

The Joy of Service

I feel myself not only being drawn into more service work with AA, but doing it willingly. I have gained so much more in the past year of service work than I could've dreamt. I've been in recovery for almost 3.5 years and I'm kicking myself in the ass for not serving sooner! To date, I've donated art for an art auction for CTC, been coffee chair (multiple times), chaired meetings, hosted a retreat for our Broad Highway meeting and I'm currently co-chair and Alt. GSR. I absolutely love that I am trusted with all of these amazing opportunities. I have found my willingness and sobriety getting stronger with every step I take in the direction of service. Let's be honest though, I would have none of this if it wasn't for the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous, my sponsor, the 12 Steps and my friends in sobriety keeping me accountable.

Your sister in sobriety,
Kate L.
SBD 5-30-12



Step Two

Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

Tradition Two

For our group purpose there is 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

When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference—expecting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter—the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society.

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SECRET SERVICE SECTION

January Area Assembly Report

Updated Policy & Procedure Manual can be found on the Alt. Chairperson's page, it is a printer friendly version

Area Group Contributions will be provided at the District meeting

GSC Final Inventory Reports were distributed at our January meeting, Don M. held an enlightening presentation Friday evening explaining this process & how effective the process/results can be if we collectively use them as a resource for continued work at all levels.

Delegate/Alt. Delegate Report Highlights-

How well is the message of the conference theme supported throughout the entire year?

How can we keep more of a focus on this year's theme and presentation topics throughout the year?

Area 67 Proposed Agenda Item for 66th GSC- Melissa received a letter from the Conference Coordinator informing her that the proposed agenda item is still under review & consideration at this time & that she will be contacted as soon as there is more information to report

The Trustees Committee on CPC/TFC/Special Needs-Accessibilities is considering dropping the Special Needs nametag from the committee name because it does not represent the full range of the committee's scope, this will be on the conference agenda

2015 International Convention- \$207,000 loss due to costs incurred by higher attendance

2016 Preliminary GSC Agenda Items have been released. As soon as the final agenda items are out Melissa & Ron will begin visiting District meetings to help inform & prepare us to reach out to Area, District & Group members for more participation & feedback

Grapevine/La Viña subscriptions for Texas were up 27% for Grapevine & 53% for La Viña through the recent challenge. If you would like to donate a subscription to help carry the message, please contact Ron C, Alt. Delegate or Harold C., Grapevine Chairperson

Gratitude Dinner & Regional Forum we well attended, very informative & successful

Special Regional Forum will be held in Colorado on June 3-4, flyer posted on Alt. Delegate's page

Open Alternate Secretary Position- member was appointed as interim, until the April Assembly where the position qualifications can be reviewed, the member does not meet them & holds multiple positions that could potentially create a conflict of interest

SETA Convention Updates-

2016 final report will be given at the April Assembly

2017 convention will be held at the Hilton Greenspoint in Houston

2018 Convention Chairperson was filled by Ronnie B.

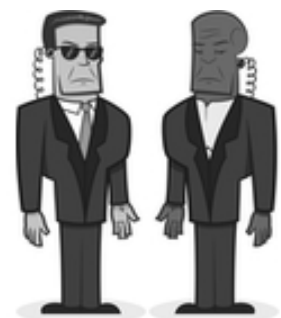
Houston (Area 67) will be host city to the Texas State Convention & the SW Regional Forum

Ad-Hoc Committee on 3rd Legacy Elections presented 5 motions to the Area, after a request for several friendly amendments, the first four motions we lumped together as one and passed 77-1, the fifth motion passed 70-5, the P&P Manual has been updated to reflect these changes.

The April Assembly will be back at the JFK Sheraton on April 9-10, 2016. Book your rooms now under the SETA event name to ensure availability & special rates.

Michelle H.

District 40 DCM



The Big Guy

For our group purpose there is 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.

I remember (barely) being in one of my first AA meetings outside of the Memorial Hermann PARC treatment center and seeing 2 people up front at the “Light” side of the 6:30am Post Oak Club AA meeting (now known as the “First Light Group” meeting because there was a window in the room and the other room did not have a window). I had sufficiently fried my brain crispy crunchy from my use and abuse of alcohol - While in treatment I could not read and remember a sentence of the AA Big Book without having to go back and reviewing it a couple of times for any of the content to seep in - Mmm Mmm Mmm Toasty! At this early meeting, I did not realize that a typical meeting will have a chairperson and a leader – I just realized that the two people up front seemed to be starting the meeting and they were talking a lot – I mean A LOT! It seemed, at the time, that these 2 were in charge of the meeting - boy was I wrong! I have come to learn that all the members in the Group are just helping out towards a common cause as stated in Tradition 5 – *Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.* The Big Guy - you can call it Higher Power, you can call it God – is in charge.

