

WELCOME TO THE CIRCUS

Step Three

Made a decision to turn our will and our
lives over to the care of God as
we understood Him.

Tradition Three

The only requirement for A.A. membership is a
desire to stop drinking.

Concept Three

To insure effective leadership, we should endow
each element of A.A.—the Conference,
the General Service Board and its corporations,
staffs, committees, and executives—with a tra-
ditional “Right of Decision.”

Inside This Issue

- 1 Step, Tradition, Concept
- 2 *Laid-Back or Aggressive?*
- 3 *Young People and AA*
- 4 *Tradition 3*
- 5 *Rule 62 Section*
- 6 *Treasurer's Report*
- 7 District Servants
- 8 Upcoming Events and A Map!
- 9 Committee Meeting Times
- 10 District 40 November Minutes

Laid-Back or Aggressive?

Working one-on-one with another alcoholic is the very essence of what continues to keep us alcoholics sober and in fit spiritual condition, at least that's how it is for me. Newcomers are such an essential part of that 12th Step work. When they are desperate enough, hurting enough, they feed on the program. However, newcomers are sometimes the most challenging sponsees to work with. They might require more patience, more kindness and more tolerance. I always try to remember what it was like for me when I came into the rooms.

When posed the question, "do you have a more laid-back approach or a more aggressive approach?", I would have to say both but I'm usually somewhere in the middle. It depends on the person or the situation. Some sponsees don't need a lot of "pushing" to take action. They want to get better, so they do whatever necessary to make that happen. Others like to fight everything at every turn. They don't like to follow the easy suggestions that I lay out for them and then they whine about how nothing is getting better. This might be where a bit more of an "aggressive approach" could be warranted. The key to the approach is my words and tone. I must remember to always share the truth as I see it, but I don't have to do it in a nasty way. Brutal honesty isn't necessary to get the truth across.

At the beginning of sobriety, we're all sensitive and raw, I don't need to make someone feel even more so. There is always a balance when sponsoring someone. As long as I seek God's guidance, there is no wrong way to sponsor newcomers.

In Service,
Deborah G.
D40 DCM

Pamphlet of the Month: *Young People and A.A.*

Have you ever wondered what ages are considered, “young” in A.A.? Well the A.A. members whose story is included in this pamphlet are ages 13 through 25. What a blessing to be able to get sober that young. The myth buster format that is used in the pamphlet is popular with the young crowd. Every home group could have a few of these pamphlets on hand for that young person coming into A.A.

The bottom paragraph on page 6 was added to this revised pamphlet as one of the 2017 General Service Conference Advisory Actions. I remember the round table I was included in at last year’s April SETA Assembly was all about literature changes. This may have been one of them. Our voice is heard at the conference if we make the decision to participate. The upcoming April SETA Assembly is holding round tables again. Come on out and let your voice be heard. Congratulations on getting the YPAA Conference mentioned in this Conference Approved Literature! I like the new cover as well! The pink yoga pants are really cute!

Jackie S.

D40 Literature Rep

Tradition 3

Bill W. wrote in a Grapevine article entitled "[Who Is A Member Of Alcoholics Anonymous?](#)" that the first edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous made the following brief statement about membership: "The only requirement for membership is an honest desire to stop drinking. We are not allied with any particular faith, sect or denomination, nor do we oppose anyone. We simply wish to be helpful to those who are afflicted."

According to the AA literature, "[A.A. Tradition—How It Developed](#)," Tradition Three grew out of this piece by Bill W. in The A.A. Grapevine. Both Bill's piece and the [Twelve and Twelve](#) discuss the number of rules that early groups attempted to impose ("We were resolved to admit nobody to A.A. but that hypothetical class of people we termed 'pure alcoholics,'" page 140 of the *Twelve and Twelve* states), but Bill noted:

That is why we all judge the newcomer less and less. If alcohol is an uncontrollable problem to him and he wishes to do something about it, that is enough for us. We care not whether his case is severe or light, whether his morals are good or bad, whether he has other complications or not. Our A.A. door stands wide open, and if he passes through it and commences to do anything at all about his problem, he is considered a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. He signs nothing, agrees to nothing, promises nothing. We demand nothing. He joins us on his own say-so. Nowadays, in most groups, he doesn't even have to admit he is an alcoholic. He can join A.A. on the mere suspicion that he may be one, that he may already show the fatal symptoms of our malady.

