

DISTRICT#40

UNITY | SERVICE | RECOVERY

Step 7

"Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings."

Tradition 7

"Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

Concept 7

"The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the AA purse for its final effectiveness."

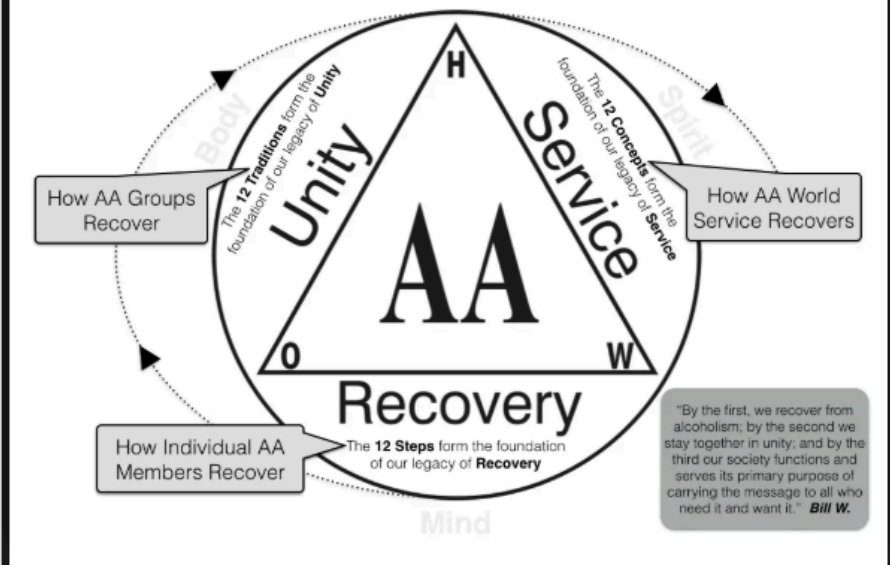
District 40 Needs YOU!

Archives Representative

Public Information (PI)

Treatment Facilities Chair (TFC)

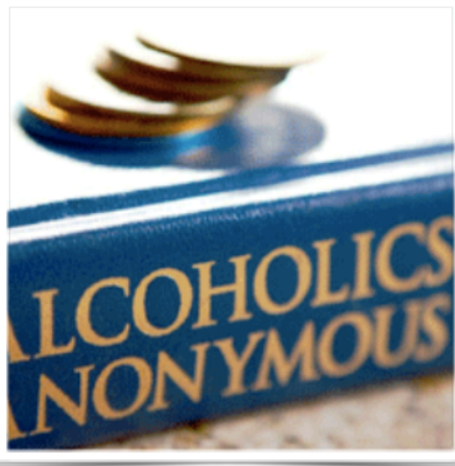
Alcoholics Anonymous' Three Legacies



Twelve Concepts of World Service: History

Reino F, DCM

The Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous has a triangle with the 3 sides being Recovery, Unity & Service. The Recovery is the individual wanting help and the working the program of AA "the 12 Steps" in their lives. Unity is the recovering individuals getting into meetings and groups to aid their recovery and then applying the "the 12 Traditions" in their lives. If one of the groups they attend becomes their "Home Group" then a new world of being of service can start to unfold for them. There also is the General Service Office (GSO), the General Service Conference (GSC), the General Service Board (GSB), Trustees, Delegates, Area Assemblies, Area Committees, Area Officers, Districts, District Committee Members



District 40 Contact Information

DCM: Reino F
dcm-40@aa-seta.org

Alternate DCM: Deanna F
dcm-40-alt@aa-seta.org

Secretary: Jackie S
d40sec@yahoo.com

Alternate Secretary: Hilton L

Treasurer: Rick

Literature Chair: [Elizabeth G.](mailto:Elizabeth G)

IT Representative: Heather

Treatment Facilities Chair: **OPEN**

PI Representative: **OPEN**

Correctional Facilities Chair: Paul K

Grapevine Representative: Rachel

Newsletter Chair: Kari B

Intergroup Representative: Dan K

Archives Chair: **OPEN**

CPC Representative: [Bill A.](mailto:Bill A)

(DCM), Group Service Representatives (GSR), and Groups registered with the AA General Service Office etc.

