

WELCOME TO THE CIRCUS

Step One

We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—
that our lives had become unmanageable.

Tradition One

Our common welfare should come first;
personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.

Concept One

Final responsibility and ultimate authority for
A.A. world services should always reside in the
collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

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New Beginnings at 40

My very first AA meeting was an all-women's meeting full of 40 something housewives. I was a single, 32-year-old with no kids that shared an apartment with her sister. Sitting in the meeting I felt out of place. It wasn't until the women talked about how and why they drank that I started to feel some commonality with them. It's a New Year where I start out having just turned 40, I'm a homemaker with 2 kids, the dog, the house, etc. I have become one of "those" women and I owe it all to AA. This program has given me the opportunity to have these wonderful things in my life. It's a blessing to be able to wake up everyday knowing that I have the opportunity to be whatever God wants me to be. Before sobriety, I used to make New Year's Resolutions. Somehow, I never managed to stick with them for more than a month. Now that I'm sober, I stay away from New Year's Resolutions and just stick to trying to be a better person each day. The false promises that come with Resolutions never came to fruition, but the growth I am continually open to has done wonders in my life. I look forward to the New Beginnings in 2018!

In Service,

Deborah G.

D40 DCM

Tradition 1

Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. Unity.

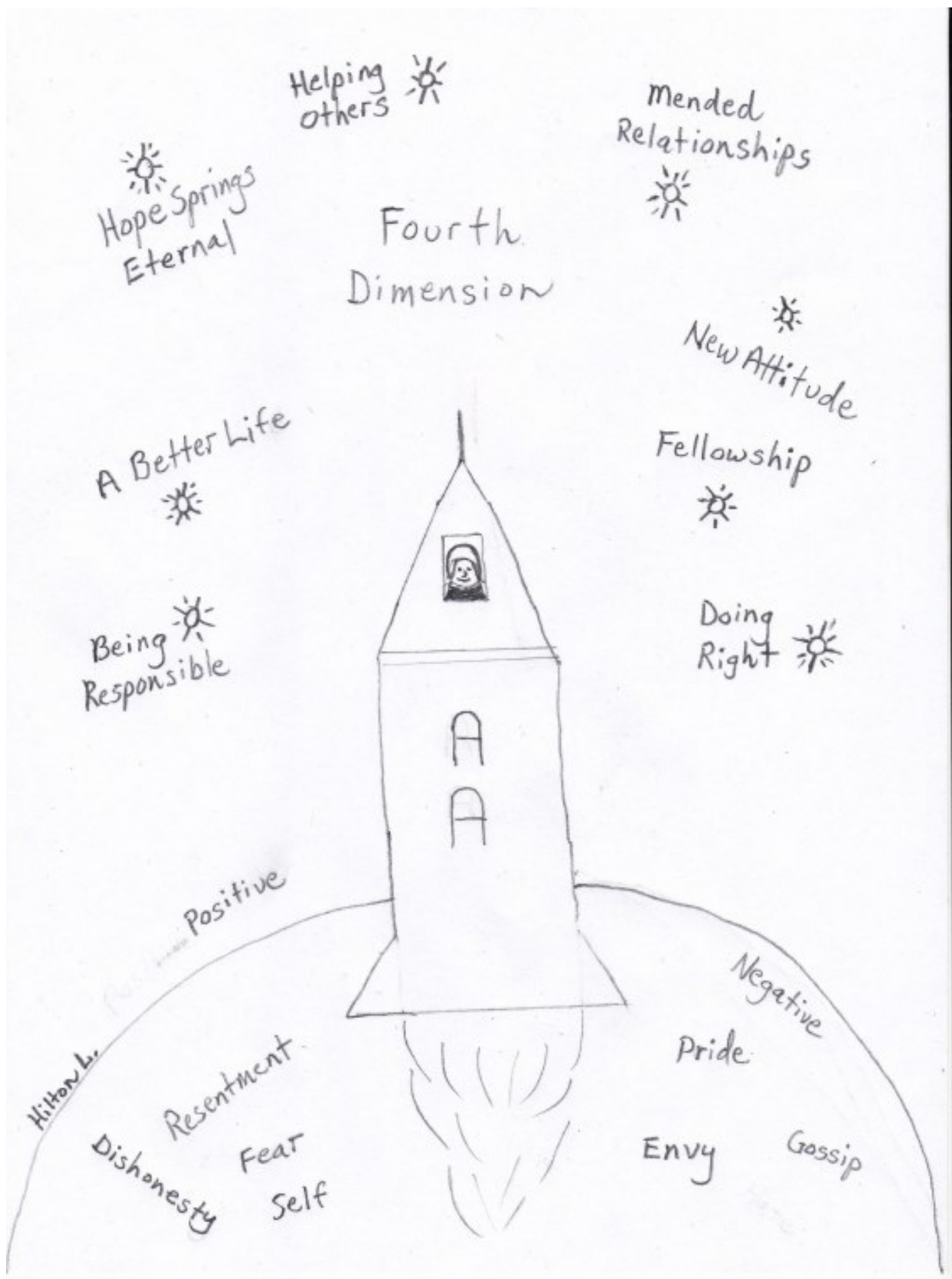
Bill said “The unity of A.A. is the most cherished quality our society has. Our lives...depend squarely upon it. We stay whole or A.A. dies.” Some thought Bill meant the individual was no longer important and for self-centered people like us that didn’t sound good. Bill also said: “It may be that Alcoholics Anonymous is a new form of human society.” No organization or institution today places a higher value on personal welfare of the individual members than does A.A. There are no dues, no fees, you can come, you can go, you can stay, or leave. You can even drink. Even so, early A.A.s found out that their common welfare had to come first, because without the survival of the group, there might not be any individual members. Individual sobriety depends on the group, and the group depends on us, and that’s “live and let live.”

