

# DISTRICT#40

UNITY | SERVICE | RECOVERY

## Step II

"Sought through prayer and mediation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out"

## Tradition II

"Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films"

## Concept II

"While the trustees hold final responsibility for AA's world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants. Therefore, the composition of these underlying committees and service boards the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern"

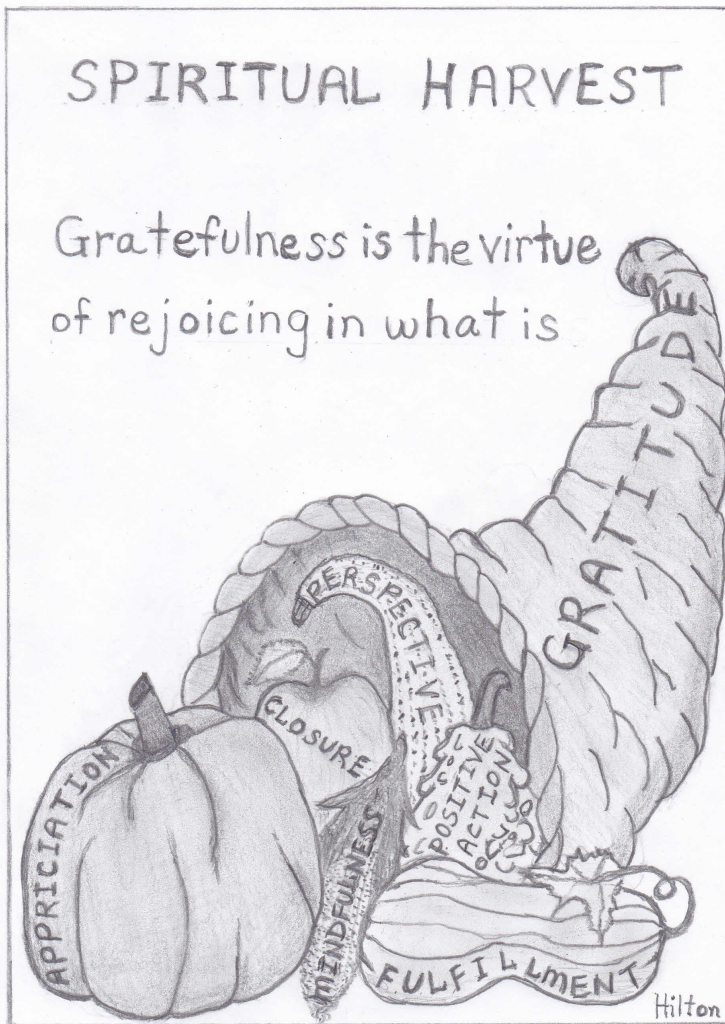


## Tradition Two - Trust

Reino F, DCM

Trust is defined as assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something. One in which confidence is placed. Something committed or entrusted to one to be used or cared for in the interest of another. To place confidence, depend. To commit or place in one's care, entrust. This was a hard principle for me to deal with when I first found AA.

I had trust in the family members when I was a kid and growing up. As I became a teenager and developed the attitude that you can't tell me what to do this changed my trust of people. I developed the ability to look like I believed in what I was hearing, tried to act as if, but I was pulling away inside all the time.



In wanting help, going to treatment, and then finding AA I saw people doing things and I was hearing things that went against what I had come, on my own, to believe in over the years. I was told to change everything that I brought with me to AA. That was what I thought was going to be a daunting and hard task. If left to my own devices it would have been just that. I had to get out of my own way.

Through getting a sponsor then a home group

and finally a Higher Power this whole principle of trust has taken on new meaning in my life. I selected my sponsor because he seemed genuinely interested in my wellbeing and I wanted what I thought that he had, at the time. I like how he walked the talk. He helped me more than I could put into words. The group was my Higher Power for the early days. I saw a group of people trying to stay sober together. They functioned better than I ever thought to do on a day to day basis. I actually found some friends there, and in the fellowship, and developed a network of AA members to share my daily life with them.

Through service work I saw this working in AA as a whole. There were people becoming treasurers that had been in prison for all sorts of illegal activity at some time. We trusted them with our money and to be responsible with it. The group has a steering committee that seemed to be able to review issues, give an option on how it might be handled and then letting the group decide for itself. This amazed me. My mom and dad were my first steering committee; they did the best with what they had to work with.

I have served at the group level for various commitments (greeter, coffee maker, steering committee member, GSR, chairman, etc), and at the district level as treasurer. People have trusted me. I have seen that things need to get accomplished that I cannot give the time it deserves to get completed and have trusted people to get it completed; maybe it could have been done better, HA!