The AA Service Structure that we have today was born out of an evolution of the first three AA members; Bill W, Dr. Bob & Bill D, starting, in 1935, to meet and discuss their new-found sobriety. Gradually more people sought or were 'twelve stepped' into AA. As the requests came into AA, before the Big Book Alcoholics Anonymous was written, the Alcoholic Foundation was established in May of 1938. This was a group of Bill W, Dr Bob, early AA Members and AA's non-alcoholic friends. They were called Trustees. They dealt with the behind the scenes daily business dealings and then the publishing, sales and distribution of the Big Book, then the AA Grapevine and literature as it became available.

In April 1951 the first General Service Conference was held. The Foundation decided to experiment with having AA Delegates from various regions in the US and Canada meet to conduct business and deal with the issues that the Foundation had to handle. It was to be tried for a period of five years to see if it could develop. Bill W and Dr Bob knew that the reins of the Fellowship had to be passed onto AA, so it could continue to handle its own daily affairs. In October 1954 the "Alcoholic Foundation" became the General Service Board of AA. Then in July 1955 at the 2nd International Convention the General Service Conference was named guardian of the traditions and the three legacies of Recovery, Unity & Service and turned over to the movement by its old timers.

So once a year the General Service Board meets in New York for the General Service Conference so the groups in the AA Fellowship have a voice in the Board's work during the year. So, we are now on the 69th year of the conference.

In 1962 the Twelve Concepts of World Service were written so Bill W could reduce to writing his concepts of the "why" of the whole structure, the lessons to be

drawn from experience, the relationships and, above all, the spiritual principles. As Bill set them down, the Twelve Concepts are a potpourri: Concepts 3, 5, 9, 12 deal with spiritual principles; the remainder, though they have spiritual overtones, are devoted to describing the relationship of the various service entities and how they work together.

The service manual has the original 12 Concepts as originally written and the amended changes to them over the years. Over the years changes may seem to be needed to these concepts. A lot of the time the innovations or changes produce little more than a painful repetition of earlier mistakes. Therefore, it will be an important objective of these Concepts to forestall such repetitions by holding the experiences of the past clearly before us. And if mistaken departures are nevertheless made, these Concepts may then provide a ready means of safe return to an operating balance that might otherwise take years of floundering to rediscover.

Bill wrote, "It is much to be hoped that these Twelve Concepts will become a welcome addition to our "Third Legacy Manual of AA World Service," and that they will prove to be a reliable working guide in the years that lie ahead."

That is what they have become for me. These are another set of twelve spiritual principles that I can apply and practice in my daily life. I do not just do them, I try to practice these principles in all my affairs as I trudge this road of happy destiny.

The 12 Concepts Book Study

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <u>Presented by:</u> | Betsy G. - Past Delegate |
| <u>Location:</u> | Spring Branch Memorial Club |
| <u>Address:</u> | 1200 Blalock Road #378, Houston, Room C |
| <u>Time:</u> | 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon |
| <u>Saturdays:</u> | July 20, August 3, September 14, October 19 |

District 40 GSR Meeting Minutes

DATE: 05/14/2019

CALL TO ORDER; DCM Reino F. opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer, Preamble & Unity Declaration.

CPC PRESENTATION – David L. CPC Chair

Purpose of CPC Committee is to inform professionals and future professionals of what we do and cooperate without affiliating. Main objective – Inform what A.A. is and isn't to places like; courts, hospitals, military and social workers. We participate in career and health fairs. Seattle and Central California CPC committees have a new 12 Step hospital program. We are going to copy them. The way it works is the hospital will contact CPC and then within 3 to 4 hours, A.A. members will be there to do the 12th step call. Volunteers are needed to present the program to hospitals and volunteers are needed to do the 12th step calls. We are going to take our time and do it right. We will have signup sheets, a flow chart and can copy Area 72 beautiful forms they have been using for 3 years. The plan is to implement the same program here in the Houston area. For more information and to sign up, please attend one of the CPC workshops coming up; June 15th from 12 – 2 PM at SBMC and also on June 29th at a North Houston location and another one for South Houston. The CPC committee meets regularly the first Monday of each month at 7:30 PM at SBMC and ZOOM at the same time. See the CPC / PI bookmarks.

INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES; 29 Attended our business meeting.

TRADITION V /CONCEPT V PRESENTATION; Kathy F. and David R.

VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT MONTH; Tradition VI – Pat M. Concept VI – Reed B.

DISTRICT OFFICER REPORTS

- Secretary's Report; Jackie S. - Accepted as presented
- Treasurer's Report; Deanna F. - Accepted as presented
 - Rick N. stood for Treasurer. Paul K. made a motion to elect Rick N. for Treasurer and Rob M. seconded it. We voted and it passed. Rick N. is the new D40 Treasurer.
 - Reino asked if anyone was willing to stand for Alternate Treasurer and it was decided to wait until next month.

GROUP HISTORY REPORT

- Current; Mitch A. Group - Bear Creek Fellowship Group
- Next Month; (?) Group -

DCM REPORT

- The July SETA Assembly will be held at the Double Tree instead of North Sheraton.
- April Assembly – Round Tables consisted of English/Spanish/Past Delegates. The biggest item was to consider a 5th Edition of the Big Book with new stories keeping up with the times.
- Debbie F. stood for 2021 SETA Convention Chair.
- Kathleen T. stood for Alternate Registrar.
- SETA Gratitude Dinner is discontinued.
- Area P & P Item # 6 includes YPAA
- It has been fun going through the D40 storage bins.

OLD BUSINESS;

- Open Positions - Archives, CPC, PI,

NEW BUSINESS;

- Traditions Dinner – Saturday, September 21, 2019 Location: COTHA
- Rob M. and Mike W. volunteered to chair the 8 – 9 am Marathon Meeting on June 8th at the Texas State Convention.
- Mitch made a motion and Karen seconded it to pay for Rob and Mike's Texas State Convention registration fee since they volunteered. It passed.
- Bill A. stood for CPC Committee Rep. It passed
- Lindy resigned. TFC Rep – OPEN
- Peter made a motion to add \$300 to the 2019 budget for the Texas State Convention Hospitality Suite. Reed seconded the motion. It passed.

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

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

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

•Friends, the Area CFC is alive well. Through your Blue Can Contributions you enable us to take over \$7000.00 worth of literature, Big Books, 12 N 12s, Living Sobers, and other books into jails and prisons last month. Those alcoholics have the time to read, study, and meditate on those pages that you allow us to bring in. Thank you. This month (May), I personally have taken books into HC Jail, 1200 Baker, and the Walls Unit, Huntsville. Last month, I brought your books and literature into Harris County Jail several times and held half dozen meetings. We also had the pleasure to books, literature, and meetings into several prisons during April. When I go in behind the bars taking our message to those in white and orange jump suits, I know I represent all of us of District 40, it is not a me "thang," it is a "We," "thang." I am grateful for your support and prayers. I would like to give a special "thank you" to Betsy for her old Grapevines that she gave me to freely give those behind bars. They appreciate even more than I do. Someday, you may how much. After a SBMC meeting one evening last month, a man who attended our AA meetings in the "joint" came up to me and asked, "Do you remember me?" I said, I did. He looked a lot better. After a brief conversation, he asked me to be his Sponsor. He is working his program, and he is sober today. You changed his life. Thank you. One last story, the Pathfinders Group of AA is over seventy years old; they are men in the Walls Unit. One man has been in that group for over 31 years. However, if volunteers don't show up they can't have a meeting. So when we show up, they get to leave their cells and come to the library for an AA meeting. They always express their delight and gratitude to be there, and they always remind me, if I don't show, they don't go. Believe me, "It sure beats sitting in a jail cell."

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

2. **Grapevine;** Rachel P. Did not attend assembly. No minutes yet. Hope to have update next month..

