



Step Twelve

Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principals in all our affairs.

Tradition Twelve

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Concept Twelve

General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion vote and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personal punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

Generosity

An alcoholic dies and goes to Heaven. When he gets to the pearly gates, St. Peter says if you can name one good deed that you have done in life you will be allowed to enter Heaven. The man had been an extremely selfish and self-centered practicing alcoholic his entire life. He had died alone and bereft of friends. So he thought and thought and finally he said that he had once given a homeless person fifty cent. St Peter considered his answer, true it was a good deed but it seemed a little thin to be let in to Heaven for. So he told the alcoholic to wait there that he would be right back. He entered Heaven and found the angel Gabriel and repeated the story and asked him what he should do. Gabriel thought about it and finally told St. Peter "Give him his fifty cents back and tell him to go to Hell!"

*Comedy by Ron C.
Area 67 Alt Delegate*

Inside This Issue

1	<i>Comedy Corner</i>
1	Step, Tradition, Concept
2	<i>Holiday Gratitude</i>
3, 4, & 5	Secretary's Report
6	Treasurer's Report
7	<i>Sober Holidays?!?</i>
7	Trusted Servants' Directory
8	Upcoming Events
8	District Map
9	SETA Committee Meeting Schedule

Holiday Gratitude

This was my first article of 2015 as your new DCM...

Our Table

Happy New Year District 40! I am so excited for this journey we all will be experiencing together. 2015 holds so many new opportunities for us all as well as the comforts of the solid, stable paths that have already been laid down for us to follow.

*I have been asked what I hope to bring to the table through my new position this rotation. Such a simple question & after quite a bit of prayer, meditation, examination & reflection; simply put I hope to bring **Unity** to our table. There will be chairs at our District table that will be filled with veteran servants, chairs filled with brand new GSRs, chairs filled with confusion, excitement, uncertainty, willingness, seriousness, humor, experience, potential, personalities, principles & there will be some empty chairs. What I hope to bring to the table through my chair is that feeling of no matter where we sit at the table we are all equals as we serve & equally important to fulfilling the roles He has assigned to us. Our voices lead us to decisions which whenever possible, will be made by substantial unanimity, one of our best ways of creating a feeling of unity within the district as we then turn our decisions into actions.*

I look forward to greeting you all & hearing your voice as we gather at our table...come pull up a chair there is plenty of room!

As I read it over again, I can see where I am grateful for the predictable, for the unexpected, grateful for the repetition, the changes, grateful for the familiar & the new. I love going to our District meetings & sitting there watching you all come in & fill your chairs at our tables, I love hearing you chatter with each other & help each other, I love seeing you eat cookies & look down when it's time for a volunteer for the Tradition & Concept presentations, I love that you come back month after month & I love that you are so gracious to me even though I make mistakes & don't know how all the Robert's Rule works when it comes to motions & such, I love that we pray together & I love that you have been respectful to all the visitors that take a chair at our tables, I love your questions & I love how you help clean up after the meeting. Mostly, I still love being your DCM & that I have another whole year to try & give back what you have given me...a feeling of Unity!

In Service,
Michelle H.
D40 DCM



District 40 GSR Official Meeting Minutes Southeast Area Alcoholics Anonymous

October 13, 2015

Call to Order: Serenity Prayer, Preamble and Unity Declaration

Tradition IX/Concept IX: reading and summation by Sunshine P. and Ana D.

Volunteers for next month: Tradition X/Concept X will be Deborah G. and Cletus B.

