
DISTRICT 40 NEWS

Volume 27.5

May 2014

District 40 GSR Official Meeting Minutes Southeast Area Alcoholics Anonymous

April 8, 2014

Call to Order: Serenity Prayer, Preamble and Unity Declaration

Tradition IV/Concept IV: reading and summation by Taylor K. and Kate E.

Volunteers for next month: Tradition V/Concept V will be Albert C. and Deborah G.

Introduction of Attendees: (26)

Albert C. (GSR, First Light Group); **Anthony Y.** (Visitor, Katy 12 & 12); **Betsy G.** (Past D40 DCM, Past Area 67 Delegate, God Meeting Group); **Cheryl B.** (D40 Treasurer, Katy Crossroads Group); **Chris C.** (GSR, Men's Monday Night Supper Step Study, D40 Archives Rep); **Cindy W.** (Alt. GSR, Katy 12 & 12); **Corrie H.** (D40 Newsletter Editor, Alt. Area 67 Secretary, God Meeting Group); **Deanna F.** (Alt. GSR, Spring Shadows Group); **Deborah G.** (D40 Alt. Secretary, GSR, Rule 62 Group); **Doug B.** (Alt. GSR, Men's Monday Night Supper Step Study); **Gene H.** (Alt. GSR, God Meeting 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); **Katie C.** (Alt. GSR; Broad Highway Group); **Kyle M.** (Alt. GSR, Rule 62 Group); **Libby S.** (GSR, Katy Crossroads Group); **Mariana O.** (GSR, Katy 12 & 12 Group); **Michelle H.** (D40 Alt. DCM, Rule 62 Group); **Mike J.** (GSR, Katy Big Book Group); **Nancy R.** (D40 CC, Memorial Going Home Group); **Pam F.** (Visitor, Katy Big Book Group); **Peter C.** (D40 Intergroup Liaison, GSR, Journey Group); **Scott S.** (Alt. GSR, Memorial Going Home Group); **Taylor B.** (GSR, Simply AA Group); **Taylor K.** (D40 Literature Rep., Broad Highway Group);

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History Corner

Nelson Newcomer: The long form of Concept Six tells me that the General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for Alcoholics Anonymous, and that it has the final decision in large matters of general policy and finance. So, why do we need trustees?

Angela Archivist: The General Service Conference (GSC) does, in fact, have the principal responsibility for our fellowship. The fellowship voted to give the GSC that responsibility at the 2nd International Convention in 1955, when Bill W. declared that we had "come of age." For the five years previous to the 2nd International Convention, the GSC was merely an experiment to see if it would work. Well, it did, and we, as a fellowship, agreed to move forward with that type of organization.

Up until this point, the Trustees of the General Service Board were our main policy makers, guided by our founder, Bill W. In Concept Six, the GSC recognizes that, although GSC has the principal responsibility, they only meet in session for one week a year, and are spread across the entire United States and Canada, making it difficult to manage the day to day operations our two publishing corporations, the General Service Office, and the various service committees that do a large part of the work.

So, in Concept Six, the General Service Board is given the authority to act **for us** by taking active responsibility (rather than principal responsibility), as well as being the chief policy makers for operation of the General Service Board (GSB) and the General Service Office. Concept Six outlines just how Trustees, through the GSB, will relate themselves to the GSC and to their active service committees. These policies are laid out in our Conference Charter and the By-Laws of the GSB, through which the Trustees are granted the traditional Rights of Decision, Participation and Appeal.

We give our Trustees this power to act for us because we, in turn, hold them mainly responsible for all our service activities, A.A. World Services, Inc., and The A.A. Grapevine, Inc. They are also the Active Guardians of our Twelve Traditions, and they are A.A.'s bankers and charged with safeguarding our Treasury.

At all times, however, the Trustees must operate under the close supervision of the GSC, through the various Conference service committees.

We have found that the basic corporate structure works the best for our operations. The A.A. groups act as stockholders, the Delegates are their representative and carry their proxy vote, and the Trustees are the Directors of the holding companies. So, just like any large corporate Board of Directors, the GSB and its two subsidiary boards must be given large powers in order to operate in a efficient manner to handle A.A. business and the principal world affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous.
Betsy G.

