

WELCOME TO THE CIRCUS

Step Seven

Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings

Tradition Seven

Every A.A. group ought to be fully self supporting, declining outside contributions

Concept Seven

The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for financial effectiveness

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The Evolution of My Self-Support

The 7th Tradition was one of the first tradition that I ever understood when I came into the rooms of AA. I put my dollar (or more) into the basket; I help pay for the room in which I get to learn how to stay sober. I used to say it was the cheapest form of therapy I have. Over the years, my understanding of this tradition has evolved and grown to mean so much more.

The idea of Self-Support is more than just being financially responsible. Yes, the money that I put in the basket goes to the group for coffee, rent, literature, etc. It also goes to the district, area and GSO which all play various roles in my service and my sobriety. Without the money, AA wouldn't function. Money is needed to print Big Books. It's needed to make sure that GSO stays open and run the day to day business of our program. Our districts and areas need money to rent a facility to hold monthly meetings and quarterly assemblies.

But what about the other ways I can be Self-Supporting? I've grown to learn that it means listening to my GSR give her report every month at the group conscience meeting; listening to the district committee reps report what is going on in the various committees on all levels; taking notes to share with my district when our delegate informs us about happenings throughout our organization. Supporting my fellow servants is another form of self-support. I trust them to do a job that I may or may not be able, willing or qualified to do. It's important that I support their efforts even if it's just by being present and hearing what they have to say.

In my house, I don't earn the income but I can certainly be self-supporting in financial ways. I don't spend money frivolously. Especially if it means that my family won't have food or a roof over their heads. By not creating a financial burden, I am financially supporting my family. My job is to maintain the day-to-day chores around my house. Shopping, cleaning, carpooling, cooking, laundry, etc. If I don't do my job, someone else in my house will. That puts more on their plate than is fair, making me a drain on everyone else. I must do my part so they can do their part.

The 7th Tradition is so much more than monetary concerns. It's about us supporting our fellowship in all aspects. It's ensuring that the doors stay open for the newcomer who is just waiting to walk through. Without the money or the servants, the doors would close and those still suffering will be unable to find a way out!

In love and service

Deborah G.

D40 DCM

Tradition 7 – *“Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”*

Most conscientious AA members should quickly grasp the idea of being self-supporting. Many of us in the throes of our disease were quite poor managers of money. We have lied, cajoled, & begged our family, friends, and even those we didn't know well in order to get what we needed to feed our addiction. Those we have victimized are surely part of our Step 9 amends and restitution. Now that we are sober, we accept that from now on we will pay our own way.

But why shouldn't AA accept monies from generous benefactors who wish us well and want to help? Certainly in cases where the money comes with strings attached we can understand why such contributions should be declined. We alcoholics don't want to be told what to do!! But contributions made free & clear of any encumbrances should be okay, right? What could possibly go wrong?

Plenty can go wrong when a bunch of sober drunks start to debate/argue over the best use of a pile of money. Such disputes would destroy the fabric of our program. We would lose sight of our simple singular mission which is to help the alcoholic who still struggles. Instead, our energies would focus on grandiose ideas/plans for spending the money.

Each AA group needs enough money to cover basic expenses plus a prudent reserve. Period. This stance of financial independence shows outsiders that we are not a charity who needs to endlessly raise money through drives, car washes, bake sales, etc. Through Tradition 7 we proclaim to the world that we who were once haplessly irresponsible where money was concerned are now financially responsible members of society.

--Dave T

LIFE HACK SECTION!

TRICK your neighbours into thinking you are a werewolf by sleeping naked in their garden



The chains of alcohol are too light to be felt until they are too strong to be broken.

— Anonymous



DISTRICT SERVANTS

DCM

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Literature Chair

Jackie S.

Newsletter Editor

Matthew D.

Alternate DCM

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IT Representative

OPEN

Multi-Lingual Chair

OPEN

Secretary

OPEN

Treatment Facilities Chair

OPEN

Coffee Chair

OPEN

Alt. Secretary

OPEN

PI Rep

Open

Archives Chair

Mary Kaye F

Treasurer

Reino F.