Introduction of Attendees:

Ana D. (D40 Secretary, Area 67 Newsletter Chair); **Betsy G.** (Past D40 DCM, Past Area 67 Delegate, God Meeting Group); **Betsy K.** (GSR, Katy Big Book); **Bill A.** (Alt. GSR, Breaking the Chains); **Cheryl B.** (Katy Crossroads Group); **Cindy M.** (D40 Correctional Facilities Chair, Area 67 CFC Secretary, Katy Big Book); **Cletus B.** (GSR, Rule 62 Group); **Corrie H.** (D40 Alt DCM, Katy Big Book Group); **Cynthia D.** (Post Oak Group); **Deborah G.** (D40 Newsletter Chair, Katy 164); **Jackie S.** (GSR, Bear Creek Fellowship); **James H.** (GSR, Katy 12 & 12); **Jeffrey L.** (GSR, MNMSS); **Jim B.** (Rule 62 Group, D40 PI/CPC Chair); **Joe P.** (Alt. GSR, Another Chance); **Kate E.** (Area 67 PI Chair, Memorial Going Home Group); **Kate L.** (Alt. GSR, Broad Highway); **Mark T.** (GSR, Fry Rd. Group); **Mary Lou R.** (Alt. GSR, Memorial Going Home Group); **Mel K.** (GSR, Another Chance); **Michelle H.** (D40 DCM, Katy Big Book Group); **Mike D.** (God Meeting Group); **Mike W.** (D40 Treasurer, God Meeting Group); **Pam F.** (D40 Treatment Facilities Chair, Katy Big Book); **Patty D.** (GSR, Katy 164); **Robin K.** (GSR, Simply AA); **Sarah D.** (God Meeting Group); **Sunshine P.** (GSR, Spring Shadows Group); **Tom B.** (Alt. GSR, D40 Archives Chair, West Houston Group); **Tom K.** (intergroup Liaison, Open Door)

Normal Business:

1. **Secretary's Report** – Accepted as corrected.
2. **Treasurer's Report** – Accepted as corrected.
 - a. 2015 Regional Forum Budget Increase – Motion passed to increase the budget for 2015 by \$500.00.

Committee Reports:

- a. **Archives** –Tom B.
 - Project one - Working with Dick P and Intergroup on history of Houston AA, to include but not limited to Groups, Clubs and districts. Of course my main focus will be how District 40 came about, but we need to discover the history of how we got here. I am hoping to have a time line completed for the BIG SETA CONVENTION in Galveston!

- Project two - Working with Sara D. and SETA team to find a missing link in History, the 60's!

b. **Coffee Committee** – Betsy K.

- Need cups, Michelle to talk to Corrie

c. **Correctional Facilities Committee** – CFC – Cindy M.

- Conference had roughly 110 registered and the banquet was sold out. We believe we at least broke even this year. Great speakers & panels.
- Huntsville has a new warden & Chaplain n longer the middle man. Same with Harris county jail.
- GSO is working on a annual national CFC workshop.

d. **Grapevine** – OPEN – A subscription challenge is going on right now. Look at flyers for more information. Writing articles is a part of helping!!!

e. **Intergroup** – OPEN –Trustees meeting is next Thursday. Open Meeting, next month is a delegate meeting. Each group is entitled to 2 votes. Next month is elections for the trustees to be on the board. The Home Group Workshop – Nov 7th at 9 am at Intergroup, \$5 registration.

f. **Information Technology** – IT – Richard B.

- SETA IT Committee Meeting held September 19 – I was not able to attend because of trip out of state.
- Open positions for SETA include Alternate Postmaster and Secretary
- SETA IT had table and support for SETA Assembly Oct. 3 and 4.
- The Scrubbed August District 40 Newsletter has also been posted to the SETA District 40 Committee Meeting Minutes Webpage at: <http://www.aaseta.org/dcms/40/minutes/index.htm>
- The 2016 SETA convention webpage has been updated and is located at: <http://www.setaconvention.org/2016-registration.html>



District 40 GSR Official Meeting Minutes Southeast Area Alcoholics Anonymous

- a. **Literature** – Sharon S. – No report
- b. **Multilingual** – Meagan V. – No report
- c. **Newsletter** – Deborah G.
- Thank you for all those that were able to contribute to the newsletter this month. We had a couple of awesome articles from our DCM and District 52's DCM in regards to "The Lowercase A's" in regards to the Regional Forums that occurred this past weekend. Next month's topic (for November) will be along the lines of Step 11 and How Do You Maintain Conscious Contact With Your Higher Power. Any and all articles, jokes, quotes are welcomed whether its on topic or not.

d. **Public Information/Cooperation with Professional Community – PI/CPC** – Jim B.

