

# DISTRICT 40 NEWS

Volume 26.9

September 2013

## District 40 GSR Approved Meeting Minutes Southeast Texas Area Alcoholics Anonymous

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

August 13, 2013

*Call to Order: Serenity Prayer, Preamble and Unity Declaration*

Tradition 8/Concept 8 reading and summation by Michelle H. & Jes K.

Volunteers for next month....Tradition 9/Concept 9 will be Cindy M. & Kate E.

### Introduction of Attendees = (27):

**Albert C.** (GSR, First Light Group), **Amy M.** (GSR, Fulshear Group), **Betsy G.** (Past D40 DCM & Area 67 Delegate, Friends of Bill W.), **Bob P.** (Alt. GSR, Taking Care of Business Group), **Brad H.** (Past D40 DCM, Area 67 Newsletter Chair, Journey Group), **Cheryl B.** (D40 Treasurer, Katy Crossroads Group), **Chris C.** (GSR, Men's Supper Step Study), **Cindy M.** (Alt. GSR, Katy Big Book), **Corrie H.** (D40 Nwsltr Editor, Alt. Area Secretary, GOD Mtg Group), **Jackie V.** (D40 IT Rep, GSR, GOD Meeting Group), **Jes K.** (D40 DCM, First Light Group), **Kate E.** (D40 PI/CPC Chair, Memorial Going Home Group), **Kelly C.** (GSR, Taking Care of Business), **Libby S.** (GSR, Katy Crossroads Group), **Michelle H.** (D40 Alt. DCM, Rule 62 Group), **Nancy R.** (D40 Coffee Comm., GSR, Memorial Going Home Group), **Natalie D.** (GSR, The Broad Highway), **Nate B.** (GSR, Sunday Night Men's Group), **Paul W.** (D40 CFC Rep, Sunday Night Men's Group), **Rick Mc.** (GSR, Another Chance), **Richard B.** (Alt. GSR, First Light Group), **Richie T.** (Alt. GSR, Sunday Night Men's Group), **Taylor B.** (GSR, Simply AA Group), **Trent P.** (D40 TFC Rep, GSR, Wild West Group), **Wendy A.** (D40 Secretary), **Will R.** (GSR, New Oxford Group) -  
*continued on page 2*

**September 2013**

Tradition 9/  
Concept 9  
Cindy M./Kate E.

**October 2013**

Tradition 10/  
Concept 10  
Deborah G./Betsy G.

**Tradition Nine:** A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

**Concept Nine:** Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

### History Corner

**Nelson Newcomer:** I recently wanted to share in a meeting about the current state of our politics, especially as it relates to the "shut down." I was immediately stopped from speaking (on that topic) and informed that we do not discuss politics in our meetings. I was not told why, so would you tell me why we don't discuss politics?

**Angela Archivist:** Actually, I also recently experienced a newcomer being called down in a meeting for the very same thing, with no explanation given. Our Twelve Traditions were borne out of learning from our bad experiences. The short form of the Tenth Tradition reads:

Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy."

The long form of the Tenth Tradition reads:

No A.A. group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate A.A., express any opinion on outside controversial issues-particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever.

And, according to Bill W's writings in the A.A. Grapevine in November 1960, "this tradition was perhaps the first AA Tradition ever to take shape." The early members learned from the hard lessons experienced by the Washingtonians. The Washingtonians were a group formed in Baltimore in the 1800's with an idea of helping one another. It grew really fast, with over 100,000 members in two years. Then they faded out of sight. What happened was they didn't stick to their primary goal, and started taking sides on political issues. They permitted politicians and reformers to use the society for their own purposes, and soon started fighting among themselves. They lost their effectiveness, and collapsed.

AA was formed at a time that there was lots of controversy going on in the world. But out of the middle of all that, the founders stressed that we should stick to our primary purpose of helping each other stay sober, and not suffer the consequences like the Washingtonians.

