

DISTRICT#40

UNITY | SERVICE | RECOVERY

Step 4

"Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves"

Tradition 4

"Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole"

Concept 4

"Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional "Right of Participation," taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge."



Group History: Just the Black Print Group

Name of Group: Just the Black Print Group (JTBPBPG)

Date Founded: 2 June 2015

Founder(s): Jon N., Taunie N., Larry C., Reino F., Donnie M., Kyle M.

Early Members: Jennifer C., Heidi M., Wendy F., Marshal J., Jessica

Place of first meeting: Group member's home

Time of first meeting: Saturday 2 June 2015, 6 PM

Current meeting time and location: 7 PM
Thursdays 12&12, 6 PM Saturdays Big Book study



District 40 Needs YOU!

Archives Representative

Public Information (PI)

Cooperation with Professional Community (CPC)

District 40 Contact Information

Meeting Location:

Spring Branch Memorial Club

1200 Black Road, Bldg #378

Room C

Houston, Texas 77055

Mailing Address:

District 40

PO Box 19085

Houston, Texas 77024-9085

DCM: Cindy M

dcm-40@aa-seta.org

Alternate DCM: Reino F

dcm-40-alt@aa-seta.org

District40Newsletter@gmail.com

Present membership number: Average ranges from 7 – 10 on Thursdays, 12 – 15 on Saturdays

Did the group ever move? Yes

Where?: From founding member's home to Holy Covenant Church

When: October 2015

Group history (such as anniversaries, special meetings, outside speakers, notes about the location, etc.):

A group of individuals recognized the need for a Big Book study in Katy, as there were no others at the time, so they decided to start a new meeting to study the Big Book. They began meeting at one of the founding member's home in June of 2015. The meeting grew by word of mouth and sponsors letting sponsees know about the meeting. In September of that same year they began looking for a space to rent. They tried a few different venues, but there wasn't any interest. One of the members contacted Holy Covenant Church and the church said they had a meeting already there on Sundays, which was a men's meeting. One of the members contacted the men's meeting to ask if JTBPG could also meet in the church but wanted to insure they were not intruding and also that they were following Tradition 4. The men's meeting felt it was not an intrusion or conflict and welcomed JTBPG to the church. The group began meeting on Saturday evenings at 6:00 PM in October. The composition of the meetings was and continues to be made up of both men and women. After 6 months JTBPG registered with GSO, following the suggestion of waiting 6 months was from one of their sponsors and from the Group Pamphlet. In February 2016 JTBPG officially registered and was given a number. This same month JTBPG asked the church about adding another night and began meeting on Thursdays at 7:00 PM to study the 12 & 12 as a step and traditions study meeting. In accordance with Tradition 3, both meetings are for anyone with a desire to stop drinking. Both meetings follow a

discussion format where we read portions of the either the Big Book (on Saturdays) or the 12 & 12 (on Thursdays) and then discuss them in depth. This also provides an opportunity for participants to ask questions about what is being read. In June 2016 officers were voted in along with a chair (Jon N.), secretary (Heidi M.), treasurer (Donnie M.), GSR (Reino F.), alternate GSR, and Coffee Chairperson. In the summer of 2016 the group invited the Alternate Delegate, Troy, in to facilitate a group inventory. Group conscious meetings were held on the last Saturday of each month at 5:00 PM. In October 2018, group conscious meetings were moved to every other month, corresponding with the Intergroup Delegates meetings. JTBPG donates proceeds to Area, District, and GSO, as a way of showing our support for Intergroup we purchase all of our literature and chips from Intergroup.



On 11 April 2017 Reino F. presented JTBPG's history to District 40 meeting, it was the very first Group History given at the District 40 meetings. Deborah was the DCM at the time, and she began this as part of the monthly meetings.

In the beginning the group celebrated AA anniversaries/birthdays on the Saturday after your AA anniversary/birthday. In October 2017 the group conscious decided to celebrate a year or multiples on the last Saturday of each month. The person celebrating their AA anniversary/birthday asks someone to present their chip to them and then will say a few words themselves. JTBPG participates in special local and regional functions such as conventions, round ups, forums, and workshops.



One Day At A Time

“One of the most common AA slogans is “one day at a time.” This simple phrase carries two essential messages. First, we must focus on the present. We cannot see the future, and we cannot control the universe. But we can control our own actions right now. We often meet people with decades of sobriety, and this feels imposing. It’s easy for us to wonder if we’ll ever achieve the same as them. When we worry so much about the future, we can often become despondent. We worry that we may never amount to anything, and we respond by throwing in the towel. By focusing on the now, we forgo this trouble and allow ourselves to maintain our sobriety on a daily basis.