January 2018 - Pamphlet Challenge – Speaking at Non- A.A. Meetings P-40

Should you speak about the A.A. program at a non-A.A. meeting? What would you say? How would you say it? Does it keep with our traditions? If you have been to the Area Assembly, you will have noticed that the Public Information Committee and the Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee members talk about how they have spoken about the A.A. program at non-A.A. gatherings. This pamphlet informs us how to even begin thinking about doing that. I think this information is also very helpful when talking about the A.A. program to anybody outside the program. Reviewing this pamphlet will at least inform you about things you may not have thought of and can be very helpful in protecting our program when you open up with about your recovery. Also included are tips that can be quite useful when discussing alcoholism with friends and family. Page 13 mentions a card that can be passed out to the audience respectfully asking that as an A.A. member, our full name not be reported on the internet. So it is up to the A.A. members to inform the public about the A.A. program, but not using our full identity. Page 13 also has an outline for what to include in a brief talk. Then, it goes on to give you 20 of the most common questions people tend to ask along with a scripted intelligent answer for each one. There are also some suggestions on how a non-alcoholic can help with informing others about the A.A. program. Again, these answers could be useful when speaking to family and friends. Are there any precautions that should be taken when telling our personal stories? Yes, on page 19. The first precaution is to mention that you only speak for yourself, not for A.A. as a whole. And last but not least, included are several paragraphs stating our responsibility of keeping people informed.

Jackie S.

District 40 Literature Rep



RULE 62 SECTION

me: not today, satan

satan: you've been canceling our plans
for weeks now. if it's something i said,
please just tell me