Through the fellowship of AA I see this principle being used on a daily basis. We let the delegates take our voice to the Conference. They, and we members, allow the Trustees and the GSO office to deal with the day to day issues and business that needs to be performed. So why do I want to try to let everything run through me? The friends I have made show me to trust my Higher Power and the plan It has for me and I will be in a better place personally to pass on my experience to the next newcomer and to the next trusted servant in the service structure.

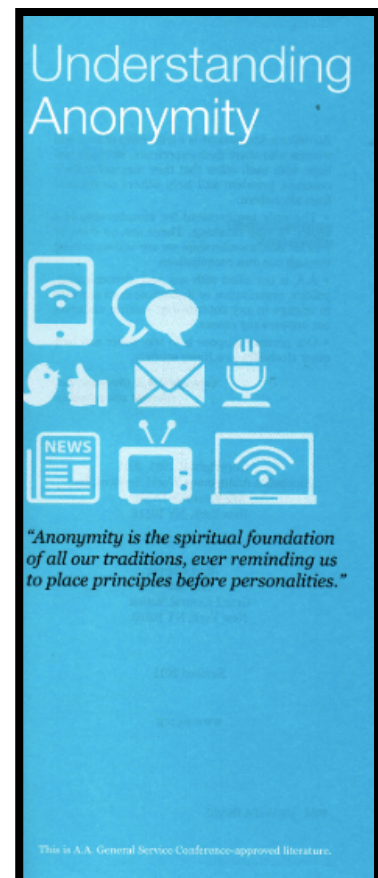
## Pamphlet of the Month: October

Each month the Literature Chair, Elizabeth G, provides us with a AA pamphlet.

October's pamphlet is "Understanding Anonymity"

For your digital copy please go to the link below and click on the link, this will open a digital copy of the pamphlet which you may view online or make a single print.

[https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/p-47\\_understandinganonymity.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-47_understandinganonymity.pdf)



## Texas AA History

*Written by an Anonymous Attendee*

For those who enjoy the rich and storied history of Alcoholics Anonymous, October 19<sup>th</sup>'s presentation 'How AA Came to Houston', presented by Intergroup and the SETA Archives Committee, was a deep dive into nourishing waters.



Go to any conference, convention or roundup and you'll inevitably spot an old-timer recounting stories of our past, surrounded by a squad of us eagerly leaning in for more. Yes, as a society, we AAs are always up for a good story. Perhaps this is by design. Since Bill's fateful visit with the stoic doctor from Akron so many years ago, it has always been the weaving of a tale based on past experience that establishes the mystical identification required for a beginning to our journey.

It's this same passing of the historical recounting that first draws us in to the message of recovery that leads many of our tribe to appreciate 'from whence we came'. Presented by the Archives Committee, this two-hour talk was divided between a quick telling of how the message originally found its way to Bill W. – and a much meatier offering of how it arrived in Houston in the Fall of 1940 and flourished.

It is a truism that God uses the broken to get His message out; and, true to form, He brought a washed-up and tattered newspaper man to Clarence S. and the gang in Cleveland. Larry J. was found and rescued "more dead than alive", and then nursed back to what barely amounted to health in the Cleveland AA circuit. Upon doctors' declaring that Larry wouldn't survive another Cleveland winter, a collection was taken up to send Larry to warmer climes to save his life...and so the seeds were sown to deliver the fledgling society's message to the streets of Houston. His writing experience eventually led Larry to author a 6-piece series of articles on alcoholism presented in the Houston Press....and with some misgivings, they consented (Sound familiar?). What ensued would be another string in the tapestry of divine choreography that bring you and I to where we stand today.

In an odd parallel with the man that brought the message to Bill W. (Ebby T.), Larry was not able to accumulate any long-term sobriety before his eventual passing in the Spring of '44 but did establish the first group of Alcoholics Anonymous in Texas; the first west of the Mississippi. Of course, Larry's wasn't the only contribution. As is standard wherever our message is delivered and thrives, we in Houston owe debts of gratitude to local clergy (Bishop Quin), the media (Houston Press), the medical fraternity and those who came before.

Information packets provided to participants contained historical photos, correspondence between first members of AA in Houston back to Bill W. and his secretary Ruth Hock in New York, the first AA pamphlet (1940), Esther E's (First woman member of Texas AA) story, an



article on the Montrose Club from the Houston Press ('49) and a virtual treasure trove of archives giving a ground-level view of early Texas AA. From Roy Y. (First Texas AA member), Esther E. (First female Texas AA member), Icky S. (First Explosive Ordinance Expert Texas AA member), to Pop W. (Founding member of the first African American AA group in Texas), these stories and lives lived are as similar to ours as if we were all members of the same home group today.

