



## Desert Slide

Three men are traveling through the desert and are very thirsty. They come to a mysterious slide in the middle of the desert that has instructions at the top: "Slide down and yell the drink of your choice; at the bottom you will find a pool of that beverage."

The three men are very excited. The first man slides down and yells "Milk!" He then falls into a pool of Milk. The next man goes down and yells "Lemonade!" He falls into a pool full of lemonade. The final man goes down and overwhelmed with excitement he yells "Weeee!"

*Comedy By Ron C.—Area 67 Alt. Delegate*

### Step Five

Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

### Tradition Five

Each group has but one primary purpose... to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

### Concept Five

Throughout our world services structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.

### Inside This Issue

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## THE RECIPE FOR MY MIRACLE...

Many nights I stared into my eyes clouded by the tears I could no longer suppress and wondered how much longer would I deceive myself...how much longer would I choose to be held hostage by fear?

No tools, strength or power...no structure to tackle the obstacle course of life on my own...except my drink which had become my saving grace - yet my ultimate defeat.

In the midst of devastation - tired, broken and alone - I found shelter within the rooms of AA.

My struggle was not over... I could not receive what I was not willing to understand.

It was a long, arduous life journey with battle scars to prove it.

Ultimately, forced to cry surrender knowing I could not find victory on my own.

I kept coming back...paid close attention to what was suggested of me.

I had to dig deep inside my soul and find that compartment I had hidden from myself.

I had to feel the pain, work through my sorrow, strip myself bare in order to be free!

I allowed myself to be vulnerable, open for God to reveal in me what I could not see for myself, to love me until I could love myself, to guide me until I could follow.

I found my Miracle...

The key to overcome my worry, anxiety, discouragement, disappointment, depression, despair and disease came in the willingness to trust my God.

I rediscovered my strength within.

My willingness became my miracle!

This is my mantra...

I release all fear,

I release all doubt,

I release all need to control,

I release the past and move forward with my God and His Grace by my side!

My hope is that you too find your Miracle...Keep coming back!

Maria C,

xoxo



# SECRET SERVICE SECTION

## I AM NOT SPECIAL

When I came into the rooms of AA, I had a million reasons why this program would not work for me. My situation is different...I haven't done that...I'm not like these people. A man told me after hearing my declarations "YOU'RE NOT SPECIAL". Didn't he know who I was! And yes I was 'special'. So 'special' I couldn't stay sober.

One of the agenda items to be discussed at the 66<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference is to "consider removing "Special Needs" from the name of the Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities throughout the committee's composition, scope and procedures, making the name of the committee simply Treatment/Accessibilities Committee.

After reading the background material on the agenda item written by Steve S., Secretary of last year's Conference Committee, I learned a few things.

People have diverse needs, not special ones;

- We are trying to overcome barriers in accessing, receiving and carrying the AA message (not labeling people);
- Like everyone, all AA members want to be treated equally - hence the need for inclusive language.

These diverse needs include but are not limited to members who may:

- Be Homebound,
- Be unable to drive at night,
- Have vision problems,
- Have hearing problems,
- Have reading or information-processing difficulties,
- Need wheelchair access,
- Have issues with childcare,
- Have mobility impairment.



These diverse needs aren't so different from translating the Big Book into other languages so that alcoholics from other countries may also have access to it. We want to be aware of these barriers, and provide information and tools so that home groups can respond to them.

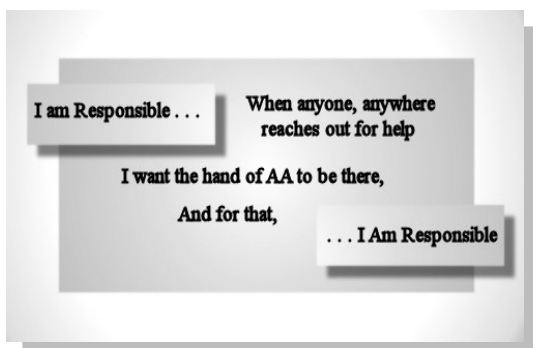
Over the years the phrase "special needs" has taken on a meaning which may label people unfairly. Our goal is to make the AA message accessible to all that need it.

While passing this agenda item would mean changing literature, workbooks, and pamphlets, it is a financial as well as a spiritual undertaking the General Service Conference is willing to consider. While I am not "special" I may have diverse needs which need to be addressed so that I can have the same access to the AA message as all else who seek it.

