

DISTRICT#40

UNITY | SERVICE | RECOVERY

Step 12

"Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs."

Tradition 12

"Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities."

Concept 12

"General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the AA Tradition, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle: that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, or whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action."



Tradition Three - Membership, Eligibility, Identify

Reino F, DCM

The definition of *Member* is "the individuals composing a group"; *Membership* is "the body of members"; *Eligibility* is "the quality or state of being eligible"; *Eligible* is "qualified to be chosen" & *Identify* is "to be or become the same".
Tradition three is the only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.

This tradition was an entirely new concept for me to wrap my keen alcoholic mind around when I first found AA and started my journey to

change what was happening in my life. I was not aware that I was an alcoholic when I decided that my life was going wrong and needed something to happen. I did not know that AA even existed. But I was introduced to AA in treatment and at the halfway house.

I always thought that to be a member of something you needed to start it, have your family get you into it, have someone refer or take you, and back you up or confirm you, or know someone. I had no clue that I could say I was a member and be one because I had a desire to do something.

So, when I got to AA, I had no real feeling of self-worth. I was feeling guilt and remorse over how I had acted in my life. It was comforting to know that I was welcome as a member in spite of my imagined or actual faults with no questions asked. I watched the members around the tables and wanted to earn their friendship. So, the long journey back to self-respect, productivity, and to rejoining society as a whole began. I just had to have a desire to stop drinking. I was eligible.

There had been many challenges to this tradition and principle in the early years of AA. At one point it was said that if all the AA groups listed their membership requirements that no one would be eligible. And the list would be quite lengthy. But it was said in the discussion of someone being a member that “when confronted by the fear that is the true basis of intolerance, we need only ask, what would the Master do?” The emphasis on this tradition is to keep the primary focus of the fellowship from becoming diluted.

It was quite a process I went through to believe that this fellowship would really help me. I sat in meetings listening to everyone share wondering if I was really one of them. I saw differences galore, “that is not me”. But through sponsorship and a network of members that told me what I needed to hear I saw that I needed to see the similarities and not the differences. So, I was able to identify.

I have been in the fellowship of AA now for quite some time and realize that I need to be in AA and not around AA. I do not need to tip toe thru the tulips with this deal that continues to save my life. I have a sponsor, a home group, a network of AA friends, work the steps, practice the spiritual principles in all my daily life as best as I can, serve the fellowship and help others. I try to be the only copy of the Big Book that someone sees thru my actions in my life. I guess that I am a member of the fellowship of AA.

What more can I be grateful for in my life?

Tears of Joy

Dear God,

Thank you very much for my
Sober parents. The letter to Santa
last year asking for that must have
been sent to you because my
parents have said many times that
you do this. Please keep those
meetings going that help them
and their new friends so much!
With love from your child,



Hilton

National Corrections Facility Conference



The Third National Corrections Facility Conference was held in Houston, Texas, on the first through the third of November, 2019. Besides Judges, Directors of TDCJ, Chief US Probation Officer, Senior Wardens, Wardens, TDCJ Administrators, and many other professional corrections officers, we hosted nearly 400 volunteers from all over the world; Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, Central America, and North America. The majority were from the good old USA, from Maine to California, Washington to Florida, and all points in between.

I had the privilege to escort dozens of volunteers into two prisons; the Walls Unit in Huntsville and Jester One in Richmond. Their feedback was touching. Richard D. Co-Chair, was asked by me to give his one, short memory of the conference. Richard wrote, " One memorial event was being able to take the out-of-town volunteers to the Wayne Unit on Thursday, before the conference.

This is my third National CFC Conference and after a year of monthly meetings planning this conference it was very rewarding to hear everyone had a great time, very informative and very well received - just an honor and a privilege to be able to be part of the National CFC Conference thank you all for your help and support."

Tom K. wrote, "Since buying literature supports AA, and contributions sometimes are insufficient, the Correctional Committee effort does a fabulous job of supporting AA through literature (and Grapevine) purchases."

I was security for the conference, we bought 1930's Illinois Prison uniform replicas, big, thick, black stripes on white. Yes, we stood out, people knew where to go for any help. Imagine convicts helping the people at the Hilton with a smile on all the faces all around. It was humbling but you can be proud of the job SETA did representing you to the world. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Paul

District 40 GSR Meeting Minutes

DATE: 10/08/2019

CALL TO ORDER; DCM Reino F. opened the meeting with a Moment of Silence, Preamble & Unity Declaration.