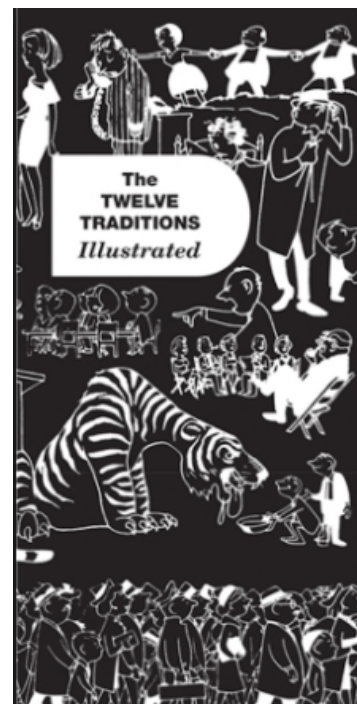
Second, we must realize that life is little more than a series of moments. While this most prominent of AA slogans tells us to take life one day at a time, we often hear AA members say that they must take life one hour or one minute at a time. It may sound like they’re joking, but quite often they are not. Every moment of every day, we must choose to do the next right thing. Continue to focus on what’s right in front of you, and you can continue to live with a clear conscience. Lose sight of this, and you just might find yourself picking up a slip chip at the next meeting.

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

Pamphlet of the Month

Each month the Literature Chair, Elizabeth G, provides us with a AA pamphlet. For the month of March the pamphlet was *The Twelve Traditions Illustrated*. 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-43_thetwelvetradiillustrated.pdf



District 40 GSR Meeting Minutes

DATE: 02/12/2019

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

INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES; 29 Attended our business meeting.

TRADITION I /CONCEPT I PRESENTATION; Terri O. and Hilton L.

VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT MONTH; Tradition 3 – Pat M.; Concept 3 – Karen W.

DISTRICT OFFICER REPORTS

- Secretary's Report; Jackie S. - Accepted as amended
- Treasurer's Report; Deanna F. - Accepted as submitted
- DCM Report; Cindy M.
 - Bring flyers from your home groups to share with others.
 - The SETA Convention was fun! During the assembly, Troy spoke his opinion of cutting out the Gratitude Dinner because it a non-essential. He would rather fully fund the Delegate. In the spirit of the 7th tradition, discuss if it is the right thing to do?
 - i.Reino explained that it costs approximately \$5,500.00 to send a Delegate to the General Service Conference. It is asked that each Area pay \$1,800.00 as a contribution.
 - ii.I will check with Troy about how is cutting out the Gratitude Dinner going to help fully fund the Delegate if there is no budget line on the Area Budget for the Dinner itself?
 - New York is asking our opinion on Agenda Items.
 - If you have not received correspondence from me, let me know.
- Alt DCM Report; Reino F.
 - If there has been a change in your group, fill out the new GSR form.
 - Birthday envelopes are on the back table and are available at the delegates table at the assembly.
 - I brought new A.A. Service Manuals for anyone who doesn't already have one. Like Committee Reps, Treasurer, Secretary...GSR's get them in the Kit. The A.A. Service Manual is also available in PDF online. It will help you with your Concept presentation. It makes good night time reading. Your Service Sponsor can help you with this book as well as attending the District 40 Concept Study.

GROUP HISTORY REPORT

- Current; Rob M. & Doug D.(Offered to help other GSRs research) Group - Katy 12 & 12
- Next Month; Kari B. Group - Just The Black Print Group

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

- Karen said one group chose not to register with GSO but they still made contributions. They wanted to take baby steps and see if they were going to stick around.
- Rob asked if the GSR roster could be shared with everyone at District. A motion was made to share the roster. Another idea was to get name tags. Safety was stated as an issue with this. It would necessary to be able to opt in or opt out. Then it was asked if the Alt Secretary would make a second roster just for sharing. Then it was asked if Rob would be willing to make the second roster. A motion was made for Rob to start a second roster for sharing. It passed.
- MMSSS is celebrating their 20th Anniversary at the PARC Alumni Center on March 30th at 5 PM. Everyone is invited. They are serving prime rib.
- Mitch informed us that the GSR Workshop at the SETA Convention was too short, did not have enough hand outs and the room was too small. Cindy agreed to tell the Area Chair and or Alt Chair.
- Reed shared that the AACLE.org is a nice website that has a lot of answers and insights with interesting topics.
- Lindy wanted everyone to know that her home group recently had an episode where someone was taking pictures of the sign in book. Her group is planning to do a male and female phone list separately.
- Cindy shared that there was a time when someone was calling her and hanging up. She knew the newcomer and approached them. Newcomer packets should be separated by male and female.
- Hilton wanted to know why we pass the sign in book around.
 - Someone responded that it was a Texas thing.
 - But it has its Pros and Cons.
 - People can get phone numbers easily and it might save their life.

OLD BUSINESS;

- Open Positions - Archives, CPC, PI

NEW BUSINESS;

- Resignation and opening of Newsletter Editor Position. (Kari B. willing to consider)
- General Sharing Session Ideas.