Normal Business:

1. **Secretary's Report** – Correction made on Current Items #2d to read \$100 budget approved for literature and printing costs from Misc. line item; Minutes approved as amended.
2. **Treasurer's Report** – March report period ending 4/8/14. Opening balance \$5,250.31 Total expenses for the month of March were \$237.07 for secretary, gratitude dinner and service workshop. This amount reduced to \$95.57 once the \$120.00 refund from the PI/CPC Committee was accounted for and a donation of \$21.50 was received at the service workshop. Group Contributions received this month totaled \$389.58. The Closing balance is \$5,544.42. Report approved as submitted.
3. **Group News** – The District was presented with the question of how a group should handle allegations of inappropriate sexual advances, sexual assault allegations and generally, policing the safety of individual members. The experience of the District was shared, and updates from the affected group were encouraged.

Committee Reports:

- a. **Archives** – Chris C. reported that there was not an Archives committee meeting this past month but is expected to meet at the Area Assembly this weekend April 11-13, 2014.
- b. **Coffee** – Nancy reported that all is well and we have plenty of supplies!
- c. **Public Information/Cooperation with Professional Community – PI/CPC** – Kate E. reported that at the March meeting they discussed plans for the Breakfast with the Clergy meeting in May. At the meeting this month they will do a practice presentation and stuff literature in preparation for this event. Area CPC met last night and discussed those items that are on the General Service Conference agenda that relate to pamphlets they distribute. They will take those recommendations to the assembly this weekend. Area CPC and PI Committees will be meeting this Saturday, April 12th at 4:30 at the Assembly. Please come to their next District 40 PI/CPC committee meeting on April 26th, 1-3 PM, Spring Branch Memorial Club, and see a presentation as it is given to Professionals who have contact with the still suffering alcoholic.
- d. **Correctional Facilities Committee – CFC** – Paul W. was absent; No report.
- e. **Grapevine** – OPEN
- f. **Intergroup** – Peter C. reported that 170 people attended the two meditation workshops, 70 on Friday and 120 on Saturday. The Intergroup Appreciation Dinner is Saturday, April 26th, from 6:00-9:00 PM at the Intergroup Conference Center. Speaker is Rev. Bill W – Round Rock, TX. Suggested donation is \$50 and seats are available. Intergroup Open House is Saturday, June 14th from 10:00-3:00. All sales are tax free. Intergroup is asking for cash donations instead of desserts and sides.
- g. **Information Technology – IT** – Jackie V. reported that several positions are still open: Alt. Chair, Alt. Postmaster, Secretary, and Alt. Secretary; With Donnie/IT Support stepping down due to work load, there's a very good possibility that Waco M. new Alt. Support will be stepping up to the plate to be their IT Support person. Official voting in of Waco will be at their next meeting 4/26/14 which will leave the Alt. Support position available to anyone who has knowledge of computer hardware. Because their hot spot for GTM's is not working properly at The Post Oak Club, and because it does work at SBMC, they may very well be changing their meeting place to the latter. They will discuss this in more detail at their next monthly meeting.
- h. **Literature** – Taylor K. reported that the next Area Literature Committee meeting will be at the April Assembly where hopefully a new Literature Chair will be voted in.
- i. **Treatment Facilities Committee – TFC** – Trent P. was absent; No report.
- j. **Newsletter** – Corrie H. is requesting more articles and is still trying to find the "magic number" for how many copies of the newsletter to print out each month.

Current Items:

1. **2014 Gratitude Dinner – Cheryl B. (Co-Host Chair)**
 1. Held on Saturday, March 29th, at 12:00 PM at Delta Club located on 6400 Westpark Drive, Houston, 77057.
 2. D40 was asked to provide "save the date" cards for the April assembly. One thousand cards were designed, ordered and delivered to the committee on 3/29. The total cost was \$40.49 which will be paid for from the Gratitude Dinner budget.
 3. The next item required by D40 is the design, order and distribution of the promotional flyers before the July assembly.
 4. The committee voted on and approved a theme for the dinner which is *Life Will Take on a New Meaning*.
 5. The committee welcomes any ideas or suggestions for decorations. They would like for them to reflect or tie into this year's theme.

