
DISTRICT 40 NEWS

Volume 26.6

June 2013

District 40 GSR Approved Meeting Minutes Southeast Texas Area Alcoholics Anonymous

May 14, 2013

Call to Order: Serenity Prayer, Preamble and Unity Declaration

Tradition 5/Concept 5 reading and summation by Brad H. & Kate E.

Volunteers for next month....Tradition 6/Concept 6 will be Nancy R. & Kate E.

Introduction of Attendees = (24):

Albert C. (GSR, First Light Group), **Amy M.** (GSR, Fulshear Group), **Ana D.** (Rule 62 Group), **Betsy G.** (*Past D40 DCM & Area 67 Delegate*, Working With Others), **Brad H.** (*Past D40 DCM*, Area 67 Newsletter Chair, Journey Group), **Cheryl B.** (D40 Treasurer, Katy Crossroads Group), **Cindy M.** (Alt. GSR, Katy Big Book), **Corrie H.** (D40 Newsletter Editor, Alt. Area 67 Secretary, GOD Meeting Group), **Chris C.** (GSR, Houston Young People), **Deborah G.** (D40 Alt. Secretary, Alt. GSR, Rule 62 Group), **Evelyn C.** (D40 CFC Rep), **Jackie V.** (D40 IT Rep, GSR, GOD Meeting Group), **Jes K.** (D40 DCM, First Light Group), **Jim O.** (Just for Today), **Justin C.** (GSR, Wild West Group), **Kate E.** (D40 PI/CPC Chair, Memorial Going Home Group), **Kris H.** (*Past D40 DCM*, Area 67 Treasurer, Rule 62 Group), **Michelle H.** (D40 Alt. DCM, Rule 62 Group), **Nancy R.** (D40 Coffee Comm., GSR, Memorial Going Home Group), **Rick Mc.** (GSR, Another Chance), **Sandy K.** (D40 Grapevine Rep, GSR, Tuesday Night Step Study), **Todd W.** (GSR, Journey Group), **Trent P.** (GSR, Wild West Group), **Wendy A.** (D40 Secretary), **Ronald C.** (SETA 67 Chairperson) - ***Welcome**

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

June 2013

Tradition 6/
Concept 6

Nancy R./Kate E.

July 2013

Tradition 7/
Concept 7

Jackie V./Cheryl B.

Tradition Six: An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

Concept Six: The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as General Service Board.

IS IT REALLY SERVICE *WORK*?

Bill W. opens our Service Manual off with a wonderful essay describing the birth of our Third Legacy of Service. In this essay he shares that if we don't carry the message then we wither & those that haven't been given the truth may die. Anything we do to make carrying the message possible is service. All services performed by all levels are utterly vital to our existence & growth; keeping 1 question in mind "Is this service really needed?"

When I was in early sobriety I heard people talking about service work. Do this, do that, what about this, how about that...its service work, it will keep you sober! Fortunately for me I was also getting sober around people that didn't do a lot of talking about service because they were too busy *doing!* Now comes the great debate...is it service work or is it service. One can only define this question for themselves. When I look back over my journey up to this point I can say that what I have experienced is nothing short of a great honor. To sit in a room with fellow servants & watch the 1 question of "Is this service really needed?" be asked, discussed & answered not with the committee members in mind, but the fellowship as a great big whole in mind is an amazing process. There is no better example of getting out of yourself then to think about an entire Group, District, Area, Region, or State! There have been many days that I(my husband) have lugged plastic tubs, coffee pots, literature & overstuffed folders around, drive hours back & forth at ungodly hours of the morning & night to events & meetings & barely get a Thank You God out for my bedtime prayers before I crash. However, I still don't feel as if I am doing service work just to stay sober. I have been gifted a belief based on my experiences that I suit up & show beside my fellow servants, serving that which has saved my life, healed & grown my family, given me beautiful friends. I serve that which I love through God's Grace.

~Michelle H., D40 Alt. DCM

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New GSRs and Alt GSRs!*

Normal Business:

1. **Secretary's Report-** Motion to Approve as Amended – corrections to the March 12th, 2013 Unofficial Meeting Minutes and April 9th, 2013 Unofficial Meeting Minutes.
2. **Treasurer's Report-** the April 2013 Treasurer's report was accepted as amended; current balance \$6,082.12; total income for the period totaled \$1,164.60, total expenses were \$315.13.
 - a. \$196.30 for Alt DCM's airline ticket to Regional Forum will be applied to The Forum budget
3. **News or Concerns from groups (GSRs)** – None.

Committee Reports:

- a) **Archives** – *Not present/No Report.*
- b) **Coffee** – will be obtaining cups from D40 supply at Alt. DCM's home.
- c) **PI/CPC** – The committee met on April 27th and we are pleased that Jennifer C. has agreed to serve as alternate Chair for the balance of the 2 year term. We have been provided a Head of Nursing contact at Memorial Hospital/Memorial City who we will contact regarding a presentation. We also reviewed our mail out history and current literature inventory and agreed to do a mail out to emergency clinics at our May meeting which will be held May 25th from 1-3 at the Spring Branch Club.