The short form of Tradition Three reads, "The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking." The long form of the tradition states, "Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation."

"We do not wish to deny anyone his chance to recover from alcoholism," Bill W. wrote in his Grapevine piece. "We wish to be just as inclusive as we can, never exclusive."

He went on to conclude:

Perhaps this trend signifies something much deeper than a mere change of attitude on the question of membership. Perhaps it means that we are losing all fear of those violent emotional storms which sometimes cross our alcoholic world; perhaps it bespeaks our confidence that every storm will be followed by a calm; a calm which is more understanding, more compassionate, more tolerant than any we ever knew before.

RULE 62 SECTION

Stop being so hard on yourself. You don't have to be a complete idiot. Just be the best idiot you can be.

Treasurer's Report

SETA District 40 Monthly Financial Report -- January 2018							
EXPENSES	Initial Budget	Approved Budget Changes	Approved Budget	Expense This Month	Year to Date	% This Month	% Year to Date
DCM	\$ 1,000		\$1,000	\$53.17	\$53.17	5%	5%
Alt. DCM	\$ 800		\$800	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Secretary / Copying	\$ 250		\$250	\$16.38	\$16.38	7%	7%
Treasurer	\$ 150		\$150	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Newsletter	\$ 500		\$500	\$60.08	\$60.08	12%	12%
Rent/Coffee Donation	\$ 400		\$400	\$30.00	\$30.00	8%	8%
Coffee	\$ 100		\$100	\$0.00	\$0.00		
PO Box	\$ 120		\$120	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Literature Committee	\$ 380		\$380	\$0.00	\$0.00		
PI/CPC no longer a committee	\$ -		\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Grapevine	\$ 250		\$250	\$0.00	\$0.00		
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	\$ 100		\$100	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Miscellaneous	\$ 100		\$100	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Gratitude Dinner - Donation	\$ 300		\$300	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Gratitude Dinner - Food	\$ 300		\$300	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Fellowship Fest	\$ 250		\$250	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Traditions Dinner	\$ 1,100		\$1,100	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Service Workshop	\$ 300		\$300	\$0.00	\$0.00		
SWRAASA (Even Years)	\$ 2,500		\$2,500	\$0.00	\$0.00		
The Forum (Odd Years) See Note	\$ -		\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Delegate Report Meeting	\$ 215		\$215	\$0.00	\$0.00		
State Convention Hospitality Suite	\$ -		\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00		
SETA Assembly Host District	\$ -		\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00		
SETA - Hospitality Suite	\$ 300		\$300	\$0.00	\$0.00		
	\$10,315	\$0	\$10,315	\$159.63	\$159.63	2%	2%
INCOME							
Group Name	Receipts This Month						
Friends of Bill W. (Post Oak)	25.00						
Fulshear Group	60.17						
Hockley Group	25.00						
Just For Today	27.23						
Katy 12 & 12	232.91						
Katy 164 Group	3.20						
Katy New Beginnings	26.70						
Katy Primary Purpose Group	44.85						
Kingsland Group	6.22						
Memorial Going Home Group	\$20.94						
Memorial West Group	\$40.13						
Sage-Piney Point Noon Tuesday	\$4.83						
Saturday Solutions Group	\$82.25						
Spring Shadows Group	\$210.00						
Energy ??? Group	\$150.00						
Unknown ???	\$49.20						
Traditions Dinner Donations							
Gratitude Dinner Donations							
State Conv - Hospitality Suite							
SETA -Hospitality Suite							
Delegate Report Contribution							
Fellowship Fest							
TOTAL INCOME THIS MONTH:	\$1,008.63						
				Beginning Bank Balance ^{Note 1}		\$3,292.12	
				Total Expenses this Month		\$159.63	
				Total Income this Month		\$1,008.63	
				Prudent Reserve (0.25 x Budget)		\$2,578.75	
				Unrestricted Funds		\$1,562.37	
				Ending Balance / Total Funds		\$4,141.12	
				Unspent Portion of Budget		\$10,155.37	
NOTES:							
1) Carried forward from reconciled December 2017 report and end of year bank statement.							
2) Ending balance shown above agrees with bank statement after deposit of this month's receipts.							

