

DISTRICT 40 NEWSLETTER

U N I T Y - R E C O V E R Y - S E R V I C E

Step 9

Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

Tradition 9

A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

Concept 9

Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

<<<< INVENTORY >>>>

As it says in the Big Book, "Therefore, we started upon a personal inventory. A business which takes no regular inventory usually goes broke. Taking a commercial inventory is a fact-finding and a fact-facing process. It is an effort to discover the truth about the stock-intrade. One object is to disclose damaged or unsalable goods, to get rid of them promptly and without regret. If the owner of the business is to be successful, he cannot fool himself about values."

I know that once I got out of my own way, I was able to embrace the process and see where it led me. This year we have an inventory on District 40 and we are getting to the end of the questions in the AD-Hoc committee. We came across something that I want to proceed with at the beginning of 2024, a Financial Inventory of our District. So be looking out for the information when it is cold here in Houston and the surrounding area.

I think this can be a good topic to stir up some conversation in your Home Groups and we will be looking for everyone's feedback on this. Debate and discussion are the only way to hear all of the voices and opinions on these topics, as long as we take the time to listen to each other, I am sure we can "trim some fat" out of our budget and put those dollars into other endeavors. These don't all have to be new items either, maybe opening up for more workshops, maybe taking more people to SWRAASA (they are close in 2024 & 2026), or anything We come up with.

Another item we will be looking into is rewriting the Policies and Procedures Manual for our District. I believe it was written back when AA life was more static, but now the way things have changed I think we need to be more dynamic. Information on a committee should be from the SETA website and not have a location in our P&P manual. I will go into this more in detail as this term progresses.

I hope to see all of you at our next district meeting on Sep 12 2023

Doug D—DCM District 40

SETA ASSEMBLY—OCTOBER 14 & 15
Sheraton North Houston Intercontinental Air-
port
15700 John F Kennedy Blvd, Houston, TX
77573
CLICK HERE FOR: [Hotel Reservations!](#)





Say Aloha to Emotional Sobriety Y'all

Aloha Y'all!

I'm getting into the Aloha spirit as I am about to leave on a business trip to Honolulu. This will be my second time to the island, as I went back in 2017. My week spent with the fellowship back in 2017 was incredible, and I am looking forward to plugging back in once I am there. I wanted to take a minute and reflect on the last trip before I head out on the future one.

Prior to making the trip, I called a friend on the big island and asked if he had any contacts in Honolulu. He of course did, and I was connected with Bob H., who was plugged into the fellowship and service structure in Oahu. I spent the week with Bob. We drove all over going to different meetings and even a District 17 Workshop on, you guessed it, Emotional Sobriety. Did I mention the workshop was on the beach, on a Saturday morning in Pokai Bay? Not too bad of a setting for a workshop on Emotional Sobriety; or any topic for that matter. I didn't realize at the time, but Bob was writing up something for his Area newsletter about the workshop, and made mention of his "friend from Texas". One of the quotes he put in his submission was from Bill Wilson. Bob wrote and quoted:

For those who don't know, Emotional Sobriety is a topic that Bill W. discussed in 1958 letter to a friend. You can find it in the online A.A. Grapevine archives as well as reprinted in the book, Language of the Heart entitled, The Next Frontier--Emotional Sobriety. Bill suffered terribly from depression, even after years of sobriety, and reached a clarity about the issue that it's worth repeating:

"I kept asking myself, "Why can't the Twelve Steps work to release depression?" By the hour, I stared at the St. Francis Prayer. . . "It's better to comfort than to be comforted." Here was the formula, all right. But why didn't it work? Suddenly I realized what the matter was. My basic flaw had always been dependence--almost absolute dependence--on people or circumstances to supply me with prestige, security, and the like. Failing to get these things according to my perfectionist dreams and specifications, I had fought for them. And when defeat came, so did my depression. There wasn't a chance of making the outgoing love of St. Francis a workable and joyous way of life until these fatal and almost absolute dependencies were cut away."

With a quote like that, not too hard to imagine how good the rest of his submission was. I will be sure to bring the Texas love from District 40/Area 67, as I was filled with Aloha on my last trip.

Honolulu is a part of Area 17, and their Area newsletter is "Mynah Bird". If anyone would like a digital copy of the newsletter referenced above, let me know and I will email it to you.

District Inventory Update

The AdHoc Committee has made amazing progress on the considerations that were given at our District Inventory back in February. We're finding that a lot of the considerations given have already been acted on or have a plan in place for action. Our DCM, Doug, has done an incredible job in making most of the changes before we even had our first AdHoc meeting. To date we have worked through 11 of the 15 questions. Already so many great changes have been implemented, and we're excited about the ones to come!

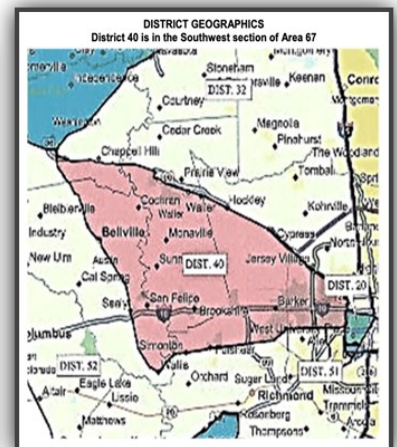
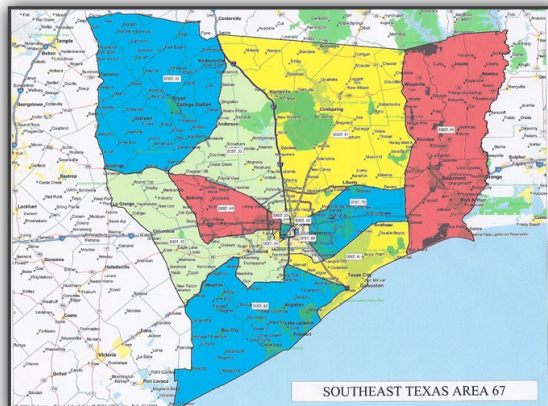
As always, please let me know how I can be of service to your group in better carrying out our primary purpose!