Now, does this mean we have no opinion as individuals? Absolutely not. We understand that we shouldn't talk about these things in meetings, and somehow we don't seem to talk about them, even outside the meetings. I actually often hear clubs and other meeting places being referred to as a "politics-free zone." But as individuals, some of us do get involved in these issues. We just keep that part of our lives entirely separate.

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

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1-2 Secretary's Minutes

1 History Corner

3 Treasurer's Report

3 District Servants

3 Upcoming Events

4 Service Sponsor

5 SETA Committee's Meeting Schedule

5 District Map

**\*Welcome New GSRs and Alt GSRs!\***

**Normal Business:**

1. **Secretary's Report-** Motion to Approve as Amended – correction to the July 9, 2013 Unofficial Meeting Minutes.
2. **Treasurer's Report-** the July 2013 Treasurer's report was accepted as submitted; current balance \$7,160.28; total income for the period totaled \$1,778.72, total expenses were \$42.42.
3. **News or Concerns from groups (GSRs) –** Discussion regarding group conscience determining percentage to donate. GSRs advised that \$1.00/year will keep group “active” with GSO/SETA.

**Committee Reports:**

- a) **Archives – OPEN POSITION.**
- b) **Coffee –** Need more cups.
- c) **PI/CPC –** The D40 PI/CPC committee did not meet in July. We had a vote (via email) and determined that we would like to have our display board and some appropriate pamphlets at the Ice Cream Social on the 24th of this month with the District's approval. The next D40 PI/CPC meeting will be Saturday August 31st from 1-3 at the Spring Branch Memorial Club.

The area CPC committee met on August 5th and discussed how we can cooperate with the CFC committee on educating Wardens about AA. They are also working on a project to upgrade their display board.

I attended the Area PI committee meeting at the July Assembly. They have developed a script for contacting radio and TV stations to request them to run an AA PSA. They are looking for volunteers to proceed on this project.

- d) **CFC-** Unanimous Motion to approve Paul W. as the new CFC Rep.
- e) **Grapevine-** *Not present/No Report.*
- f) **Intergroup Liaison – OPEN POSITION.** Delegate's Meeting to be held this Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- g) **Information Technology -** Our IT Committee is shaping up nicely. Marshall W. is our newly elected Chair and two other positions have been filled – Donnie as Support and Michael B. as Alt. Webmaster. Remaining Alternate positions remain open: Postmaster, Support, Chair and Secretary.

We had a discussion in regard to posting an Intergroup flyer on the web, and it was decided not to at this time, but a link through the CFC website to Intergroup would work for the present time. We are hoping that the Ad-Hoc committee chaired by Harold P., “Cooperation versus Affiliation” will come up with a solution by year-end and voted on at the Assembly.

We will be focusing on fine-tuning the IT Guidelines and

are still looking for suggestions on how to improve our website; plus we will be looking at other Area websites to get some ideas.

- h) **Literature-** *Not present/No Report.*
- i) **TFC-** Unanimous Motion to approve Trent P. as the new TFC Rep. 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 –** brought previous months newsletters.

**Current Items For Discussion**

1. District 40 Inventory – Motions regarding date and time of inventory at Spring Branch Memorial Club approved. Will be held on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 1:00 pm.
2. 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.
3. D40 Coffee Pots – priced Mr. Coffee 12-cup (\$17.88 each) and 1.9 liter Pump Pot (\$16.88 each) at Sam's Club. Unanimous Motion to approve purchase of 2-Mr. Coffee and 4-Pump Pots.

**Announcements:**

1. **Olde Tyme Ice Cream Social –** August 24, 2013, 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Spring Branch Memorial Club, 1200 Blalock, Ste. 378, Houston, TX 77032

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  
Wendy M.

Literature Chair  
Taylor K.

Treatment Facilities Chair  
Ken P.

PI/CPC Committee  
Kate E.

CFC Chair  
Paul W.

Intergroup Liaison  
Rhonda R.

Grapevine Rep.  
Sandy K.

Newsletter Editor  
Corrie H.

Coffee Chair  
Nancy R.

Archives Chair  
OPEN

IT Liaison  
Jackie V.