You have everything
you need for complete
PEACE
and total
HAPPINESS
right now.

~ WAYNE DYER

wildsister.com

DISTRICT SERVANTS

DCM

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

Literature Chair

Jackie S.

Newsletter Editor

Matthew D.

Alternate DCM

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

IT Representative

Joel G.

Intergroup Rep

Dan K.

Secretary

Sara A.

Treatment Facilities Chair

OPEN

Barista

Elizabeth G.

Alt. Secretary

OPEN

PI Rep

OPEN

Archives Chair

Mary Kaye F

Treasurer

Reino F.

Correctional Facilities Chair

OPEN

CPC Rep

Jenn P.

Alt. Treasurer

OPEN

Grapevine Rep.

Patti B.

Upcoming Events

72nd Texas State Convention

June 22-24, 2018

Dallas, TX

2018 Intergroup Convention

June 15-17, 2018

Westin Oaks Hotel in the Galleria

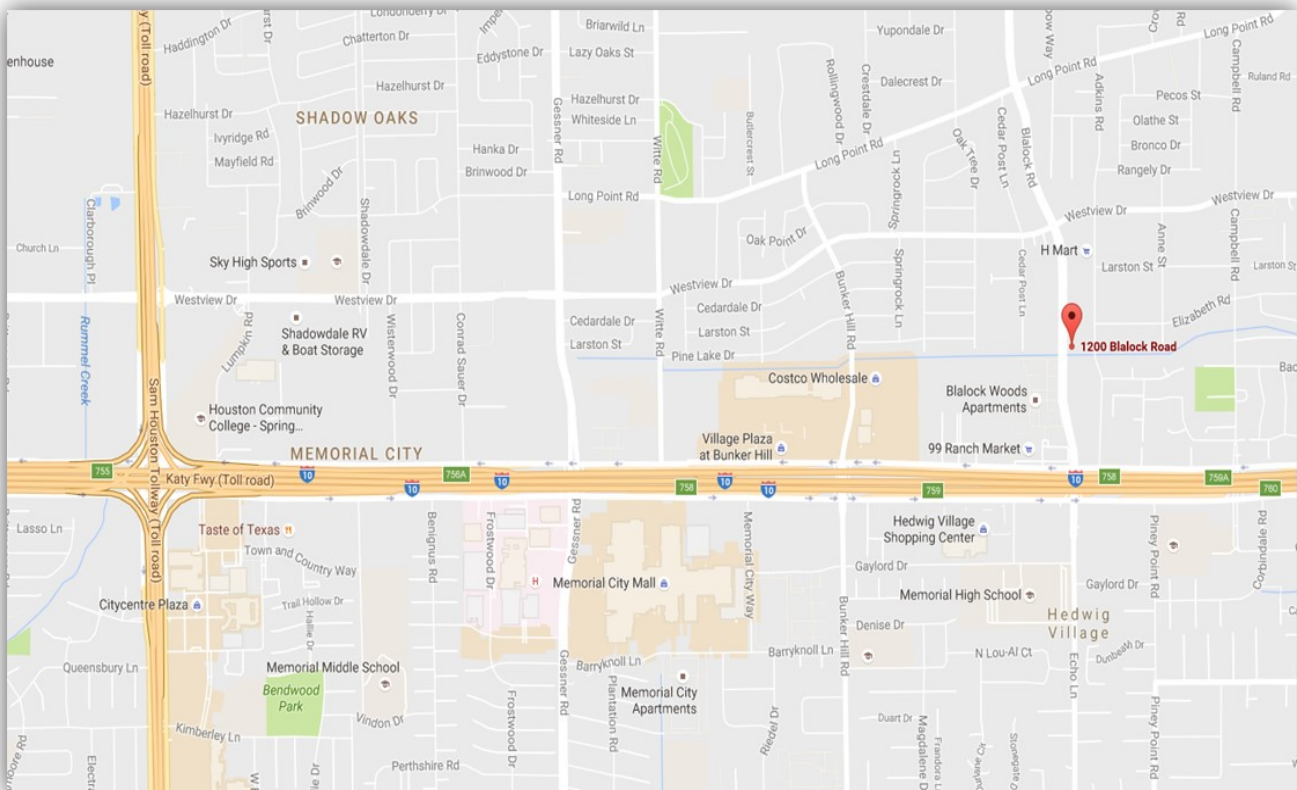
Houston, TX

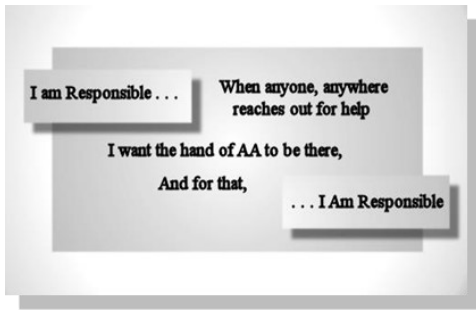
For more events visit:

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

APRIL 9, 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 (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?

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

Page 1 of 3

January 9, 2018

Call to Order: Deborah G., Serenity Prayer, Preamble and Unity Declaration

Tradition I / Concept I: Reading and Summation by Lindy S. & Sunshine E.;

Volunteers for next month: Tradition II – Mary Kaye F.; Concept II – Hilton L.; Group History – Elizabeth G.

Introduction of Attendees: 28 Attendees for our Business Meeting

Normal Business: 1. Secretary's Report – Approved as written 2. Treasurer's Report – Approved as written

GSR/General Sharing Session: 1. Group History – Karen W. Next Month Volunteer – Elizabeth G. 2. Feedback, News, Concerns, Questions from Groups – GSR's a. Safety card – how frequently to read in your group? i. Determined by the group conscience. Some are monthly, some every meeting. b. Reed B. asked for feedback on the general feeling regarding time limits when sharing. i. Suggestions to kindly approach longer shares: keep shares to 1-3 min, to talk to sponsor, use a timer and speak with someone after meeting. Continued Business: 1. Policy & procedure manual: Deborah G. & Cindy M. Preliminary P&P manual sent out for D40 to review for corrections & verbiage. Further review & revisions to be tabled until next meeting. 