Love through service,

Mike

Area #67 and District #40 Maps

**Next District 40 meeting
NOW HYBRID!!!
Tuesday September 12, 2023
7-9 pm
Link Here: [Google Meet](#)**



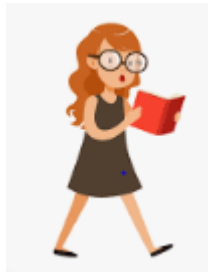
AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



Alcoholics Anonymous®

Literature



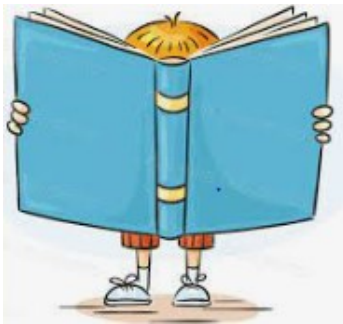
COMING SEPTEMBER 2023!

THE NEW GRAPEVINE & LA VIÑA APPS!

- Read or listen to every issue
- Search our vast GV/LV Archives
- Keep track of your sobriety and spiritual practices
- Share your thoughts on articles
- Share AA stories and area events with friends
- Find meetings and connect to aa.org

EASY TO USE!
Take GV & LV wherever you go!

Watch this Space:
www.aagrapevine.org



SCAN QR FOR PAMPHLET



This month's pamphlet is called

“Do You Think You’re Different?”

It's a 40-page pamphlet with several short stories from all different kinds of A.A.s...gay ones, Black ones, old ones, young ones, atheist ones, priest ones, Native American ones....all kinds of us who all qualified for A.A. membership even though maybe we didn't think we did at one time. Sound familiar? It's kind of a fun read and may be useful to someone coming in who feels “different.”



THE SHOEMAKER GROUP

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF SERVICE
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23RD

1PM ALANON SPEAKER
DENA F - 23 YRS
 CARE BEAR AFG | KATY TX

2PM FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

3PM AA SPEAKER
PAUL M - 31 YRS
 NEW DAY GROUP | GALVESTON, TX

 **DEER PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
1300 E THIRTEENTH ST
DEER PARK, TX 77536

ANNOUNCEMENT
 ANNOUNCEMENT

SPRING GROUP
 SPANISH SPEAKING MEETING

WHEN:
 WEDNESDAY AT 7:30 PM

JOIN US AT
 24307 ALDINE WESTFIELD RD
 SUITE O
 SPRING, TX 77373

08 OCTOBER 2023

ALVIN GROUP CELEBRATES 57TH ANNIVERSARY

2:00 PM OPENING

2:30 PM DENA F-KATY
 23 YRS ALANON

3:45 PM BBQ DINNER

4:45 PM ALVIN GROUP HISTORY
 SOBRIETY COUNTDOWN

5:00 PM KEITH M-7YRS
 HAPPY HOUR GROUP-
 BAY AREA CLUB

ALVIN TAYLOR STREET CLUB
 204 S TAYLOR ST
 ALVIN TX 77511

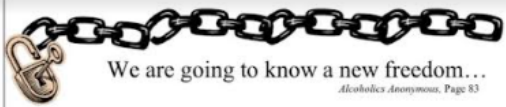
DISTRICT 70 UNITY DAY PICNIC

SEPTEMBER 16, 2023
 10:00am - 2:00pm
 Clear Creek Club
 1310 5th Street - Seabrook, TX

10am: Workshop: Service = Success
 11am: Games, Kid Zone, Scavenger Hunt
 11:30am: Fried Chicken & Sides
 1pm: Teddy S. - 11 yrs

Sobriety Countdown * Recovery Skit * Door Prizes



 We are going to know a new freedom...
Alcoholics Anonymous, Page 83


Southeast Texas Area 67 Correctional Facilities Conference
September 15, 16, and 17, 2023

TDCJ Orientation
 CF Professional Panel
 Volunteer Panel
 Ask-It-Basket
 Speakers & AA Meetings in English & Spanish
 Inmate Speaker

Speakers:
 Ola T. Houston, Tx
 Datham M. Houston, Tx
 Rochelle B. Sealy, Tx
 Alvaro D. Houston, Tx

Friday & Saturday Night Ice Cream Socials
 Saturday Night Banquet
 Hospitality Room and Great Fellowship
 Registration \$10.00

DoubleTree By Hilton Hotel-Intercontinental, 15747 JFK Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77032
 Limited rooms are available, so please reserve your rooms early.
 Mention you are attending the SETA CFC 2023 to receive the \$89 per night Rm.
 All reservations must be made by **September 8th** through the reservations department by calling 1-855-610-TREE 855-610-8733
 Link: <http://tinyurl.com/SETACFC>
 For Further Info: call - (832) 883-9110
 Mail the form and make check payable to:
 SETA CFC 2023 CONFERENCE PO Box 925241 Houston, TX 77292-5241

Eventbrite registration QR code 

Name(s) _____ Professional: State County Other
 Badge Name _____ Volunteers: AA Alanon Other
 Badge Number _____ # People _____ @ \$10.00 = _____
 Mailing Address _____ Saturday Banquet _____ @ \$40.00 = _____
 _____ Chicken Fish Vegan
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Unlimited Coffee _____ @ \$ 5.00 = _____
 Email _____ Please accept my donation of _____
 Total = _____

61ST ANNUAL S.E.T.A. CONVENTION

WHAT SHAPE IS YOUR TRIANGLE?