Treasurer's Report

SETA District 40 Monthly Financial Report -- November 2017								
EXPENSES	Initial Budget	Approved Budget Changes	Approved Budget	Expense This Month	Year to Date	% This Month	% Year to Date	
DCM	\$ 800		\$800	\$105.42	\$918.99	13%	115%	
Alt. DCM	\$ 800		\$800	\$0.00	\$0.00			
Secretary / Copying	\$ 350		\$350	\$10.56	\$122.89	3%	35%	
Treasurer	\$ 150		\$150	\$0.00	\$10.39		7%	
Newsletter	\$ 800		\$800	\$39.78	\$404.52	5%	51%	
Rent/Coffee Donation	\$ 800		\$800	\$20.00	\$270.00	3%	34%	
Coffee	\$ 350		\$350	\$0.00	\$49.26		14%	
PO Box	\$ 150		\$150	\$0.00	\$0.00			
Literature Committee	\$ 665		\$665	\$99.76	\$450.59	15%	68%	
PI/CPC	\$ 100		\$100	\$0.00	\$0.00			
Grapevine	\$ 250		\$250	\$32.48	\$32.48	13%	13%	
CFC	\$ 700		\$700	\$0.00	\$0.00			
TFC	\$ 100		\$100	\$0.00	\$0.00			
Archives Committee	\$ 100		\$100	\$0.00	\$0.00			
Intergroup Liaison	\$ -		\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00			
IT Committee	\$ -		\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00			
Miscellaneous	\$ 100		\$100	\$0.00	\$0.00			
Multi-Lingual Representative	\$ 50		\$50	\$0.00	\$0.00			
Gratitude Dinner	\$ 300		\$300	\$250.07	\$287.01	83%	96%	
Fellowship Fest	\$ 250		\$250	\$0.00	\$0.00			
Traditions Dinner	\$ 1,100		\$1,100	\$0.00	\$932.09		85%	
Service Workshop	\$ 250		\$250	\$51.87	\$51.87	21%	21%	
SWRAASA (Even Years)	\$ -		\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00			
The Forum (Odd Years) See Note	\$ 1,500		\$1,500	\$795.52	\$795.52	53%	53%	
Delegate Report Meeting	\$ 215		\$215	\$0.00	\$58.09		27%	
State Convention Hospitality Suite	\$ -		\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00			
SETA Assembly Host District	\$ 500		\$500	\$0.00	\$689.35		138%	
SETA - 2015 Hospitality Suite	\$ -		\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00			
	\$10,380	\$0	\$10,380	\$1,405.46	\$5,073.05		49%	
INCOME								
Group Name	Receipts This Month							
Friends of Bill W. (Post Oak)	\$25.00			Beginning Bank Balance			\$6,055.30	
Katy 12 & 12	\$33.08		Total Expenses this Month			\$1,405.46		
Daily Reflections Group	\$24.83		Total Income this Month			\$113.84		
Simply AA	\$30.93		Prudent Reserve (0.25 x Budget)			\$2,595.00		
			Unrestricted Funds			\$2,168.68		
			Ending Balance / Total Funds			\$4,763.68		
			Unspent Portion of Budget			\$5,306.95		
Event Donations			NOTES: 1) Ending balance shown above agrees with bank statement after deposit of this month's receipts.					
Traditions Dinner Donations								
Gratitude Dinner Donations								
State Conv - Hospitality Suite								
SETA -Hospitality Suite								
Delegate Report Contribution								
Fellowship Fest								
TOTAL INCOME THIS MONTH:	\$113.84							

**Be
gentle
with
yourself,
you're
doing the
best you
can.**

DISTRICT SERVANTS

DCM

Deborah G.
dcm-40@aa-seta.org

Alternate DCM

Cindy M.
dcm-40-alt@aa-seta.org

Secretary

Sara A.

Alt. Secretary

OPEN

Treasurer

Reino F.

Alt. Treasurer

OPEN

Literature Chair

Jackie S.

IT Representative

Joel G.

Treatment Facilities Chair

OPEN

PI Rep

OPEN

Correctional Facilities Chair

OPEN

Grapevine Rep.

Patti B.

Newsletter Editor

Matthew D.

Intergroup Rep

Dan K.

Barista

Elizabeth G.

Archives Chair

Mary Kaye F

CPC Rep

Jenn P.