DCM -Reino F. informed us that a visitor representing Spirit of Houston asked if she could place flyers and give a presentation. Since Spirit of Houston is not part of the A.A. Service Structure, we had to vote. The vote decided to allow flyers only, but no presentation.

INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES; 28 Attended our business meeting.

TRADITION X /CONCEPT X PRESENTATION; Terri O. and Karen W.

VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT MONTH; Tradition XI – Dave Concept XI – Mike

DISTRICT OFFICER REPORTS

- Secretary's Report; Jackie S. - Accepted as presented
- Treasurer's Report; Rick N. – Accepted as presented
 - Deanna – Mention contributions at visiting meetings. Invite sponsee to District Meeting in December.
 - Rick – started the discussion of ways to lower the 2020 budget to match more realistically to what our actual income is. The discussion resulted into forming a subcommittee for the 2020 budget; Rick, Reino, Scott, Mike and Mike. Their task is to come up with 3 budgets to vote on. It will be emailed out for review and to check with home groups. This will avoid a lengthy discussion at the next meeting.
- DCM Report;** Reino F. – The new agenda format went well.
 - GSR friendlier for;
 - i. More positive experience at district.
 - ii. I do this because I want to now.
 - iii. Slow enthusiasm.

Regional Forum – Free! GSO puts it on. Come hear the people from New York!

i. **ALT DCM Report;** – Deanna F. –

- SETA assembly – It is the Districts responsibility to get people involved. Try to get people to attend for the development of the District.
- Traditions Dinner – We had positive feedback. Let's consider having it in the fall. We can plan ahead, bring our sponsees, look for our replacements. We were \$60 over budget. The extra tableware can be donated to the SETA Convention hospitality room. Thanks to everybody for helping. 45 people registered. Kari said that Deanna did a good job and that it was nicely done. Reino said that he learned more about the Traditions by experiencing it. Well done!

NEW BUSINESS;

OLD BUSINESS;

- SETA Convention Hospitality Room; MNMSSS and Journey Group together are at \$800. That leaves a \$300 shortage. Groups to keep asking for donations.
- SETA Assembly – Host District. Only July 2020 is left. We don't have concrete information to present. We will wait for a proper presentation.
- Open Positions - Archives, PI, IT and TFC. Please post the open positions in your home group newsletter. Include it in your group conscience meetings. Add them to your group announcements.
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DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS *(Please submit report to Secretary)*

a. **Archives Rep; OPEN** No Report

b. **CFC (Correctional Facilities Committee); Paul K. – Read by Rick N.**

- Friends, I will not be there tonight, however, here is my report;
- First, a reminder this is the last District meeting before the National CFC Conference at the Hilton Double Tree up near the Bush Intercontinental Airport . November 1,2 and 3rd. If you would be interested in helping with Security tell Rick Nash and give him your shirt size. There are scholarships available. Basically, you will be guarding the coffee and helping little old men find their way around the Hilton.
- Tell your groups, thank you for your "Blue Can" contributions. In September, we took in over \$4,000.00 worth of books and literature into jails and institutions. Personally, I took Big Books, 12 N 12s, Daily Reflections and literature into two prisons in Texas. When, I took several books and literature into the Jester Unit they were almost as happy as if I was putting them on parole. This month, I took Big Books into the Walls Unit in Huntsville. Once again, if I or someone doesn't show up, they don't have a meeting. There were newcomers that came because we had a meeting. I gave them Big Books. Your Big Books thank you and thank your groups. If you or your group needs a Blue Can, see Mr. Nash, he has some.
- We can use more female and male volunteers to go through training to be able to go into the jails and prisons, bringing in meetings, books and literature to those that appreciate it more than you can imagine.
- October 19, 2019, the Walls Unit will be celebrating 71 years as an AA Group; they call themselves the "Pathfinders." However, if volunteers from the outside don't show up, they can't have a meeting. If you would like to go, let me know.
- Thanks Miss Elizabeth for your Grapevines, the men love you.
- If you want some love from an inmate, bring your old Grapevines to the District meetings; be of service, service without works is dead. Love without service is dead.
- I have also been asked for CA and NA books and literature. If you have some old CA or NA books or literature, bring them to the meetings or call me at (281)413-8978, and I will take them in the joints.
- Thank you. Respectfully, Paul

a. **CPC (Cooperation with Professional Community); Bill A.**

b. At the committee meeting we did a mock presentation of the Hospital Program with questions from the audience. Hospital Program meeting for Coordinators on Sept 22nd went well. We have 6 Coordinators around Houston Area.

