



GIFTS OF THE HEART

Three sons left home, went out on their own and prospered. Getting back together, they discussed the gifts they were able to give their elderly mother.

The first said, "I built a big house for our mother. It has twenty rooms and everything in it she could possibly need".

The second said, "I bought her a Limousine with a driver. She can now go anywhere she wants".

The third smiled and said, "I've got you both beat. Remember how mom enjoyed reading the Bible? And you know she can't see very well. I sent her a remarkable parrot that recites the entire Bible. It took elders in the church 12 years to teach him. He's one of a kind. Mama just has to name the chapter and verse, and the parrot recites it." The other two brothers agreed that this was truest a priceless gift.

Soon there, mom wrote a letter to each son. Their Mom was a type who could never fully appreciate the positive side of life. To her first son she wrote "The house you built is so huge. I get lost going to the bathroom. I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house."

To the second son she wrote "I am too old to travel and all of my friends are dead. I stay home most of the time, so I rarely use the limo and the driver is so rude!"

To the third son she wrote, "Your gift was amazing and I simply loved it, you have the good sense to know what your mother likes. The chicken was delicious."

Courtesy of Ron C.
Area 67 Alt. Delegate

Step Ten

Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.

Tradition Ten

Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

Concept Ten

Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority — the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.

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Not My Game Plan

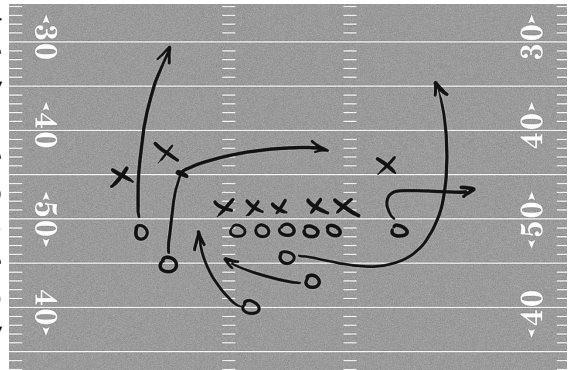
Spiritual experience is an understatement to what I would describe had happened the night of our 2016 District 40 elections. I went in ready and willing to stand for the position of PI/CPC chair. I was informed about what was expected of the chairperson, ideas about what I hoped to achieve and was fully supported by my committee. God had another plan for me. He apparently didn't feel that I needed to be the PI/CPC chair... He felt that I needed to be the next DCM. *Wait... What?!?* That's the internal reaction I had when I was voted in. DCM was NOT something that I thought I was ready for. DCM was something I would willingly stand for somewhere down the road in my service.

When the elections facilitator poled the room to see who was willing, able and qualified for the position, I was prepared to say "no thank you." What I didn't expect and still have a hard time wrapping my little brain around is what happened. When I was asked if I was willing and able and qualified, my whole body started to shake. It came from the inside out. It wasn't fear, it wasn't anxiety, it wasn't too much coffee. It was God! That's the only way I can describe it. Why else would I be shaking, smiling, feeling gratitude all the while simply answering, "Yes. I am able and willing." I think I shook internally for over an hour. Tears threatened to spill the whole meeting and I had a hard time trying to keep my smile from flying off my face.

I have so much gratitude and love for all of the people who have stood beside me over the years. Who have supported me in my recovery and in my service. To be trusted by the district members enough for them to vote me into such an honorary position is beyond words. To even be trusted by anyone is still a miracle to me. My character was crap when I came in the rooms of AA. By God's grace, today I try to be an example of the H.O.W.

There is a bit of fear that has crept in since the elections. Those life-long questions of "Will I be good at this? Will people like me? Will I always serve in a spiritual way?" have since taken up space in my head with regards to being DCM, especially when I think about the great examples that have been before me. In my heart I know I'll be fine. I have many encouraging members of AA that stand with me, who are there if I need help (which I'm sure I will), and who are also ready to give me a swift kick in the ass if need be. Before AA, I didn't do anything because of fear. I hid from it, ran from it or just drank at it. Today, I try to embrace the things that cause me fear. How else am I supposed to learn new things, have new experiences and meet new people? As long as I continue to put God first, I'm a winner and fear won't ever get to be the starting quarterback.

In Love and Gratitude,
Deborah G.



To Be A Part Of

It was so exciting to watch the elections. My sobriety is better for it. Learning the three legacy elections was awesome. I am grateful to those that serve. They show me the importance of service work. My sobriety is in danger if I don't have the time to serve. I saw exactly how it works. I never knew how the selection of trustees or delegates was done. It felt good to be a part of, to be honored as a voting member of my group. I listened to the qualifications and voted the way I thought my group would want. The elections are something everyone should see to learn how the service process is done.