The Area CPC committee met on May 6th and had their first GO TO Meeting Internet participation. We also were privileged to receive a report from our delegate on advisory actions taken by the CPC committee at the recent general service conference.

No report on the Area PI as their meeting occurred at the same time our district committee was meeting.

- d) **CFC-** there will be a Corrections Workshop at the upcoming State Convention. Committee also working on putting together the annual September CFC Conference.
- e) **Grapevine-** Unanimous Motion to approve Sandy K. as the new Grapevine Rep.
- f) **Intergroup Liaison – OPEN POSITION.** Lease space more expensive than anticipated so using another area.
- g) **Information Technology –**
Open Positions:
 - Support – Requires knowledge of computer hardware
 - We have a couple of “nibbles”, so Jackie will keep us informed by next D-40 meeting.

New Member(s):

Dori from D-32 is the new CFC IT Committee Chair/Liaison. Jackie recommended that anyone who is part of a Service Committee to urge that Committee to have an IT Committee Chair/Liaison.

Website:

The IT Committee is in the process of improving the SETA website and now has a form posted on the website for members to use when having problems finding something of interest, and also if you notice broken links, erroneous information, outdated information and missing information or links. The form can be filled in online and saved for emailing to the Webmaster. Also feel free to use this form to share your ideas about features, functions and information that will make it more useful to you.

Literature- *Not present/No Report.*

TFC- *Not present/No Report.*

Newsletter – will make changes noted in April minutes regarding 2013 District Servants and Committee Meetings; March and April minutes will be placed in the May Newsletter.

Current Items For Discussion

Motion to post approved Newsletter on District 40 page on SETA website in accordance with guidelines unanimously approved.

District 40 Inventory – locations options presented and majority voted to hold inventory at Spring Branch Memorial Club. Date & time to be determined.

Discussion with District 52 DCM for districts to have joint meeting to hear Special Delegate's Report. Majority voted to hold meeting in late July at Woods Road Recovery Group. Date & time to be determined.

2013 State Convention –

- a. Greeter's Committee – greeters, dressed in blue jeans/red t-shirt/white over shirt & a bandana, will be waiving their Texas flags as they welcome everyone!
- b. District 40 Hospitality Suite - As we prepare for the State Convention on June 7-9, I would like to report what's been going on so that we will have a super place for fellow alcoholics to meet and eat. Michelle H. has received and passed along to me all the needed details about the room rental, persons to contact for needed help at convention and inventory of the District's supplies. She is bringing all these supplies to the District meeting May 14 to hand over to our committee. I've been talking with committee members about specific food items needed to buy. We have a budget of \$1,000.00. Since about \$300.00 will go for the room rental, we will have \$700.00 to spend on food/tips/supplies. I will pass around a sign up sheet for District servants here tonight to have an opportunity to sign up for letting us borrow their large ice chests and/or various food donations.
- c. 27th Annual Tradition Dinner Update – will be a group supported Mexican theme potluck dinner held 5-8 pm. This year's speaker will be Past Delegate, Mike D. Flyers are available to take back to your home groups.

Announcements:

1. **2013 Texas State Convention** – June 7-9, 2013, Marriott Westchase Hotel, 2900 Briarpark, Houston, TX 77041
2. **27th Annual Tradition Dinner** – June 29, 2013, St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, 1656 Blalock Rd., Houston, TX 77080

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 Committee
Kate E.

CFC Chair
Evelyn C.

Intergroup Liaison
Rhonda R.

Grapevine Rep.
Sandy K.

Newsletter Editor
Corrie H.

Coffee Chair
Nancy R.

Archives Chair
Jessica D.

IT Liaison
Jackie V.

Upcoming Events

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

District 40 Financial Report Period ending 06/11/13	Current Month	Budget*	Year to Date	Current %	YTD %
INCOME					
Traditions Dinner Donations		\$175.00			
Service Workshop Donations					
SETA Hospitality Suite					
Group Donations	\$212.12	\$7,200.00	\$2,917.07	2.9%	40.5%
Tuesday Night Step Study	\$ 4.00				
Into Action Group	\$ 26.00				
Memorial Going Home Group	\$ 31.34				
Rule 62 Group	\$ 32.48				
Hilltop Group (final donation)	\$ 10.00				
Saturday Night Live on Gessner (new)	\$ 100.00				
Rosewood Thursday Night	\$ 8.30				
Total Income	\$212.12	\$7,375.00	\$2,917.07	2.9%	39.6%
*** EXPENSES ***					
DCM		\$500.00	\$234.92	0.0%	47.0%
Alt. DCM		\$500.00	\$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%
PO Box		\$70.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
Literature Committee		\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
PI/CPC		\$1,000.00	\$40.00	0.0%	4.0%
Grapevine		\$50.00	\$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	\$300.00	\$600.00	\$378.83	50.0%	63.1%
*** Service Workshop		\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
***SMRAASA (Even Years)		\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
*** The Forum (Odd Years)		\$1,400.00	\$196.30	0.0%	14.0%
*** State Convention Hospitality Ste	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	100.0%	100.0%
***SETA Assenbly Hbst District		\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
*** SETA - 2013 Hospitality Suite ***		\$1,000.00	\$1,141.79	0.0%	114.2%
Total Expenses	\$1,300.00	\$7,851.00	\$3,043.89	16.6%	38.8%
*Budget Amended as of 3/12/13					
<i>Beginning Bank Balance</i>		\$6,082.12			
<i>Total Expenses</i>		\$1,300.00			
<i>Total Income</i>		\$212.12			
<i>Prudent Reserve (0.25xBudget)</i>		\$1,962.75			
<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>		\$3,031.49			
Ending Balance / Total Funds		\$4,994.24			
<i>Unspent Portion of Budget</i>		\$4,807.11			