Pam Fraser  
TFC Area 67

This article appeared in the Area 67 quarterly newsletter in April 2016. Later that month (April 17-23) during the 66<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference in New York City, the agenda item passed and the TFC name changed from *Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities* to *Treatment/Accessibilities Committee*. Nothing special about it!

Pam  
TFC District 40



# "BUT HOW DOES ONE GET A PRESCRIPTION FOR A MIRACLE?"

"The Keys of the Kingdom," *Alcoholics Anonymous*, pg. 260, 4th Ed.

How does one find peace?

**We already have one... God.**

When you work the program,  
the program will work for you!

**H.O.W.—Honesty, open  
-mindedness, and will-  
ingness.**

Follow  
directions  
and pray

R.H. SMITH, M.D.  
2ND NATIONAL BUILDING  
AKRON, OHIO 44310  
TELEPHONE: HE-8923      REG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
FOR alcoholics      DOB \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_      DATE Feb. 1937  
**R**  
1. Trust God  
2. Clean house  
3. Help others  
SUBSTITUTION POSSIBLE \_\_\_\_\_ DO NOT SUBSTITUTE \_\_\_\_\_  
DO NOT REFILL \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE OF PRESCRIBER \_\_\_\_\_  
REFILL \_\_\_\_\_ TIMES      *Dr. God*

**The action taken  
to get your miracle.**

What work is required for  
a miracle to appear?

The prescription is  
the direction;  
the miracle comes  
from the obedience  
by faith.

*Surrender and willingness*

**The program, when  
worked as suggested,  
by those prescribing,  
provides the miracle of**

## ***Take the Action—Find the Miracle***

"How does one get a prescription for a miracle?" I got my prescription for a miracle when my sponsor told me that God's Grace was sufficient & all I had to do was accept it. Then she further explained that the best way for me to accept it was through gratitude. Next she showed me how gratitude was an action word & the most life changing way to turn gratitude into an action was to serve Alcoholics Anonymous, my family & God to the very best of my ability through the spiritual principles on a daily basis until it became sincere & then & only then would the miracle happen in my heart. The cliché "don't quit five minutes before the miracle" helps carry me through the daily actions. My personal experience leads me to the belief that if I don't quit five minutes *after* the miracle then I will always own a set of keys to the kingdom & can unlock & walk through the doors a woman free from alcohol.

In Service,  
Michelle H.

**District 40 GSR Official Meeting Minutes  
Southeast Area Alcoholics Anonymous**

**March 08, 2016**

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

**Tradition III/Concept III:** reading and summation by Patty D. and Pam F.

**Volunteers for next month:** Tradition IV/Concept IV will be David N. and Betsy K.

**Introduction of Attendees:** 25 Attendees for our Business Meeting

**Normal Business:**

1. **Secretary's Report** – Accepted as submitted.
2. **Treasurer's Report** – Accepted as circulated

**Committee Reports:**

- a. **Archives** –Tom B.
  - No update.
- b. **Coffee Committee** – Betsy K – All is good
- c. **Correctional Facilities Committee – CFC** – Cindy M.
  - We have a chairperson for this year's convention in September - Amy. This month we should have a status report and I'll get her email for anyone who would like to volunteer.
  - Looking into converting minutes into Spanish to post on SETA's website. Any help would be appreciated! Email our chair at [cfc@aa-seta.org](mailto:cfc@aa-seta.org). If you would like to volunteer.

d. **Grapevine** – OPEN

e. **Intergroup** – Roger B.

- Roger B. would like to stand for this position. Roger provided his qualifications and has been voted in as the chair for the district.
- April 23<sup>rd</sup> is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sponsorship Workshop will be held at Intergroup.
- The Board of Trustees has decided to visit every group in the area to promote Intergroup and communicate to the groups.

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

- Last SETA IT Committee Meeting held February 11, 2016 10am at Spring Branch Club – Discussion items included:

1. 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.
- District 40 Scrubbed February Newsletter has been sent in for posting.

g. **Literature** – OPEN – Monthly Book Club is being held at Intergroup.

h. **Multilingual** – OPEN – A motion was made and passed to leave this position OPEN and to be filled by anyone interested.

**District 40 GSR Official Meeting Minutes**  
**Southeast Area Alcoholics Anonymous**

**a. Newsletter – Deborah G.**

- Thank you for all those that were able to contribute articles this month. Check out the Secret Service Section as well as the insight into “Stepping Stones” where Bill and Lois Wilson helped so many. April’s topic will be Step 4: What were your immediate thoughts/feelings before starting and once you finished writing it? I look forward to all of adding all of you shares in next month’s newsletter!