Wendy F.

THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN HAPPY PEOPLE
AND
UNHAPPY PEOPLE IS THEIR
LEVEL OF
GRATITUDE

SECRET SERVICE SECTION

OCTOBER AREA ASSEMBLY REPORT

- GSR Workshop- very organized, informational & timely, great opportunity for the new GSRs attending.
- 3rd Legacy Workshop presented by out election facilitator, past Area 67 servant, Peggy M. The produce was explained; questions were answered & overall it was a very informative & inspiring workshop.
- The Area Committee & Assembly meetings were held on Saturday late afternoon in order to allow ample amount of time for the elections on Sunday.
- The July minutes were tabled for approval until the January meeting because the secretary never received the translations, lost several reports due to the SETA email system glitches & felt they were incomplete.
- The treasurer's report was approved as corrected; a corrected report will be emailed out.
- All motions passed except the motion "To amend the Policies and Procedures Manual of Southeast Texas Area to allow verbal announcements, flyers, or displays from the Texas State Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous at Assemblies & Conventions" this was tabled, an ad-hoc committee assembled & a onetime privilege be granted to allow flyers only at the January SETA Convention pending results from the ad hoc committee's research.
- 2017 SETA Convention- moving forward in the planning, the website is up & running & online registration is available & encouraged. Please remember that we are trying to fill our block of hotel rooms, so please stay at the hotel if you are able.
- 2018 SETA Convention- hotel has been reserved, committee is being formed & speakers are in the process of being selected. If you interested in serving on either convention committee you can contact Corrie or I for more information.
- Delegate & Alt. Delegate full reports are provided at the D40 meeting.
- 4th Quarter financial report from GSO available. 38 of 90 groups within D40 are contributing & the contributions are up \$9099.25
- D40 Area contributions YTD are \$4799.81
- D90 Host district for the October Assembly
- 2016 Area Gratitude Dinner- November 13th, 2-4 pm, Brenda's Reception Center, 13900 Beechnut St, Ste. C, Houston, TX 77083. This will be translated in both English & Spanish using the new system so please bring headphones.
- SWRAASA- October 21-23, flyers posted on website
- 67th General Service Conference in 2017 Theme- "Supporting Our Future" This means more than just putting money in the basket. How can you, your group, district, area & region contribute? In what ways?
- Proposed agenda items are due to the Delegate by December 15, 2016
- 2016-2018 Service Manuals are available through GSO & Houston Intergroup.
- The results of the 2017-2018 Elections were provided by the Area Alt. Chair & are also provided to all GSRs at the D40 meeting.



District 40 GSR Official Meeting Minutes Southeast Area Alcoholics Anonymous

August 9, 2016

Call to Order: Serenity Prayer, Preamble and Unity Declaration

Tradition VIII/Concept VIII: reading and summation by Mary Kay F. and Reino F.

Volunteers for next month: Tradition IX/Concept IX will be Melissa M. and Corrie H.

Introduction of Attendees: 35 Attendees for our Business Meeting

Normal Business:

1. **Secretary's Report** – Accepted as submitted.
2. **Treasurer's Report** – Accepted as circulated. Mike W. also reported that he will be out of the country later this month through mid-September therefore will issue all reimbursement checks via mail prior to leaving and will have the September report available along with the 2017 proposed budget at the October meeting.

Committee Reports:

a. Archives –OPEN

- Group History forms are available if your group is interested in submitting one to the Area Archives Committee
- If you would like to know more about what type of documents/items can be submitted to Archives, please contact the Committee Chairperson or attend a Committee Meeting.
- Visit www.aa-seta.org for all contact & meeting information.

b. Coffee Committee – Betsy K –No report

c. Correctional Facilities Committee – CFC – Cindy M.

- 18th Annual Convention is September 9th – 11th, 2016. Omni Houston Hotel at Westside 13210 Katy Freeway Houston, TX 77079. TDCJ Orientation, workshops & speakers. Online registration <https://2016cfcconference.eventbrite.com> Flyers available on table.
- Requesting donation money again for the annual CFC Conference. We gave \$250.00 last year which was used for pizza for Saturday lunch. The hotel contract at Crown Plaza expired and we had to find a new hotel and costs have doubled.
- National Conference for 2017, it looks like Missouri is hosting. This will be rotating between 6 or 7 states so far. CFC Chair has been on weekly conference calls w/GSO. I'll keep you posted as I get info.

d. Grapevine – OPEN

- You can support Grapevine through subscriptions as well as submitting an audible/written article.
- Check out the Grapevine App at www.aagrapevine.org

- Area Grapevine Committee monthly meetings are on the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 PM, Delta Club, 6400 Westpark Dr., Houston, TX, 77057.
- Visit www.aa-seta.org for all contact & meeting information.

e. Intergroup – Roger B.