- The PSA holiday hearing will begin December 18 and run through January 14 at selected cinemas in our district. The committee also approved in submits a 2016 plan totally \$2575 which is a 3% increase from present level. The PI chair and alternate chair will cross train with a few veterans from the area PII committee in preparation for presentations to the area committee members in December or January, finally our next meeting will be October 31 at 9 AM at the Spring branch club

e. **Treatment Facilities Committee – TFC**– Pam F.

- We had our quarterly meeting at SETA Saturday, Oct. 3rd at 4:30pm.
- Melanie Murphy has stepped down as Area 67 TFC Chair. Area 67 will be looking to fill this position and will ask for people interested to stand for this committee chair at Sundays (tomorrow) assembly session.
- Melissa R. our delegate and Ron C. our alt. delegate who have been assigned to the TFC/Special Needs committee were in attendance. They brought information on the new TFC GSO staff person Sandra Wilson. They provided a GSO activity up-date and let us know a new TFC workbook would be available next year. Their presence and information are invaluable to this committee and we thank them.
- We continued our discussion on ways to make the TFC committee effective and

useful. We invite anyone interested in service work to join us. Our next meeting is Jan. 16th (Sat.), 2016 at 4:30pm at SETA in Galveston.

- Pam Fraser stood for the TFC Area 67 committee chair and was voted in to finish as the TFC Area chair through 2016.

Current Items:

1. Area PI/CPC Presentation – Kate E./Rick M.
2. 2016 Proposed Budget – Mike W.
 - Each line item was reviewed and a budget number provided. Mike was going to do clean up and provide the updated budget proposal at the next meeting.
3. Gratitude Dinner Report – Deborah G.
 - The committee met on September 17th at 6:30pm at the SBMC.
 - We have finalized each of the district commitments that will be providing assistance with set-up, break down, sides, appetizers and desserts. D40 is responsible for hosting, serving, providing the main dish and condiments (cranberry and gravy). Jim K. of District 32 has graciously offered to smoke all of the turkeys for district 40. We will need to purchase and provide turkeys and supplies to Jim K. and D40 volunteers will need to cut and pan the turkey for serving on the day of the event. We are also seeking volunteers that would be willing to heat and pan hams from home just prior to the event (ham and supplies will be provided).
 - I am requesting to receive the previously approved \$900 contribution from district 40 to cover the cost of the main dish and other operational expenses such as A/V equipment, security, door prizes and a speaker gift.
 - The next meeting is November 5th, 2015 @ 6:30pm at SBMC. Everyone is Welcome!!Alternate Job Descriptions – Corrie H. – Moved to Next Month's Agenda
4. D32 February PI/CPC Workshop – Michelle H.
 - To discuss in the next meeting as we ran out of time.
5. October Area Assembly – Michelle H.
 - Group Contributions Reports available from GSO & Area Treasurer, please note that there have been some problems on both ends with collecting, depositing & reporting group contributions, so please check your information & let me know if there are any unaccounted for contributions so that we can get that corrected.

