
DISTRICT 40 NEWS

Volume 26.2

February 2013

District 40 GSR Approved Meeting Minutes Southeast Texas Area Alcoholics Anonymous

12 Traditions & 12 Concepts **Reading and Summation**

January 8, 2013

Call to Order: Serenity Prayer, Preamble and Unity Declaration

Tradition 1/Concept 1 reading and summation by Kris H. & Cheryl B.

Volunteers for next month....Tradition 2/Concept 2 will be Corrie H. & Kate E.

Introduction of Attendees = (24):

Albert C. (GSR, First Light Group), **Betsy G.** (*Past D40 DCM & Area 67 Delegate*, Southern Pacific Group), **Bob B.** (GSR, Rule 62 Group), **Brad H.** (*Past D40 DCM*, Area 67 Newsletter Chair, Journey Group), **Cheryl B.** (D40 Treasurer, Katy Crossroads Group), **Corrie H.** (D40 Newsletter Editor, Alt. Area 67 Secretary, GOD Meeting Group), **David V.** (GSR, Spring Shadows Group), **Jackie V.** (D40 IT Rep, GSR, GOD Meeting Group), **Jes K.** (D40 DCM, First Light Group), **Jessica D.** (D40 Archives Rep), **Katie C.** (D40 Grapevine Rep), **Kate E.** (D40 PI/CPC Chair, Memorial Going Home Group), **Kris H.** (*Past D40 DCM*, Area 67 Treasurer, Rule 62 Group), **Libby S.** (GSR, Katy Crossroads Group), **Michelle H.** (D40 Alt. DCM, Fulshear Group), **Mike J.** (GSR, Katy Big Book), **Nancy R.** (D40 Coffee Comm., GSR, Memorial Going Home Group), **Nate B.** (GSR, Sunday Night Men's Group), **Rick Mc.** (GSR, Another Chance Group), **Rhonda R.** (D40 Intergroup Liaison, GSR, Working w/ Others), **Sarah W.** (GSR, The Broad Highway), **Taylor K.** (D40 Literature Rep, The Broad Highway), **Wendy A.** (D40 Secretary, GSR, Southern Pacific Group) -
Welcome New GSRs and Alt GSRs!

February 2013

Tradition 2 /

Concept 2

Corrie H. / Kate E.

March 2013

Tradition 3 /

Concept 3

Brad H. / Cheryl B.

Tradition Two: For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

Concept Two: The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs

SERVICE SPARK

The Only Requirement...

As a newcomer thrown into the foreign world of Alcoholics Anonymous; I couldn't help but imagine the worst case scenarios when exposed to the words found in the Steps, Traditions, Preambles & Prayers I commonly heard around meetings. As I look back on the alcoholic paranoia that consumed me in the early days of sobriety; I realize that it was that fear that opened my eyes, mind & heart to this new way of living.

I was terrified of you finding out the things that I had done in my drinking life. I was afraid to say I had no car, phone, money, friends or family. I was afraid if you sat next to me in a meeting you would hear the beast that was screaming loud in my ears, saying "DRINK". I was afraid to tell anyone I didn't know the Serenity or Lord's Prayers. I was afraid if I asked what something meant you would think I was stupid. I was afraid to tell you I did drugs too or that I had been arrested. I was afraid every day that I wouldn't be allowed to come back even though I didn't want to be here. I was afraid to tell you I just wanted to die. The beast had destroyed all self-worth & yet I still didn't want to stop drinking, I just wanted out of the pain.

The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking became the best lie I ever told myself! I sat in meetings & said the words "I'm Michelle & I'm an alcoholic". That led me to the next meeting, then the next & by week 3 of being led by the fellowship, God led me to a sponsor who led me to the prayers, to the Big Book, which led me to the steps that led me to the certainty that to drink is to die, which led me to the desire, the desire to live.

I was sure that this AA thing was simply not going to work for me, I had done too many terrible things, and I didn't meet the requirement...sometimes it's good to be wrong!

Michelle H.

Do you know your group's history?

We know it may have started with a coffee pot and a resentment; but how long ago? The archives committee is actively looking for group histories. This keeps the history and growth of our groups alive. Imagine if no one printed the story in the traditions that gave us the infamous Rule 62.