3. **IT (Information Technology);** Heather M.

4. **SETA IT Committee Meeting Summary**

•3 new users were signed up to SETA Announce.

•Web team is continuing to work on what will be the new website.

•IT Support met with Area Officers/Committee Chairs for inventory during the Assembly. 5 laptops are assigned, 7 users do not have laptops. 9 users still need to be contacted.

•Archives do not know where the laptop from the IT Committee is. In spite of missing laptop, the Archives Committee will get a new setup.

•PI Committee has requested a laptop.

- 2 new laptops will also be ordered.
- The IT Equipment Custody form will be updated to now include personal email/phone number.
- A meeting will be set up with Multilingual to discuss recommendations as their translation equipment is not working and answer their website questions/issues.
- Registrar would like assistance in collecting email addresses for creating an email list.
- Deanna F. has stepped down as Alternate Chair of the IT Committee.
- Need to pay the rent for the IT Committee meeting location.
- Next meeting date is scheduled for May 18th, 1:00pm at the Spring Branch Club.

1. Intergroup Liaison; Dan K.

•Opportunities at Intergroup:

- Newsletter Editor- Publish newsletter every other month.
- Evening Nightwatch- Looking for “backup” members for evening nightwatch program.
- Weekend Nightwatch- Looking for groups to take the phones over the weekend.
- September 6th(Friday 5pm)-9th (Monday 7am)
- December 27th(Friday 5pm)-30th (Monday 7am)
- December 31st(Tue 5pm)- Jan 2nd or 3rd (Friday am)

•Contact Libby at 713-686-6300 or email at adminasst@aahouston.org

•Daytime phone volunteers- Answer phones at Intergroup during business hours. All are welcome to volunteer regardless of length of sobriety.

•2019 Printed Meeting Directories are available. \$2.50- Approximately 2000 Meetings/450 Groups

•Please join us for the 8th Annual Open House for food, fun and fellowship.

Saturday June 22, 2019 from 11:00am-4:00PM

- No registration.
- Lunch served at Noon – Sandwiches and chips and snacks.
- Speaker is at 1:00 PM.
- Dessert Silent Auction.
- No Live Music this year.
- Tax free bookstore.

We look forward to this Annual Event every year to fellowship with our friends. This is Intergroup’s big event of the year. We’re dedicated to making this one the biggest and best ever. If you would like to be of service for this event, please contact Intergroup.

•Next delegates meeting June 20th, 2019 @ 8:00PM

b. Literature; Elizabeth G. Absent – Read by Reino F.

•Greetings to all at District 40. Might this 5th month find your groups practicing Tradition Five, “Our primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.” As stated in the Twelve & Twelve, the central theme of this Tradition is Unity where as “better do one thing supremely well than many badly.” With that said, sharing my passion for AA Literature means a lot to me, especially, carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous in all my affairs. I am excited to announce the update on AA literature:

•* GSO added a new book this month, “Our Great Responsibility”. This is the first original title released by Alcoholics Anonymous since Daily Reflections meditation book. The book, “Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.’s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970 is available for order in English, French and Spanish. Publication of this important volume culminates years of research and transcription of archived audio recordings of Bill W. addressing the General Service Conference. Complementing the text are more than sixty photographs and other images from the A.A. Archives – some never before published.

Timeless and timely, these 16 talks give fresh perspectives on the A.A. Fellowship in our co-founder's own words. For more information, visit the A.A.W.S. Online Bookstore or call 212-870-3312.

•* This month will feature the pamphlet, "The Twelve Concepts for World Services illustrated." This is a brief, easy-to-read text with clever illustrations that are clear and understandable.

•* The July Houston, TX 77032. Area Assembly location will be at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Houston Intercontinental Airport: 15747 JFK Boulevard,

a. **Newsletter Editor**; Kari B.

b. The D40 newsletter will be included in Reino F. monthly email attachments. Please submit your articles for each new edition by the 1st of each month.

