
DISTRICT 40 NEWS

Volume 26.12

December 2013

District 40 GSR Official Meeting Minutes Southeast Area Alcoholics Anonymous

November 8, 2013

Call to Order: Serenity Prayer, Preamble and Unity Declaration

Tradition XI/Concept XI reading and summation by Corrie H. and Kris H.

Volunteers for next month... Tradition XII/Concept XII will be Trent P. and Jackie V.

Introduction of Attendees = (17):

Albert C. (GSR, First Light Grp), **Betsy G.** (Past D40 DCM & Area 67 Delegate, God Mtg. Grp), **Corrie H.** (D40 Newsletter Editor & Alt. Area 67 Secretary, God Mtg. Grp), **Deborah G.** (D40 Alt. Secretary, GSR, Rule 62 Grp), **Hillary F.** (GSR, Broad Hwy Grp.), **Jackie V.** (D40 IT Rep., GSR, God Mtg. Grp), **Kate E.** (D40 PI?CPC Chair, Memorial Going Home Grp), **Katie C.** (Alt. GSR, Broad Hwy Grp), **Kelly C.** (GSR, Taking Care of Business Grp), **Kris H.** (Past D40 DCM, Area 67 Treasurer, Rule 62 Grp), **Kyle M.** (Alt. GSR, Rule 62 Grp), **Michelle H.** (D40 Alt. DCM, Rule 62 Grp), **Nancy R.** (GSR, D40 Coffee Committee, Memorial Going Home Grp), **Peter C.** (GSR, Journey Grp), **Taylor K.** (D40 Literature Rep., Broad Hwy Grp), **Trent P.** (GSR, D40 TFC Rep, Wild West Grp), **Wendy A.** (D40 Secretary, Katy Crossroads)

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

December 2013
Tradition 12/
Concept 12
Trent P. / Jackie V.

January 2014
Tradition 1/
Concept 1
Nancy R. / Taylor K.

Tradition Twelve: *Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all of our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.*

Concept Twelve: The Conference shall observe the spirit of AA tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government. And that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

History Corner

Nelson Newcomer: How and why did our *Twelve Concepts for World Service* come to be and what was the reason behind Concept 1?

Angela Archivist: The Concepts are an interpretation and outline of the World Service Structure and explain why our structure is designed as it is and how it has evolved. Just as the essays Bill wrote explaining the 12 steps and 12 traditions, which are today memorialized in the Twelve & Twelve, the essays which are known as the "Twelve Concepts for World Service" explain the history and traditions of the 12 principles outlined in the Concepts. As with the traditions, the long form of the Concepts was written first (1962) and included in the A.A. Service Manual, followed by the short form (approved by the 1971 Conference), which are now included in the Bylaws of the General Service Board and also printed in the Service Manual.

With the illness and subsequent death of Dr. Bob in November 1950, Bill was faced with his own mortality. It was evident that he would not live forever. Because it had become increasingly clear that the Conference was needed to take the place of Bill and Bob, Bill began carrying out the plans that he and Dr. Bob had designed for the future of the fellowship. There would be a new structure in place that would permanently link the groups to the Board of Trustees.

In order for their plan to work, Bill realized that the final responsibility and ultimate authority of the fellowship should forever reside in the collective conscience of the entire fellowship as expressed through the groups themselves.

The Board of Trustees was put in place in 1938, called the Alcoholic Foundation and renamed in 1954 to be the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. Its purpose was to handle all those functions which couldn't be handled by the groups themselves. However, there was nothing to connect the fellowship to the Trustees. It was clear to the founders that the collective voice of the groups, by electing representatives to a new General Service Conference, could be the connection. The test would be whether Tradition Two would work at the conference level. So, there was a five year test to see if it would work. Thank God, it did.