JANUARY 19-21, 2024

FRIDAY
 7:30P AA - SHANE S., CHATTANOOGA, TN
 10:00P YPAA - KARA B., AUSTIN, TX
 MOODY GARDENS CONVENTION CENTER
 7 HOPE BLVD, GALVESTON, TX, 77554

SATURDAY
 9:00A GSO - JAMES H., NEW YORK, NY
 10:45A ALATEEN - SPEAKER TBA
 11:00A AL-ANON - NANCY J., SANTA FE, TX
 1:30P AA - CFC CRUICK M., HOUSTON, TX
 4:00P AA SPANISH SPEAKER - FERNANDO L., CHIAPAS, MX
 7:30P AA - PETER M., BOCA RATON, FL

SUNDAY
 11:00A AA - JUDITH R., BISMARCK, ND
 PRE-REGISTRATION FEE IS \$20 FOR AA/AL-ANON - BY 11/30
 HOTEL RATE - \$129 SINGLE/\$149 DOUBLE - BOOK BY 12/29
 SETA CONVENTION, 2951 MARINA BAY DR., SUITE 130 BOX 873, LEAGUE CITY, TX, 77573

Full Name: _____ Quantity/Type _____ Cost _____
 Badge Name: _____ AA Pre-registration \$20 _____
 _____ Al-Anon Pre-registration \$20 _____
 _____ Alateen/Child Free _____
 Home Group: _____ Coffee Badge \$10 _____
 Address: _____ Box Lunch - Saturday \$20 _____
 City, State, Zip: _____ Banquet - Saturday Night \$50 _____
 Phone: _____ Scholarship Donation \$20 _____
 Email: _____ Total Due \$ _____

www.2024setaconvention.org

Sunday "Family After" Meeting

When: Sunday evenings, beginning September 10, 2023

Where: Cathedral of Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Church
 7809 Shadyvilla Lane, Houston, 77055
 St. Jude Hall

Time: 5pm-6pm

The "Family After" Meeting is not a typical AA or Al-Anon Meeting: it is a meeting based on Chapter 9, "The Family Afterward" of *Alcoholics Anonymous* aka "The Big Book." As such, alcoholics and friends and family of alcoholics are welcomed to attend. Childcare is not available.

Campus Directions:
 Park along Shadyvilla Lane or in the lot east of the church building and enter the open gate located next to the covered drive. Follow the signs to St. Jude Hall

For more information, please contact Richard B. and Terri B. at ltexan@gmail.com

JULY Treasurer's Report 2023 Pg 1

SETA District 40 Monthly Financial Report -- July 2023							
EXPENSES	Initial Approved Budget	Approved Budget Changes	Revised Approved Budget	Expense This Month	Year to Date Expenses	% This Month	% Year to Date
DCM	\$ 925		\$ 925	\$ 134.13	\$ 585.96	15%	63%
Alt. DCM	\$ 900		\$ 900	\$ 296.70	\$ 524.40	33%	58%
Secretary / Copying	\$ 150		\$ 150	\$ -	\$ -		
Treasurer	\$ 75		\$ 75	\$ -	\$ -		
Newsletter	\$ 100		\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -		
PO Box	\$ 160		\$ 160	\$ -	\$ 166.00		104%
Literature Committee	\$ 175		\$ 175	\$ -	\$ -		
PI	\$ 560		\$ 560	\$ -	\$ -		
Grapevine	\$ 50		\$ 50	\$ -	\$ -		
CFC	\$ 50		\$ 50	\$ -	\$ -		
TFC	\$ 75		\$ 75	\$ -	\$ -		
Archives Committee	\$ 50		\$ 50	\$ -	\$ -		
GSO 2022 Contribution	\$ 732		\$ 732	\$ -	\$ 731.98		100%
Intergroup 2022 Contribution	\$ 366		\$ 366	\$ -	\$ 365.99		100%
SETA 2022 Contribution	\$ 366		\$ 366	\$ -	\$ 365.99		100%
IT Committee	\$ 50		\$ 50	\$ -	\$ -		
Miscellaneous	\$ 300		\$ 300	\$ 31.00	\$ 179.00	10%	60%
Gratitude Dinner - Food	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Fellowship Fest	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Traditions Dinner	\$ 1,300		\$ 1,300	\$ 1,748.58	\$ 2,048.58	135%	158%
Service Workshop	\$ 300		\$ 300	\$ -	\$ -		
SWRAASA (Even Years)	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
The Forum (Odd Years) See Note	\$ 1,900		\$ 1,900	\$ -	\$ 606.61		32%
Delegate Report Meeting	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
State Convention Hospitality Suite	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
SETA Hospitality - District 40	\$ 300		\$ 300	\$ -	\$ 400.00		133%
TOTAL	\$ 8,884	\$ -	\$ 8,884	\$ 2,210.41	\$ 5,974.51	25%	67%