Group histories also may be printed in the SETA Quarterly newsletter. So if your group is approaching a big anniversary or celebrating your first year as a group, or even if you're a new group, let us know about it! Submit your histories to setaarchivist@gmail.com.

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Normal Business:

1. **Secretary’s Report-** Motion to Approve as Amended – correction to the December Meeting Minutes.
2. **Treasurer’s Report-** the December 2012 Treasurer’s report was accepted as submitted; current balance \$5,141.16; total income for the period totaled \$789.50, total expenses were \$425.25.
3. **News or Concerns from groups (GSRs) –** Southern Pacific Group is no longer meeting at Westland Baptist Church in Katy. They’re looking for a new home and temporarily holding meetings, with childcare, at Woods Road Recovery Club in Brookshire.

Committee Reports:

- a) **Archives –** Unanimous Motion to approve Jessica D. as the new Archives Rep.
- b) **CTC –** Unanimous Motion to change the name of the committee to just “Coffee” as tea and cocoa are not served. Will purchase needed supplies.
- c) **PI/CPC –** First meeting will be January 26th 1-3p.m. at the Spring Branch Memorial Club. All are invited to attend.

First Area 67 CPC Meeting was held last evening. Our new chair is Daniel S. and we discussed and brainstormed about our agenda for 2013. The committee is hoping to have a workshop in District 82 to help them get their own district committee started. The committee also discussed ways to restart presentations to probation and parole officers and how to begin a program similar to one in NYC medical schools that reaches out to doctors in residency. We also discussed using the GoToMeeting program to see if we could encourage a broader participation in monthly meetings. The next scheduled meeting is February 4th at 7:15 at The Council for Alcoholism.

No information about the Area 67 PI committee at this time.

- d) **CFC-** *No Report.*
- e) **Grapevine-** Unanimous Motion to approve Katie C. as the new Grapevine Rep.
- f) **Intergroup Liaison –** Unanimous Motion to approve Rhonda R. as the new Intergroup Liaison.
- g) **Information Technology –**reported conducted a “Go-To Meeting” which went well but participants did miss physically being at the meeting and most would physically attend at least once/quarter if not more. For anyone who is the “presenter” of the Go-To Meeting, some recommendations below:
 1. Make sure you have a strong Wi-Fi connection.
 2. Having a projector allows the “in-house” members of the meeting to visually see the other members as long as they utilize their web-cam. (Afterthought not mentioned in meeting – SETA has a projector that is available by contacting Archives who is the custodian)
 3. Having a microphone along with an amplifier will allow you to hear the “outside” members

more clearly.

Other items discussed:

1. We will be working on a workshop for April Assembly in regard to conducting Go-To Meetings.
 - a. We are checking to see if we have a microphone that with advance notice, we *may* be able to loan to the Presenters who are conducting Go-To Meetings.
 2. We still need to find a different “host” because some confirmations and emails from our current provider are blocked.
 3. In order to get a sense of direction for website project work, we may have a semi-retreat to occur one day for about 4-6 hours of brainstorming.
- h) **Literature-** reported SETA Chair and Alt. Chair positions are still open so nothing to report.
 - i) **TFC-** *No Report.*
 - j) **Newsletter –** reported few changes made to format and open to suggestions. Will be gathering any Area changes at the Convention to update accordingly. Motion approved to have Newsletter contain “**approved**” meeting minutes. Starting with the December meeting minutes & financial report which have been presented/approved at this meeting and will be published in the January Newsletter.

Current Items For Discussion

1. SETA Convention Hospitality Suite – Ad Hoc Committee. Have a volunteer to chair the suite which will include a room stay. Shopping for food and supplies will be done this Thursday. Circulated a volunteer sign-up sheet based on when it has been determined the suite will be open during the convention.
2. District 40 Inventory – Jes K. suggested that D40 consider taking their inventory at this time and include insight of individuals who formally held service positions in D40. Referenced The A.A. Group...Where It All Began pamphlet – specifically the section on A.A. Group Inventory. Will be looking for potential mediators/facilitators at the upcoming SETA Convention.
3. Prudent Reserve – based on the current checking account balance, Motion approved to add line reflecting Prudent Reserve back to the monthly financial report, in the amount of 25% of the Budget.