6. A list of food choices will be priced and brought back to the next meeting for review. The committee would like to make a decision on what the food theme will be quickly so that Melissa can move forward securing commitments from other Districts.
7. The next committee meeting is on Saturday, April 26th at the Delta Club at 12pm.
2. **Visitation Committee- Nancy R.**
 1. The committee met on April 08, 2014 with the following members present, Kate E., Jackie V., Michelle H., Nancy R., Gene, Deborah G.
 2. Information packets were assembled and it was decided that the committee would hand them out to members of the District that have confirmed they will visit a group. Kate E. will create a feedback card for members to fill out and report back to the committee with. Nancy R. will make copies of a contribution resource card.
 3. The committee reviewed several options on how to approach the group's chairperson and ways to present ourselves. It was also suggested that if we are given the opportunity by the groups to attend their business meeting we could give a more detailed presentation & answer any questions the members may have.
 4. At our next meeting we will focus on distributing the list of groups for willing volunteers to sign up and commit to visiting. The committee is also still in need of a committee chair to take over the organization of this committee work. The ad-hoc committee will continue to meet prior to the District 40 meeting at 6:30 pm.
3. **2015 SETA Convention – Michelle H.**
 1. Still has not booked the suite.
 2. Waiting for the convention flyer to be posted on the website in hopes of getting the best deal!
4. **2014 Traditions Dinner – Michelle H.**
 1. Meet with church on May 28, 2014
 - i. Pay Rent \$300
 - ii. Sign Contract
 - iii. Pick Up Key
 2. Flyer has been distributed to
 - i. GSRs
 - ii. D40 Webpage
 - iii. Intergroup
 - iv. April Assembly
 3. Speaker Betsy G. is confirmed
 4. Main Food Dish Cajun-
 - i. Jes K. has ordered Shrimp Étouffée/Rice & Boudin Sausage from local restaurant
 - ii. Taylor K. will pick up & bring to dinner
 - iii. Remaining Potluck Food Sign Up Sheet Circulated
 5. Remaining Items To Do-
 - i. Confirm D40 Committee Table Displays
 - ii. Upcoming Events Flyer Table
 - iii. Readers
 - iv. Greeters/Registration
 - v. Set Up Crew
 - vi. Kitchen Crew
 - vii. Drink Station Crew
 - viii. Ashtrays
 - ix. Clean Up Crew
 - x. Sound System
 - xi. Speaker Gift
 - xii. Set Up Email Distribution List – May 1st Target Date
 - xiii. Reminder Email sent out prior to event – May 31st
 - xiv. Supply Shop
 6. If anyone is interested in volunteering please contact Michelle H.

Announcements:

- **SETA Assembly, including GSC Roundtables:** April 12-13, 2014, Sheraton North Houston 1570 John F. Kennedy Blvd, Houston, TX 77032
- **District 40 PI/CPC Committee Meeting:** Saturday, April 26, 2014, Spring Branch Memorial Club, 1200 Blalock, Ste. 378, Houston, TX 77032
- **2014 District 40 Traditions Dinner:** Saturday, June 7, 2014. 6:00pm; St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, 1656 Blalock, Houston, TX 77080

The Management of Change

To be completely honest, I saw this Title on a book and it started a string of random musings in my head. We get here with lives unmanageable, and are quickly told we must change everything. This is a sad realization and a daunting challenge. Without tried and true AA guidance, this would be impossible for most alcoholics (I would say all, but to honor our Traditions, I won't pronounce our way as the only way).

In AA's well tread path, this happens fairly quickly, even from the perspective of one day at a time. We stop pouring alcohol into our bodies. We concede that by ourselves we are doomed - that outside help is necessary. We commit to accepting that help. We launch a relentless attack on every dismissive and rationalized nook and cranny of our past, looking for our part in the disaster our lives had become, and we share our admittedly feeble first results with another person. (Gasp!) Let's take a moment at this point just to reflect: who would have thought we could, or would, embark on such an endeavor? Change is happening by the truckloads already.