2. Website Update: Joel G. unable to attend. Tabled until Joel G. is in attendance. 3. Open positions: Alt. Secretary, Alt Treasurer, CFC, PI, TFC. Deanna F. voted in for Alt. Treasurer. New Business: 1. "Hard Copy" Committee Reports – Deborah G. After reviewing the job description for DCM hard copy committee reports will not be provided. Going forward the reports will be communicated thru the monthly minutes. Also, found in the monthly news letter. Committee Reports: 1. Archives – Mary Kaye F. ☐ The committee met at the repository on Saturday, December 2, 2017. It was a very productive meeting. The committee is growing in size and attendance at the meetings is increasing. ☐ We discussed the new renovations for the repository. Charles H. has completed the plans and the hope is that the work can be completed before the end of the year. When it is completed we want to hold an Open House to show the members of the Area what we are providing to support the work of the area in carrying the message. ☐ We talked about the mission statement of the Archives committee and there was lively discussion of what we were about and how to fulfill our mission. We are determined to show the area the benefit of preserving our history for future generations. ☐ We are working on ideas to improve our web page at the SETA website. Eddie has put together a timeline showing the history of Houston AA in relation to the history of AA as a whole. ☐ We spent some time putting together the displays for the SETA convention in January and there will be multiple committee members who will man the room during the convention. ☐ Mary Kaye is working on putting together a power point presentation to run in the Archives room during the convention. ☐ We have one district that has invited us to do a presentation during their district meeting in February and are hoping that other districts will also invite us. ☐ The committee meets on the first Saturday of every month at the Repository at 10:30 AM except for Assembly months and all are invited to attend. The next meeting will be January 20th at the SETA convention in Beaumont. Hope to see you there. 2. Barista – Elizabeth G. ☐ All is in good order.