- Summer Open House was a great success. If you weren't here on July 16th, you missed something neat! The annual Summer Open House was attended by a very large number of the Fellowship from all around the area, and we celebrated sobriety.
- Groups who contributed goods or funding for the Open House included Cypress, Bellaire 12 & 12, Avalon, Tradition 5, West Spring, The God Meeting, Katy Crossroads, Broad Highway, and Fourth Dimension. We certainly appreciate the support. In good form.
- Inside the conference area, we held the first ever live auctions at the Open House. Between desserts brought in by individuals and groups, as well as selected A.A. collectable items as we cleaned out our old file cabinets, the auctions raised over \$2500 to help reduce our budget deficit. We are grateful to all those who participated. Thank you District 40 for your considerate support of Intergroup.
- Intergroup is a 501(c) 3 not for profit entity dedicated only to the helping the fellowship fulfill its Primary Purpose and support the groups 12th step efforts. Intergroup is not a business in any form. It is an AA service entity dependent solely upon the fellowship for support. In keeping with our 7th Tradition Intergroup has been supported by our area fellowship in several ways-
 - Donations from the Groups
 - Donations from Individuals
 - Very small margins on Literature sales to cover operating expenses
 - Donations for Workshops and Events to cover expenses.
- Intergroup's Prudent Reserve is currently less than two months of operating expenses.
- Group donations have been declining for the past two years.
- Intergroup supports your group's efforts to carry the message! We continue to rely upon the group's support to continue to carry out this mission.
- Visit www.aahouston.org for more information & to subscribe to The Link

f. Information Technology – IT – Richard B.

- SETA IT Committee Monthly Meeting was held July 23, 2016
- SETA IT has a new Webmaster (Dan P.) and a new Alternate Chair (Kyna D.)
- Last weekend the SETA email service was switched over from Gossimer to 1to1 – according to our Postmaster "Some users may need to subscribe to various mail lists, however, this is a one time consequence of the migration."
- District 40 scrubbed July 2016 newsletter was sent to SETA Webmaster for posting.
- IT Committee meets the 4th Saturday 10:00am - 12:00pm at the SBMC

District 40 GSR Official Meeting Minutes Southeast Area Alcoholics Anonymous

a. Literature – OPEN

- The Area Literature Book Club meets at Houston Intergroup on the first Saturday of each month from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM.
- Current Book "Experience, Strength and Hope" – pg. 256-285
- Current Pamphlet "Young People and AA"
- Area Literature Committee Meeting will be on Saturday, October 1st at 4:30 pm at the SETA Assembly in the Sheraton Ballroom.
- Visit www.aa-seta.org for all contact & meeting information.

b. Multilingual – OPEN

- If your group or a member has a request/need for any translations (written/verbal) whether it is a document, piece of literature or a special group event, please contact the Area Multi-Lingual Committee to make arrangements.
- Visit www.aa-seta.org for all contact & meeting information.

c. Newsletter – Deborah G.

- This month there was only one article sent in. Thank you to our DCM for continuously contributing to the newsletter. However, due to the lack of contributions, the newsletter is becoming nothing but facts, schedules, and announcements. This is all important stuff but it's missing the substance of experience, strength and hope from our members. Remember that this is YOUR newsletter, a place to share what you have learned and experienced throughout sobriety, to share about the fun and sorrow and every other emotion that AA gives us. Whether a newcomer or not, all of us need to hear/read experience, strength and hope! Please consider writing something, no matter how big or small.
- Next month's topic will be Routine vs. Complacency: Do our routines guide us on the path that God wants us on or are we "resting on our laurels" so much that we aren't growing spiritually?

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

- The committee met on July 25th, 6:30 pm, Woods Road Club.
- No members were present so no business was conducted.
- Next committee meeting will be August 29th, 6:30pm, Woods Road Club, 2119 Woods Road, Brookshire, TX.
- This is an important meeting as we will be asking for committee position nominations for next month's election.
- Area PI & CPC Committees meet monthly, please visit www.aa-seta.org for contact & meeting information.

e. Treatment Facilities Committee – TFC– Pam F.