Announcements:

1. 51st Annual SETA Convention – January 11-13, 2013 at the Houston Hilton North, 12400 Greenspoint Drive, Houston, TX 77060

Meeting Adjourned / Responsibility Statement

INCOMING 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 Committee
Taylor K.

Treatment Facilities
Ken P.

PI/CPC Committee
Kate E.

CFC Committee
Evelyn C.

Intergroup Liaison
Rhonda R.

Grapevine Rep.
Katie C.

Newsletter Editor
Corrie H.

Coffee, Tea, Cocoa
Nancy R.

Archives Chairman
Jessica D.

IT Liaison
Jackie V.

Upcoming Events

- SETA Area Assembly:** April 13-14, 2013, Sheraton North Houston, 15700 JFK Blvd., Houston, TX 77032
- 2013 TX State Convention:** June 7-9, 2013, Marriott Westchase Hotel, 2900 Briarpark, Houston, TX 77041

District 40 Financial Report Period ending 2/12/13	Current Month	Budget*	Year to Date	Current %	YTD %
INCOME					
Traditions Dinner Donations		\$175.00			
Service Workshop Donations					
SETA -Hospitality Suite	\$232.00				
Group Donations	\$1,107.83	\$7,200.00	\$1,107.83	15.4%	15.4%
Houston Young People	\$47.10				
Tuesday Night Step Study	\$5.00				
Spring Shadows Group	\$270.00				
Solutions Group	\$17.50				
Rule 62 Group	\$45.46				
The GOD Meeting Group	\$53.53				
Katy 12&12	\$4.00				
Frist Light Group	\$80.00				
Hackley Group	\$30.00				
Katy Crossroads	\$151.70				
Memorial Going Home Group	\$83.39				
Our Common Journey Group	\$125.00				
Sober in Brookshire Group	\$283.00				
Reflections Group	\$25.80				
Sage Piney Point Group	(\$113.65)				
Alright Already Group	\$20.10				
Total Income	\$1,339.83	\$7,375.00	\$1,107.83	15.0%	15.0%
*** EXPENSES ***					
DCM	\$234.92	\$600.00	\$234.92	47.0%	47.0%
Alt. DCM	\$52.05	\$600.00	\$52.05	10.4%	10.4%
Secretary / Copying		\$50.00	\$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%
PO Box		\$44.00	\$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		\$50.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
Intergroup Liaison		\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
IT Committee		\$0.00	\$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%
***SIA/RAASA (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 Site		\$1,000.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
***SETA Assembly Hst District		\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
*** SETA - 2013 Hospitality Suite ***	\$1,141.79	\$1,000.00	\$1,141.79	0.0%	0.0%
Total Expenses	\$1,428.76	\$7,625.00	\$1,428.76	18.7%	18.7%
*Budget approved 10/09/12					
<i>Beginning Bank Balance</i>	\$5,141.16				
<i>Total Expenses</i>	\$1,428.76				
<i>Total Income</i>	\$1,107.83				
<i>Prudent Reserve (0.25xBudget)</i>	\$1,906.25				
<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>	\$2,913.98				
Ending Balance / Total Funds	\$4,820.23				
<i>Unspent Portion of Budget</i>	\$6,196.24				

Deposit-District 40-SETA		
Check #	Amount	
CA	\$237.00	
177	\$47.10	
1782	\$270.00	
2409	\$17.50	
1021	\$23.22	
1027	\$22.24	
4830	\$53.53	
3125	\$4.00	
5775224	\$80.00	
2003	\$30.00	
3343	\$151.70	
1024	\$83.39	
7018473	\$125.00	
MD	\$25.80	
MD	\$60.00	
MD	\$103.00	
MD	\$120.00	
2918	\$20.10	
	\$1,473.58	

Treasurer's Report - Opening balance \$5,141.16, Closing \$4,820.23. Expenses this month were for the SETA convention which included the hospitality suite and DCM/Alt. DCM room and registration expenses. Total expenses were \$1,428.76. Total income was \$1,339.83. Other issues this month....received a returned check notice for the Sage PP group for \$104.65 + \$9.00 return check fee. I've deducted \$113.65 from our income this month. Also, I received a replacement check from the Alright Already group for \$20.10. We apparently received and accounted for the check in October 2012 but the group's treasurer claims it never cleared her bank. Lastly the Sober in Brookshire Group accumulated a large sum of money totalling \$283.00 therefore was able to make a significant donation this month.