3. Correctional Facilities Committee (CFC) – OPEN ☐ Cindy M. reported i. New meeting location effective immediately. ii. Delta Club 6401 Southwest Freeway, Ste 110, Houston, TX 77057 4. Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) – Jenn P. ☐ Deborah G. reported ☐ No Report – The committee did not meet this month. 5. Grapevine – Patti B. ☐ 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. ☐ Betsy G. reported ☐ New Website is being updated in stages starting Feb 2018 7. Intergroup – Dan K. ☐ CONVENTION TIME: Save the date, June 15-17th, 2018 ☐ Once again Intergroup is sponsoring a convention of celebration. Next June, we will be assembling at the Westin Oaks in the Galleria for 3 days of fellowship, speakers, hospitality, and FUN. ☐ AA History workshop- Turnout for the workshop was overwhelming and had 81 paid registrations. ☐ Holiday Open House- Fantastic Turnout! Had 75+ attendees for the speaker and probably 125+ come through the bookstore (sales of \$2561.43). ☐ Night watch - Available dates for 2018 Weekend Night watch are: Feb 23-26, Oct 26-29, Nov 21-26 (Thanksgiving), Dec 14-17, Dec 28-Jan 2, 2019 Please let Intergroup know if your group would like to take any of those weekends. Intergroup would be happy to come to your group and give a Night watch training presentation. ☐ Harvey Update as of Nov 31st Total donations- \$37561.63 Expenses paid- \$3127.36 Keep money- \$1922.00- Moved to general fund Money returned- \$2389- Returned to donors Balance- \$30123.27 ☐ Next meeting- February 15, 2018 ☐ Pricing on literature decrease: Starting January 9, will decrease 8-10% ☐ New Intergroup hours starting 1/16/18 – 8-5pm Mon thru Fri. 8. Literature – Jackie S. ☐ Pamphlet Challenge: Speaking at Non-AA meetings, pg. 40 ☐ Since I did not place my order soon enough, we will have to read this month's pamphlet online. Either view it as an attachment from Deborah's email or; go to aa.org, click AA Literature, scroll down to pamphlets/flyers and click the drop down arrow, then choose the pamphlet name in alphabetical order. Lastly, click the pamphlet cover and it will open up for a perfect view. The cover has been updated recently. 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. ☐ The Area Literature Committee is looking for volunteers to help fill time slots with the Literature Display at the SETA Convention I Beaumont. There usually are no committee meetings at the SETA convention, so the next Literature Committee meeting will be at the April Assembly.

9. Newsletter – Matthew D. ☐ Thank you for all of the submissions this month! Next month's topic is Love (of course!). Please share your experience, strength, and hope with love. You can always write about the SETA convention if you are incapable of love :-)
Thank you!

10. Public Information (PI) – OPEN ☐ Deborah G. – No report 11. Treatment Facilities Committee (TFC) – OPEN ☐ Deborah G.- No report

Announcements: 12. See Flyers for Upcoming Events 13. Group History form & list of GSO services distributed to the group.