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

- Three new members joined the committee
- In addition to the traditional opening, sections of the PI and CPC workbooks will be read and discussed at the meetings. This will be huge benefit to new members so anyone interested should come and join us.

- Next meeting at 6:30 on March 28 at Woods Road Club. Meetings will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> Monday 6:30 PM.

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

- The Area 67 TFC committee is looking for an Alt.-Chair and Secretary to join our new Area Chair. We are looking forward to our first meeting of the year, Sat. April 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm at the assembly. We encourage anyone interested in an opportunity for service or to learn more about the TFC Committee to come join us.

**Current Items:**

**1. 2016 GSC Preparation**

- Melissa and Ron went through the process on what to expect at the Area Assembly during the Round Tables. It is advised that you contact the DCM for any backup material or Delegate for any questions on what to expect or what to gather from your group.

**2. Concept Dinner**

- Please talk to your groups. Betsy G. stated only 2 members showed interest from her group. To be revisited at next month’s meeting.

**3. April Assembly Announcement**

- Book your rooms, if the link does not work, please pick up the phone to make your reservations.

**Group News:**

- a. No news, concerns or questions.

“

*The best way to find  
yourself is to lose  
yourself in the  
service of others*

**Mahatma Gandhi**

”



## YOUR A.A. GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE

The A.A. General Service Conference/General Service

### What Can You Do For G.S.O.

1. **Share your experience** with G.S.O. Your letters on the challenges that groups and members face today can help other A.A.s carry our message.
2. **Keep G.S.O. informed** Only you can make that directories and files contain up-to-date information on groups, meeting, committees, intergroups and central offices.
3. **Remember Tradition Seven All of A.A.** —G.S.O. as well as your group—is committed to self-support. Popular plans for contributions to G.S.O. are: Birthday Plan—on an A.A.'s anniversary, \$1.00 for each year; monthly or quarterly contributions by groups. Most to be desired is participation by every group—no matter what the amount.
4. **Let newcomers know about their General Service Office.**
5. **Come to see G.S.O.** You'll be warmly welcomed, given a full tour, and introduced to staff members, department heads, and G.S.O.'s office neighbors, the Grapevine folks. Staff trips and correspondence keep G.S.O. forever close to hometown A.A.—but it's a special delight to meet you here are your General Service Office. Tours are also given in Spanish and French.
6. **Visit Our A.A. Website** You can visit our website at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) You will find general information about A.A., as well as service information.

*Reprint from "Your AA General Service Office" pamphlet. This can also be found on [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org), with permission of A. A. World*

## DISTRICT SERVANTS

### DCM

Michelle H.  
[dcm-40@aa-seta.org](mailto:dcm-40@aa-seta.org)

### Alternate DCM

Corrie H.  
[dcm-40-alt@aa-seta.org](mailto: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

Roger B.

### Newsletter Editor

Deborah G.

### Multi-Lingual Chair

OPEN

### Coffee Chair

Betsy K.

### Archives Chair

Tom B.



## Upcoming Events

*Sometimes,*  
the wrong choices  
bring us  
to the  
*right places.*  
Unknown

### Texas Frontier Group

#### M\*AA\*V Birthday Celebration

Sunday, May 22, 2016,  
2:00—5:00 PM  
VFW Post 8905  
21902 Northwest Fwy.,  
Cypress, TX 77429

#### Round Robin & Anniversary Celebration

Hosted by:  
*Goodrich Serenity and Shepard*  
*How It Works Meetings*  
May 21st, 10:00 AM  
Shepard United Methodist  
Church Fellowship Hall  
71 Spring Street (Hwy 222)  
Shepard, TX