District 40 GSR Official Meeting Minutes Southeast Area Alcoholics Anonymous

- If you see a group listed on any report that you know for a fact is inactive, please let me know as well, so that we can update the database with the registrar
 - Final GSC reports are available, please take one for your group & encourage members to utilize it as a service resource
 - 3 open positions were filled - Alt. Treasurer- Debbie U.; SCAP Chair- Zaz M.; TFC Chair- Pam F.
 - Motion to fund four additional current area officers to the 2016 SWRAASA- passed
 - Motion to change the P&P manual from the Assembly Scheduling ad hoc committee- failed
 - Motion from the Cooperation not Affiliation ad hoc committee- passed
 - Request from Delegate regarding her proposed GSC agenda was supported by the Area
 - January Assembly-voting item - 2018 SETA Convention Chair
 - April Assembly-voting item - Motions from 3rd Legacy Voting Procedures ad hoc committee
 - Delegate wants to encourage all GSRs to utilize the SETA website, there is a ton of valuable information posted on the Area Officers webpages that can help better the communication from GSRs to groups
 - Final GSC Inventory Report will be available sometime in mid-November
 - 75th Anniversary Big Books are for sale, visit aa-org website for information
 - Requests for the 2017 GSC theme can be submitted to Delegate by 12.15.15
 - A complete list of GSC themes from 1951-2016 is available
 - Deadline for GSC proposed agenda items is 12.15.15
 - New GSO staff assignments are available
 - GSR workshops are on Saturday morning of every Assembly
 - If you are not attending the Assembly in your GSR/Alt GSR role, then your group is not represented, your vote is not cast & the group conscience's voice is not heard
2. 2015 Regional Forum Reports – Deborah G./Michelle H.
- New Desk Assignment- Communications Service
- Group Contribution Report may not be delivered on a quarterly basis due to the construction going on in the office, please be patient as this is anticipated to be completed by the end of the year & a regular reporting schedule can be restored
 - It was reported that all contributions no matter who the contributors is or the amount are all treated with the same spiritual dignity
 - Question submitted by D40 CFC Rep- do other Areas have a BTG chair that provide volunteers for TFC & Prison releases, answer will be provided in final forum report, with other questions that there was not time for
 - Grapevine & La Vina presentations provided new ideas/fields (Hispanic alcoholic housewife, nursing homes, homebound members, libraries) we can provide issues of for committee work, I will take these to the appropriate committees (PI, Special Needs & Assess abilities)
 - Addressed concerns about speaker selections for the International Convention
 - Fun Fact- Class A Trustees, A=Amateur, root word amour, meaning “love of”, they are non-alcoholics that serve alcoholics anonymous for the love of
 - Class B Trustees, B=Boozers, they are the alcoholic trustees that serve alcoholics anonymous because their life depends upon it
 - How many groups should be in a District, how many groups can the DCM serve effectively? Questions we may want to ask ourselves
 - Forum newsletter can be provided upon request
 - Final Forum report should be available in the next couple of months & I will distribute as soon as it is available
3. November Area CFC Presentations

Group News:

1. None provided.

Announcements:

- **D51 Service Fair:** October 24th, 11:30 – 2:00, Delta Club
- **D40 PI/CPC Meeting:** October 31st, 1 – 3pm, SBMC

“To be vital, faith must be accompanied by self sacrifice and unselfish, constructive action.”

Alcoholics Anonymous, pg. 93

Treasurer's Report

District 40-SETA
OCTOBER 2015 Financial Report

District 40 Financial Report Period Ending 11/10/2015 (Revised)	Current Month	Budget	Year to Date	Current %	YTD %
INCOME					
Group Donations to Date			\$6,041.12		
Traditions Dinner Donations		\$250.00	\$153.34		
Gratitude Dinner Donations*	\$107.00		\$381.00		
State Conv - Hospitality Suite					
SETA -Hospitality Suite			\$365.00		
Delegate Report Contribution			\$92.50		
Fellowship Fest					
Group Donations	Check Number		\$9,644.00		
Fry Road Group	654214799	\$95.00			
Friends of Bill W.	14015	\$25.00			
God Meeting Group	5001	\$43.22			
Hockley Group	1232	\$45.00			
Katy 12 & 12	5043	\$63.29			
Katy 12 & 12	5051	\$39.04			
Katy 164 Group	1170	\$17.83			
Katy Big Book	3634	\$105.00			
Katy Crossroads Group	8762	\$200.96			
Memorial Going Home C	999002	\$48.83			
Our Common Journey G	17-293342539	\$47.00			
Saturday Solutions Grou	7047	\$25.50			
Spring Shadows Group	1898	\$285.00			
Total Income		\$1,147.67	\$9,894.00	\$7,032.96	11.6% 71.1%