Oh, but we're not done. We seek to recognize and willingly leave behind the most egregious of our character defects, many of which we actually liked! We like them no more, as we see their fabric woven into our own destruction. We compile a list (often a long one) of people we must humbly approach to perform restitution and acts of contrition, and we get right to it, delaying only if circumstances demand it, knowing by now that our lives are becoming whole, our relationships are becoming healthy, and our continued progress depends on this steady forward march. We continue to watch for new instances of hard to shake habits in perception, speech and conduct, we seek peace in prayer and meditation and we start helping others (Gasp again!) as we work to make all of the above a regular part of our new lives.

Phew! Makes me tired thinking about it. But in these thoughts, I reach an unmistakable conclusion. We came here with lives unmanageable, but with AA's help, we become first class managers of change. When we look back at our progress, the results are outstanding. Then we look around at our friends and their progress as they employ the same formula. How many times have you seen a member in a meeting, sharing about a lost job, a death of a loved one, a serious illness, on an on I could go, and yet, difficult as the events may be, they handle their situation with grace, courage, calmness, even optimism, and most importantly, without alcohol? It seems amazing, but when you consider what we do to create a new life, it is understandable. Change is no longer the harbinger of dread and depression; it is the herald of opportunity and growth. I don't fear the unexpected, the unknown, and the unexperienced event—bring it on! Recovery is like that, ready for anything. Are you ready?

“If you do not create change, change will create you.” ~Unknown

**Jes K.
D40 DCM
6-3-14**

As Kids See It

As I submit my newsletter article on this day, I also celebrate my 40th birthday. Magical for someone who came into AA just wanting to stop the pain & die, the will to live was gone. Today all I want to do is live! I talk a lot about my kids & the impact they have as my healthy motivators & the unique ability they have to teach me all the lessons that are so important. Mostly they teach me who I really want to be. Today I invite you into how my kids see our legacy of service...

As a child of two alcoholics I've had a lot of chances to be unstable, unhealthy, and unwise. Eleven years ago, however, my family and I were blessed with the gift of sobriety. I have lived more years in a sober home now than in a drinking one, so I've seen a lot of my parents' ups and downs. Most of the time, I only understand about ten percent of what my parents go through as active members of AA, but one of the most outstanding things they have experienced- that I am aware of- is the service facet of the AA world. It truly is a different world to me too. Despite that, their commitment to service has been equally inspiring and exasperating. As service and commitment is not unique to AA but is a part of everyone's lives, I believe that the work that my parents do has enriched their experience as active members of AA. In a way, they really have put truth to Gandhi's words, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." Service can often be a tumultuous adventure but it is often so rewarding that we forget the struggles we faced in the process. While my parents will maintain composure (sometimes) in front of other members and for the cause, they will often vent their frustrations to each other and to their incredibly patient children. It reminds me that they are, in fact, human beings who are entitled to emotions and feelings. Apart from that, what my parents have taken away from service these past years has been translated into my life as a young adult more than I realize. Their ability to teach lessons, with me begrudgingly learning, never ceases to amaze and inspire me. I fear that I would have no understanding of being selfless and giving if it wasn't for watching my parents work hard for themselves and for others in AA. I don't spend enough time reflecting on the joys that sobriety has brought to me and my family and I truly believe that their commitment to the program and service has enriched our lives in ways that no amount of material or monetary possession can allow. Because of their hard work and dedication as parents, what could have been unstable, unhealthy, and unwise is wholesome, mature, and loving.

~Olivia Hartmann

I am not an alcoholic & I do not have any memories of what it used to be like before AA. What I know is that if they were still drinking there would be no fishing, no Momma's cooking & no fun. I have no problem with any service, commitments or AA so long as it doesn't interfere with my playtime...I love to play & be outside. My favorite part of AA is when I get go to potluck events & I actually get to eat while the food is still hot, sometimes my Momma makes us do the right thing & that always happens at the end of the line. I enjoy seeing my fun friends AA.