INCOME	
Group Name	Amount (\$)
Bear Creek Fellowship	\$ 80.00
Broad Highway Group	\$ 23.27
Hockley Group	\$ 45.00
Katy 12 & 12	\$ 79.56
Memorial Going Home Group	\$ 72.45
Monday Night Men's Supper/Step S	\$ 7.05
Rule 62 Group	\$ 43.53
Sage-Piney Point Noon Tuesday	\$ 23.70
Saturday Solutions Group	\$ 28.80
Sisters in Sobriety Texas	\$ 107.93
Wednesday Reflections	\$ 13.00
Wild West Group	\$ 61.00
Working With Others	\$ 100.00
Event Donations	
Traditions Dinner Donations	\$916.00
Gratitude Dinner Donations	
State Conv - Hospitality Suite	
SETA -Hospitality Suite	
Delegate Report Contribution	
Fellowship Fest	
Total Income this Month	\$ 1,601.29

Beginning Bank Balance	\$ 3,142.00
Total Expenses this Month	\$ 2,210.41
Total Income this Month	\$ 1,601.29
Prudent Reserve (0.25 x Budget)	\$ 1,855.00
Held for SETA Hospitality	\$ -
Unrestricted Funds	\$ 677.88
Ending Balance / Total Funds	\$ 2,532.88
Unspent Portion of Budget	\$ 2,909.45
Notes: Traditions Dinner Contributions from Katy 12&12 for \$400, Memorial Going Home Group for \$57, Primary Purpose Group - SCS for \$50, Wild West Group for \$100 and 7th Tradition contributions for \$309.	

SETA DISTRICT 40 --- EXPENSE BY MONTH & TOTAL FOR 2023														
	Budget	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total YTD
DCM	\$ 925	\$ 227.70	\$ 30.00		\$ 134.13	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 134.13						\$ 585.98
Alt. DCM	\$ 900	\$ 227.70						\$ 296.70						\$ 524.40
Secretary / Copying	\$ 150													\$ -
Treasurer	\$ 75													\$ -
Newsletter	\$ 100													\$ -
PO Box	\$ 160						\$ 166.00							\$ 166.00
Literature Committee	\$ 175													\$ -
PI	\$ 560													\$ -
Grapevine	\$ 50													\$ -
CFC	\$ 50													\$ -
TFC	\$ 75													\$ -
Archives Committee	\$ 50													\$ -
GSO 2022 Contribution	\$ 732	\$ 731.98												\$ 731.98
Intergroup 2022 Contribution	\$ 366	\$ 365.99												\$ 365.99
SETA 2022 Contribution	\$ 366	\$ 365.99												\$ 365.99
IT Committee	\$ 50													\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 300	\$ 31.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 31.00	\$ 31.00	\$ 31.00	\$ 31.00					\$ 210.00
Gratitude Dinner - Food	\$ -													\$ -
Fellowship Fest	\$ -													\$ -
Traditions Dinner	\$ 1,300					\$ 300.00		\$ 1,748.58						\$ 2,048.58
Service Workshop	\$ 300													\$ -
SWRAASA (Even Years)	\$ -													\$ -
The Forum (Odd Years) See Note	\$ 1,900						\$ 606.61							\$ 606.61
Delegate Report Meeting	\$ -													\$ -
State Convention Hospitality Suite	\$ -													\$ -
SETA 2023 Hospitality Suite - District 40	\$ 300	\$ 400.00												\$ 400.00
TOTAL	\$ 8,884	\$ 2,350.36	\$ 55.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 149.13	\$ 527.00	\$ 667.61	\$ 2,210.41	\$ 31.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,005.51

JULY 2023—Meeting Minutes Pg 1

DISTRICT 40 OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

(Revision #3)

Meeting Location:

COTHA Church, 122W. Grand Parkway, Katy, Tx. Rm. 115

Google Meet

<https://meet.google.com/scf-xndv-uoq>

Mailing Address:

District 40
PO Box 79119
Houston, Tx. 77279-9119

doug.d@aa-seta.org DCM
mike.b@aa-seta.org Alt. DCM
theresa.s@aa-seta.org Secretary
ronnie.h@aa-seta.org Treasurer

Date: July 11, 2023

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Attendees: 27

Call to Order – 7:00 pm, Doug D.

SERENITY PRAYER- Doug D.

SECRETARY’S REPORT – Theresa S., (Alt. OPEN) accepted with corrections.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Ronnie H, (Alt. open) accepted with corrections, Ronnie stated we had a very light month for donations and if this continues, we will need to adjust the budget

DCM Report

My name is Doug D, and I am the DCM for this rotation. I hope you read this month’s newsletter or noticed the agenda. We have moved some things around and opened up some more time to focus on GSR training and sharing. I hope we can get all of the GSRs we have here tonight to give a quick introduction about their group, we used to have a GSR give a report on the history of their home groups. I know it made me and the GSR at the time for my home group, go back and interview a lot of the old timers and listen to the stories. This was the only way to compile all the data to put into a report. This is also a great way to keep the history of your home group current by having it updated from time to time and forwarding that report to the area archives committee so it will be on record. One thing we found out was that the Katy 12&12 was started so they could have closed meetings, the ones that were around were mostly open at the time. Now 34 years later, I think more than half are open meetings. A group’s focus changes over time with the new voices that join and become active members.

This month we will go over the GSR section of the new service manual. I decided it would be good to just go over the requirement and a few other topics they cover in that chapter.

Remember this is your meeting and we would love to hear from everyone on what topics you would like to cover, discuss or even have a workshop on.

Now the SETA area assembly,

- Service opportunities are here for the 2024 and 2025 SETA conventions. If you are going and would like to volunteer a few hours of your time, contact Joel for 2024 and Cody for 2025.
- State convention 2025 will also need volunteers, contact Melissa R.
- We had 93 voting members on Sunday, 83 in person and 10 online.