A deeper look at the founding class of AA in Texas reveals commonalities with many, if not all, of the “pains of growing up” experienced by the original founders of Alcoholics Anonymous in Akron and New York. One can get the impression that several of the cautionary tales from the Traditions essays in the *12 Steps & 12 Traditions* could have possibly come directly from the streets of Houston. We can smile at the escapades, fevered egos and group turmoil with comforting knowledge that we are all the same, our defects are no more numerous or severe than any group of alcoholics ever assembled. More importantly, the moral of the story may be that it is not *in spite of* these things that we are now joined, but *because* of these shared frailties we are joined in what Bill called ‘brotherly and harmonious action’.

Many who study the history of Alcoholics Anonymous often ponder the random, seemingly disconnected events that transpire and eventually culminate in bringing about change and growth. “How”, they ask, “could a guy with just three years of sobriety, surrounded mostly by people slipping back into alcoholism and fighting, write a book that would change the lives of millions of the most desperate among us, and still be studied without revision 80 years later?” “How could a tubercular alcoholic near death on the streets of Cleveland, Ohio be practically raised from the dead and sent 1,300 miles away to a place he had never been, by people he had scarcely met, with no money and only a desperate craving for sobriety, possibly hope to survive?” But survive he did. To us in AA the answer is simple. At a very deep level we know that to those who have no Higher Power, no explanation is possible; and that to those who do have a Higher Power, no explanation is necessary.

We are grateful that we have Archive Committees to remind us.

## There’s an app for that....

[https://www.aa.org/pages/en\\_US/meeting-guide](https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/meeting-guide)



Brought to you by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., Meeting Guide is a free of charge meeting finder app for iOS and Android that provides meeting information from A.A. service entities in an easy-to-access format. Meeting Guide syncs with area, district, intergroup/central offices and international General Service Office website.

# District 40 GSR Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** 09/10/2019

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

**PRESENTATION: Pam F. SETA Hospitality Committee** – To be clear, SETA does not pay the hotel for the use of the hospitality suite. That cost is paid by the districts, etc. that volunteer to supply the food. At this time, Intergroup has volunteered to pay for the suite, and SETA will find volunteers to bring the food and serve it. Currently the open slots are Saturday Lunch and Saturday Dinner. We are penciled in for Friday Dinner.

**INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES;** 22 Attended our business meeting.

**TRADITION VIII /CONCEPT VIII PRESENTATION;** Bill A. and Peter C.

**VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT MONTH;** Tradition IX – Terri O. Concept IX – Karen W.

## DISTRICT OFFICER REPORTS

- Secretary's Report; Jackie S. - Accepted as presented
- Treasurer's Report; Rick N. – Accepted with changes
  - Rick went over the 2020 proposed budget and suggested we consider aligning the budget up with actual income amount.
- DCM Report;** Reino F. – Read over the highlights of the 2020 International Convention flyer from GSO. Specifically discussed the procedure registration and booking a room.
- ALT DCM Report;** – Deanna F. –
  - Traditions Dinner** – Scott assured us that the kitchen crew is set for prep and serving. Reino and Betsy are on registration. We still need greeters. We will have access to the church at 1 pm and the party starts at 1:30 pm. We need table presenters for Traditions 6, 8 & 9. We will be using the Grapevine Checklist at each table. Hilton volunteered for tradition 9.

## NEW BUSINESS;

- SETA Assembly – Host District needed for the July and October 2020 assemblies. Think about this for discussion next month.

## OLD BUSINESS;

- SETA Convention – After hearing Pam F. clarify some details, the three groups that originally volunteered for the hospitality suite are still interested. So far funds are committed from the group (\$400), from District 40 (\$300) and Reino suggested we go back to our groups and ask for manpower and more money. Mike W. will send list to Deanna to email out to all GSR's. The 2020 SETA Convention is scheduled for January 24 – 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Traditions Dinner – See above in Alt DCM Report.

- Open Positions - Archives, PI, TFC - Heather had to resign from the IT Rep position.

**DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS** *(Please submit report to Secretary)*

**Archives Rep; OPEN** No Report

**CFC (Correctional Facilities Committee); Paul K.**

The question is what is the difference between the "Blue Can" and the "White Can" ?The answer can be complicated. However, let's keep it simple. The "Blue Can," is for monies to buy books and literature for people that are in County Jails and Texas Prisons. These monies go to Area 67 CFC, and are to be used for the offenders in Southeast Texas. We are in the structure of the overall AA picture.The "White Can" was started by several men that were released from prison and wanted funds to buy books, literature, and other "stuff," for inmates.They used to meet at Intergroup. However, they can no longer meet at Intergroup because they are not in the AA structure. Several of those men are now involved in Area 67 CFC.Any questions or comments? I attended the Walls Unit by myself the first Sunday in September, dozens of men would not have had a meeting if I was not there.They are very grateful for me and those like me. Volunteers are needed. Training is Saturday, September 28th at Intergroup, 8 AM. Consider becoming a volunteer. It is "Service!" This weekend I will be at Angola Prison, LA. It has one of the worst reps of all prisons. Named after the country where most of the slaves came from in that region. Those slaves were very rebellious and started that "rep." We, Texas CFC 'ers, were asked to help out with their AA Prison Program. Any questions or comments? Respectfully, Paul

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

From 2 to 4 PM Sunday Sep 22, we will have a meeting to anyone who want to become a coordinator for the Hospital Program. A Coordinator will answer E-mails from hospitals and set up 12 step calls. You can attend by ZOOM.

At the Oct Assembly we will be giving a workshop on How to Present our program to hospitals.

We are sending out acknowledgement E-mails to all those who signed up to go on 12 step calls since it has been months to get program organized.

Voted Rita as new Secretary.

Voted Christi as new Clergy Chair.

Voted to buy new projection screen.

Also, in the Disaster Relief Program, we are looking to help organize District 90 in Beaumont.

**Grapevine; Rachel P.**

In honor of the publication's 75h anniversary, Grapevine has produced an Anniversary Toolkit for groups, featuring a 1-year subscription, 1 year access to the online archive, a copy of the book One on One about sponsorship, promotional materials, and more. To learn more and to order a Toolkit for your group, visit <http://www.aagrapevine.org/75thanniversary>. The 2019 Grapevine/La Viña catalogue is now available, featuring pricing and ordering information for books, ebooks, audiobooks, and specialty items. To access the catalogue online, visit [aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org).

Grapevine is now accepting stories for the May 2020 issue on the topic "Getting Into General Service." And since all of you are involved in general service (hint, hint), please think about sharing your story and help us spread the word across our service communities. You can submit your story in written form or as an MP3 audio file at <http://www.aagrapevine.org/content/submit-grapevine>

## **IT (Information Technology); OPEN No Report**

Intergroup Liaison; Dan K.

Group Donations: 2nd Quarter Donations were published in the August 2019 Link. I will also pass a copy around. Although donations are down slightly, Intergroup thanks you for your support.

Summer Open House: Total income was \$4845.50 and total expense of \$559.13 with a net income of \$4286.37. Total Bookstore Sales of \$2624.23.

Intergroup Presents History Workshop with Guest Presenter Eddie R., SETA Archives Chairman- How A.A. came to Houston and the area, October 12th, 2019, from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Reservations required and is \$12.50, includes materials, lunch and dessert. Register at [aahouston.org](http://aahouston.org) or in the bookstore.

Nightwatch/Volunteering

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

Weekend Nightwatch- Several slots available (November 22nd-25th, December 27th-30th, December 31st-Jan 2nd).

Please contact Libby if your group would like to sign up at 713-686-6300 or email at [adminasst@aahouston.org](mailto:adminasst@aahouston.org)

You can also volunteer to help with phones and light office duties during the week, 9am-1pm or 1pm-5pm. Contact Libby as well for info on that.

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.

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

**Literature;** Elizabeth G.

Greetings to all at District 40. May this month find y'all kicking off to a fabulous football season along with all the food, fellowship & fun festivities. This is a great time to reflect on this month's pamphlet challenge "Many Paths to Spirituality." Bill W. states, "The full individual liberty to practice any creed or principle or therapy whatever should be a first consideration for us all. Let us not, therefore, pressure anyone with our individual or even our collective views. Let us instead accord each other the respect and love that is due to every human being as he tries to make his way toward the light." This pamphlet hits home for me, especially with regards to the many A.A. members whom have helped pave my way towards my own spiritual growth.

Please see the following:

\* G.S.O. has gone live with the new NetSuite system and new online bookstore for all literature sales.