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

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Normal Business:

1. **Secretary's Report** - October 8, 2013 Minutes adopted as submitted.
2. **Treasurer's Report** - October report period ending 11/12/13. Opening balance \$7,333.86. Expenses for the month of October totaled \$3,000.55; \$40.00 in Misc. for rent to SBMC for hosting the D40 Inventory, \$1,280.55 in expenses for The Forum for both the DCM and Alt. DCM. Finally, \$1,680.00 was paid to the PI/CPC committee to run a public service announcement at the movie theatres during the holiday season. The closing balance is \$5,100.59.
3. **News or Concerns from Groups (GSRs)** – Nate expressed that someone gave a shout out to veterans on Vets' Day – wanted to know what is the “boundary” for such things in a meeting?; Michelle expressed that it is something that could be discussed at the group conscience and possibly a good way to introduce the Traditions better to the group.

Committee Reports:

- a. **Archives** – OPEN
- b. **Coffee Committee** – Nancy R. reported that she donated \$100.00 worth of coffee to the community center for rent; She will purchase \$80.00 more to make up the \$180.00 budget/rent amount.
- c. **Public Information/Cooperation with Professional Community – PI/CPC** – Kate E. reported that the area CPC met on November 4th. The committee is currently working on an opportunity to make a presentation to parole offices in Harris County. They will also have a display at the American Probation & Parole Association Conference being held in Houston from 1/12- 1/15/2014 and will be looking for volunteers.

Your D40 PI/CPC committee met on October 26th. Firstly we want to thank the District for the extra funds you provided for the movie PSA. It will be running in both the Katy Mills and Cinemark 19 theaters from 12/13/13 to 1/9/14. Please go early to the theater to see the “We know what it's like” PSA. The projects we are working on for next year is a breakfast with the Clergy, a laminated statement that can be provided to emergency clinics for their use, a church bulletin listing and a dental mail out. We will meet again on January 25, 2014 from 1-3pm at the Spring Branch Club.

- d. **Correctional Facilities Committee – CFC** – Paul W. reported that he is coordinating with groups and trying to form sub-committee(s) to get list(s) of correctional facilities people are going into; trying to get more organized at this time.
- e. **Grapevine** – Sandy K. has stepped down as the chairperson; Michelle H. mentioned La Viña being introduced to groups as well as The Grapevine.
- f. **Intergroup** – Peter C. reported that the new space has been accepted for Intergroup to use; Tax Free Day is going to be Saturday, Dec. 14, 2013 from 10am-3pm. Intergroup is compiling an order for the 75th Anniversary printing of the

1st Edition of the Big Book.

- g. **Information Technology – IT** – Jackie V. reported that several positions are still open: Secretary, Alt. Secretary, Alt. Chair, Alt. Postmaster, and Alt. Support.

The IT Committee is still in process of regrouping and determining what equipment is SETA property for our committee that supposedly is being held by Mike W.'s sister, e.g., new laptop, hot spot, webcam and speaker/microphone. Betsy G. will get with SETA Treasurer to determine what equipment SETA has in fact purchased. At our next meeting we could very well request Mike's sister to send those items back to us ASAP.

Side note: Our District Newsletters from January through September are now posted on our webpage. Jackie requested that everyone make their members aware of that fact in announcing it at their meetings.

- h. **Literature** – Taylor K. reported that no one was present at the monthly Literature committee meeting so there is no report.
- i. **Treatment Facilities Committee – TFC**–Trent P. reported that volunteers are needed to lead Bridge the Gap meetings at the PaRC on Wednesdays; particularly one person to chair the speaker meeting on Wednesday; there is also a need for meetings at Harris County Psychiatric Center.
- j. **Newsletter** – Corrie H. stated that she had the wrong financial report in the newsletter but would correct it and then re-email it to everyone.