JULY 2023—Meeting Minutes Pg 2

- In-person registered attendance was 140 and online was up to 23.
- PAI, for forensic audit had a census taken and the vote was 71 for and 13 against
- Finance Committee, brought up a plan to run a trial budget process that will work better in the future for the incoming position holder, so they do not inherit a budget they had no input on.
- Finance committee is also working on changing SETA from a balanced budget to a funded budget.
- Finance committee, reported before the vote on the 2024 SETA budget that they could not, in good conscience, recommend the budget and asked for the assembly to vote NO in passing it. It did not pass and they will go back and work on it. Bringing a new one back to SETA in October for a vote. The problem is that 76% of our SEAT budget is what is outlined in the Policies and Procedures manual. In the past, we might use half of the budget but we are using a lot more and don't have the extra, unrestricted funds to cover the shortfall.
- Go back to your groups and see how they are donating, during covid we asked for groups to focus on GSO and Intergroup because they had employees but we need to get back to funding all the entities of AA as it says in the pamphlet: [F-3 Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix](#).
- "Whose Job Is It? "The paradox of A.A. is that financial independence and the support of our Fellowship by alcoholics and alcoholics alone not only enhances A.A.'s importance to each of us but stimulates our engagement in our own recovery... A.A. is 'our thing,' from our group's treasury to the balance sheets at the General Service Office." Money has never been a requirement for A.A. membership, and to keep it that way all of A.A.'s trusted servants have an ongoing obligation to inform groups and individuals about the value of self-support and the need for voluntary contributions throughout the Fellowship"

We will be setting up an outreach committee to come up with a package to take to groups in our district that are inactive or dark. We have wanted to do this for a while but also, we have been requested by GSO to clean up the unknown groups in this district. There are currently 21 and let me know if you want to be part of this. After we have made the packages, we will need volunteers to reach out to groups close to your locations. The list of unknowns needs to be completed by Oct but we will also need to look into the inactive, a group that does not have a contact in the GSO database for that group, and Dark groups, groups that started a meeting but have not registered as a group with GSO.

Doug D

D40 DCM

ALT. DCM Report

It's getting to be that time! The District 40 Annual Traditions Dinner is coming up fast, and we need your help. Here is the information.

What: District 40 Annual Traditions Dinner

When: July 22, 2023 from 4p-7p

Where: Church of The Holy Apostles (COHA) 1225 W Grand Parkway S Katy, TX 77494

Who: Billy N. from Palm Beach Gardens, FL

This is an opportunity for you, your group or the Area Committee you represent at the District level to get involved and do some service. Here are some ways to serve.

You: Setup before; clean up after; appetizers/snacks or 7 th Tradition donations

Your group: Setup before; clean up after; appetizers/snacks or 7 th Tradition donations

Area Committee: Setup before; clean up after; appetizers/snacks, display table showcasing your committee, a giveaway related to your committee or 7 th Tradition donations

JULY 2023—Meeting Minutes Pg 3

What else can you bring? Your appetite for fun, food, fellowship, and our Traditions.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions. Mike.B@aa-seta.org or 832.724.3050

As always, please let me know how I can be of service to your group in better carrying out our primary purpose!

Love through service,

Mike

GSR/GENERAL SHARING SESSION –

GSR Section – *Approx 40 minutes*

New GSR - introductions

Training: going over the GSR section from the current AA service manual

Group Reports – tell us in 2 minutes or less about your home group.

General Sharing Session - (3 min. each including feedback from others if requested)

Feedback, News, Concerns, Questions, Etc.

CHAPTER 1

THE GROUP AND ITS GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A GSR

For most A.A.s, membership in a home group is one of the keys to continuing sobriety. In a home group, they accept service responsibilities and learn to sustain connections with other recovering alcoholics.

The home group affords individual A.A.s the privilege of voting on issues that affect the Fellowship as a whole; it is the very basis of the service structure. While many A.A. members attend other groups as well, the home group is where they participate in business meetings and cast their vote as part of the group conscience of the Fellowship as a whole. As with all group conscience matters, each member has one vote.

The role of the general service representative, or GSR, is essential to the purpose of general service. Bill W. wrote in Concept I of The Twelve Concepts for World Service: "The A.A. groups today hold ultimate responsibility and final authority for our world services." The role of the GSR is essential to ensuring that groups can fulfill that responsibility. Only when a GSR keeps the group informed and communicates the group conscience can the Conference truly act for A.A. as a whole. This communication is a two-way street, making the GSR responsible not only for bringing forward the group's voice, but for taking back to the group Conference actions that affect the Fellowship's unity, health and growth.

So what is the role of a GSR?

The GSR is the link between the group and "A.A. as a whole." This link becomes a channel through which news, information, opinions and ideas can flow back and forth. Importantly, this also gives the group a voice in the affairs of the Fellowship. The GSR is that voice.

There is more than one way for GSRs to express their group's thoughts and wishes — their conscience — in general service.

When the GSR is **present** at assemblies, the group's voice is heard. The presence of a GSR says their group cares about what's going on in the Fellowship and wants to learn and make its concerns and suggestions known.

When the GSR **participates**, the group's voice is heard. It can be through a GSR sharing the group's concerns across a conference table from other GSRs in a district meeting. It can be through questioning a budget item or proposing an idea important to the group at an area assembly. It can be through making an impassioned plea about an agenda item to the delegate on the eve of the annual General Service Conference meeting.

When the GSR **votes**, the group's voice is heard. The GSR votes on the trusted servants to lead the district and the area as well as the delegate to represent the area at the annual General Service Conference meeting. The group's voice is heard when the GSR votes on how best to use Seventh Tradition contributions to carry out Twelfth Step services.

What's important is to participate. This manual is intended to help.