Today, after 13 years of sobriety, I now know that the chair and leader of any meeting are “*but trusted servants*” and perform a huge job of helping to run the meeting and helping people in that room stay sober for that hour, hopefully that day. I always get nervous when I am asked to either chair or lead because I know that there may be someone attending that meeting who really needs a meeting, and they might be in the same frame of mind that I was in (out there baby!) and not understand how important serving the group can be. I also have learned the importance of having the whole group involved in any decision that effects the group, and also the importance of always having sufficient time for the group members to meditate and pray about the issue before anything is decided. For me, any quick, off-the-cuff decisions involve mostly me and very little of the Big Guy – and if I provide sufficient time for meditation and prayer, the Big Guy’s influence always shines through.

Richard B

A LOVING GOD

Upon learning about the sole authority in A.A. as a loving God as He may express Himself in the group conscience, I realized how desperately lonely I was as a hopeless alcoholic. After a fox hole prayer, I began to recognize and acknowledge having hit bottom and cried out to the universe as a plea for help. Two weeks later, God led me to A.A. The “elder statesmen,” in my first home-group, gently offered suggestions. Where before A.A., change seemed impossible, here were trusted servants in a fellowship of equals handing me the solution and design for living via the twelve steps. No one member, regardless of education, political clout, or professional expertise was more valuable to the fellowship than any other member.

The elder statesmen demonstrated how to resolve one’s crisis of the day, with their humble quiet views, sharing only their experience, strength and hope. In a daily A.A. meeting, I was led to believe in a Power greater than myself by listening to the leader and group members share the solution to drinking. Ultimately becoming the voice of the group conscience. Here was spiritual guidance within the group whereas the leaders are but trusted servants. This represents the greatest good for the greatest number. The Leader’s job is to serve, not to dominate, and to carry out the decisions made by the group, not to make those decisions themselves. In our personal lives, we learned to consider a loving God as the ultimate authority in all our interactions and in everything we do. We can look at any responsibilities we have in our lives as opportunities for serving others instead of trying to control them. I am truly grateful to be of service to a loving God as well as my A. A. family as we continue to trudge the Road of Happy Destiny.

Elizabeth G.



District 40 GSR Official Meeting Minutes Southeast Area Alcoholics Anonymous

December 9, 2015

Call to Order: Serenity Prayer, Preamble and Unity Declaration

Tradition XII/Concept XII: reading and summation by Ana D. and Cletus B.

Volunteers for next month: Tradition XII/Concept XII will be Gail B. and Jackie S.

Introduction of Attendees: 29 Attendees for our Christmas Potluck/Business Meeting

Normal Business:

1. **Secretary's Report** – Accepted as submitted.
2. **Treasurer's Report** – To be voted on at next meeting.

Committee Reports:

- a. **Archives** – Tom B.
 - This month's Archive meeting was cancelled. We are still working on gathering information from the 60's and a digital program on the SETA program.
- b. **Coffee Committee** – Betsy K – All is good
- c. **Correctional Facilities Committee – CFC** – Cindy M.
 - Blue can have been averaging \$5k/month which is up from last year. It appears groups are switching from Intergroup White can to SETA Blue can. A CFC rep was getting noise from a club board re having the blue can in basket. They said it takes away from basket money. That CFC Rep researched the last 3 years of the groups contributions and discovered when blue can \$ increased so did basket \$. Also affiliation w/ clubs means board doesn't comment on meeting procedures.
 - CCS: working on getting to our post office box more frequently and speeding up the mail. GSO said they get about 10 letters a month from Texas inmates.
 - GSO sent CFC Chair a letter asking for the Committee to share experience via questions and is asking about having an Annual National CFC conference and would we host them. The committee members are excited and are in favor of it.
 - Walls Anniversary had about 30 volunteers and 70 inmates.

- Richard & Roy really enjoyed presenting to D40 meeting and intends to visit more groups in 2016. Working w/Spanish district on a panel presentation.

d. Grapevine – OPEN –

- Please help support the Grapevine through subscriptions & submitting articles. The Area Grapevine Committee meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 pm, Delta Club. Harold C., the chairperson can be contacted at the SETA website for any further information or questions.

e. Gratitude Dinner – Cheryl B.

- I submitted a check back to D40 in the amount of \$237.55. I received \$1500 total from D40, 82 and 64. We spent \$1,262.45 leaving a balance due. Wrap up meeting will be on January 7, 2016, 6:30 pm at SBMC

f. Intergroup – OPEN

- Please check the Intergroup website for all upcoming events, The Link & monthly updates. If your group has an event coming up you can request Intergroup to post the flyer on their events calendar.

g. Information Technology – IT – Richard B.