c. We will be giving a CPC and Hospital Program Presentation Oct 31st at Noon at the Veterans Hospital downtown. Also, go back to your groups and ask if anyone is willing to start a daytime meeting at the VA Hospital. If so, please contact me.

d. **Grapevine; Rachel P.**

e. Grapevine is now accepting stories for an upcoming issue on "Getting Into General Service." If you'd like to share the story of your own experience in service or know someone else who might, go to aagrapevine.org/contribute to see contribution guidelines.

f. There's a new catalog of all Grapevine publications, including books, e-books, and audio recordings, in both English and Spanish. If you'd like to get a catalog for your group, just let me know, or you can go to aagrapevine.org.

g. **IT (Information Technology); OPEN No Report**

h. **Intergroup Liaison; Dan K.**

• Intergroup Presents History Workshop with Guest Presenter Eddie R., SETA Archives Chairman- How A.A. came to Houston and the area, October 19th, 2019, from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Reservations required and are \$12.50; include materials, lunch and dessert. Register at aahouston.org or in the bookstore.

• Intergroup is collecting a list of speakers to share with you for "Group Speaker Nights". If you would like to share your experience, strength and hope, please contact Intergroup at 713-686-6300 to get added to the list.

• Nightwatch/Volunteering

• Evening Nightwatch- Looking for "backup" members for evening nightwatch.

• Weekend Nightwatch- Several slots available

Please contact Libby if your group would like to sign up at 713-686-6300 or email at adminasst@aahouston.org

• Meeting in a pocket- Now available in bookstore for \$2.50

Next delegates meeting October 17th, 2019 @ 8:00PM

Elections for BOT- 5 positions open- 3 year commitment from Jan 2020-Dec 2022

Information on being a trustee available in the October Link Newsletter or contact

Intergroup directly. Sign up for the Link on aahouston.org

i. **Literature; Elizabeth G.**

Greetings to all at District 40. May this month find you getting excited about the spectacular AA events including the SETA Assembly and the Southwest Regional Forum. I believe this month's pamphlet challenge "Understanding Anonymity" will be a great read and focus on

the twelve tradition. Bill W states, "One may say that anonymity is the spiritual base, the sure key to all the rest of our Traditions. It has come to stand for prudence and, most importantly, for self-effacement. True consideration or the newcomer if he desires to be nameless; vital protection against misuse of the Alcoholics Anonymous at the public level and to each of us a constant reminder that principles come before personal interest." This pamphlet hits home for me especially, with regards to the many wonderful new ways we carry the message via when using the Internet and digital media.

This past weekend at the SETA Assembly, The Area Literature Committee did a wonderful presentation about the wide variety of AA books, pamphlets, PSA videos, AA Guidelines and workbooks etc. to grow one's spiritual program.

G.S.O. has added, "About AA – Summer 2019" the newsletter for the U.S. and Canada professionals of all types who deal with alcoholics. This issue takes a look at Sobering Centers and some nontraditional approaches to addressing public intoxication. It also focuses on portable exhibition booths as a way of carrying A.A.'s message to professionals.

The Literature Committee meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month via video conference, "ZOOM." Please send the Literature Chair your email address if you are interested in attending. Then, you will receive an email with login instructions on the day of the meeting. j. **Newsletter** Editor; Kari B. I am accepting artwork and photos. Please email them to district40newsletter@gmail.com

k. **PI (Public Information); OPEN** No Report

l. **TFC (Treatment Facilities Committee); Open** No Report

m. **GSR/GENERAL SHARING SESSION** (Feedback, News, Concerns, Questions)

i. November 2nd will be the last Concept Study being sponsored by District 40 this go around.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (see attached flyers).

- **NEXT CONCEPT SERVICE MANUAL STUDY MEETING: Nov 2nd, 2019 at 10:00 am – Noon at Spring Branch Memorial Club 1200 Blalock Rd Bldg.#378 Room C Houston, TX 77055**
- **Next District 40 meeting: 11/12/19 at 7:15pm**
Spring Branch Memorial Club 1200 Blalock Rd #378 Houston, Room C (713) 274-3190
- **Southwest Regional Forum: October 11 – 13, 2019 at the Sheraton N Houston 15700 JFK Blvd Houston, TX 77032 room registration call 281-442-5100 and forum registration at www.aa.org**
- **3rd Annual National Corrections Conference: November 1 – 3, 2019 at Double Tree by Hilton 15747 JFK Blvd Houston, TX 77032 register rooms at \$89.00 rate at 855-610-8733; register for conference at www.nationalcorrectionsconference.org**
- **Delegate's Report will be presented at the District Meeting: 11/12/19 at 7:15pm.**
- **AA International Convention will be held on July 2 – 5, 2020 in Detroit MI. Register at www.aa.org**