Current Items for Discussion:

1. **2013 Gratitude Dinner Update** – Michelle H. / Will R. - reminder that the Gratitude dinner is this weekend, everything has been purchased and is ready for Sunday. D40 members are responsible for bringing appetizers and encouraged to talk this up with their group members.
2. **D40 Inventory Update** – Jes K.- Part 2 of the Inventory was decided for Saturday, Dec. 7th from 1-3 pm at SBMC
3. **December Holiday Potluck Meeting** – Anyone can come! We will start at 6:30 pm, a sign-up sheet has been circulated and the secretary will email out a reminder prior to the meeting.
4. **2014 Service Workshop report** – Betsy G.- a committee was formed to work on a GSR Workshop, with a target date of February or March

Announcements:

- **SETA Gratitude Dinner**, November 17, 2013, 2:00 P.m. to 6:00 p.m., Jimmy Burke Activity Center, 500 W. 13th., Deer Park, TX 77536
- **52nd SETA Convention**, January 10-12, 2014, MCM Elegante Hotel, 2355 IH-10, Beaumont, TX 77705, 877.842.3606

Meeting Adjourned / Responsibility Statement

DISTRICT SERVANTS

DCM
Jes K.
dcm-40@aa-seta.org

Alternate DCM
Michelle H.
dcm-40-alt@aa-seta.org

Secretary
Wendy A.

Alt Secretary
Deborah G

Treasurer
Cheryl B.

Alt Treasurer
Open

Literature Chair
Taylor K.

Treatment Facilities Chair
Trent P.

PI/CPC Committee
Kate E.

CFC Chair
Paul W.

Intergroup Liaison
Peter C.

Grapevine Rep.
OPEN

Newsletter Editor
Corrie H.

Coffee Chair
Nancy R.
Archives Chair
OPEN

IT Liaison
Jackie V.

District 40 Financial Report Period ending 12/10/13	Current Month	Budget*	Year to Date	Current %	YTD %
INCOME					
Traditions Dinner Donations		\$175.00	\$175.20		
Service Workshop Donations					
State Conv - Hospitality Suite			\$205.30		
SETA - Hospitality Suite					
Fellowship Fest (Ice Cream Social)			\$18.00		
Group Donations	\$118.01	\$7,200.00	\$6,099.66	1.6%	84.7%
Rosewood Thursday Group	\$12.20				
Katy 12 & 12	\$67.91				
Saturday Solutions Group	\$37.90				
Total Income	\$118.01	\$7,375.00	\$6,488.16	1.6%	88.1%
*** EXPENSES ***					
DCM		\$500.00	\$234.92	0.0%	47.0%
Alt. DCM	\$16.24	\$500.00	\$212.35	3.2%	42.5%
Secretary / Copying		\$100.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
Treasurer		\$75.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
Newsletter		\$221.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
Rent/Coffee Donation	\$100.00	\$180.00	\$100.00	55.6%	55.6%
Coffee		\$25.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
PO Box	\$54.00	\$70.00	\$54.00	77.1%	77.1%
Literature Committee		\$100.00	\$36.97	0.0%	37.0%
PI/CPC	\$22.30	\$1,880.00	\$1,759.72	1.2%	93.6%
Grapevine		\$80.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
CFC		\$250.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
TFC		\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
Archives Committee		\$100.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
Intergroup Liaison		\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
IT Committee		\$100.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
Miscellaneous		\$100.00	\$65.00	0.0%	65.0%
***Gratitude Dinner		\$300.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
*** Fellowship Fest		\$250.00	\$132.73	0.0%	53.1%
*** Traditions Dinner		\$600.00	\$378.83	0.0%	63.1%
*** Service Workshop		\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
***SMRAASA (Even Years)		\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
*** The Forum (Odd Years)		\$1,400.00	\$1,476.85	0.0%	105.5%
*** State Convention Hospitality Site		\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	0.0%	100.0%
***SETA Assenbly Hbst District		\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
*** SETA - 2013 Hospitality Suite ***		\$1,000.00	\$1,141.79	0.0%	114.2%
Total Expenses	\$192.54	\$7,951.00	\$6,593.16	2.4%	82.9%
*Budget Amended as of 10/8/13					
Beginning Bank Balance	\$5,100.59				
Total Expenses	\$192.54				
Total Income	\$118.01				
Prudent Reserve (0.25xBudget)	\$1,987.75				
Unrestricted Funds	\$3,038.31				
Ending Balance/ Total Funds	\$5,026.06				
Unspent Portion of Budget	\$1,357.84				

Deposit	
Check#	Amount
2555	\$37.90
3219	\$67.91
10019	\$12.20
\$118.01	

Treasurer's Report -
November report period ending 12/10/13. Opening balance was \$5,100.59. Expenses for the month of November totaled \$192.54; \$100.00 for rent to WHCC for hosting the D40 District Meetings, \$54.00 for PO Box rent, \$16.24 in expenses for printing expense for the Alt. DCM and finally, \$22.30 was paid to the PI/CPC committee for literature expenses. Group Contributions received this month totaled \$118.01. The closing balance is \$5,026.06.