Correctional Facilities Chair

Open

CPC Rep

Alt. Treasurer

OPEN

Upcoming Events

Southwest Regional Forum

October 20-22, 2017

San Antonio, TX

56th SETA Convention

January 19-21, 2018

Holiday Inn (Walden Rd)

Beaumont, TX

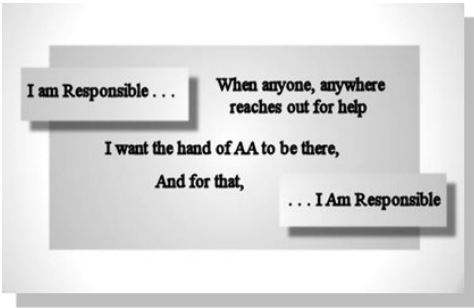
For more events visit:

aahouston.org

aa.org

aa-seta.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

AUGUST 11, 2017

@ 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
Archives	1st Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM	521 N. Sam Houston Pkwy East, Suite 215 Houston, TX 77060
Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)	1st Monday of the month at 7:00pm	Spring Branch Memorial Club 1200 Blalock, Suite 378
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
Grapevine	3rd Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM	The Delta Club 6400 Westpark Dr, Suite 355 Houston, TX 77057
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
Literature	–	–
Mult-Lingual	1st Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM	District 63 4800 West 34th St. Suite B-8 Houston, TX 77092
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

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

May 9, 2017

Call to Order: Serenity Prayer, Preamble and Unity Declaration

Tradition V/Concept V: Reading and Summation by Sara A. and Matt D.

Volunteers for next month: Tradition VI - Sunshine P.; Concept VI - Pam F.

Introduction of Attendees: 25 Attendees for our Business Meeting

Normal Business:

Secretary's Report – Accepted as circulated

Treasurer's Report – Accepted as circulated

Committee Reports:

Archives – Mary Kaye F.

Meets on the 1st Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. 521 North Sam Houston Parkway East Suite 215, Houston, TX 77060

Visit www.aa-seta.org for all contact and meeting information

Correctional Facilities Committee (CFC) – OPEN

CFC meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month 7:30-9:00 P.M. at Delta Club 6400 Westpark Dr., Suite 355, Houston, TX 77057

Visit www.aa-seta.org for all contact and meeting information

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) – OPEN

Continue to contact all DCMs for presentations to districts about what CPC is and does.

Work on contacting local professional schools that train future healthcare, legal/correctional, human resources/employment professionals and offer A.A. presentations. Reviewed F-106 - "Working with Students Attending Professional Schools"

Develop Power Point for future presentations – received multiple versions from Betsy G. and an updated version from GSO

Alcoholics Anonymous Information Meeting: For public, professionals, or anyone interested in learning what AA is and how it works. July 8th 4:30pm at Sheraton North Houston at George Bush Intercontinental in the Galveston Room – 15700 John F. Kennedy Blvd, Houston, TX 77032

June 15th 8pm, Presentation to Intergroup Delegates meeting. 4140 Directors Row, Ste D, 77092

CPC meets the 1st Monday each month at 7:30 P.M. at Spring Branch Memorial Club, 1200 Blalock, Ste 378, Houston, TX 77055

Visit www.aa-seta.org for all contact and meeting information

Grapevine – Cheryl D.

You can support Grapevine through subscriptions, as well as, submitting an audible/written article

Check out the Grapevine App at www.aagrapevine.org

Visit www.aa-seta.org for all contact and meeting information

Consider donating your used copies of the Grapevine to the CFC committee to take into prisons or to the TFC committee to take into their facilities

Information Technology (IT) - OPEN

IT Committee meets the 4th Saturday from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm at SBMC

Meeting also available in the Go-To Meeting format

Visit www.aa-seta.org for all contact and meeting information

Intergroup – Chansé D.

2017 Challenge Program - Intergroup would like to send a representative to District meetings to explain Intergroup financial status, plans, and restructuring

Urging group participation in sharing the 7th tradition basket, the suggested average donation to your local intergroup is 50% after group expenses.

Group contributions have increased over 50% comparing the 1st quarter of 2016 to the 1st quarter of 2017.

Prudent Operating Reserve Goal - the board of trustees have agreed that Intergroup would need \$20,000 a month for a six-month period to responsibly adjust operations to serve the fellowship in a catastrophic scenario. This decision established the Prudent Operating Reserve Goal at \$120,000 minimum. Currently at 59.7% of Goal / 40.3% under reserved.

(YTD Income) – (YTD Cost of Goods) – (YTD Expenses) = (YTD Total Profit)
(\$129,355.82) – (\$55,975.64) – (\$54,215.69) = (\$19,164.49)

Bookstore pricing increase effective March 1st (Averaging a price increase of 5%)

Decision was made at the Feb meeting to limit the hearing-impaired signing Program to one meeting per month due to budgetary constraints.

Volunteers needed for Night watch (Intergroup phones) Weekend of Nov 17th – 20th 5pm – 7am, Evening shifts are also available the 2nd Thursday and 3rd Tuesday of every month. Backup volunteers for weekday evening shifts are also welcomed.

Need sober AA members fluent in sign language who are willing to sponsor and/or attend meetings with a sign language interpreter – Contact Caryn D. (email address available upon request).