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

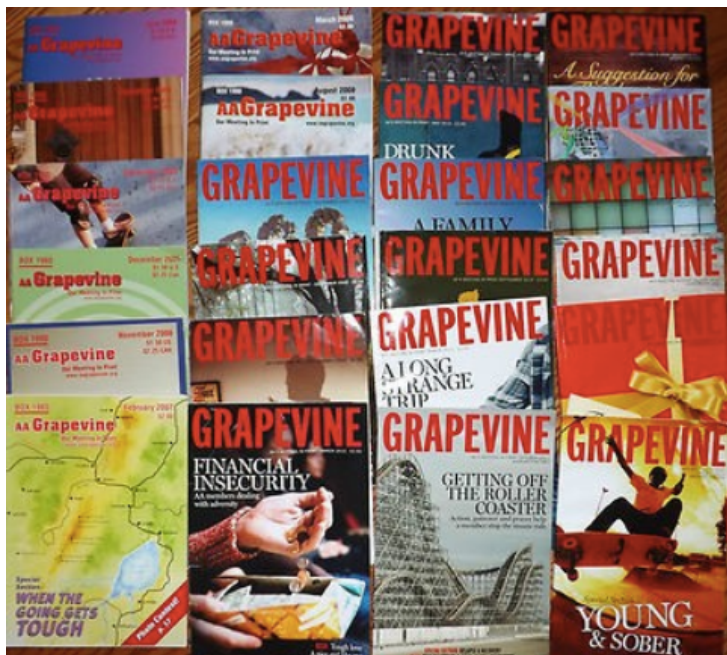
d. **TFC (Treatment Facilities Committee)**; **Open** No Report

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

f. New meeting at the Firehouse needs support. See flyer.

g. BCFG – Removed the phone numbers from the sign in sheet.

ADJOURNED; Closed with the Responsibility Statement



GOT GRAPEVINES?

If you have one or more Grapevines that you no longer want, we would love to have them to pass on to others.

Email me at
District40Newsletter@gmail.com
and I will make arrangements with you to pick them up.

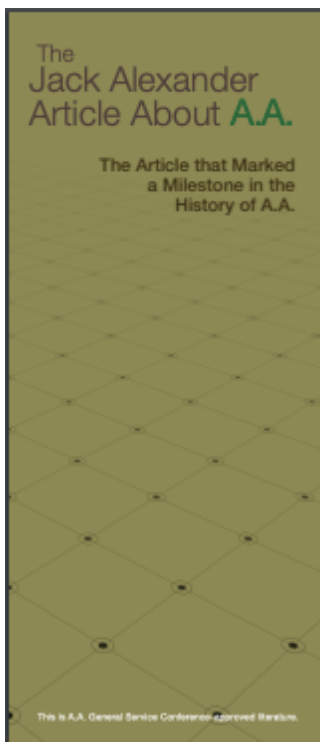
Thank you!

Progress, Not Perfection

“Unlike some of the other AA slogans, this originates from the text of Alcoholics Anonymous itself. Most meetings open with an excerpt from Chapter 5 “How It Works” that contains this very phrase. In this specific context, “How It Works” reminds us that we may never fully overcome our spiritual defects - but our willingness to try will elevate us to new heights. In other words, don’t beat yourself up every time you fail to maintain AA principals. Perhaps you forget one of the common AA slogans and begin intellectualizing your recovery or fretting over the future. This just makes you human. We are not saints, let alone gods. Nobody can expect us to be perfect. We can, however, try to become better by working the Twelve Steps and attempting to adhere to various principles. Remember that the only true failure is giving up. Keep your eyes on the enlightened path, and you can always continue moving in the right direction. Even if this, unfortunately, means taking a step backward every now and then.



<https://www.amethystrecovery.org/10-aa-slogans-deeper-meanings/>



Pamphlet of the Month: June

Each month the Literature Chair, Elizabeth G, provides us with a AA pamphlet. For the month of June the pamphlet was “The Jack Alexander Article About AA”. For your digital copy please go to the link below and click on the picture of the pamphlet, 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-12_theJackAlexArticle.pdf

| 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 |