Holiday Miracles

When I received the request from our Newsletter Editor asking us to submit an article about any holiday miracles we experienced, my first thought was, "Nope, no miracles here, just a nice, simple holiday. Certainly nothing to write about! So, here I am, writing about it...how after I did this thing called prayer my everyday has just turned into my very own miracle.

There was a time before I got sober that I truly believed more money, things, attention & respect for all that I was & did would fix every problem I had. If everyone would just behave & leave me alone then I would be fine! Well, my husband has consistently brought more money home over the years, I acquired many things for which I had no appreciation for & my demands ran everyone off. I was left with nothing but myself & all of the problems I had created. Then came AA, nothing has ever been the same since.

As I sit here reflecting back over the holidays I realize that the holiday miracles have been tucked into the everyday folds of this beautiful life God has given to me. I only have to look with my heart not my eyes & this is what it shows me. I see that my husband is one of the most reliable, dependable presence in my life, my daughter is one of the most magical little elves you could ever meet, my son never ceases to amaze me with his pure, childlike faith & some of the family members that alcoholism has taken out of my life are starting to ask to visit. I see my son standing over his 8 point buck with a true respect, my daughter brim with confidence as she makes her own decisions without fear & I see my husband take the spiritual lead by giving back to the legacy which lives inside of his heart. I see sponsees come to believe that there is not only hope, but real potential to be happy, healthy & at peace. I see them work with others. I see other members of the fellowship get excited about what could happen in this New Year. I see that it only matters how much willingness I have not how much money I have to be a part of, I see how the things which I crave today cannot be bought, I see that others do behave differently when I appreciate, respect & love them first for free. I see that I don't feel left alone, when I am all by myself today. I see the miracle of things coming full circle. All I ever wanted was to have a family, a home & a happy life. *The miracle is...I have them all, plus God!* I get to experience these blessings every day, not just during the holidays.

Michelle H.
D40 Alt. DCM

Filling a Tired Soul with Gratitude

As I approach the first District GSR meeting of the year, my plate has suddenly become very full. The family time at the holidays was wonderful but more of a blur than years past. One of my friends commented that maybe it was the late date for Thanksgiving this year, that Christmas jumped on us like one of those parked cars that would leap into my path in my drinking days, you know, seen but on you much faster than you expected. Maybe it was the increase in work activity, also quite unexpected, since most people are taking vacations. Most people were, in fact, taking vacations, including many in my office, but one large customer account was planning a major acquisition for the first of the New Year, and I was swamped. I had Christmas day off, and New Year's Day off, and that was about it. The rest of the days were 11 to 14 hour days, with participants in the planning from Rhode Island to San Jose. Exhaustion was my constant companion.

The hard work paid off, as I closed a transaction that was the largest ever recorded at my company. The work is not done, as the delivery of the project is still to come. However, I have at least come up for air, just in time to head to Beaumont for the SETA Convention. It will be a welcome relief, staying at the hotel instead of running back to my home or office to track down some business loose end.

They say hard work is its own reward, and there is much truth to the saying, but I have a wider reality. For an alcoholic, the ability and opportunity to work hard carries another type of reward, the reward of an attitude of gratitude. This can't be found in a bottle, because I spent many years inside them, and it just wasn't there. I am tired, and smiling.

Jes K.
D40 DCM

The following Committees meet at:

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

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

Literature Committee

Bay Area Club located on Webster Ave., Webster, TX at Noon
on the 2nd Saturday of the month

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. for more information

*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
JANUARY 14, 2014 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.