- There is nothing new to report from the TFC at this time.
- Area TFC Committee Meeting is Saturday, October 1st, 4:30 pm in the Rivera Room during SETA Assembly.
- Visit www.aa-seta.org for all contact & meeting information.

New Business:

1. Area Chair, Troy B. came to the meeting, shared part of his service story and gave a presentation on how the 3rd Legacy Election procedure functions. Explanations were given by current and past D40 DCMS on how that will look at the next meeting. Troy then facilitated a Q&A session for members to participate in. The importance of spiritual rotation, trusting God and personal experiences were shared by several trusted servants. Complete, approved sets of D40 job descriptions were provided to all attending members, via email and hard copy to help in preparations for elections.
2. D40 approved a \$500 contribution to the SETA CFC Conference

Group News:

The Spring Shadows Groups voted to fund the Breaking the Chains Group or any other D40 prison group's literature requests whenever possible if the Area CFC blue can funds remain insufficient.



"This ability to laugh at yourselves and to accept the puncturing of your own self-importance is one of the basic steps in A.A.

I believe - of course it makes every Individual more likable and lovable whether alcoholic or not. What little I have been able to absorb has made life much simpler for me I know. "

Ruth Hock—A.A.'s 1st Secretary

FEAR OR SERVICE?

The election process at the district level is something brand new to me. I am a four month old GSR, and have never done any work at the district level before. Being sober for almost six years, I thought it may be a positive step to get more involved. I had no idea that I would walk into a group conscious meeting four months ago, and walk out as the new GSR for that group. But after a talk with my sponsor, I knew it was God working in my life. So I attempt to take that approach throughout my day, including once a month for the District 40 meetings.

Well, last month that approach was put to the test. When elections opened up, past DCMs went around the room and asked who would be willing and able to stand for the new DCM position (which would take effect in January 2017). I was a bit surprised to see how few people stated that they weren't willing and able to stand for the position. Was I not able? Was I not willing? Perhaps some folks didn't understand what "able" and "willing" meant for the position. Then all of the insecurities began to arise about me (of course). Was I willing? Was I able?

After a brief bout of fear, I realized how some folks probably couldn't stand for this position (for one reason or another) and the others that followed. I also realized that many people DID, in fact, stand for the positions. I realized that I was being self-centered in only thinking about myself and my personal situation. I'm sure I am the only person in the rooms of AA to EVER judge. So, I took a deep breath and said that I was willing and able to stand for the DCM position; and many others to follow.

I didn't get the majority of the vote for any of the next five or six positions. I don't believe I actually received one vote until the second or third position. I was truly humbled and could see right then and there that my ego had been as big as the room I was seated in. At first I wanted to shrink in my chair and just disappear. That thought was quickly supplanted by kind words and encouragement from other members in the district meeting. They made me feel welcome. They made me feel more comfortable. I suddenly realized, again, that I was surrounded by members of the most loving and crazy fellowship that I have ever been a part of. I remembered the words of some of the first people I ever encountered in AA, who said that I must remain willing throughout this process of life if I were to ever have a chance at sobriety.

The love in the district 40 meeting is like the love in many of the other meetings that I go to around town. It is a love and understanding like no other I have ever experienced. I am thankful for that love and understanding, even if those people extending that love and understanding didn't vote me into a position until the fifth or sixth elected position came up! I am your upcoming District 40 newsletter Editor. And with that, my alcoholic brain wants to start in with a whole new set of fears, until I remember and give thanks for the incredible treatment and love I received inside the District 40 meeting in September.



As an alcoholic I must be there for anyone who asks for help with this drink problem. And I am beginning to see that the District 40 members were there for me when I needed help overcoming fear during an election. Thank you to Alcoholics Anonymous, and thank you to my District 40 and its members.

Matt D.

Fortunately our Society is **3rd Legacy Blessings**

*blessed with any amount of **real** leadership-the active people of today and the potential leaders of tomorrow as each new generation of able members swarms in. We have an abundance of men and women whose dedication, stability, vision and special skills make them capable of dealing with every possible service assignment. We have to only seek these folks out and trust them to serve us.*



Am I willing, able, qualified? 3 simple questions, 1 POWERFUL effect! If you have never stood 3rd Legacy, you should know, it will change your heart, your attitude, your intentions for the better & for life. I walked into the October Assembly so very proud of my District for showing me, teaching me, leading me & I walked out of the Assembly so very humbled, excited & honored by my Area.