- \* G.S.O. is calling for stories to update "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic." Also, the trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee is seeking stories from a broad cross section of older A.A. members to make the pamphlet more representative of the Fellowship.
- \* The next Area Literature Committee will be on Saturday, October 5th at the SETA Assembly – Sheraton North Houston, John F. Kennedy Blvd., Houston, TX 77032 (281) 442-5100.
- \* The Literature Committee meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month vi 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.
  
- \* **Newsletter** Editor; Kari B.
- \* To print a color copy of the newsletter costs approximate \$10 per newsletter. This month to conserve money for the printed copies I have made Black & White which brings the price down from 49 cents per side to 9 cents per side. This month I tried this and would like to see what the rest of the GSRs think moving forward. Emailed versions will still be in color.
  
- \* **PI (Public Information); OPEN** No Report
  
- \* **TFC (Treatment Facilities Committee); Open** No Report
  
- \* **GSR/GENERAL SHARING SESSION** (Feedback, News, Concerns, Questions)

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS** (see attached flyers).

- **NEXT CONCEPT SERVICE MANUAL STUDY MEETING: Sept 14, 2019 at 10:00 am – Noon at Spring Branch Memorial Club 1200 Blalock Rd Bldg.#378 Room C Houston, TX 77055**
- **Traditions Dinner by District 40: September 21, 2019** from 1:30 pm – 6:00pm at the COTHA Church of The Holy Apostle 1225 W Grand Parkway S Katy, TX 77494 with traditions presented and dinner is included. Please contact Deanna F the Alt DCM
- **SETA Area Assembly: 10/5-6, 2019 at the Sheraton N Houston 15700 JFK Blvd Houston, TX 77032 room registration call 281-442-5100**
- **Next District 40 meeting: 10/8/19 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](http://www.aa.org)**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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](http://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
Another Chance Group			115.00				60.00						175.00
Bear Creek Fellowship					40.00								40.00
Broad Highway Group													-
Bunkerhill Tuesday A.A. Group							75.00						75.00
Cat Women								42.50					42.50
Charlewood Tues Rom													-
Daily Reflections Group	13.40												13.40
Everything is "Alright Already"													-
First Light Group							48.50		31.00				79.50
Four Horsemen Group													-
Fourth Promise Group				64.00			100.00						164.00
Fox Road Group													-
Friends of Bill W. (Post Oak)			75.00										75.00
Friends of Bill W. (West Houston CC)													-
Fulshear Group			45.00				45.00						90.00
God Meeting Group			45.00		20.00		45.00						90.00
High Hopes													-
Hockley Group	30.00												30.00
Houston Young People													-
Journey Group						13.15							13.15
Just For Toddy		75.56					85.20						160.76
Just The Black Print Group				8.91	82.17	58.61			59.00				208.69
Katy 12 & 12		64.10			86.43		34.21		37.55				260.45
Katy 164 Group				22.65			19.92						42.57
Katy Big Book													-
Katy Crossroads Group	57.23					95.97		55.43					208.63
Katy Keaton's Group	39.39						32.42						71.81
Katy New Beginnings													-
Katy Primary Purpose Group													-
Kingsland Group													-
Living Now Group													-
Memorial Going Home Group	26.11			30.58			58.84						115.53
Memorial West Group						187.30			60.00				247.30
Men's Supper/Step Study Group				30.00			29.00						98.00
New Beginnings Group	39.00												-
New Oxford Group													-
Our Common Journey Group		6.40											6.40
Outpost Group (Men's)					160.00								160.00
Peek Road Group			28.00										28.00
Rosewood Thursday Night Group				48.00									48.00
Rule 62 Group													-
Sage-Piney Point		124.06					44.30						168.36
Sage-Piney Point Noon Tuesday													-
Saturday Solutions Group	49.18		65.55										114.73
Simply AA													-
Sisters in Serenity		13.51		14.65			13.93						42.09
Sober in Brookshire													-
Spring Branch Memorial Club													-
Spring Shadows Group	225.00			180.00			225.00						630.00
Stepping Stones in Recovery				31.00				15.00					46.00
Steps in Sobriety													-
Taking Care of Business					14.00		26.20						40.20
Tuesday Night Step Study		30.12											30.12
36 Principles Group													-
West Memorial													-
Wild West Group	5.19				57.10								62.29
Working With Others													-
Traditions dinner funds		118.00							68.00				186.00
Unknown/Misc	33.94						51.20		151.84				336.98
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>518.44</b>	<b>431.75</b>	<b>385.77</b>	<b>429.79</b>	<b>459.70</b>	<b>355.03</b>	<b>993.72</b>	<b>150.48</b>	<b>408.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,090.59</b>

## District 40 Officers and Committee Representatives

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

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