## Upcoming Events

1. SETA Assembly, October 5-6, 2013, Sheraton North Houston, 15700 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Houston, TX 77032
2. Southwest Regional Forum, October 11-13, 2013, Biltmore Hotel, 401 S. Meridian Ave., Oklahoma City OK 73108
3. District 40 Inventory, November 2, 2013, 1:00 p.m to 3:00 p.m., Spring Branch Memorial Club, 1200 Blalock, Ste.378, Houston, TX 77032
4. SETA Gratitude Dinner, November 17, 2013, 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., JIMMY BURKE ACTIVITY CENTER, 500 W. 13<sup>th</sup> St., Deer Park, TX 77536

District 40 Financial Report Period ending 09/10/13	Current Month	Budget*	Year to Date	Current %	YTD %
<b>***INCOME***</b>					
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		\$18.00		
<b>Group Donations</b>	<b>\$82.60</b>	<b>\$7,200.00</b>	<b>\$4,924.12</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>68.4%</b>
Tuesday Night Step Study	\$11.00				
Rosewood Thursday Night Group	\$7.00				
Saturday Solutions Group	\$22.60				
Kingsland Group	\$30.00				
Journey Group	\$12.00				
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$100.60</b>	<b>\$7,375.00</b>	<b>\$5,322.62</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>72.2%</b>
<b>*** EXPENSES ***</b>					
DCM		\$500.00	\$234.92	0.0%	47.0%
Alt. DCM		\$500.00	\$148.54	0.0%	29.7%
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		\$180.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
Coffee		\$25.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
PO Box		\$70.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
Literature Committee	\$18.10	\$100.00	\$18.10	18.1%	18.1%
PI/CPC		\$1,000.00	\$57.42	0.0%	5.7%
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	\$25.00	0.0%	25.0%
***Gratitude Dinner		\$300.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
*** Fellowship Fest	\$132.73	\$250.00	\$132.73	53.1%	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	\$196.30	0.0%	14.0%
*** State Convention Hospitality Ste		\$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%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$150.83</b>	<b>\$7,951.00</b>	<b>\$3,333.63</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>41.9%</b>
<b>*Budget Amended as of 07/09/13</b>					
<i>Beginning Bank Balance</i>	<b>\$7,160.28</b>				
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<b>\$150.83</b>				
<i>Total Income</i>	<b>\$100.60</b>				
<i>Prudent Reserve (0.25xBudget)</i>	<b>\$1,987.75</b>				
<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>	<b>\$5,122.30</b>				
<b>Ending Balance/ Total Funds</b>	<b>\$7,110.05</b>				
<i>Unspent Portion of Budget</i>	<b>\$4,617.37</b>				

Deposit	
Check #	Amount
CA	\$11.00
10001	\$7.00
2521	\$22.60
2659	\$30.00
1262	\$12.00
	<hr/>
	<b>\$82.60</b>

**Treasurer's Report -**  
August report period ending 09/10/13. Opening balance was \$7,160.28. Expenses for the month of August totaled \$150.83; \$132.73 for refreshments for the Fellowship Fest and \$18.10 to purchase literature. Total income was \$100.60 and the closing balance is \$7,128.15.

## Service Sponsors~

When I had about 2 years sober, I started to hear mumbles about "In *THIS* Area, if you do not have a service sponsor you *WILL* be appointed one." I truly felt as if that was just fine for *those* people. I was not one of those people so I did not have to worry about it. I had a step sponsor, all was good. As time went by & I started to venture a bit deeper into this world of service I began to realize that my sponsor whom I love; could not take me further than chairing a meeting at group level. So I ignored this truth & decided that everything was just fine & I would consider getting a service sponsor later on, maybe 10-15 years from now. I was walking around service positions full of fear, doubt, ignorance & ego...my world was very small. Then God stepped in & I met a lady at the coffee pots one day, she was very nice, we chit chatted for a minute & went about our way. When I took my seat & the event started, there she was up front speaking, she was *THE DELEGATE!* The truth hit me hard & fast, it was time. First, I came to understand that *those* people were exactly like me, an everyday drunk in recovery. That nice lady at the coffee pot, her actions showed me this. Second, I knew that I did *not* want to be appointed a service sponsor, I wanted to pick my own & I knew in my heart that she was going to be the lady I asked to be my service sponsor! God delivered & delivered big, I had that feeling, I was certain. Security comes in many different ways & for me being covered in sponsorship is one way.