### PI/CPC Committee Meeting

May 30th at 6:30 PM  
Woods Road Club  
2119 Woods Rd.,  
Brookshire, TX 77423

### Southwest Regional Additional Forum

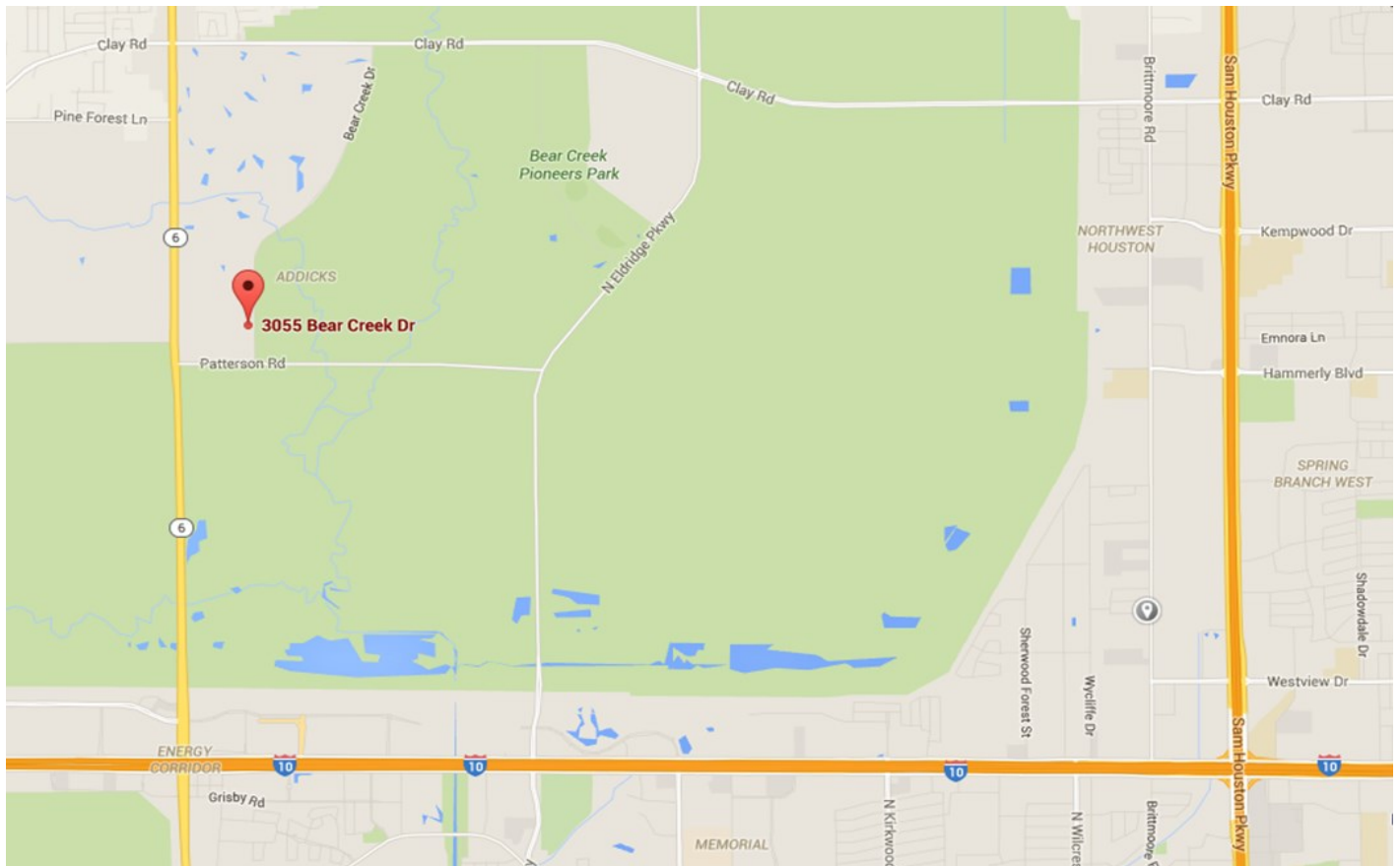
June 3-5, 2016  
The DoubleTree by Hilton  
Denver – Stapleton North  
Denver, CO

For more events visit:

[aahouston.org](http://aahouston.org)

[aa-seta.org](http://aa-seta.org)

[aa.org](http://aa.org)



# SETA and Intergroup Committee Meeting Times



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](mailto:dcm-40@aa-seta.org)

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 Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM	District 63 4800 West 34th St. Suite B-8 Houston, TX 77092	Saturday, 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM
Public Information (PI)	3rd Monday of the month at 7:15 PM (Excpet 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	-
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.	

THE NEXT DISTRICT MEETING IS

**JUNE 14, 2016 @**

**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

**Just Starting a group in District 40 and wish to add it to this newsletter?**



Send group information, location and meeting times to [SETA-40@aa-seta.org](mailto:SETA-40@aa-seta.org) and [intergroup@aahouston.org](mailto:intergroup@aahouston.org). You may also contact Intergroup at 713-686-6300.