coffee Chair can research types/prices available

Announcements:

1. **SETA Area Assembly –** July 13-14, 2013, Sheraton North Houston, 15700 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Houston, TX 77032
2. **D40 & D52 Delegate Conference Report –** July 28, 2013, 1:00 PM, 2119 Woods Rd., Brookshire, TX 77423

Meeting Adjourned / Responsibility Statement

History Corner

Nelson Newcomer: Our usual custom in the meetings I have attended is to pass a basket about half-way through the meeting. I've watched people put \$1 or \$2 in the basket, sometimes more, sometimes less. Occasionally, I have seen someone take money out of the basket. Why do we put money in, and is it o.k. to take money out? What is the money used for?

Angela Archivist: What sets Alcoholics Anonymous apart from any regular "corporate organization" is the fact that we are based on spiritual principles, not man's principles. AA's sole reason for existence is to "solve our common problem and to help others recover from alcoholism." There is no secondary purpose. We are a group founded on the principal of one person sharing with another, which doesn't cost any money. That being said, we do need **some** money to operate.

When Bill and Dr. Bob were working to get our fellowship off the ground, they had grand plans for support from John D. Rockefeller and his rich friends. But Rockefeller knew better – that money would ruin us. His opinion was surely God inspired.

What an unusual thought – for an AA member to pay his/her own way. Until we sobered up, we always looked for a handout and for others to support us. The 7th Tradition teaches us to be responsible for ourselves, our program, our group and our fellowship as a whole. By asking for contributions from us of not only money, but of our time and talents, we learn how to do that. (Mr. Rockefeller did finally loan Bill and Dr. Bob a small amount of money, mainly because the need was so great, but all monies loaned were actually paid back.)

Tradition 7 also teaches us that, because we are a part of the fellowship, it is our responsibility – there is no one else **but** us. The money collected in the basket is used for two main purposes – paying the group's expenses, and supporting our service entities. During the group conscience or business meeting of the group, the members decide how to spend the group's funds, such as paying for rent, coffee, buying literature, birthday cakes, chips, and anniversaries. Next, the group decides which entities to support and the amount (usually a percentage of the extra funds after paying the group's expenses) – Intergroup, District, Area, and the General Service Office.

Another benefit of being self-supporting through our own contributions is that, if we don't take outside contributions, **no one can influence AA's policies or decisions.** We soon learned that this was extremely vital to our fellowship.

Is it o.k. to take money out of the basket if we need it? When the basket was passed, people used to say "If you have a dollar, leave a dollar; if you don't have a dollar, take a dollar." Thankfully, we don't say that today. Taking money out of the basket may help the person pay for his or her next cup of coffee or drink, but it won't help the fellowship financially or help the person taking the money to learn about responsibility.

Today, because of rising costs, our traditional \$1 in the basket does not cover our expenses. Actually, the fellowship has never fully supported our General Service Office, and profits from the sale of literature have always been necessary. **If** the groups contributed enough money to the General Service Office to cover all operating expenses, including our service committees, we could sell our literature, such as big books and 12 & 12s, at cost, making it much easier to carry our message to the newcomers and to get our literature into their hands. Instead, profits from the sale of literature must be used to supplement over 50% of the cost of maintaining our services. For years, we have suggested that members place \$2 in the basket, but that is just not happening by the large majority of our members.

Please stay tuned for next month's edition. If you have a suggestion for a topic, please contact the Newsletter editor.

Betsy G.

The following Committees meet at:

The Delta Club
6400 Westpark, Suite 355, Houston, TX 77057
Telephone (713) 972-0034

Literature Committee
1st Saturday of the month - 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Grapevine Committee
3rd Thursday of the month - 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Correctional Facilities Committee
3rd Wednesday of the month - 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

*Public Information Committee
4th Saturday of every month at Noon (Except for Assembly Months)

IT Committee
Meets every 4th Saturday from 10:15 am to Noon at:
Post Oak Club -- Moved to Northwest Mall
9600 Hempstead Road, Suite 306
Houston, TX. 77092 Telephone: 713-956-5061

The following Committee meets at:

The Council on Alcohol and Drugs Houston
303 Jackson Hill, Houston, TX 77007
Telephone (713) 942-4100

Cooperation with the Professional Community
1st Monday of the month at 7:15 pm

*Archives Committee
Meets quarterly (or as needed)
at the Area Assembly at 4:30 pm
Contact Lee G.

*Treatment Facilities Committee
Meets quarterly at the Area Assembly at 4:30 pm

District 40 PI/CPC Monthly Committee Meeting
Last Saturday of the month from 1-3 p.m.
At the Spring Branch Memorial Club

*All committees meet at the Area Assembly in the months of April, July and October at 4:30 PM
Sheraton North Houston - 15700 John F. Kennedy Blvd. Houston, TX 77032
During the remaining months, the committees meet at the above locations and times.

THE NEXT DISTRICT MEETING IS
SEPTEMBER 10, 2013 AT 7:00 PM
Just starting a group in District 40 and wish to add it to this newsletter? Send group information, location and meeting times to SETA-40@aa-seta.org and intergroup@aahouston.org. You can also call Intergroup at 713-686-6300.

District 40 of the Southeast Texas Area is a territory bounded on the North by US HWY 290; on the South by Westheimer Rd.; on the East by Loop 610 and on the West by State HWY 36. If your group falls within these boundaries, please contact us SETA-40@aa-seta.org and attend the monthly District meeting at the Bear Creek Community Center. HWY 6 at Patterson Rd.