I do not hear that saying very much anymore. In fact, I don't hear a lot of talk about service sponsors outside of the service arena. So, I am saying it now...If you are in service at any level, open your mind & heart to the option of a service sponsor. You do not & should not have to do this alone. I have done things that I never would have imagined under the wings of my service sponsor. I have learned things about our Traditions, Concepts, structure & history that have made my AA world *HUGE* & beautiful. I have been taught how to apply all of these gifts to my everyday life in every aspect. This has improved my marriage, my parenting, my home, my friendships, my family relationships, the way I see the world & the way I see the fellowship.

If you have not read the pamphlet *Questions & Answers on Sponsorship* I encourage you to do so. On page 27 of this pamphlet it states, "The basis of all sponsorship is to lead by example. Service sponsors can impart to their sponsees the pleasure of involvement in the work of Alcoholics Anonymous. This is best done by stressing the spiritual nature of service work and by pointing out the usefulness of simple footwork and faith. Now, through knowledge and experience, the newer member is aware that service is our most important product after sobriety. With this knowledge, the individual is able to share their vision with others and ensure the future of Alcoholics Anonymous. My service sponsor has given me this experience, opportunity & inspiration. Here is some more of my experience with actively working with my service sponsor and some of the gifts that she has given me by working with me:

- ~She has pulled out the hidden potential & showed me that it's ok to believe in the possibilities
- ~It's okay to want to learn more, do more & try my best
- ~Efficient, organized & early are good things
- ~There are *NEVER* dumb questions
- ~History is pretty
- ~There is no other option than well-informed
- ~The 3 questions when considering any type of commitment no matter how big or small are: Am I able, Am I willing, Am I qualified & what these mean
- ~Balance is indispensable
- ~Pack extra clothes when traveling, you never know when a flight will be cancelled~Some of you may remember Kansas!
- ~Spirit of Rotation can cure many things
- ~When things go well give the praise to others, when things fail it okay to take the blame
- ~Know your place & never stand in the way of another member experiencing the same opportunities that have been given to you
- ~I do not rotate out, I rotate on
- ~Honesty is a sign of spiritual maturity
- ~The words "I think you'd be great at that" are a trick
- ~It's not service work, its service
- ~The words duty & responsibilities are not bad words, rather privileges
- ~Be available to those coming in after me
- ~Read everything 1 sentence at a time
- ~3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy is where my trust in God reveals itself & I can be a spiritual example
- ~It's perfectly fine to be human
- ~DO NOT LIE...ever
- ~There is no 1 thing that is more important than another
- ~It's ok to say what no one else will say
- ~Invite God in everywhere every time
- ~See the strength in the minority opinion
- ~EVERYONE has a voice & a vote & I should never be afraid to use mine
- ~When active in service there comes a time when the question of "Is it more important to be liked & popular or is it most important to be true to myself & the principles?"
- ~Conformity is good not evil
- ~Service Manuals are our friends & should be used; a lot of good stuff is hidden in books
- ~When a sentence begins with did you hear, \_\_\_\_\_ position is open, I should immediately start referring to all of the above list, because I am really being asked to take the commitment

Finally, the greatest gift I have received from my service sponsor is that she has shown me how not to stand as a woman who knows better than God, but how to know better than to walk without God.

Michelle H.  
D40 Alt.DCM

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  
**OCTOBER 8, 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](mailto:SETA-40@aa-seta.org) and [intergroup@aahouston.org](mailto: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](mailto:SETA-40@aa-seta.org) and attend the monthly District meeting at the Bear Creek Community Center. HWY 6 at Patterson Rd.