JULY 2023—Meeting Minutes Pg 4

QUALIFICATIONS FOR GSR

Experience of the Fellowship suggests that the most effective GSRs:

- Have at least two years of continuous sobriety
- Are familiar with their group's history, priorities, traditions and procedures
- Are able to listen to all points of view
- Have the time to regularly attend district meetings and area assemblies and the group's business meetings
- Have a working familiarity with the Twelve Traditions and A.A. recovery and service literature
- Have an email address or other easy way of maintaining contact with group members
- Are familiar with the G.S.O. and area websites

TERM OF OFFICE

GSRs serve two-year terms. In many areas GSR terms coincide with those of the "panel" covering the area delegate's term of service. (See Glossary for a definition of "Panel.")

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Regularly attend area assemblies. Your group is in one of the 93 areas that make up the U.S./Canada General Service Conference. (See Map A for a map of the General Service Conference areas.) Each area holds assemblies during a year. GSRs are asked to attend and participate in these assemblies.

You have a voice and a vote.

2. Regularly attend district meetings. Your group is part of a district (which is in one of those 93 areas mentioned above). Your district likely holds regular meetings. How frequently your district meets will vary by district. GSRs are asked to attend district meetings. You have both a voice and a vote.

3. Regularly make reports to the group. These reports serve as an important link to A.A. as a whole. Your reports may concern information about what's happening in general service that you think will be of interest to the group. You are asked to convey any thoughts, concerns or wishes from your group's members back to the district. (See the section "Making Reports" later in this chapter.)

4. Participating in district and area service meetings is a great way to learn about all that A.A. and general service have to offer to help carry the A.A. message. What the GSR learns can be shared with the group in a report, either oral or written.

5. Work with the group treasurer to develop Seventh Tradition support for the General Service Board, the area and the district. You can find suggestions for group contributions to A.A. service entities in the Conference-approved pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix." This includes contributions to your local intergroup/central office. Groups may veer from these suggestions as they see fit, or not contribute at all. Many groups participate in two special plans to support A.A.'s service entities: the Regular Contribution Plan and the Birthday Plan. More information on these is available from G.S.O. or the local intergroup/central office. (See also the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" for information about the practical application of the Seventh Tradition.)

6. Keep the group up to date on the latest A.A. literature and service material. The A.A.W.S. and Grapevine

literature catalogs are excellent resources. Both are available online (at aa.org or aagrapevine.org) and as printed catalogs. You can also visit onlineliterature.aa.org and store.aagrapevine.org. GSRs are asked to help make their groups aware of:

- **New literature.** This includes new books, formats or other products published by A.A. World Services and Grapevine.

- **New applications of technology.** As technology continues to alter how many people receive information,

A.A. is exploring applications that are intended to help the Fellowship carry its message to alcoholics.

- **Literature and service material to increase accessibility in A.A.** While there are no special alcoholics,

there are alcoholics who experience access barriers to receiving the A.A. message. General service is always looking for ways to help A.A. and ultimately the groups minimize and ultimately remove those barriers.

7. Supply the DCM or district registrar with up-to-date group information, which is relayed to G.S.O.,

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either directly to the Operations department or through the area registrar in order to keep contact information current for G.S.O. mailings and possible Twelfth Step opportunities.

8. Serve as the mail contact with the General Service Office (and as the contact in the A.A. directory if your group is listed there); receive the G.S.O. bulletin Box 4-5-9; and keep groups abreast of A.A. activities all over the world. (See Appendix I for a sample Group Information Form. See Appendix H for a sample New Group Form.)

9. Keep the alternate GSR informed and involved with all the latest information for the group.

TO THE NEWLY ELECTED GSR

There are often weeks between the election of a GSR and when the term begins. Using this time to become familiar with this manual will prove helpful.

GSRs are encouraged to read "A.A.'s Legacy of Service" by Bill W. It is reprinted in Appendix A of this manual.

Consider assembling the publications below — and start reading. Your term will likely have started before you get through all of these. Keep reading. And keep them handy.

Pamphlets, Leaflets

- "GSR General Service Representative...your group's link to A.A. as a whole"
- "The A.A. Group"
- "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix"
- "A.A. Tradition — How It Developed"
- "Twelve Traditions Illustrated"
- "Twelve Concepts Illustrated"

Books

- Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions (second half on the Traditions)
- Twelve Concepts of World Service (second half of the Service Manual)
- Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age
- Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks 1951-1970
- The Language of the Heart: Bill W.'s Grapevine Writings

THE SERVICE SPONSOR

The same impulse that drives some new people to try to "do A.A." alone drives some new GSRs to try to "do general service" alone. There's no reason to. In fact, there's every reason not to.

As rewarding and enjoyable as general service can be, you might find yourself feeling overwhelmed at times. A service sponsor can make the difference between struggling in your service position and feeling a sense of purpose and accomplishment (and having some fun along the way!).

A service sponsor is there to answer your questions about your responsibilities, the structure of general service, the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts and how to apply them and making reports to your group. They can share experiences on managing time and expectations. Simply put, the service sponsor is there to help.

A service sponsor can be defined as one alcoholic who has made some progress in recovery and/or performance in service and who is willing to share this experience with another alcoholic who is just starting the journey.

Service sponsors often introduce newer members to the various aspects of service: setting up a meeting, working on committees, participating in conferences, etc. In this matter it is important for the service sponsor to help individuals understand the distinction between serving the needs of the Fellowship and meeting the personal needs of another group member.

The basis of all sponsorship is to lead by example. Service sponsors can impart to their sponsees the pleasure of involvement in the work of Alcoholics Anonymous. This is best done by stressing the spiritual nature of service work and by pointing out the usefulness of simple footwork and faith.