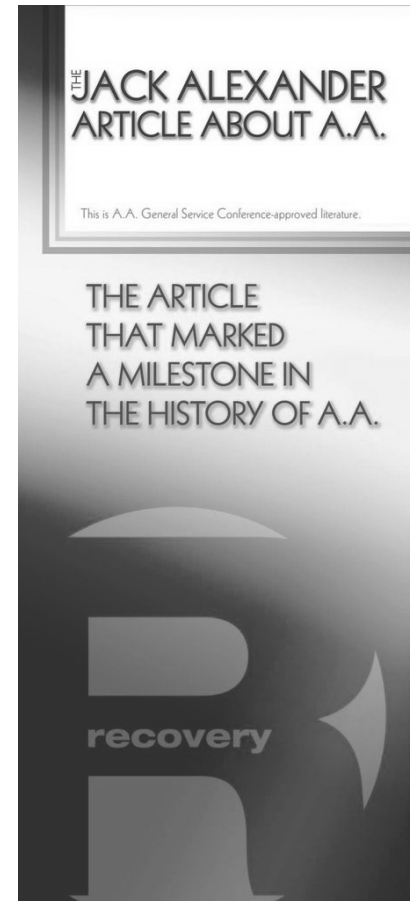
Michelle H.
D40 DCM

-Twelve Concepts of World Service, pages 36-37

“Any concept of the Higher Power is acceptable. A skeptic or agnostic may choose to think of his Inner Self, the miracle of growth, a tree, a man's wonderment at the physical universe, the structure of the atom, or mere mathematical infinity. Whatever form is visualized, the neophyte is taught that he must rely upon it and, in his own way, to pray to the Power for strength”

Pg. 19

Image reprint from “Your AA General Service Office” pamphlet. This can also be found on www.aa.org, with permission of A. A. World Services



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
Roger B.

Newsletter Editor
Deborah G.

Multi-Lingual Chair
OPEN

Coffee Chair
Betsy K.

Archives Chair
Tom B.

2016 SETA Election Results

Trustee-at-Large Nominee Deborah D.

Area Officers (* indicate 3rd Legacy Procedure)

*Delegate	Ron C.
*Alternate Delegate	Troy B.
*Chairperson	Kris H.
Alternate Chairperson	Michelle H.
*Registrar	Rick M.
Alternate Registrar	Kate E.
*Secretary	Miguel O.
Alternate Secretary	Ana D.
*Treasurer	Christina S.
Alternate Treasurer	Ron S.

Standing Committee Chairpersons

Archives	Mary Kaye F.
CPC	Vern P.
CFC	Chris D.
Finance	Evan K.
Grapevine	Melanie G.
IT	Kyna D.
La Vina	Ascencio
Literature	<u>OPEN</u>
Multi-Lingual	Arnaldo G.
Newsletter	<u>OPEN</u>
Public Information (PI)	<u>OPEN</u>
SCAP	Zasu M.
TFC	Pam F.

Liaisons to Intergroup

Brazos Valley Intergroup	<u>OPEN</u>
Houston Intergroup	Kathleen T.
Ninth District Intergroup	Julian L.
Oficina Intergroupa Hispania (D63,64,65)	<u>OPEN</u>
Intergroupa Hispano Del SW (D66 &67)	<u>OPEN</u>
2019 Convention Chair	Veronica M.

CONGRATULATIONS

to our newly elected
**Trusted Servants for
the 2017-2019 term!**



2016 District 40 Election Results

DCM	Deborah G.
Alternate DCM	Cindy M.
Secretary	Sunshine P.
Alternate Secretary	OPEN
Treasurer	Reino F.
Alternate Treasurer	OPEN
Archives	Mary Kaye F.
CFC	Veronica C.
Grapevine	Cheryl D.
Intergroup	Joe P.
IT Representative	OPEN
Literature	Jackie S.
Multi-Lingual	Ashley F.
Newsletter	Matthew D.
PI/CPC	OPEN
TFC	OPEN

Upcoming Events



SWRAASA

October 21-23, 2016
Embassy Suites
Northwest Arkansas
3303 Pinnacle Hills
Pkwy.
Rogers, AR 72758

District 90's

Gratitude Dinner
Sat., November 5, 2016
5:30-9:00 PM
St. Andrews Church
1350 N. 23rd St.
Beaumont, TX 77706

District 81's

Weekend on the Beach
October 28-30, 2016
Victorian Condo Hotel
6300 Seawall Blvd.
Galveston, TX 77551