MONTHLY SUMMARY

Opening Balance:
\$7,145.18

Contributions:
\$1,147.67

Expenses:
\$3,420.69

Closing Balance:
\$4,872.16

Notes:

* Gratitude Dinner Donations:
Men's Supper Step Study \$107

** Forum Budget Ammended to
match Expese at Oct. 13 Meeting

*** EXPENSES ***					
DCM	\$117.23	\$600.00	\$524.27	19.5%	87.4%
Alt. DCM		\$600.00	\$195.59	0.0%	32.6%
Secretary / Copying		\$100.00		0.0%	0.0%
Treasurer		\$75.00		0.0%	0.0%
Newsletter	\$78.22	\$420.00	\$421.21	18.6%	100.3%
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		\$2,500.00	\$180.00	0.0%	7.2%
Grapevine		\$80.00	\$260.70	0.0%	325.9%
CFC		\$250.00	\$250.00	0.0%	100.0%
TFC		\$100.00	\$40.13	0.0%	40.1%
Archives Committee		\$100.00		0.0%	0.0%
Intergroup Liaison		\$0.00			
IT Committee		\$100.00		0.0%	0.0%
Miscellaneous		\$100.00		0.0%	0.0%
***Gratitude Dinner	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	100.0%	100.0%
*** Fellowship Fest		\$250.00		0.0%	0.0%
*** Traditions Dinner		\$1,100.00	\$1,182.92	0.0%	107.5%
*** Service Workshop		\$250.00	\$184.19	0.0%	73.7%
***SWRAASA (Even Years)		\$0.00			
*** The Forum (Odd Years) See Note**	\$2,025.24	\$2,025.24	\$2,025.24	100.0%	100.0%
*** Delegate Report Meeting		\$400.00	\$215.00	0.0%	53.8%
*** State Convention Hospitality Ste		\$0.00			
***SETA Assembly Host District		\$0.00			
*** SETA - 2015 Hospitality Suite		\$1,800.00	\$1,762.01	0.0%	97.9%
Total Expenses	\$3,420.69	\$12,425.24	\$8,441.26	27.5%	67.9%

Budget Approved as of 11 / 09 / 14

Beginning Bank Balance	\$7,145.18
Total Expenses	\$3,420.69
Total Income	\$1,147.67
Prudent Reserve (0.25xBudget)	\$3,106.31
Unrestricted Funds	\$1,765.85
Ending Balance / Total Funds	\$4,872.16
Unspent Portion of Budget	\$3,983.98

"Right then and there, Ebbv established the principle that A.A. in action calls for the sacrifice of much time and a little money."

A.A. Comes of Age, pp. 141

Sober Holidays???

Food, Fun and Fellowship is how I navigate my Sober Holidays.

The BB says "Create the Fellowship that you crave!" "We absolutely insist on having F-U-N!" With the help of a loving God and by taking action to plan Sober Food, Fun and Fellowship is how I stay Happy, Joyous and Free. Using the 24 hour a day method works 365 days a year and that includes nights, weekends AND holidays!

When I take the suggestions of phone calls, meetings, prayer, meditation, and fellowship on a daily basis I find a New Employer named God. If I can maintain conscious contact every day, holidays are easier to navigate as a sober person. Many AA clubs have holiday events and many coffee shops are open 24/7 for spontaneous fellowship. Planning a Sober Ugly Christmas Sweater Party or White Elephant Party is easier when I have an insurance policy of daily phone calls to draw upon.