Upcoming Events

56th SETA Convention

January 19-21, 2018

Holiday Inn (Walden Rd)

Beaumont, TX

2018 Intergroup Convention

June 15-17, 2018

Westin Oaks Hotel in the Galleria

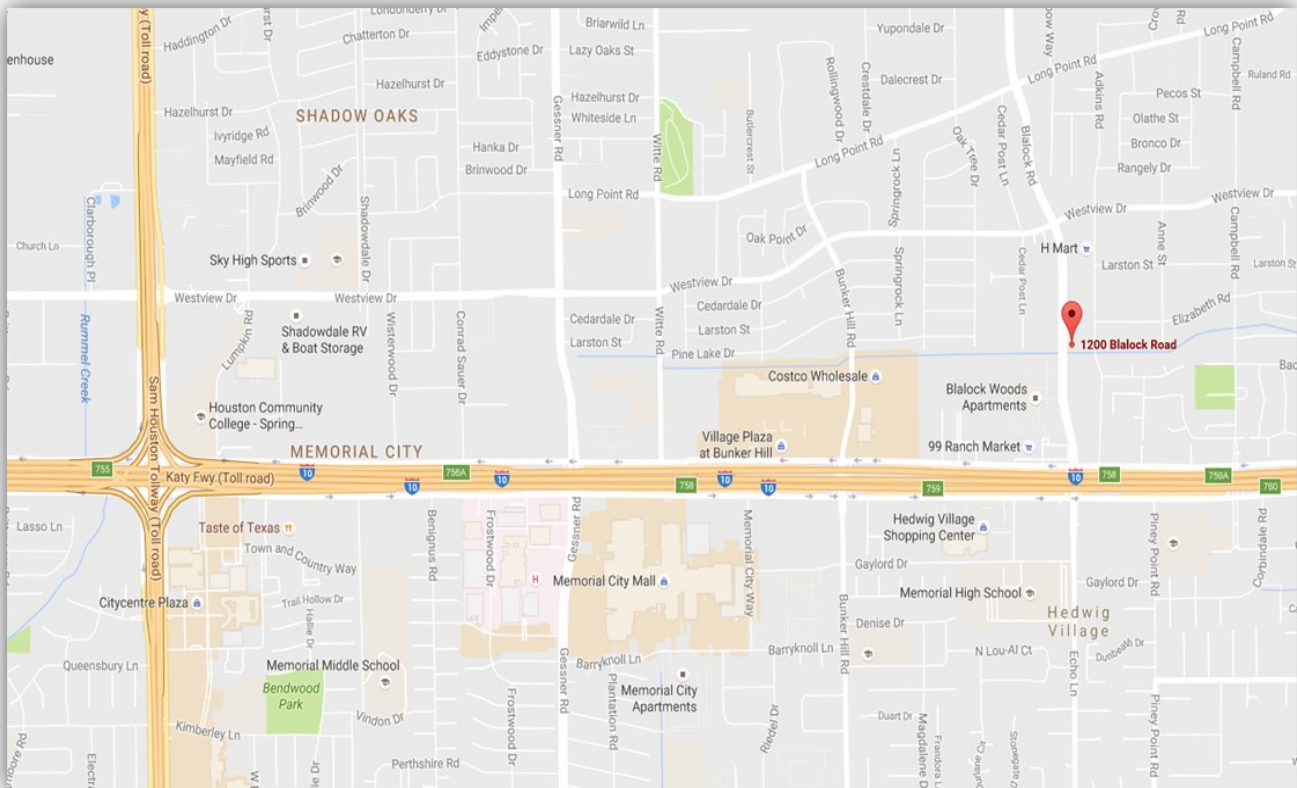
Houston, TX

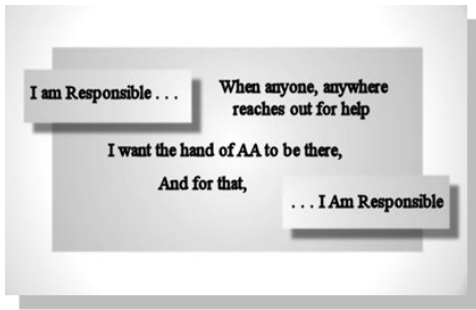
For more events visit:

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

FEBRUARY 13, 2018

@ 7:15 PM

District 40 meets on the

2nd Tuesday

of every month from

7:15PM—9:00 PM at the

Spring Branch Memorial Club

1200 Blalock Rd. #378

Houston, TX 77055

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 6401 Southwest Freeway, Suite 110 Houston, TX 77057
Grapevine	3rd Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM	The Delta Club 6401 Southwest Freeway, Suite 110 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 (Except 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?