Co-founder Dr. Bob said, "I spend a great deal of time passing on what I learned to others who want and need it badly. I do it for four reasons:

- 1. Sense of duty. 2. It is a pleasure. 3. Because in doing so I am paying my debt to the man who took time to pass it on to me. 4. Because every time*

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I do it I take out a little more insurance for myself against a possible slip."

When considering potential service sponsors, experience of the Fellowship suggests looking for an A.A. member who is:

- Knowledgeable in A.A. history and the service structure
- Well acquainted with the various service positions and the principles and concepts that guide general service
- Familiar with the Twelve Traditions
- Familiar with The A.A. Service Manual and Twelve Concepts

To find someone with this kind of experience and knowledge, you might consider some of the people you meet or hear at area assemblies and service workshops.

For additional information, there is a section on the service sponsor in the A.A. pamphlet "Questions & Answers on Sponsorship."

GSR Reports

Kevin – Katy Crossroads Group located at the Living Word Lutheran Church, corner of Mason and Westheimer Parkway. The meeting is at 9am on Saturday. They offer childcare.

Caitlin B.—Sisters in Sobriety Texas is a women's AA group that meets online started in March 2020. They meet three times a day, seven days a week at 12 pm, 6 pm, and 8 pm central time. There are additional meetings on Saturdays and Sundays at 9 am central.

Scott M. – The PPG-SCS group is an online meeting with members from all over the U.S. They read the Big Book and Dr. Bob's Story line by line. Their meeting is on Thursday from 8-9 pm. The link to join their meeting is on their website, PPG-SCS.org

Laura S. – Sisters in Sobriety meets online on Sundays at 12pm. The first Sunday is a Step Study, second Sunday is a Concept, third is a Tradition, fourth is a Daily Reflection and the fifth Sunday is a topic picked by the chair. This group is currently not listed by GSO and is listed in the meeting guide as "in person" but Laura will do the paperwork to make the necessary changes.

Rick O. – Bear Creek Fellowship has meetings M-F at 7am and 12pm. Wednesday is a Big Book Study and Thursday is a step meeting. Brian shared that 'mail.com' is \$30/year. A group can create their own group email and that is an effective way to communicate with group members and share information such as pamphlets and other online literature.

Robert (Bob) L. – Four Horsemen group meets online M-F at 12pm. They will be a meeting in person at Grace Fellowship starting in the Fall.

Juan C. – Hay Una Solución (There is a Solution) meets M,W and Thursday. Their location is near Barker Cypress and Clay and they have 10 members.

Dennis K. – Memorial Going Home Group meets at 725 Bateswood, M-F at 5:30. M, W, F are discussion meetings, Tuesday is a Big Book study and Thursday is a 12&12 study.

Amanda L. – God Meeting meets at 725 Bateswood on Sunday at 9:30 am. (Mardi is the GSR).

Jeff H. – Outlaw Safecrackers Group meets at 6:30 pm on Zoom. This is a men's only group with a good mix of years of sobriety. There are approximately 20 men who attend this meeting. This group is not registered with GSO.

Daniel A. – Post Oak Young People's Group meets on Sunday at 8pm. The first through third Sundays are general discussion meetings and the last Sunday is ½ Speaker and ½ Birthday Night, with a business meeting after that. This group is not on the meeting app.

Ronnie H. – Sunshine Group is a men's closed meeting that meets on Tuesday at 7:30 pm at 725 Bateswood. There are approximately six men in this group.

Matt M. – Monday Nights Men's Group meets 6-8 pm and is a traveling group that meets at a different person's home each week. The first half of the meeting is a meal and the second half is a 12&12 book study.

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Clifton O. (Alt. GSR) – Deep Dive Group meets at Woods Road on Thursday at 7:30 pm and is a Big Book Study.

Joey H. – First Light Group meets online and in person at 6:30 am at the Post Oak Club. The first Saturday is a Speaker Meeting, Tuesday is a 12&12 study and Wednesday is a Big Book Study.

Melanie G. – The 12&12 Group has eight meetings/day, Monday – Friday and five meetings/day on weekends. Weekday times are at 6:30am, 10am, 12pm, 3pm, 5pm, 6:30pm and 8pm. There is also an online meeting at 6:30 am on weekdays and at 7am on Saturday. There is a Joe & Charlie meeting on Saturday at 9:30am, a Step Eleven meeting on Sunday at 8:30am, a Women's meeting on Wednesday at 8pm and Saturday at 11am, and a Men's meeting on Wednesday at 8pm and 11am on Saturday. There is a variety of open and closed meetings, 12&12 book studies and Big Book studies throughout each week. The group will be having a Workshop on August 12 with Christina as the Guest Speaker.

Farah E. – So Far So Good Group meets at 11am on Sunday, Spring Branch Memorial Club. This group presented a PAI, calling for a Forensic Audit of GSO. There was a 74% approval and the PAI was emailed to GSC secretary and I copied Rick and my service sponsor.

Hannah S.- Tuesday Step Study at 7:30 pm, and Woodway and Voss.

Shannon A. – Shannon A. - Another Chance Group - 5151 Addicks Satsuma. They have a Big Book on Tuesday (8pm), Womens Meeting on Thursday (7:30pm), Candlelight on Friday (8pm), Men's Meeting (8am) and Step Study (4pm) on Saturday and Open Discussion (4pm) on Sunday. Birthday Speaker Meeting (4pm) last Sunday of the month.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Archives Rep: Lilian K. – Absent

CFC Rep: Anne M - Absent

CPC Rep: Eric C – Absent, Kate E, Area Alt. Chair for CPC stated they did a Mock Presentation at the July Area Assembly in order to train people on how to do AA presentations. Kate will have a table set up at the Traditions Dinner.

