
DISTRICT 40 NEWS

Volume 27.2

February 2014

District 40 GSR Approved Meeting Minutes
Southeast Texas Area Alcoholics Anonymous

January 14, 2014

Call to Order: Serenity Prayer, Preamble and Unity Declaration

Tradition I/Concept I reading and summation by Nancy R. and Taylor K.

Volunteers for next month... Tradition II/Concept II will be Kyle M. and Peter C.

Introduction of Attendees = (19):

Rick Mc. (Alt. GSR, Another Chance Group), **Albert C.** (GSR, First Light Group), **Jes K.** (D40 DCM, First Light Group), **Betsy G.** (Past D40 DCM & Area 67 Delegate, God Mtg. Grp), **Cheryl B.** (D40 Treasurer, Katy Crossroads), **Libby S.** (GSR, Katy Crossroads), **Kate E.** (D40 PI/CPC Chair, Memorial Going Home Group), **Nancy R.** (D40 Coffee Committee, GSR Memorial Going Home Group), **Chris C.** (GSR, Men's Mon. Night Step), **Kyle M.** (Alt. GSR, Rule 62 Group), **Kris H.** (Past D40 DCM, Area 67 Treasurer, Rule 62 Group), **Deborah G.** (D40 Alt. Secretary, GSR, Rule 62 Group), **Michelle H.** (D40 Alt. DCM, Rule 62 Group), **Paul W.** (D40 CFC Rep, Sunday Night Men's Group), **Bob P.** (Alt. GSR, Taking Care of Business Group), **Kelly C.** (GSR, Taking Care of Business Group), **Taylor K.** (D40 Literature Rep, Broad Hwy Group), **Gene H.** (Alt GSR, God Mtg. Group), **Rhett C.** (GSR, Sunday Night Men's Group)

Normal Business:

1. **Secretary's Report** – December 10, 2013 minutes accepted as submitted.
2. **Treasurer's Report** - December report period ending 1/4/14. Opening balance \$5,026.06. Expenses for the month of December totaled \$595.79; \$133.67 for X-mas meal made by DCM, \$96.72 for remaining coffee donation, \$54.82 made by the coffee chair to
continued on page 2

12 Traditions & 12 Concepts
Reading and Summation

February 2014

Tradition 2 /

Concept 2

Kyle M. / Peter C.

March 2014

Tradition 3 /

Concept 3

Nancy R. / Jackie V.

Tradition Two: For our group has but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

Concept Two: The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.

History Corner

Nelson Newcomer: In 1955, the groups delegated their authority to manage the day-to-day affairs of A.A. to the General Service Conference. How and why did they do that?

Angela Archivist: The groups delegated administrative and operational authority to the GSC and to the service bodies – the General Service Board, AAWS and the AA Grapevine. By confirming the permanent charter for the GSC, the groups delegated their authority for the active maintenance of the fellowship to the Conference, with the exception of any changes in the 12 Traditions or the General Warranties (Article 12 of the Conference Charter and Concept 12), making the Conference the actual voice for the fellowship as a whole and effective conscience for the entire fellowship. By approving the Conference Charter, the groups did not give up their ultimate authority as outlined in Concept 1. The groups can elect their delegate, who serves as their representative to the Conference, to serve on their behalf. The delegates approve the slate of Trustees who serve on behalf of the Conference, and thus the groups, during the entire year. The

This granting of authority by the groups in 1955 was not the first time the groups granted authority to others. Prior to that, in 1937, the Akron and New York groups delegated to **Bill and Bob** the authority to create AA's overall services so that AA could spread worldwide. **Bill and Bob** found trusted servants who could help them (**the trustees**). **Bob** then delegated responsibility for creating the structure to **Bill**. **Bill** gave responsibility for finances to the **trustees**, and the **trustees**, through the General Service Board and the two subsidiary boards, were then given control over the General Service Office, our public relations and the AA Grapevine, and so on.