Send group information, location and meeting times to SETA-40@aa-seta.org and

November 14, 2017

Call to Order: Serenity Prayer, Preamble and Unity Declaration

Tradition XI / Concept XI: Reading and Summation by Elizabeth G. & Kim K.; Group History – Derek S.

Volunteers for next month: Tradition XII – Mike E.; Concept XII – Betsy G.; Group History – Hilton L.

Introduction of Attendees: 26 Attendees for our Business Meeting

Normal Business:

1. *Secretary's Report* – Approved as submitted
2. *Treasurer's Report* – Approved as submitted, Budget – 2018 distributed

Committee Reports:

1. Archives – Mary Kaye F.
 - Archives meets on the 1st Saturday of every month at 10:00 AM at 521 North Sam Houston Parkway East, Suite 215, Houston, TX 77060
 - Visit www.aa-seta.org for all contact and meeting information.
2. Barista – Elizabeth G.
 - All is in good order.
3. Correctional Facilities Committee (CFC) – OPEN
 - Cindy M. reported
 - The first National Corrections Conference was November 10-12th in St. Louis, Mo.
 - They were hoping for at least 100 attendees, and over 380 attended. The banquet dinners (30) were sold out early and it was well received & ended up with 78!!
 - There were over 38 states represented as well as 4 Provinces in Canada. People came as far as Puerto Rico and Hawaii. The conference was fully self-supporting starting out with seed money of \$300.00. After reimbursement of seed money the extra money (\$8,285.00) that will be turned over to the next hosting conference committee.
 - The workshops were very informative, presented by Judges, Parole professionals and longtime, experienced VIC's (Volunteers in Corrections). The next annual National Conference will be hosted by the state of Maine and in 2019, Area 67 will be hosting. Yeehaw!!
4. Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) – OPEN
 - Deborah G. reported
 - Develop Power Point for presentations – reviewed first draft of Power Point, Vern will send out updated version for further review
 - See PI Report for more info on the Assembly PI/CPC Workshop presentation.
 - 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
5. Grapevine – Patti B.
 - You can support Grapevine through subscriptions, as well as, submitting an audible/written article
 - Ron G., standing delegate will be at the next meeting for support and leadership
 - Suggest using Grapevines in your meetings for discussion topics
 - 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
6. Information Technology (IT) – Joel G.
 - 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

7. Intergroup – Dan K.

- AA History Workshop, the story of how AA came to Houston- November 18th, 10:00-Noon, reservations required, \$10, includes take home materials, drinks and snacks, can register at aahouston.org or in the Intergroup bookstore.
- Holiday Open House- Saturday, December 9th, from 11am-2pm, trying something new and will have a speaker.
- Group contributions- August membership donations totaled \$6320.36 and for the month of September totaled \$8116.65. 2017 YTD total donation of \$82932.10. Intergroup is very grateful for the donations received. Began fiscal year with an actual Prudent Operating Reserve of \$47, 376. This was 39.48% of their POR goal of \$120,000 (6 months). Through September 2017, the POR is \$87901, which is 73.25% of standard. Compared to 2016, the POR was \$46952, so that is a \$40,949 improvement year over year. This is attributed to group and member donations and cost control compensating for declining sales. Projecting \$117,000 in group donations by end of year vs. last year of \$78000. This excludes donations from Harvey. Those are kept separate. Received \$34,000 in donations. Intergroup is working with impacted groups to help in needed recovery and determining what to do with money by end of calendar year. Roughly \$2000 was spent for books to shelters.
- Night watch- Looking for a group for Thanksgiving Weekend. The dates would be Wednesday, November 22 at 5pm to Monday, November 27th at 7am. Intergroup would be happy to come to your group conscience and give a presentation if you think your group is interested in participating. They are also working on the 2018 Weekend Night watch schedule and will be mailing it to the groups in the next couple of weeks.
- Meeting directory- Beginning in December, we will begin working on the new 2018 Meeting Directory. Please check your groups schedule on aa.houston.org and verify that your group's info is accurate and up to date.
- 55 Years of Miracles 2018- Beginning to look at forming committees. Looking for hospitality suite groups, District 40??
- Continuing to work on Disaster Response Plan.
- Bookstore will be closed on November 23rd and December 25th and 26th for the Holiday.
- Visit www.aa-houston.org for more information