Grapevine Rep: Wendy F – They will have a table set up at the Traditions Dinner. There are a few Writing Workshops coming up and they are in need of a treasurer.

IT Rep: Peggy A – this committee wants to be transparent with Area and the Districts. There is no new website, as rumored. They need support and a secretary.

Houston Intergroup Liaison: Fernando B- Vacation

Literature Rep: Carol F. - At its June meeting, area Literature committee members discussed the videos that are available to all members of AA who might be interested in alternate ways to spread the message of hope inherent in AA. There are a number of short videos that are available on a variety of topics both for those who might have a problem with alcohol and for professionals. The videos can be accessed from the aa.org site at <https://www.aa.org/downloadable-videos>

See Carol for the QR code, Carol will have a table set up at the Traditions Dinner.

Newsletter Editor: Sara A. - Remember to post QR code in your groups to share the D40 NEWSLETTER, If you have any flyers send them to me! Share what is going on in your group or committee, any workshops or special events. AUGUST WRITING TOPIC: Birthdays! How do you celebrate your AA birthday? What have you reflected upon for your sober birthdays? How does your group celebrate birthdays?

PI Public Information): OPEN

TFC Rep: Matt G – No Report

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT – 2023 Hybrid Meeting Committee

This work is complete; D40 will be meeting at COTHA every month.

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AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT - Inventory

Results of last month's meeting include changing the format of the D40 meeting. They are working on the lists of groups in the district and they plan to visit each group. They need people to volunteer for this committee. They will present an inventory item each month at the district meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Open positions 2023 – PI Rep, Alt Treasurer, Alt. Secretary, TFC Rep
Please let your groups know that we have open positions!

Q & A

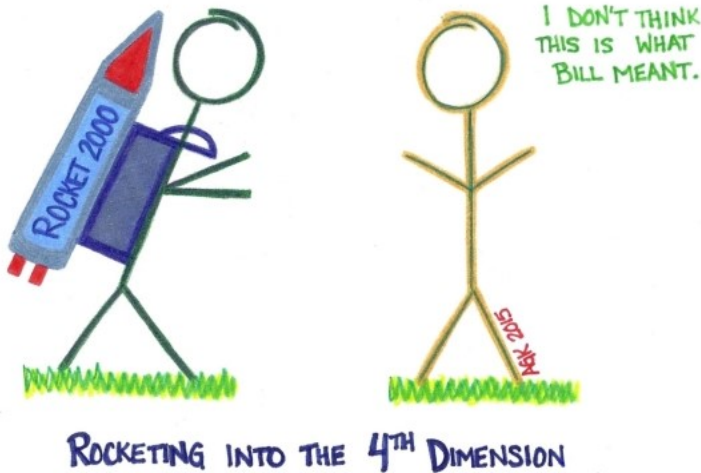
Daniel A – his group is on the meeting app but not listed correctly.

Q. Mike B – is everyone liking this new format?

A. many thumbs up!

RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT: All Together

ADJOURN : 8:54 pm



**2023 District 40
Officers and Committee Representatives**

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>
DCM	Doug D	Doug.d@aa-seta.org
Alt DCM	Mike B	Mike.b@aa-seta.org
Secretary	Theresa S	Theresa.s@aa-seta.org
Alt Secretary	OPEN	
Treasurer	Ronnie H	Ronnie.h@aa-seta.org
Alt Treasurer	Jeff A	
Archives	OPEN	
Newsletter Editor	Sara A	sara.a@aa-seta.org
Grapevine Rep	Wendy F	wendy.f@aa-seta.org
IT Rep	Peggy A	peggy.a@aa-seta.org
Literature Rep	Carol F	carol.f@aa-seta.org
CFC Rep	Anne M	anne.m@aa-seta.org
Intergroup Rep	Fernando B	Fernando.b@aa-seta.org
CPC Rep	Eric C	
PI Rep	OPEN	
TFC	OPEN	

AREA 67 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee	Meeting Date & Time	Location
Archives	2nd Monday of the Month 7pm	Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/uus-pbqk-xip Online Only
CPC - Cooperation with the Professional Community	1st Monday of the Month 7:30p	Zoom ID: 632-634-860 Passcode: 153379
CFC - Correctional Facilities	3rd Wednesday of the Month 7:30p	Zoom ID: 4772549035 Passcode: heartbeat Houston Intergroup 5151 Mitcheldale St, HTX 77092 Conference Room
Grapevine	3rd Thursday of the Month 7:30p	Zoom ID: 114 207 273 Passcode: 610793
Intergroup (Delegate's Meeting)	3rd Thursday Every Other Month 8p	Zoom Call (786)686-6300 for more info
IT - Internet Technologies	4th Saturday of the Month 10am	Google Meet: ID: nqm-vypy-yao
Multi-Lingual	1st Thursday of the Month 7:30p	District 66 4800 5645 Hillcroft Suite 410 HTX, 77036
Literature	3rd Tuesday of the Month 8:30p	Zoom ID: 257 198 925 Passcode: 443980
PI - Public Information	4th Tuesday of the Month 7:30p	Zoom ID: 330 417 285 Passcode: 153379
TFC - Treatment Facility Committee	15th Day of Every Month Month 7p <i>At times the 15th of the month can fall on a weekend or holiday. When that occurs, the TFC meeting will automatically be held <u>on the following business day</u>.</i>	Zoom ID: 552 569 731 Passcode: 169753