But, Bill and Bob continued to feel that they held ultimate responsibility because the groups continued to look to them. Their big concern was what would happen when they were gone? By this time, Bob had developed terminal cancer, and subsequently passed away in 1950 after the 1st International Convention. So, **Bill** proposed that the ultimate authority be passed to all the **groups** in 1955 at the 2nd International Convention (Concept 1), and the **groups** then passed the active responsibility to the **Conference** which became the active voice and conscience of the fellowship (Concept 2).

So, today the collective voice of the fellowship resides in the groups, who, through their General Service Representative (GSR), delegate the authority to act on behalf of their group, to the delegate, who then represents them at the annual General Service Conference. **Clearly**, the General Service Representative is a very important link, without whom there would be a serious break in the chain of service. I hope each of you feel that responsibility and take it seriously. Betsy G.

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purchase air pots for the district and \$200 donation made to SETA Gratitude Fund. Group Contributions received this month totaled \$515.14. The closing balance \$4,946.81.

There is one remaining unknown expense for the Gratitude dinner. Report accepted as amended.

3. **Group News** – None

Committee Reports:

- a. **Archives** – Chris C. stood for the position and was voted in. Congrats and thanks Chris C.!
 - b. **Coffee Committee** – CC – Nancy R. reported that she obtained supplies from Michelle H. and all is well.
 - c. **Public Information/Cooperation with Professional Community – PI/CPC** – Kate E. reported the District PI/CPC Committee suspended their meetings in November and December due to the holidays. They invite all to their first meeting of 2014 where they will be discussing their ideas for this year. Some of the ideas being discussed are providing information to be included in Church bulletins, new mail outs, a breakfast with clergy, and providing information for emergency clinics; Next meeting will be January 25th from 1-3 PM at the Spring Branch Club. All are invited!
- We will begin organizing for our Breakfast with the Clergy meeting at our next regular Committee Meeting that will be held on January 25th from 1-3 at the Spring Branch Club. All are welcome.
- d. **Correctional Facilities Committee** – CFC – Paul W. reported that the correctional facilities desperately need volunteers. Harris County has relaxed training requirements so a test is no longer needed, new volunteers just need to go to training and in general, 3 years from a class B conviction as a minimum. Harris County, TDCJ and Federal prisons all require their own training and generally volunteers need a year sobriety.

Approved meeting schedule for TDCJ
<http://aa-seta.org/committees/cfc/SETA%20CFC%20TDCJ%20Approved%20Meetings.pdf>

Upcoming Training:
1/25/14 – **TDCJ Special Volunteer Training** from 10:00am-2:00pm at Remnant Worship Center 20914 Park Row **Katy, TX 77449** – Contact person: Carol Smith [281-660-0015](tel:281-660-0015)
1/25/14 – **Harris County Volunteer Training** from 10:00am-2:00pm at Remnant 701 San Jacinto – Contact person: Elizabeth S (can contact me for her information). Volunteers will also need an annual TB test.

- e. **Grapevine** – OPEN
- f. **Intergroup** – Peter C. reported there will be a Super Bowl Party on 2/2/14 starting at 2:00 pm for pregame and kickoff at approx. 5:30 pm., First 150 people will get seats; Also having a Step 11 Prayer & Meditation workshop on 3/22/14 from 9:00am-1:00pm.
- g. **Information Technology** – IT – Jackie V. reported that several positions are still open: Secretary, Alt. Secretary, Alt. Chair, Alt. Postmaster, and Alt. Support.

In the process of purchasing asset tags to be placed on SETA equipment has turned out to be too expensive, so Donnie/Support is looking into other alternatives. Kyna/Postmaster mentioned we are getting quite a bit of Spam and has phone calls into the appropriate parties to see what alternatives we have available to at least lessen

the number of Spam emails we are receiving.

In regard to the 3rd leg of the Guidelines the Committee is working on to propose to SETA, we should be able to set up a designated date and time to work solely on this project at our next meeting in January.