8. Literature – Jackie S.

- This month's Pamphlet Challenge: *AA as a Resource for the Health Care Professional* P-23
- It is interesting how this pamphlet is written from a different perspective than our other literature. It's like one physician who has experience dealing with alcoholics talking to another physician that is new to the field. My favorite part is where it is stated that, "For the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, the causes of alcoholism are irrelevant." After you read this pamphlet, go ahead and give it to a health care professional! Does anybody have any questions?
- The Area Literature Committee last met at the October 14th SETA Assembly on Saturday at 4:30.
- Amy, the Literature Chair reported that she would need help at the Gratitude Dinner and the SETA Convention in Beaumont manning the Literature table. I volunteered to help with the Gratitude Dinner, but then I was not able to make it.
- Everyone shared their experience with bringing pamphlets to District and Group Conscience. It was suggested to end with "Does anybody have any questions?"
- We went over Basic Committee Functions from the A.A. Guidelines – Literature Committee.
 - i. Encourage A.A. members to buy literature.
 - ii. GSR's are the best method of bringing pamphlets to the group and educating the group on the A.A. Structure.
 - iii. District can buy literature and give it away.
- Topics of discussion were; an Area workshop, as well as Literature chair visiting districts and possibly doing book giveaways at the SETA convention.
- The Area Literature Committee meets at the SETA assemblies on Saturday at 4:30 PM.

9. Newsletter – Matthew D.

- Thank you for all of the article submissions this month. It was our best turnout yet, keep them coming!
 - December's topic: The giving and receiving of gifts in sobriety. What have you been able to give as a gift as a result of your sobriety?
10. Public Information (PI) – OPEN
- Deborah G. reported
 - Area PI/CPC Assembly Workshop- Final Report- SUCESFUL keep producing workshops at all Assemblies, it is our job! Member Feedback/Improvements- break down bookmark review into smaller pieces, more in depth. Announce better with Area Chair, provide 'Speaking at Non-AA Meeting' pamphlets, place bookmarks outside of the ballroom for members to take, use SETA-Announce to send a thank you for picking bookmarks with all contact info. April 2018 Workshop Ideas- mock presentation
 - Quarterly Activity/Challenges/Games-Vern introduced to the committee a new brainstorming topic for us to use to try & generate member participation. Several good ideas were introduced for a strong starting point. Attraction Rather Than Promotion-After much discussion at the last CPC meeting we came up with some ideas on how we can help educate members on the difference between the two. Workshop topic, Newsletter articles (district & area), Flyer, Quotes/passages from the 12 & 12 Traditions, if we talk about & put our words down in some type of paper or email it can be heard by many
 - 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.or for all contact and meeting information
11. Treatment Facilities Committee (TFC) – OPEN
- Deborah G. reported
 - 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.or for all contact and meeting information

New Business:

1. *D40 Meeting Location /Time for 2018 – Deborah G., Tabled until December*
2. *Policy & Procedures Manual – Cindy M.*
3. *D40 Holiday party – Deborah G. & Cindy M.*
 - a. *Sign-up sheet for food contributions passed*
 - b. *Ugly Sweater contest at the party*
4. *Upcoming Workshop*
 - a. *Cindy M, Lindy S. & Jackie S. leading "Anonymity" workshop December 2nd 2:30-4:30pm, hosted by Katy 12 & 12*
 - b. *Betsy G. & Christina S. to present at the workshop*
5. *SW Regional Forum*
 - a. *See Report from Deborah G.*

Group News:

1. *District 40 has a new meeting location, SBMC 2nd Tuesday every month at the SBMC 7-9pm. Tell your groups & invite new attendees.*
2. *Help spread the word about the upcoming Anonymity workshop.*

Announcements:

- See Flyers for Upcoming Events