ADJOURNED; Closed with the Responsibility Statement

SETA DISTRICT 40 -- GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2019													
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
District 40 Groups													
Another Chance Group			115.00				60.00						175.00
Bear Creek Fellowship					40.00								40.00
Broad Highway Group										13.30			13.30
Bunkerhill Tuesday A.A. Group							75.00						75.00
Cat Women								42.50					42.50
Chapelwood Tues Barn													
Daily Reflections Group	13.40												13.40
Everything is "Alright Already"													
First Light Group													
Four Horsemen Group							48.50		31.00				79.50
Fourth Promise Group													
Fry Road Group				64.00			100.00						164.00
Friends of Bill W. (Post Oak)													
Friends of Bill W. (West Houston CC)			75.00										75.00
Fulshear Group			45.00				45.00						90.00
God Meeting Group					20.00					40.00			90.00
High Hopes	30.00		45.00				45.00						90.00
Hockley Group													
Houston Young People													
Journey Group			12.22			13.15							36.57
Just For Today		75.56					85.20						246.51
Just The Black Print Group				8.91	82.17	58.61			59.00				208.69
Katy 12 & 12		64.10		22.65	86.43		34.21	37.55	38.16				260.45
Katy 164 Group							19.92						42.57
Katy Bible Book													
Katy Crossroads Group	57.23					95.97		55.43					208.63
Katy Kevstones Group	39.39												71.81
Katy New Beginnings													
Katy Primary Purpose Group													
Kinsland Group													
Living Now Group													
Memorial Going Home Group	26.11			30.58			58.84			48.17			163.70
Memorial West Group						187.30			210.84				398.14
Men's Supper/Step Study Group													
New Beginnings Group	39.00			30.00			29.00			23.00			121.00
New Oxford Group													
Our Common Journey Group		6.40											6.40
Outpost Group (Men's)					160.00								160.00
Peek Road Group			28.00							32.00			60.00
Rosewood Thursday Night Group				48.00									48.00
Rule 62 Group													
Sage-Piney Point		129.06					44.30						168.36
Sage-Piney Point Noon Tuesday													
Saturday Solutions Group	49.18		65.55							55.10			169.83
Simply AA													
Sisters in Serenity				14.65			13.93						
Sober in Brookshire													
Socine Branch Memorial Club													
Spring Shadows Group	225.00			180.00			225.00			210.00			840.00
Stepping Stones in Recovery				31.00				15.00					46.00
Steps in Sobriety										50.00			50.00
Taking Care of Business													
Tuesday Night Step Study					14.00		26.20						99.21
36 Principles Group													
West Memorial													
Wild West Group	5.19				57.10					69.31			131.60
Working With Others													
Traditions dinner funds									68.00				68.00
Unknown/Misc	33.94	118.00					51.20						203.14
TOTAL:	518.44	431.75	385.77	429.79	459.70	355.03	993.72	150.48	407.00	666.72	-	-	4,756.31