- SETA IT Committee Meeting held December 5th, 2015 10am at Spring Branch Club –
- Discussion items included:
 - i. Spending remainder of 2015 budget.
 - ii. Purchasing a new projector for our Delegate before year end.
 - iii. Committee is currently working towards having all who have district laptop to fill out a Computer Equipment Custody Agreement.
- Open positions for SETA include Secretary, Alternate Secretary and Alternate Postmaster.
- The Scrubbed November District 40 Newsletter has also been sent to SETA Webmaster for final review and posting.

h. Literature – OPEN

- The new 2016 literature catalog is available from AAWS for any personal or group literature orders. The Area Literature Committee meets at the quarterly Assemblies & hosts a monthly book club; please contact Kathleen T., the chairperson at the SETA webpage for more information.

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

Alcoholics Anonymous, pg. 93

District 40 GSR Official Meeting Minutes Southeast Area Alcoholics Anonymous

a. **Multilingual** – Meagan V. – No report

b. **Newsletter** – Deborah G.

- Thank you to those that contributed to this month's newsletter. The December newsletter will be distributed via email & sent to our IT Rep for posting on the D40 webpage. January 2016's newsletter topic will be Reflection: Share how much your spiritual growth, program, service, sobriety and/or overall life has changed in 2015. Please consider contributing to the newsletter in 2016, it is a fun way to be a part of & share your experience, strength & hope with the fellowship!

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

- Committee did not meet in December due to lack of participation & scheduling confusion. The PSA will be running from 12.18.15-01.14.16 at the Katy & Memorial City Cinemark Theaters in all PG-13 & up movies. Please feel free to give any feedback to Jim on the PSA if you happen to see one. The Area CPC committee met on 12.07.15 & discussed some new fields to research for potential mail outs & contact in 2016; as well as updated committee on all ongoing projects. The committee is in need of a secretary & alternate chair, contact Rick M. for further information. If you or your groups are participating in the Area PI's Adopt-A-High-School Project, please send all updates to Kate E., their contact information is on the SETA website. The next Area PI meeting will be on December 21st at 7:15pm at the Houston Council, this committee has open positions as well.

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

- This has been a great 2015 for the TFC committee. I have learned a lot about working on the district level this year. I look forward to an exciting 2016. I want to thank District 40 as a whole for always being available to help, assist, and guide me in the spirit of service (and everything in between).
- Oh, nothing new to report.

Current Items:

1. Area Archives Presentation – Sara
2. December Area Archives Presentations
3. Service – Michelle H. – Tuesday, December 8th at 6:30.

Group News:

1. Kate – Broad Highway – Paperwork and money were found from an old meeting in Houston "Crossroads." Looking to see who to return this to. Corrie will check with the Area Registrar and Mike (Treasurer) to find out any information.
2. Corrie – Katy Big Book – We have had low participation. Looking for ideas on how to get more participation. – **Ideas:** A suggestion was made that it is the life of the meeting and to keep showing up.

Announcements:

- **54th Annual SETA Convention:** January 15-17th, 2016, Moody Gardens Hotel, Galveston, TX 77554, 888.388.8484, www.setaconvention.org



Treasurer's Report

District 40-SETA

December 2015 Financial Report

(Final Report for 2015)

District 40 Financial Report Period Ending 01/12/2016	Current Month	Budget	Year to Date	Current %	YTD %
INCOME					
Group Donations to Date			\$8,050.47		
Traditions Dinner Donations		\$250.00	\$153.34		
Gratitude Dinner Donations			\$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		
Another Chance Group	1151	\$10.00			
Bear Creek Fellowship	17281209172	\$70.00			
Broad Highway Group	12336	\$27.00			
Chapelwood Tues 8pm	19166498	\$119.00			
Friends of Bill W. (Post 4	14122	\$25.00			
God Meeting Group	5049	\$41.19			
Houston Young People	17338087148	\$50.43			
Spring Branch Memorial	8455	\$750.00			
Wild West Group	4570	\$123.00			
Tuesday Night Step Stu	9391	\$17.22			
Total Income		\$1,232.84	\$9,894.00	\$9,042.31	12.5% 91.4%