SETA Gratitude Dinner

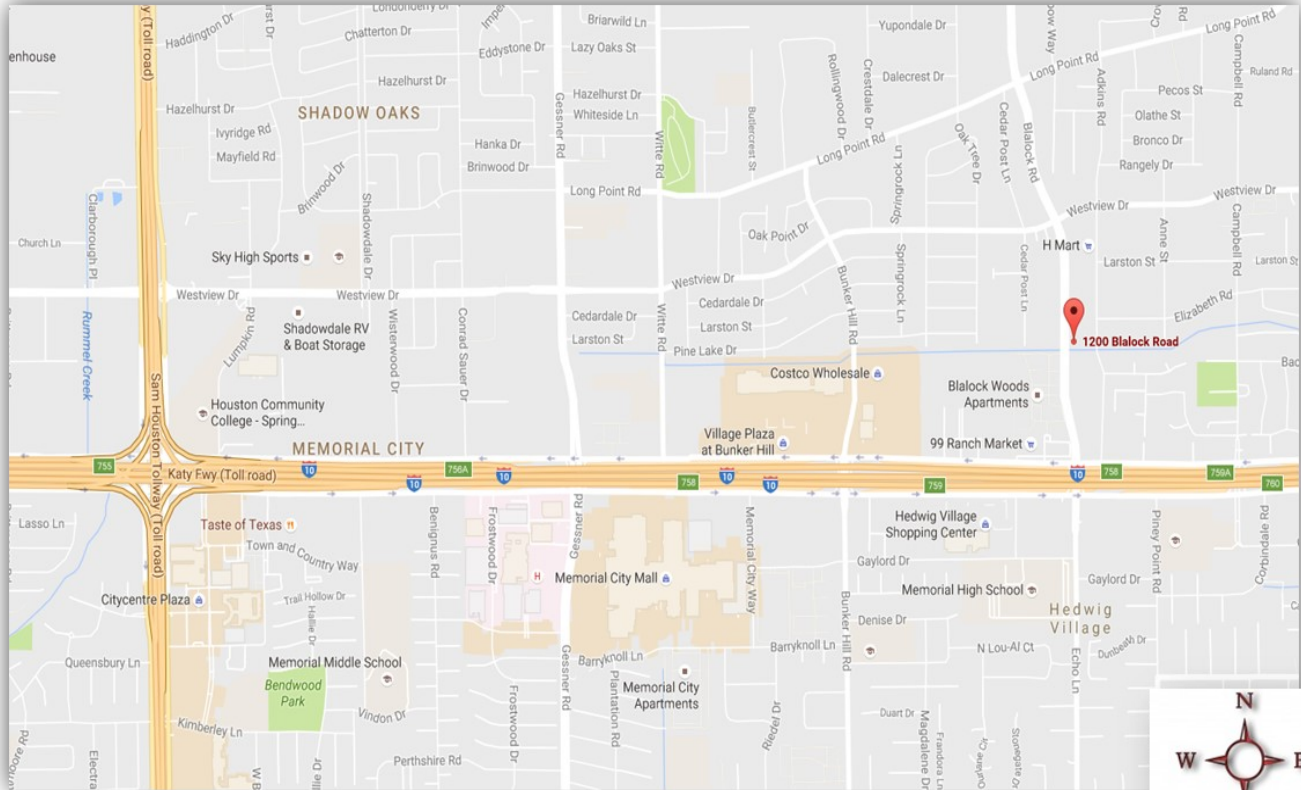
Sun., November 13, 2016
2:00-4:00 PM
13900 Beechnut Street,
Ste. C
Houston, TX 77083

For more events visit:

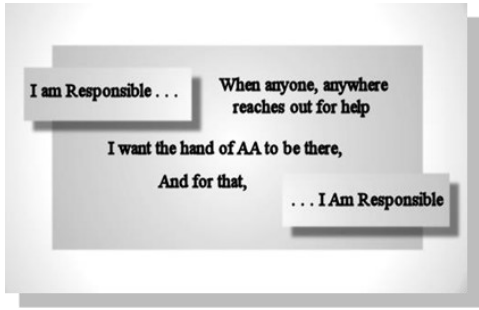
adahouston.org

aa.org

aa-seta.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

THE NEXT DISTRICT MEETING IS

NOVEMBER 8, 2016
@ 7:00 PM

District 40 meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 7:00 PM—9:00 PM at the Spring Branch Memorial Club 1200 Blalock Road #378 Houston, TX 77055

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
Multilingual	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 (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	-
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.	

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.