DISTRICT 40		2019 BUDGET	REVISIONS	2019 REVISED BUDGET	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	YEAR-TO-DATE	% YTD SPENT
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EXPENSE		2019 BUDGET	REVISIONS	2019 REVISED BUDGET	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	YEAR-TO-DATE	% YTD SPENT
DCM		1,000.00		1,000.00		242.96			98.72	34.10		143.80	277.40	93.60		613.18	61%	
Alt DCM		800.00		800.00												277.40	35%	
Secretary/copies		250.00		250.00	22.00	34.92	23.76	27.18	24.84	28.08	24.30	23.76	23.76	19.98		230.58	92%	
Treasurer		150.00		150.00		27.70	2.00	2.00	38.79	12.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	36.22		146.71	98%	
Newsletter		500.00		500.00	30.00	(20.78)				40.63						19.85	4%	
Rent		400.00		400.00		30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00		300.00	75%	
Coffee		100.00		100.00													0%	
PO Box		120.00		120.00													0%	
Literature Committee		250.00		250.00	84.91							48.40				133.31	53%	
PV/CPC Committee		150.00		150.00													0%	
Grapevine		250.00		250.00													0%	
CFC		700.00		700.00													0%	
TFC		100.00		100.00													0%	
Archives Committee		100.00		100.00													0%	
Intergroup Liason																	0%	
IT Committee		100.00		100.00													0%	
Miscellaneous		100.00		100.00													0%	
Gratitude Dinner Donation		300.00		300.00													0%	
Gratitude Dinner Food		300.00		300.00													0%	
Fellowship Festival		250.00		250.00													0%	
Traditions Dinner		1,100.00		1,400.00		99.56	42.60	52.77	45.13	30.00	30.00	31.52	1,075.63	343.99		1,419.62	101%	
Service Workshop		1,000.00		1,000.00									30.00	10.54		372.12	37%	
SWPASA (Even years)																	0%	
The Forum (Odd Yrs-in Houston)		600.00		600.00													0%	
Delegate Report Meeting		215.00		215.00									191.88			191.88	32%	
State Convention Hospitality Suite									300.00								0%	
SETA Assembly Host District																	0%	
SETA Hospitality Suite		300.00		300.00													0%	
TOTALS		9,135.00	-	9,435.00	136.91	414.36	98.36	411.95	237.48	134.18	126.93	231.08	1,679.07	534.33	-	-	4,004.65	42%

INCOME		2019 BUDGET	REVISIONS	2019 REVISED BUDGET
Board Highway Group		13.30		13.30
High Hopes		40.00		40.00
Journey Group		11.20		11.20
Just For Today		85.75		85.75
Memorial Going Home Group		48.37		48.37
New Beginnings Group		23.00		23.00
Peck Road Group		32.00		32.00
Saturday Solutions Group		55.30		55.30
Spirit Shadrax Group		210.00		210.00
Steps in Sobriety		50.00		50.00
Thursday Night Step Study		28.89		28.89
Wild West Group		69.31		69.31
TOTALS		666.72		666.72

BEGINNING BANK BALANCE		2019 BUDGET	REVISIONS	2019 REVISED BUDGET
Total Expenses		4,539.93		4,539.93
Total Income		534.33		534.33
Prudent Reserve		666.72		666.72
Unrestricted Funds		2,358.75		2,358.75
ENDING BANK BALANCE/TOTAL FUNDS		2,313.57		2,313.57
		4,672.32		4,672.32

NOTES: Prudent reserve = 25% of Annual Budget

District 40 Officers and Committee Representatives

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>
DCM	Reino F	dcm-40@aa-seta.org
Alt DCM	Deanna F	dcm-40-alt@aa-seta.org
Secretary	Jackie S	d40sec@yahoo.com
Alt Secretary	Hilton L	d40altsec@gmail.com
Treasurer	Rick N	treasurer-40@aa-seta.org
Alt Treasurer	Mike W	treasurer-40-alt@aa-seta.org
Newsletter Editor	Kari B	district40newsletter@gmail.com
Grapevine Rep	Rachel P	
IT Rep	Heather M	
Literature Rep	Elizabeth G	
CFC Rep	Paul K	
Intergroup Rep	Dan K	
CPC Rep	Bill A	

Committee	Meeting Time	Location
Archives	1 st Saturday of the month, 10:00 AM	521 N. Sam Houston Pkwy East, Suite 215 Houston, Texas 77060
Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)	1 st Monday of the month, 7:00 PM	Spring Branch Memorial Club 1200 Blalock, Suite 378
Correctional Facilities (CFC)	3 rd Wednesday of the month, 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM	The Delta Club 6401 Southwest Freeway, Suite 110 Houston, Texas 77057
Grapevine	3 rd Thursday of every other month, 7:30 PM	The Delta Club 6401 Southwest Freeway, Suite 110 Houston, Texas 77057
Intergroup	3 rd Thursday of every other month, 8:00 PM	4140 Directors Row Suites D & E Houston, Texas 77092
Internet Technologies (IT)	4 th Saturday of the month, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Spring Branch Memorial Club 1200 Blalock, Suite 378
Literature	3 rd Tuesday of the month, 8:30 PM – 9:30 PM	Zoom Send Login requests to: Literature-Chair@aa-seta.org
Multi-Lingual	1 st Thursday of the month, 7:30 PM	District 63 4800 West 34 th Street Suite B-8 Houston, Texas 77092
Public Information (PI)	3 rd Monday of the month, 7:15 PM (Except on Assembly Months)	Houston Council on Alcohol & Drugs 303 Jackson Hill Houston, Texas 77007