*** EXPENSES ***					
DCM	\$191.37	\$600.00	\$715.64	31.9%	119.3%
AIL DCM		\$600.00	\$195.59	0.0%	32.6%
Secretary / Copying		\$100.00		0.0%	0.0%
Treasurer	\$56.00	\$75.00	\$56.00	74.7%	74.7%
Newsletter	\$39.25	\$450.00	\$460.46	8.7%	102.3%
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	\$2,030.00	0.0%	81.2%
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 (NOTE 1)		\$1,200.00	\$962.45	0.0%	80.2%
*** 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	0.0%	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	\$286.62	\$12,455.24	\$10,340.33	2.3%	83.0%

Budget Approved as of 11 / 09 / 14

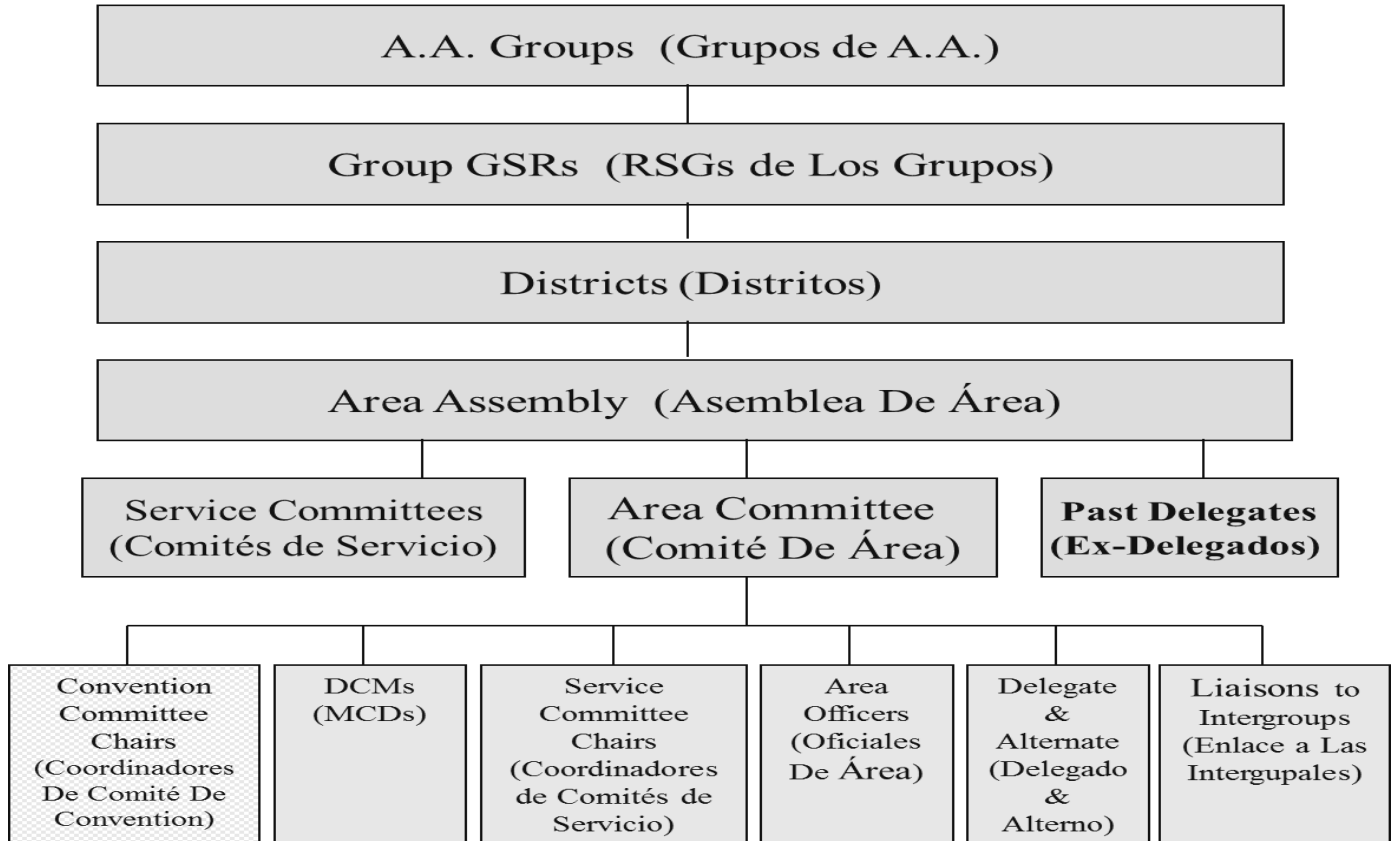
Beginning Bank Balance	\$3,982.00
Total Expenses	\$286.62
Total Income	\$1,232.84
Prudent Reserve (0.25xBudget)	\$3,113.81
Unrestricted Funds	\$1,814.41
Ending Balance / Total Funds	\$4,928.22
Unspent Portion of Budget	\$2,114.91

"Right then and there, Ebby 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

MONTHLY SUMMARY	
Opening Balance:	\$3,982.00
Contributions:	\$1,232.84
Expenses:	\$286.62
Closing Balance:	\$4,928.22
Notes:	1--

Southeast Texas Area Structure (Estructura De Área Del Sureste De Texas)



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.



