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# DISTRICT 40 NEWS

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Volume 26.3

March 2013

## District 40 GSR Approved Meeting Minutes Southeast Texas Area Alcoholics Anonymous

February 12, 2013

Call to Order: Serenity Prayer, Preamble and Unity Declaration

Tradition 2/Concept 2 reading and summation by Corrie H. & Kate E.

Volunteers for next month....Tradition 3/Concept 3 will be Brad H. & Cheryl B.

### Introduction of Attendees = (30):

**Betsy G.** (Past D40 DCM & Area 67 Delegate, Southern Pacific Group), **Bob B.** (GSR, Rule 62 Group), **Bob P.** (Alt. GSR, Taking Care of Business Group), **Brad H.** (Past D40 DCM, Area 67 Newsletter Chair, Journey Group), **Cheryl B.** (D40 Treasurer, Katy Crossroads Group), **Christina G.** (Alt. GSR, GOD Meeting Group), **Corrie H.** (D40 Newsletter Editor, Alt. Area 67 Secretary, GOD Meeting Group), **Daniel S.** (Area 67 CPC Chair), **David V.** (GSR, Spring Shadows Group), **Deborah G.** (D40 Alt. Secretary, Alt. GSR, Rule 62 Group), **Evelyn C.** (D40 CFC Rep), **Geoff E.** (GSR, Our Common Journey), **Jackie V.** (D40 IT Rep, GSR, GOD Meeting Group), **Jes K.** (D40 DCM, First Light Group), **Jessica D.** (D40 Archives Rep, First Light Group), **John P.** (GSR, Post Oak Group), **Justin C.** (GSR, Wild West Group), **Kate E.** (D40 PI/CPC Chair, Memorial Going Home Group), **Ken P.** (GSR, Taking Care of Business 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), **Miguel E.** (Alt. GSR, Our Common Journey) **Mike J.** (GSR, Katy Big Book), **Nancy R.** (D40 Coffee Comm., GSR, Memorial Going Home Group), **Rob N.** (Rule 62 Group), **Sarah W.** (GSR, The Broad Highway), **Taylor K.** (D40 Literature Rep, The Broad Highway), **Todd W.** (GSR, Journey

*continued on page 2*

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

<b>March 2013</b> Tradition 3/ Concept 3 Brad H. / Cheryl B.	<b>April 2013</b> Tradition 4/ Concept 4 Albert C./Sandy K.
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**Tradition Three:** Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought AA membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA Group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.

**Concept Three:** To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional "Right of Decision."

### **SERVICE SPARK**

#### **The Tables Aren't Round**

The power of reflection paired up with prayer & meditation have become such a strong spiritual tool in my program. So it is with deep gratitude for my journey in this life of recovery & service that today I can have the ability to laugh at myself for the things I did, thought or felt over the years. Every April I have a great chuckle with myself over my first attempt at attending the April Assembly in my first year as GSR. I was blessed in that my Group's Alt.GSR was also my litter mate & one of my best friends. We did everything together. If she cried I cried, if I had to go somewhere she had to go too. So the Assembly was no exception to this pact we had made with each other. Of course we were late to the Saturday morning session, so there was nowhere to sit except on the stairs. As the day's events unfolded, not only were we completely confused & exhausted, we were counting off for this thing they called the "Round Tables". Apparently round tables were quite a big deal, because everyone seemed a little too excited about them. We were not, we were terrified. Unable to function without the security of physical closeness, we soon realized that because we sat together we had different numbers; this was not a good thing by any means. Now at this point some people might simply do a few different things. Like ask someone to trade, accidentally blend into your best friend's group, or talk to one of "those" people in charge & just lay out the situation hoping for a preferred solution. We were not some people, we ran straight out that door never to darken the doors of the Assembly again that year. Instead we went to lunch & started the tireless effort of justifying what we had done. In all of my glory the only thing I could come up with was..."The Tables Aren't Even Round!"

From that day to this many things have changed! Those people I thought were in charge & a little bit too excited are some of my closest friends, spiritual advisors & running buddies. The feeling of being confused & exhausted has not changed but it no longer terrifies me to the point of running out the door. Today I know that I can simply ask for help & I will receive everything that I need to participate in my recovery successfully. This year I have the privilege of serving again as one of the Round Table leaders. If you are a new GSR or simply new to service there are two things I would like to pass on to you. First, is run to your friend instead of the door. Secondly, the tables still aren't round!

**Michelle H.**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Group), Wendy A. (D40 Secretary, GSR, Southern Pacific Group) -  
\*Welcome New GSRs and Alt GSRs!\*

**Normal Business:**

1. **Secretary's Report**- Motion to Approve as Amended - corrections to the January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Unofficial Meeting Minutes.
2. **Treasurer's Report**- the January 2013 Treasurer's report was accepted as submitted; current balance \$4,820.23; total income for the period totaled \$1,339.83, total expenses were \$1,428.76.
  - a. Motion to Accept SETA Hospitality Suite Report - budget \$1,000 and after expenses and 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition had \$69.95
  - b. The following 2013 Budget items were approved as follows:

Secretary / Copying	\$100.00
P.O. Box	\$70.00
IT Committee	\$100.00
3. **News or Concerns from groups (GSRs)** - Southern Pacific Group's new home is 1350 N. Mason Rd., at New Hope Presbyterian Church in Katy. Flyers available.

