
DISTRICT 40 NEWS

Volume 26.4

April 2013

SERVICE SPARK!

FREE CALENDARS

Before I came into AA responsibility, obligation & commitment were bad words in my vocabulary. As most things, this has been drastically changed through the process of working the steps & traditions. Today they are not words, but honors & privileges. In early sobriety (of course) I was asked to lead a meeting & with great enthusiasm I accepted. The meeting came & went & I missed the whole thing...I simply forgot, I must have been busy. There were several things that happened after I was approached by the chairperson & asked where I was. First, I learned that the meeting went on just fine without me. Apparently I am not so important to AA that it cannot go on without me...ego deflated! Second, I ran bawling to my sponsor that I just felt horrible. I'm not sure how other sponsors are but mine would hardly let me finish my good bout of whining before she quickly helped me see my part in things, highly suggested a way to make proper amends & told me to get a grip & get a calendar! At the time our finances were still under major

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History Corner

Nelson Newcomer: What is the difference between an open and closed meeting? What is the purpose of open meetings? Closed meetings?

Angela Archivist: Alcoholics Anonymous has several "conference-approved pamphlets" meaning that the wording and graphics in each of the pamphlets carrying that logo has been submitted to the appropriate Conference Committee, reviewed by the delegates, and then approved by the members of that year's General Service Conference.

The content of each of our pamphlets is considered our "best shared experience" at the time, and can be changed by a future conference. One of our pamphlets is called "The AA Group (Pamphlet No. P-16, updated November 2012). (The "P" in P-16 stands for "pamphlet."). Page 13 includes a good definition of open and closed meetings:

Closed meetings are for A.A. members only, or for those who have a drinking problem and "have a desire to stop drinking."

Open meetings are available to anyone interested in Alcoholics Anonymous' program of recovery from alcoholism. Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers.

We learned last month that each group is autonomous, meaning each group may decide for itself how it operates, as long as its actions do not affect neighboring groups or AA as a whole. So, each group may decide for itself whether its meetings will be open or closed.

So why do we have open meetings? Originally, open meetings were designed to be a way for us to educate nonalcoholics on what AA is all about. Over the years the concept of open meetings has changed to be much more than that. Open meetings are now more like regular AA meetings that nonalcoholics may attend as observers. Closed meetings are reserved for those who feel they have a problem with alcohol and wish to recover from alcoholism. In both cases, any group, through its group conscience, may decide which types of meetings are to be held.

Please stay tuned for next month's edition. As "they" say, "More will be revealed."

Betsy G.

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reconstruction & calendars were considered a luxury. Obviously this was no match for a woman with solutions up her sleeve! I was quickly told that the banks & pharmacies gave them away for free & that they would work just fine in my situation. So off to Walgreens I trudged & got my first ugly calendar. Next, I plugged in all of the commitments I had in AA & in my personal life. I had no idea what this would evolve into...

As I started to really use my calendar I began to realize things like over committing in some areas & neglecting others was not healthy balanced living. There was no evidence of time spent with my husband yet I complained about not having a healthy marriage. I felt bad that my kids were tired & realized that quantity in activities did not make quality. I screamed to my family that I needed help keeping things clean or that I was too tired to cook supper, but I had time to help my new friends. First Things First was becoming crystal clear to me. I cannot transmit what I don't have, my house was a mess! It was all me, me, me...no God anywhere.

Today one of my favorite times of the year is new calendar day! I am blessed to be able to buy the pretty ones with organizing pockets & to do list pages. This first thing I do is write down all of the District & Area meetings, events, assemblies, conventions, etc. If I have made a commitment it goes on the calendar immediately. I am busy is not a reason to ignore a commitment today. We're all busy; some people are busier than me! God shows me when I need to change things, remove things or add things; I just have to be willing to pray over my calendar...my life! My kids write their commitments on my calendar; they leave me sweet notes & read my calendar to stay informed about what's going on with me. It has become a "we" program in our home today. It allows me to look at the blessings I have in my life today & not take them for granted. When opportunities are presented it helps me ask myself & answer honestly the 3 questions, Am I Able, Am I Willing, and Am I Qualified? I don't have to remember anything but to "look at my calendar" it has everything in one spot. I believe in every fiber of my being that God's timing is perfect, He doesn't use calendars or clocks...I'm not God, I just have to make myself available to Him & He works out the rest. If things seem to be a bit overwhelming or you are just entirely too busy to participate in your recovery, might I suggest a free calendar.

Delegate's Homecoming Message

Hello SETA Area 67,

I have just left the last meeting of the Conference Week. The Farewell Brunch. Our beloved rotating trustees and board members have officially finished service to our fellowship.

I can tell you that the service they have provided each of us is something that we should all feel a strong sense of personal gratitude.