- h. **Literature** – Taylor K. stated there was no report because the convention was on the same weekend as the scheduled monthly literature meeting.
- i. **Treatment Facilities Committee** – TFC–Trent P. was absent; No report.
- j. **Newsletter** – Corrie H. was absent; No report.

Current Items:

- 1. **D40 Inventory Update** – Jes K.
 - 1. Updating Roster & Utilizing Database
 - i. Clean up email lists – send out emails to find out which groups still have GSR’s and Alt. GSR’s, if they still wish to get D40 emails, etc.
 - ii. Taylor K. suggested looking at meetings on Intergroup that might not be listed on District, SETA and GSO sites.
 - iii. Volunteers for contacting everyone on the list for clean up: Nancy R., Kate E., Gene H., Albert C., Chris C. and Peter C.
 - 2. Forming Group Visitation Committee
 - i. Currently 160 groups in D40; only 60 with Active GSRs
 - ii. Volunteer Ad Hoc Committee formed to visit meetings
 - 1. Kate E., Nancy R., Gene H., Deborah G., Kris H., and possibly Jackie V.
 - iii. Jes K. will send an email out to volunteers with all info and a reminder to do this.
 - iv. Jes K. will also make this an ongoing agenda item.
 - 3. Dividing District 40
 - i. Will reanalyze this after clean-up of roster and visiting of groups.
- 2. **2014 Service Workshop report** – Betsey G.
 - i. Currently set for March 22, 2014 from 12:30 pm-3:30 pm
 - ii. Since date conflicts with Intergroup’s Prayer and Meditation Workshop, possibly changing to March 15, 2014, assuming Spring Branch Memorial Club is ok with it.
- 2. **SETA Convention 2014**
 - i. Delegate Patrick is expecting to get final agenda items in February to DCMs in order to pass along to all GSRs.
 - ii. Round Tables will be at April Assembly
 - iii. La Viña is currently operating at a loss; Want to make a distinction that La Viña is a service and not a separate entity like the Grapevine.
 - iv. P&P changes regarding voting procedures are next on the agenda for assembly.
- 3. **Service Committee Challenge** – Michelle H.
 - i. Consider visiting our area committees.
 - ii. Let Michelle know if attend one.

Announcements:

- Post Oak Club – Pajama & Board Game Night: Speaker Meeting @ 8:00pm, Game Night 9:00pm-1:00am; \$1.00 all you can drink hot cocoa!
- Intergroup Super Bowl Party: February 2, 2014, Pregame at 2:00pm, Kickoff at approx. 5:30pm; 4140 Directors Row, Houston, TX 77092
- Step 11 Prayer & Meditation Workshop, Saturday, March 22, 2014. 9:00am – 1:00pm; Located at Intergroup 4140 Directors Row, Houston, TX 77092

Meeting Adjourned - Responsibility Statement

The Change That Comes

Service was something I thought I HAD to do in Alcoholics Anonymous. In my twisted mind, it was almost as if I had to be of service in order to continue as a member of AA. That was one of the reasons I didn't say no when I was asked/told that I was the Alternate GSR for my home group. I went to the district meetings... most of them. I half-heartedly participated in the district events, committees, etc. I wanted the pat on the back that I was doing my part. I remember being somewhat excited about it on occasion, but for the most part I just went through the motions. And I certainly had no sense of putting God in the middle of it.

I had to hit a Service Bottom! Which was incidentally just a small part of my own spiritual, emotional and mental bottom. It's amazing how even after almost 3 ½ years sober (or free of alcohol); I was still completely insane!

One night after a group conscience meeting, I asked a fellow district committee member a rather simple question about an upcoming event; I didn't exactly get the answer I was expecting. What I did get was a figurative slap across the back of the head! I was basically read the riot act on how poorly I was doing my service job and if I wasn't able to perform the job as the Alternate GSR, maybe I should think about turning it over. Not those exact words, but it gives a general idea of how I perceived it.