Deposit-District 40-SETA	
Check#	Amount
CA	\$4.00
1185468120	\$8.30
2578	\$100.00
1047	\$10.00
1033	\$32.48
1039	\$31.34
1036	\$26.00
	\$212.12

Treasurer's Report - May
report period ending 6/11/13. Opening balance \$6,082.12, Closing \$4,994.24. Expenses for the month of May, \$300 for rent fees for Traditions Dinner and \$1,000 for State Convention Hospitality Suite. Total income was \$212.12

History Corner

Nelson Newcomer: I'm fairly new to A.A. I noticed that I keep hearing the same statement read at the beginning of every meeting. What is its origin?

Angela Archivist: What you are probably hearing is something called the "AA Preamble." The preamble was originally introduced in the June 1947 issue of the AA Grapevine magazine. It was written by the then-editor, who was said to paraphrase it from language taken from the Forward to the First Edition of the Big Book. At that time, the AA Grapevine was beginning to circulate among nonalcoholics, and it was primarily intended help them understand what AA is and what it is not.

The version of the Preamble used today differs from the original published version in two ways: 1) it stated that the only requirement for membership is an honest desire to stop drinking," and 2) it contained only the very brief statement "AA has no dues or fees." The word "honest" was dropped as the result of a 1958 GSC Advisory Action. One of the delegates to that conference suggested that it be dropped, since that word did not appear in the Third Tradition. The Conference agreed and approved the change.

At the same time, the phrase "AA has no dues or fees" was clarified to read as it presently does: "There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions." The current version of the Preamble appears on page one of every issue of the Grapevine and is included in the opening formats of many AA meetings.

Many people are unaware that there are several other versions of the AA Preamble, one of which is called the "Texas Preamble." A few months after the Grapevine published the original Preamble, Searcy W. and two others decided to beef it up for the drunks in Texas. "We worked on it, passed it around, and agreed on the additional version," says Searcy W. Many of the early Texas AA groups used the Texas version in place of the AA Grapevine's version.

Texas Preamble

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

We are gathered here because we are faced with the fact that we are powerless over alcohol, and are unable to do anything about it without the help of a Power greater than ourselves.

We feel each person's religious convictions, if any, are his own affair, and the simple purpose of the program of AA is to show what may be done to enlist the aid of a Power greater than ourselves, regardless of what our individual conception of that Power may be.

In order to form a habit of depending upon and referring all we do to that Power, we must first apply ourselves with some diligence, but repetition confirms and strengthens this habit, then faith comes naturally.

We have all come to know that as alcoholics we are suffering from a serious disease for which medicine has no cure. Our condition may be the result of an allergic reaction to alcohol, which makes it impossible for us to drink in moderation. This condition has never, by any treatment with which we are familiar, been permanently cured. The only relief we have to offer is absolute abstinence - a second meaning of AA. There are no dues or fees. The only requirement is an honest desire to stop drinking. Each member is a person with an acknowledged alcoholic problem who has found the key to abstinence from day to day by adhering to the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. The moment he resumes drinking he loses all status as a member of AA. His reinstatement is automatic, however, when he again fulfills the sole requirement for membership - an honest desire to quit drinking.

Not being reformers we offer our experience only to those who want it. AA is not interested in sobering up drunks who are seeking only temporary sobriety. We have a way out on which we can absolutely agree and in which we join in harmonious action. Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our path. Those who do not recover are those who will not or cannot lend themselves to this simple program--usually men and women who are incapable of being honest with themselves. You may like this Program or you may not, but the fact remains that it works... and we believe it is our only chance to recover.

There is a vast amount of fun included in the AA fellowship. Some people may be shocked at our apparent worldliness and levity, but just underneath there is a deadly earnestness and a full realization that we must put first things first. With each of us the first thing is our alcoholic problem. Faith must work twenty-four hours a day in and through us, or we perish.

Please stay tuned for next month's edition. If you have a suggestion for a topic, please contact the Newsletter editor.

Betsy G.

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
JULY 9, 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.