They have sacrificed, especially our Class A (remember that mean's AIN'T got a problem) Trustee, Rogelio Flores.

He gave a wonderful goodbye talk and ended with saying that he will see us in Houston Texas in a few months at our State Convention. A great moment for this grateful member.

Please, when you see Rogelio at our TX State Convention, thank him for his six years of dedicated service to the fellowship that has saved our lives.

The last thing that our rotating Chairmen of the Board, Ward Ewing said to us was "go home and let your area's love you". I feel the love from each one of you.

Gracias, Merci and Thank you,

Love and Service,
Patrick C,
Delegate, Panel 63, Area 67

April 2013
Tradition 4/ Concept 4
Albert C./Sandy K.

May 2013
Tradition 5/ Concept 5
Brad H. / Kate E.

2013 DISTRICT SERVANTS

DCM
Jes K.
dcm-40@aa-seta.org

Alternate DCM
Michelle H.
dcm-40-alt@aa-seta.org

Secretary
Wendy A.

Alt Secretary
Deborah G

Treasurer
Cheryl B.

Alt Treasurer
Wendy M.

Literature Chair
Taylor K.

Treatment Facilities Chair
Ken P.

PI/CPC Chair
Kate E.

CFC Chair
Evelyn C.

Intergroup Liaison
Rhonda R.

Grapevine Rep.
OPEN

Newsletter Editor
Corrie H.

Coffee Chair
Nancy R.

Archives Chair
Jessica D.

IT Liaison
Jackie V.

Upcoming Events

1. **2013 Texas State Convention:** June 7-9, 2013, Marriott Westchase Hotel, 2900 Briarpark, Houston, TX 77041.
2. **27th Annual D40 Traditions Dinner** June 29th, St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, 1656 Blalock Rd., Houston, TX 77080.
3. **SETA Area Assembly** July 13-14, 2013, Sheraton North Houston, 15700 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Houston, TX 77032.

District 40-SETA March 2013 Financial Report

District 40 Financial Report Period ending 04/09/13	Current Month	Budget*	Year to Date	Current %	YTD %
INCOME					
Traditions Dinner Donations		\$175.00			
Service Workshop Donations					
SEIA-Hospitality Suite					
Group Donations	\$201.26	\$7,200.00	\$1,318.99	2.8%	18.3%
Hokley	\$45.00				
Journey Group	\$16.00				
Katy 12&12	\$4.00				
Our Common Journey	\$31.00				
Rosewood Thursday Night	\$13.50				
Sisters In Serenity	\$27.66				
Taking Care of Business	\$60.00				
Tuesday Night Step Study	\$14.10				
Total Income	\$201.26	\$7,375.00	\$1,318.99	2.7%	17.9%
*** EXPENSES ***					
DCM		\$600.00	\$234.92	0.0%	47.0%
Alt. DCM		\$600.00	\$52.05	0.0%	10.4%
Secretary / Copying		\$100.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
Treasurer		\$75.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
Newsletter		\$221.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
Rent/Coffee Donation		\$180.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
Coffee		\$25.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
FOBox		\$70.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
Literature Committee		\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
PI/CPC		\$1,000.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
Grapevine		\$80.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
CFC		\$250.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
TFC		\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
Archives Committee		\$100.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
Intergroup Liaison		\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
IT Committee		\$100.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
Miscellaneous		\$100.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
***Gratitude Dinner		\$300.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
*** Fellowship Fest		\$250.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
*** Traditions Dinner		\$600.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
*** Service Workshop		\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
***SARASA (Even Years)		\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
*** The Forum (Odd Years)		\$1,400.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
*** State Convention Hospitality Ste		\$1,000.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
***SEIA Assembly Hstl District		\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
*** SEIA - 2013 Hospitality Suite ***		\$1,000.00	\$1,141.79	0.0%	114.2%
Total Expenses	\$0.00	\$7,851.00	\$1,428.76	0.0%	18.2%
*Budget Amended as of 3/12/13					
<i>Beginning Bank Balance</i>	\$5,031.39				
<i>Total Expenses</i>	\$0.00				
<i>Total Income</i>	\$201.26				
<i>Pluabrt Reserve (0.25x Budget)</i>	\$1,962.75				
<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>	\$3,269.90				
Ending Balance/ Total Funds	\$5,232.65				
<i>Unspent Portion of Budget</i>	\$6,422.24				

Deposit-District 40-SETA

Check#	Amount
2048	\$45.00
3785	\$16.00
3139	\$4.00
7409254	\$31.00
1175883108	\$13.50
8092	\$27.66
13940359	\$50.00
cash	\$14.10
	\$201.26

Treasurer's Report - March
report period ending 4/9/13.
Opening balance \$5,031.39,
Closing \$5,232.65. There were
no expenses for the month of
March. Total income was
\$201.26. Made changes to
budget totalling \$50 that were
approved last month. Added \$50
for Archives expenses.