-Jacob Hartmann

I've learned through the steps, traditions & concepts the importance of truly hearing what my kids have to say, validate how they feel & to respect their opinions. The way I see it is that I can always grow in these areas, but that wouldn't be possible unless they feel secure in letting me know how they see it!

Michelle H.
D40 Alt. DCM

**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 PI/CPC Committee Meeting: June 21, 2014, 1:00 p.m., Spring Branch Memorial Club, 1200 Blalock, Ste.378, Houston, TX 77032

District 52/District 40 Joint Meeting for Delegate Report: Date Changed to June 28, 2014, 11:30 am, Parkway United Methodist Church, 5801 New Territory Blvd, Sugar Land, TX 77479.

68th Annual Texas State AA Convention: June 20-22, Hilton Hotel 815 Main St., Fort Worth, Texas, 817-870-2100

Area Assembly: July 12-13, 2014, Sheraton North Houston, 15700 John F Kennedy Blvd, Houston, TX 77032

**District 40 Financial Report
Period Ending 05/13/14**

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	\$1,031.66	\$7,095.00	\$2,312.88	14.5% 32.6%
Rosewood Thursday Night Group	\$9.50			
Post Oak Group	\$25.00			
Hockley Group	\$60.00			
Memorial Going Home Group	\$91.85			
God Meeting Group	\$115.96			
Rule 62 Group	\$117.26			
Our Common Journey Group	\$162.09			
Katy Crossroads Group	\$165.00			
Spring Shadows Group	\$285.00			
Total Income	\$1,031.66	\$7,235.00	\$2,312.88	14.3% 32.0%

*** EXPENSES ***				
DDM		\$500.00	\$296.70	0.0% 59.3%
Alt. DDM	\$77.25	\$500.00	\$77.25	15.5% 15.5%
Secretary / Copying		\$100.00	\$10.00	0.0% 10.0%
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%
FOBox		\$70.00		0.0% 0.0%
Literature Committee		\$100.00		0.0% 0.0%
PI/CPC	\$178.83	\$2,380.00	\$193.83	7.5% 8.1%
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	\$40.59	0.0% 13.5%
*** Fellowship Fest		\$250.00		0.0% 0.0%
*** Traditions Dinner		\$800.00		0.0% 0.0%
*** Service Workshop		\$250.00	\$164.98	0.0% 66.0%
***S/RAASA (Even Years)		\$1,500.00		0.0% 0.0%
*** The Forum (Odd Years)				
*** State Convention Hospitality Ste				
***SETA Assently Hbst District				
*** SETA - 2014 Hospitality Suite ***				
Total Expenses	\$256.08	\$7,881.00	\$783.35	3.2% 9.9%

*Budget Approved as of 10/8/13	
Beginning Bank Balance	\$5,544.32
Total Expenses	\$256.08
Total Income	\$1,031.66
Prudent Reserve (0.25x Budget)	\$1,970.25
Unrestricted Funds	\$4,349.65
Ending Balance / Total Funds	\$6,319.90
Unspent Portion of Budget	\$7,097.65

Deposit 5/13/14	
Check #	Amount
1821	\$285.00
13066	\$25.00
1085	\$91.85
1065	\$117.26
3293	\$162.09
2189	\$60.00
2457	\$165.00
10049	\$9.50
8	\$115.96
	\$1,031.66

Treasurer's Report - April report period ending 5/13/14. Opening balance was \$5,544.32. Total expenses for the month of March was \$256.08 for copying and PI/CPC committee expenses. Group Contributions received this month totaled \$1,031.66. The closing balance is \$6,319.90.

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 10:00 am to Noon at:
Spring Branch Memorial Club
1200 Blalock, Suite 378
Houston, TX. 77055 Telephone: 713-468-9103

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 2nd Saturday of the month at 10 AM at 521 N. Sam Houston Pkwy, Ste. 215.

*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
JUNE 10, 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.