Intergroup is looking for two replacement board members (minimum sobriety 2 years). Elections will be held in the June 2017 delegates meeting. Trustee 1 position will expire December 2017 and Trustee 2 position will expire December 2019 (both eligible for re-election upon expiration. Please announce and share at groups. For more information or to receive an application call intergroup office or email intergroup@aahouston.org

Next Delegates Meeting June 15, 2017 at 8pm at Intergroup

Intergroup's Summer Open House will be Sat., June 3rd from 11:00 – 4:00; food, fellowship, music and bookstore specials!

Visit www.aa-houston.org for more information

Literature – Jackie S.

Pamphlet of the Month: “How AA Members Cooperate with Professionals” P-29

Regarding the Area Literature Committee: I have received a list of committee member's email addresses from the Area Literature Chair and she mentioned she was going to set up “Email Do Do” to open communication between the committee members.

A.A.W.S. – Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. – Is truly a World-Wide Organization more so than I ever knew. It is not just that there are A.A. meetings all over the world, but also A.A. literature as well.

In the newsletter this month, I sent in a copy of the list of all the Big Book Languages that was sent to me from the General Service Office. Interesting to me is at the bottom of page 2 of 2, the, “Explanation of A.A. World Services, Inc. Licensing Procedure – from US/Canada Conference Charter: ‘In countries where a General Service Structure exists, the United States/Canada Conference will delegate sole right to publish our Conference-approved literature to the General Service Board of that structure.’”

Multi-Lingual – 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, contact the Area Multi-Lingual Committee

First Wednesday of the month @7:30 PM at District 66, 5645 Hillcroft Suite 410, Houston TX 77036

Visit www.aa-seta.org for all contact and meeting information

Newsletter – Matthew D.

Thank you for all the article submissions!

Next month's topic: "Fitting AA into your life or fitting your life into AA?"

Public Information (PI) – Lenny D.

I introduced myself to the committee

For the entirety of the meeting we discussed a new format for the area assembly meeting.

Instead of a committee meeting they want to have an open meeting with professionals and AA members in PI and CPC, I think. (Bear with me..lol); I forgot what they are gonna call it, Public Information and Professionals Meeting Something like that. We discussed that we need professionals contact info, so if anyone has any professional contacts that would be great. They will all be sent a letter and we will also try to meet them in person to invite them to the meeting.

We decided on a panel type format with 3 people; 2 AA members, 1 to share story and 1 to present/explain the program and the steps and 1 professional to present their experience with alcoholics.

That's about it! I had a lot of fun!

PI meets the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:30 P.M. at Spring Branch Memorial Club, 1200 Blalock, Ste 378, Houston, TX 77055

Visit www.aa-seta.org for all contact and meeting information

Treatment Facilities Committee (TFC) – OPEN

Meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 PM via GoToMeetings, (except Assembly months)

At Area Assembly, Saturdays from 4:30 - 6:00 PM

Visit www.aa-seta.org for all contact and meeting information

New Business:

Area CFC Presentation - Chris D.

Well informed presentation to the district about what CFC does and doesn't do and what opportunities there are to serve in on the committee

April Assembly Hosting Final Report - Cheryl B.

Hosting Report for SETA Assembly, April 8-9, 2017

D40 hosted the Area Assembly providing the following services:

- Hospitality Suite
- Registration
- Literature Sales
- GSR Workshop

Overall the weekend was a huge success. We had a great group of volunteers that showed up and were accountable to our area service committee. In the hospitality suite we served breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday and breakfast again on Sunday. Total spend for the hospitality suite was \$755 for food + \$25 tip, beverage and service supplies. Volunteers were available to man the registration desk all day Saturday and until roll call took place on Sunday. The volunteers sold coffee badges and collected \$365 on behalf of SETA. Volunteers manned Intergroup's literature table most of the day on Saturday and till close on Sunday. Total sales equaled and we were only off by \$.05. Finally, Jackie S. and Cindy M. put on the new GSR

workshop and did a fantastic job explaining the basics! Total spend on literature for packets was \$49.

We collected quite a bit in 7th tradition for the hospitality suite but had to spend a portion of it to keep up with demand, as well as to replace utensils that were noted on the inventory list that were not in the bins. Returning \$246 back to district.

Traditions Dinner - Cindy M

June 17, 2017 from 3 – 8 PM

At the Church of the Holy Apostles, 1225 West Grand Parkway South, Katy, TX 77494

Main dish will be pasta with chicken and/or shrimp to be topped with sauces from Hasta La Pasta; there will be a salad bar as well as any other side dishes, desserts or appetizers provided by volunteers

Our two presenters will be Michelle H. (Area Alt. Chair; Past D40 DCM) and Corrie H. (Past D40 Alt. DCM)

Open Positions - CFC, CPC, TFC, IT, Multi-Lingual

Group News:

N/A

Announcements:

See Flyers for Upcoming Events