In Service

I had a wonderful experience in early April working the AA booth at the National Catholic Educators Convention at the George R. Brown Convention Center here in Houston. I spent a few hours on a couple different days in the booth to answer questions and provide information.

I wanted to relate two experiences I had while performing this service work: One teacher approached our booth to share that she was a long time member of the fellowship and was very surprised to see an AA booth at the convention. I was able to explain to her that as members of the Cooperation with Professionals Committee, we inform those people that are going to come in contact with the still suffering alcoholic what AA is and what AA isn't. In that way we can make those professionals comfortable with referring their students/clients/patients to AA.

A nun who taught in a school in Nashville, TN stopped at the booth to share that she teaches a class in human development and requires her students to read the big book. Recently she had gone before the board of the school to ask that they change their policy of expelling students found drinking on campus. She asked that they be sent to her class instead. In her words "How can we be of help, if we kick them out"?

I find the experience of being on this committee rewarding because I can both be in the world and be an example of the big book.

Kate E.

The following Committees meet at:

The Delta Club
6400 Westpark, Suite 355, Houston, TX 77057
Telephone (713) 972-0034

Literature Committee

1st Saturday of the month - 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Grapevine Committee

3rd Thursday of the month - 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Correctional Facilities Committee

3rd Wednesday of the month - 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

*Public Information Committee

4th Saturday of every month at Noon (Except for Assembly Months)

IT Committee

Meets every 4th Saturday from 10 am to Noon at:
Post Oak Club -- Moved to Northwest Mall
9600 Hempstead Road, Suite 306
Houston, TX. 77092 Telephone: 713-956-5061

The following Committee meets at:

The Council on Alcohol and Drugs Houston
303 Jackson Hill, Houston, TX 77007
Telephone (713) 942-4100

Cooperation with the Professional Community

1st Monday of the month at 7:15 pm

*Archives Committee

Meets quarterly (or as needed)
at the Area Assembly at 4:30 pm

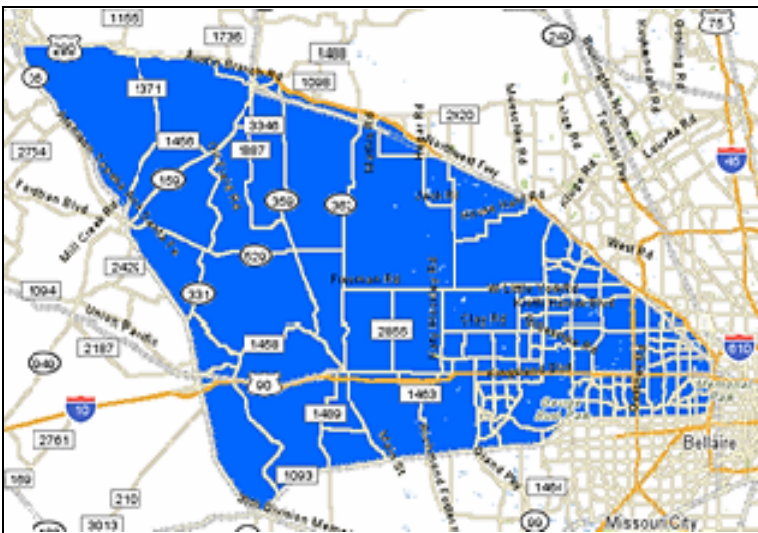
*Treatment Facilities Committee

Meets quarterly at the Area Assembly at 4:30 pm

District 40 PI/CPC Monthly Committee Meeting

Last Saturday of the month from 1-3 p.m.
At the Spring Branch Memorial Club

*All committees meet at the Area Assembly in the months of April, July and October at 4:30 PM
Sheraton North Houston - 15700 John F. Kennedy Blvd. Houston, TX 77032
During the remaining months, the committees meet at the above locations and times.



THE NEXT DISTRICT MEETING IS

MAY 14, 2013 AT 7:00 PM

Just starting a group in District 40 and wish to add it to this newsletter? Send group information, location and meeting times to SETA-40@aa-seta.org and intergroup@aahouston.org. You can also call Intergroup at 713-686-6300.

District 40 of the Southeast Texas Area is a territory bounded on the North by US HWY 290; on the South by Westheimer Rd.; on the East by Loop 610 and on the West by State HWY 36. If your group falls within these boundaries, please contact us SETA-40@aa-seta.org and attend the monthly District meeting at the Bear Creek Community Center. HWY 6 at Patterson Rd.