Enthusiasm is contagious!! When I focus less on what I can "take" from the party and focus more on what I can "bring" to the party, the right sober thought or sober action just comes. I find a sober solution for my "boy who whistles in the dark". There is no more "chilling vapor of loneliness".

If I am willing to take sober steps, what was once only the bottle and loneliness is transformed into the warmth of The Fellowship and The Keys to the Kingdom.

Marilyn M.

DISTRICT SERVANTS

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

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

Secretary
Ana D.

Alt. Secretary
OPEN

Treasurer
Mike W.

Alt. Treasurer
OPEN

Grapevine Chair
OPEN

Literature Chair
OPEN

IT Representative
Richard B.

Treatment Facilities Chair
Pam F.

PI/CPC Committee Chair
Jim B.

Correctional Facilities Chair
Cindy M.

Intergroup Liaison
OPEN

Newsletter Editor
Deborah G.

Multi-Lingual Chair
Meagan V.

Coffee Chair
Betsy K.

Archives Chair
Tom B.

Upcoming Events

54th Annual SETA Convention

January 15-17, 2016
Moody Gardens Hotel
Galveston, TX 77554
888-388-8484

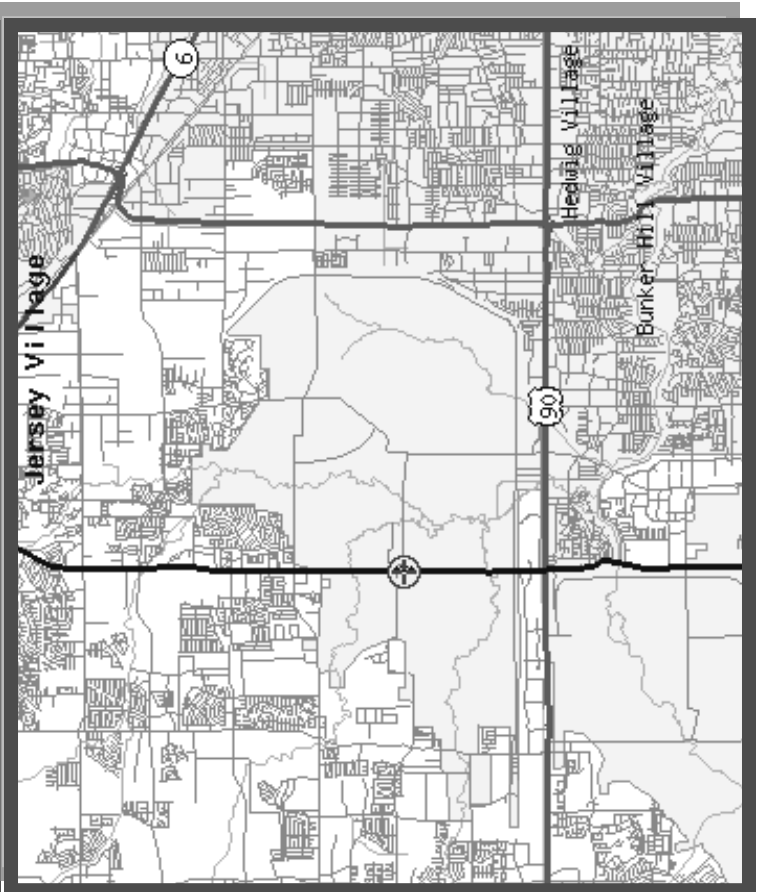
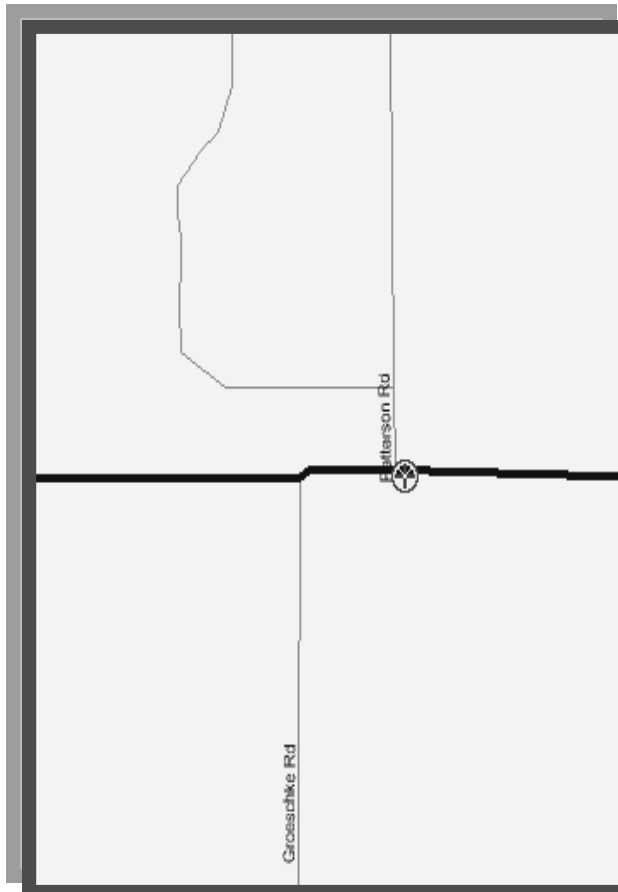
www.setaconvention.org