I was stunned! Then embarrassed, then hurt, then incredibly pissed off and every other "poor me" feeling that I could come up with to take on the victim role! Needless to say, I was totally DONE with that committee member. How dare they!

Of course I instantly had to tell someone about it! Luckily there was someone that actually listened to me. When all my complaining and whining was over, I realized it was me that wasn't OK. I needed something more for myself, something I had been denying myself for a long time. I needed God. I needed the Steps. I wasn't at all spiritually fit and my personal program was non-existent. How could I possibly be of service to anyone else if I was doing such a disservice to God and myself?

This "bottom" led to many changes in my life, most of which were internal. After all, that was the root of all my problems...me. I found a new sponsor. I worked ALL of my steps fully! I learned what it was like to be quiet and listen to others as well as God, rather than just being quiet and listening to my own thoughts. I still threw a few pity parties, had a few "poor me" moments and trudged through my service work half-heartedly. But I did what I was told. I didn't have to always like it or agree with it, I just had to be willing, and I was. That was the difference I saw in myself. I was done with My Way. It hadn't worked for me and the only person I had still been trying to convince was the woman staring back at me in the mirror.

When I started to feel as though I was allowing God to work through me instead of doing everything my way, I had a discussion with my sponsor about that particular committee member who had given me the "head slap." My sponsor pointed out that instead of being defensive at what had been said TO me; perhaps I could approach this member and ask what I could better do to be of maximum service in my position. Holy Cow! There's a concept... Asking others for help! So my sponsor was *suggesting* that I set my pride aside and ask for assistance?

After lots of prayers and lots of deep breaths, I swallowed my pride long enough to approach this member after a district service meeting and do what was *suggested* to me. I was a little scared and intimidated to ask such a simple question again. Last time I did, I was given a "head slap." But THIS TIME, I didn't get the same reaction. I wasn't read the riot act. I wasn't told I was doing a poor job as an Alternate GSR. What I WAS informed of is that it's okay to ask for help. It's okay to admit if I was struggling and couldn't fulfill my duties to the best of my abilities, I just needed to reach out to someone for guidance. This member was all too willing to share their experience as well as suggest several other members that would be happy to do the same, all I had to do was ask.

To this day, I'm still blown away at how different those two conversations were with the same person. The only way I can explain it is God! I brought Him into my life, worked my steps, and worked on me. The other person didn't necessarily change, the situation didn't really change, but I did. It was because I had worked MY program first. My attitude and outlook had changed.

Since then I've relied a lot on this particular district member to help guide me in many facets of service. I've gone from Alternate GSR to GSR. I've had to step up in some of my roles as a district service member. I've confidently volunteered on sub-committees in places that I know I can be of maximum service or places where I feel I could learn more. What better way to learn than to dive in the middle? I have a slight fear of going too high up in service roles, but that isn't for me to stress about. God will lead me on that path if that's where He wants me to be.

One of the most profound moments I had in my attitude change towards service came on a day when I was *just doing my job*. Nothing more or nothing less. I needed assistance and I reached out in an email to that once intimidating committee member. I was blown away by the message I received back. The first paragraph said, "...thank you for being responsible in your commitment... I am very proud of you!" I had to read that same sentence several times. This person who had only months ago given me that "head slap," who intimidated me, whose standards I thought I could never live up to, just told me they were grateful and proud of me. Tears welled up in my eyes, I was shocked! And I was tremendously grateful. I also felt pride in myself; the kind that comes from simply doing the 'next right thing.' All I had done was follow directions or suggestions; God's directions, my sponsor's *suggestions*, those suggested in the Big Book and of course, the ones I asked for from that particular member.

Today, I don't HAVE to do service 'work'... I GET to be of service! It's an honor, a privilege, and a blessing!