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

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

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

- Thank you to Rick N. for presenting the CFC Report in January, 2019.
- Thank you to Elizabeth for bringing old Grapevines to the District Meeting that I can bring into the "joints."
- Thank you to Mike E. for giving me the information of the Jester Unit Program Director and the opportunity to take Big Books, 12 N 12s, Daily Reflections, Grapevines and AA Approved literature into that joint. I will call her and make that happen.
- The AA National Corrections Facilities Committee (CFC) Third Annual Convention will be held in Houston this year. November 1-3, 2019, at the Double Tree Hotel at Intercontinental Airport. The first National CFC Convention was held in St. Louis, last year in Portland, Maine, and now we have the opportunity to host the world in Houston

for Correctional Facilities Committee Convention. Our DCM gave me homework, to bring flyers for the Convention to the District Meeting that be taken back to our Groups.

- If your Group needs a "Blue Can" please let me know. All monies in the "Blue Can" are and will be used to buy literature to be taken into jails and prisons, passionately called, the "joint."

- If you or anyone in your Group would be interested in getting trained to go into the joint, please contact me at (281) 413-8978 or p.king3953@gmail.com.

- Please pass the word to your Groups that old Grapevines or AA Approved Literature would be received and appreciated, so the CFC can take the message to the thousands that are incarcerated in Harris County Jails at 701 San Jacinto and 1200 Baker, and the dozens of TDCJ Prisons in the greater Houston Area. Many of the women and men, our brothers and sisters, sons and daughters wearing the orange or white jump suits, are in desperate need of the love and tolerance, and the message of AA. They may not see the sun, clouds, stars, or those things we take for granted, but through those who give money, literature and their prayers, we can change the world one inmate at a time.

a. **CPC** (*Cooperation with Professional Community*); **OPEN** No Report

b. **Grapevine**; Rachel P.

- There was no Area Grapevine meeting in January. 2019 marks the 75th anniversary of our "meeting in print," so there will probably be campaigns and other initiatives to mark the occasion. Stay tuned!

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

- Meets fourth Saturday of every month 10-12 at Intergroup.

- Currently the team is working on a new website as well as preparing an inventory of all hardware and software.

a. **Intergroup Liaison**; Dan K.

- Thursday, February 21st, 2019

- Board of Trustees Meeting at 7pm

- Intergroup Delegates Meeting at 8pm

- Looking to give back?

- Opportunities at Intergroup:

- Newsletter Editor- Publish newsletter every other month.

- Evening Night watch- Looking for "backup" members for evening night watch program.

- Weekend Night watch- Looking for groups to take the phones over the weekend. Several slots available. Friday 5pm to Monday 7am

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

- Open House Committee- Summer Open House will be on June 22nd. Information on the committees will be presented at the February 21st delegates meeting. Anyone is welcome to attend and be a part of the planning.

- 2019 Budget is finalized and Intergroup can really use your support and greatly appreciates all contributions!

• Intergroup will be hosting a workshop on March 9th, 2019 from 10am-2pm on “How to Chair a Meeting”. You can register online, in person or by phone. Costs are \$15 and include lunch and take home materials.

• **Literature;** Elizabeth G. – Happy Valentine’s Day to all at District 40!

The Literature Committee has had an exciting and busy month as we wind down from the SETA Convention at Moody Gardens in Galveston, TX. The Literature Display at the SETA Convention had a great turnout and offered several new pamphlets including;

- “A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues and Their Sponsors”
- “The God Word – Agnostic and Atheist Members in A.A.”
- “LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A.”

• There was plenty of fellowship and conversation at the SETA Convention Literature Display and many thanks go out to all of you at District 40.

• As of January 1, 2019, the G.S.O. Will no longer be selling literature onsite at the front desk.

a. **Newsletter Editor;** **OPEN** No Report

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

c. **TFC (Treatment Facilities Committee);** Lindy S.

- We met last night on a ZOOM mtg. 4 people joined in and only 2 have prior TFC info.
- At Assembly in April we will work on data base for locating treatment facilities in each district. And if they take insurance or not.
- I have a sign up form available for anyone wanting to be involved with Bridging the Gap.
- The purpose of the TFC Committee is to take people to a meeting and help them acclimate into A.A. Temporary help.
- Pass outs
 - A.A. Guidelines for TFC
 - Temporary contacts
 - Dos and Do Nots of A.A.
 - Sign-up sheet for BTG

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

a. 3/12/2019: *Next District 40 meeting 7:15 PM*

Spring Branch Memorial Club 1200 Blalock Rd #378 Houston, Room C (713) 274-3190

a. 6/7-6/9/2019: *Texas State Convention*

Westin Galleria Hotel, 560 W. Alabama, Houston, TX Website; txaaconvention.org

a. 3/9/2019 *District 40 Concept Book Study*

Spring Branch Memorial Club 1200 Blalock Rd #378 Houston, Room C (713) 274-3190

For further event lists:

AA headquarters: www.aa.org, Area 67/SETA Districts: www.aa-seta.org, Intergroup: www.aahouston.org.

ADJOURNED; Closed with the Responsibility Statement