**See flyers on SETA/Intergroup Websites*

See y'all in 2016!

MY GIFT
TO THE WORLD
THIS HOLIDAY
SEASON IS MY

SOBRIETY!





If you have a story, quote, cartoon, or image you would like to see published in the District 40 News, please send it to dcm-40@aa-seta.org

THE NEXT DISTRICT MEETING IS
JANUARY 11, 2016 AT
7:00 PM

District 40 meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 7:00 PM—9:00 PM at the Bear Creek Community Center 3055 Bear Creek Drive, Houston, Texas 77084

Committee	Meeting Time	Location	Area Assembly*
Archives	1st Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM	521 N. Sam Houston Pkwy East, Suite 215 Houston, TX 77060	Saturday, 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM
Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)	1st Monday of the month at 7:30 P.M.	Houston Council On Alcohol And Drugs 303 Jackson Hill Houston, TX 77007	Saturday, 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM
Correctional Facilities (CFC)	3rd Wednesday of every month from 7:30-9:00 PM	The Delta Club 6400 Westpark Dr, Suite 355 Houston, TX 77057	Saturday, 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM
Grapevine	3rd Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM	The Delta Club 6400 Westpark Dr, Suite 355 Houston, TX 77057	Saturday, 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM
Intergroup	3rd Thursday of every other month at 8:00 PM	4140 Directors Row, Suites D & E, Houston, Texas, 77092	-
Internet Technologies (IT)	4th Saturday of the month from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Spring Branch Memorial Club 1200 Blalock, Suite 378, Room C	Saturday, 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM
Literature	-	-	Saturday, 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM
Mult-Lingual	1st Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM	District 66 5645 Hilcroft Suite 410 Houston, TX 77036	Saturday, 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM
Public Information (PI)	3rd Monday of the month at 7:15 PM (Except on Assembly months)	Houston Council On Alcohol And Drugs 303 Jackson Hill Houston, TX 77007	Saturday, 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM
Treatment Facilities (TFC)	-	-	Saturday, 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM
District 40 PI/CPC Committee	Last Saturday of the month from 1:00-3:00 PM	Spring Branch Memorial Club 1200 Blalock, Suite 378, Room C	-
PI/CPC Phone #713-834-3880		*Area Assembly meets in the months of April, July and October at Sheraton North Houston 15700 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Houston, TX 77032; January Assembly meets at the SETA Annual Convention. Location TBA.	

SETA and Intergroup Committee Meeting Times

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 may also contact Intergroup at 713-686-6300.