Deborah G.
D40 Alt. Secretary

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
Chris C. –

IT Liaison
Jackie V. –

Upcoming Events

- District 40 Service Workshop:** March 15, 2014, 1:00pm-4:00pm, Spring Branch Memorial Club, 1200 Blalock, Ste.378, Houston, TX 77032
- SETA Assembly:** April 12-13, 2014, Sheraton North Houston 15700 John F. Kennedy Blvd, Houston, TX 77032.

District 40 Financial Report Period ending 02/11/14	Current Month	Budget*	Year to Date	Current %	YTD %
INCOME					
Traditions Dinner Donations		\$140.00			
Service Workshop Donations					
State Conv - Hospitality Suite					
SETA -Hospitality Suite					
Fellowship Fest (Ice Cream Social)					
Group Donations	\$615.98	\$7,095.00		8.7%	0.0%
Just For Today Group	\$6.70				
High Hopes	\$10.00				
Into Action AA Group	\$14.50				
Rosewood Thursday Night Group	\$15.10				
Another Chance Group	\$20.00				
Saturday Solutions Group	\$24.70				
Friends of Bill W.	\$25.00				
Working With Others	\$25.10				
GOD Meeting Group	\$36.58				
Katy Crossroads Group	\$153.30				
Spring Shadows Group	\$285.00				
Total Income	\$615.98	\$7,235.00	\$0.00	8.5%	0.0%
*** EXPENSES ***					
DCM	\$296.70	\$500.00	\$296.70	59.3%	59.3%
Alt. DCM		\$500.00		0.0%	0.0%
Secretary / Copying		\$100.00		0.0%	0.0%
Treasurer		\$75.00		0.0%	0.0%
Newsletter		\$221.00		0.0%	0.0%
Rent/Coffee Donation		\$180.00		0.0%	0.0%
Coffee		\$25.00		0.0%	0.0%
PO Box		\$70.00		0.0%	0.0%
Literature Committee		\$100.00		0.0%	0.0%
PI/CPC		\$2,380.00		0.0%	0.0%
Grapevine		\$80.00		0.0%	0.0%
CFC		\$250.00		0.0%	0.0%
TFC		\$0.00		0.0%	0.0%
Archives Committee		\$100.00		0.0%	0.0%
Intergroup Liaison		\$0.00		0.0%	0.0%
IT Committee		\$100.00		0.0%	0.0%
Miscellaneous		\$100.00		0.0%	0.0%
***Gratitude Dinner		\$300.00		0.0%	0.0%
*** Fellowship Fest		\$250.00		0.0%	0.0%
*** Traditions Dinner		\$800.00		0.0%	0.0%
*** Service Workshop		\$250.00		0.0%	0.0%
***SWRAASA (Even Years)		\$1,500.00		0.0%	0.0%
*** The Forum (Odd Years)					
*** State Convention Hospitality Ste					
***SETA Assembly Host District					
*** SETA - 2014 Hospitality Suite ***					
Total Expenses	\$296.70	\$7,881.00	\$296.70	3.8%	3.8%
*Budget Approved as of 10/8/13					
<i>Beginning Bank Balance</i>	\$4,780.37				
<i>Total Expenses</i>	\$296.70				
<i>Total Income</i>	\$615.98				
<i>Prudent Reserve (0.25xBudget)</i>	\$1,970.25				
<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>	\$3,129.40				
Ending Balance / Total Funds	\$5,099.65				
<i>Unspent Portion of Budget</i>	\$7,584.30				

Deposit 2/10/14

Check #	Amount
	\$6.70
	\$10.00
	\$14.50
	\$15.10
	\$20.00
	\$24.70
	\$25.00
	\$25.10
	\$36.58
	\$153.30
	\$285.00
	\$615.98

Treasurer's Report -

January report period ending 2/11/14. Opening balance was \$4,780.37. Expense for the month of January was \$296.70 for DCM's hotel stay for SETA. Group Contributions received this month totaled \$615.98. The closing balance is \$5,099.65.

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
MARCH 11, 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.