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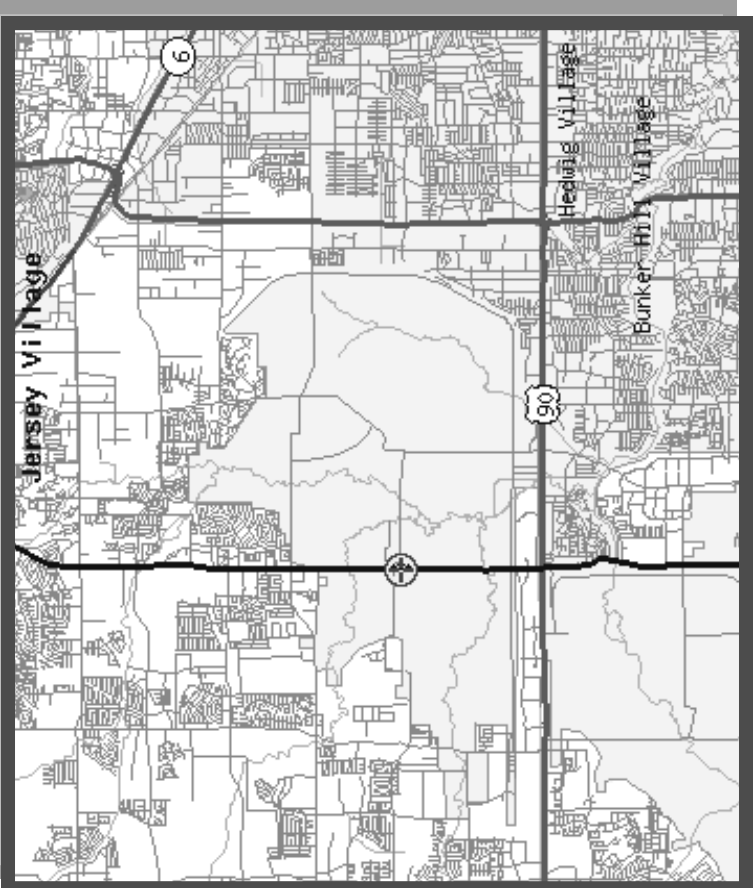
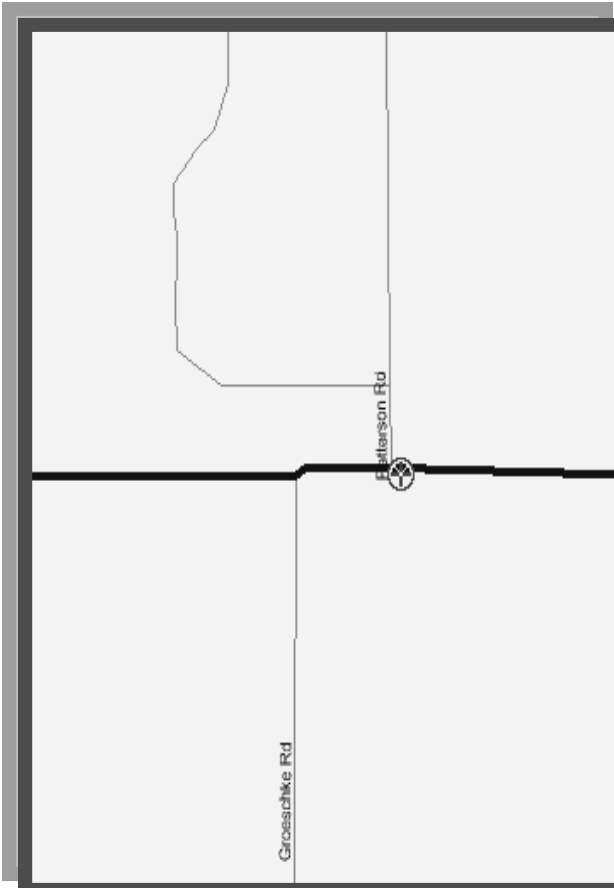
Upcoming Events

For Current Events Visit:

www.aahouston.org

www.aa-seta.org

www.aa.org





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
MARCH 8, 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	4th Monday of the month at 6:30 PM	The Woods Road Club 2119 Woods Road Brookshire, TX 77423	-

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.