History Corner

Nelson Newcomer: How many principles are there and where can I find them?

Angela Archivist: The fellowship of Alcoholics is made up of three legacies, Recovery (the twelve steps), Unity (the twelve traditions) and Service (the twelve concepts). These thirty-six ideals contain our thirty-six principles. As far as I have found in my research, Alcoholics Anonymous itself does not have any official position on the principles behind these thirty-six ideals. Actually, there are several versions of those little wallet cards relating to the twelve steps, **none of which are published by AA World Services, Inc. or AA Grapevine, Inc.**

Bill gave a talk in Dallas in 1951 in which he talked about the principles behind the steps. In the talk, he told about the time Ebby came to visit him in 1934, telling Bill how he was able to stop drinking:

"You get honest with yourself about your drinking, your problem. You stop this living alone. You make an admission of your defects and share it with another human being, a confession. You go out and make restitution to those you had harmed. And, Bill, I've learned a new way of giving, of helping people just for the sake of helping people, with no thought of recognition or compensation. And, Bill, I know you're a little gun-shy about this God stuff, but I believe in God, God as I understand him. And it helped me and I think it would help you too, to pray to whatever God you believe in to help you go through this thing.

These are the "age-old principles, as old as the hills" (Bill's words) that Ebby transmitted to him in 1934.

In 1946, Bill began sharing a new set of principles, the twelve traditions, writing articles for the Grapevine and traveling around the country speaking to groups. One of the earliest articles contained the following:

"Have we yet acquired sufficient experience to state clear-cut policies on these, our chief concerns? Can we now declare general principles which could grow into vital traditions--traditions sustained in the heart of each AA by his own deep conviction and by the common consent of his fellows? That is the question. Though full answer to all our perplexities may never be found, I'm sure we have come at last to a vantage point whence we can discern the main outlines of a body of tradition; which, God willing, can stand as an effective guard against all the ravages of time and circumstance."

And, finally, our Twelve Concepts for World Service were adopted by the 1962 General Service Conference. These twelve principles are an interpretation of A.A.'s world service structure, detailing the experience and reasoning and serving as a record of our experience and history. The Introduction to the Concepts (2012-2013 edition of *The A.A. Service Manual Combined With Twelve Concepts for World Service*) states the following:

"There will also be seen in these Concepts a number of principles which have already become traditional to our services, but which have never been clearly articulated and reduced to writing."

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

Betsy G.

The following Committees meet at:

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

Literature Committee

Last 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

*Treatment Facilities Committee

Meets quarterly at the Area Assembly at 4:30 pm

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

*Public Information Committee

1st Saturday of every month at 6 pm (Except for Assembly Months)

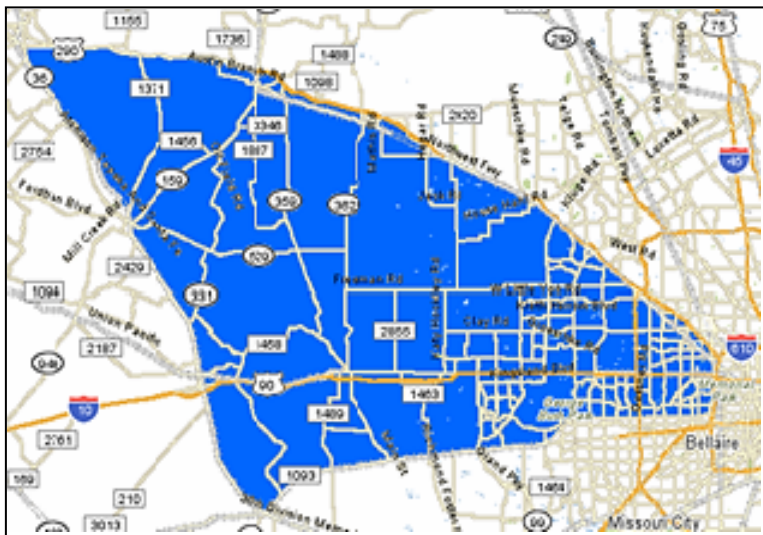
*Archives Committee

Meets quarterly (or as needed)
at the Area Assembly at 4:30 pm
Contact Lee G.

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

MARCH 12, 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.