**Committee Reports:**

- a) **Archives** - nothing to report as receiving materials tonight.
- b) **COFFEE** - wasn't necessary to purchase needed supplies as leftover from SETA Hospitality Suite.
- c) **PI/CPC** - The Area CPC committee met on February 4<sup>th</sup> and continued to discuss projects for 2013. The committee has been asked to provide information and literature at the Catholic educators Convention April 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>. We will be looking for volunteers. The next area CPC meeting will be March 4<sup>th</sup> at the Council for Alcoholism.

The area PI committee met on January 26<sup>th</sup> at noon at the Delta Club. This will be there new meeting time and place.

Your District PI/CPC committee is excited to announce that the Area PI Committee will attend our February meeting where we will have a practice presentation. The meeting will be held on February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1-3 p.m. at the Spring Branch Memorial Club. Please come and experience one of the ways we inform the public about what AA is and isn't.

- d) **CFC**- New slate of officers at January meeting. Will report on blue can funds next month.
- e) **Grapevine**- *No Report.*
- f) **Intergroup Liaison** - *No Report.*
- g) **Information Technology** - Because there is a big glitch in the current host we are utilizing as it pertains to email list memberships not being confirmed, a subcommittee was formed to research new ISP/Hosts and will be presented at our March meeting.

The Area IT Committee has one very significant opened position for Support. The qualifications include enjoying working with the hardware aspect of computers as compared

to the software applications. Please make your Group aware of this need and if there is anyone who has an interest, please have them contact Mike W. via email: it-chair@aa-seta.org.

Go To Meeting (GTM) training sessions are progressing nicely and the IT Committee is learning new possible glitches at each one, e.g., Windows 8 does not allow the "drawing tool".

- A workshop will most likely take place at SETA April Assembly as it pertains to GTMs.
- An attendee can participate either by using their PC, Lap Top, I-Pad or Android.

Inside Scoop - The IT Committee has one computer that will be given away to either an Area Officer or Area Committee Chair (to be used strictly for SETA business because it will be passed onto the next predecessor) at the next SETA Assembly in April by drawing their name from a "hat".

Because the IT Postmaster has incorporated a section under our SETA website for Minutes, Jackie made two proposals:

1. To have our D-40 Minutes posted on our webpage and
  2. To have our Newsletter posted as well.
- Jess suggested that we table these two ideas until next meeting in March.

**h) Literature**- *No Report.*

**i) TFC**- The assembly of AA is in the process of restructuring. One of our greatest assets is our list of members who volunteer (Bridging the Gap) to be available to help patients establish a foundation for recovery after being released from treatment centers, hospitals, detox centers, halfway houses and other treatment related facilities. It is not intended for us to be sponsors or babysitters, unless one wishes to, but to take the individual to a meeting or two and introduce him/her to people who want to help.

We are currently working on providing presentations to area groups and treatment facilities through (meeting-on-line).

**j) Newsletter** - still open to suggestions. Two new areas - "Service Spark" and "History Corner". Still working on getting a clear copy of the D40 map which appears in the newsletter.

**Current Items For Discussion**

1. District 40 Inventory - further discussion on D40 taking their inventory at this time.
2. 2013 Texas State Convention Hospitality Suite - will need volunteers to provide service similar to SETA Convention just held.
3. 27<sup>th</sup> Annual District 40 Traditions Dinner - occurs weekend after State Convention. Motion to Approve the 2013 dinner be held at St. Christopher's, however if date not available, then return to Chaplewood. In the interim, go back to home groups and inquire about theme and speaker of interest.

**Announcements:**

- k) SETA Area Assembly - April 13-14, 2013, Sheraton North Houston, 15700 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Houston, TX 77032
- l) 2013 Texas State Convention: June 7-9, 2013, Marriott Westchase Hotel, 2900 Briarpark, Houston, TX 77041

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.  
OPEN

Newsletter Editor  
Corrie H.

Coffee Committee  
Nancy R.

Archives Chairman  
Jessica D.

IT Liaison  
Jackie V.

## Upcoming Events

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

District 40 Financial Report Period ending 3/12/13	Current Month	Budget*	Year to Date	Current %	YTD %
<b>***INCOME***</b>					
Traditions Dinner Donations		\$175.00			
Service Workshop Donations					
SEIA-Hospitality Site					
<b>Group Donations</b>	<b>\$211.16</b>	<b>\$7,200.00</b>	<b>\$1,318.99</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>18.3%</b>
Taking Care of Business	\$50.00				
Katy 12&12	\$4.00				
Working with Others	\$83.70				
Southern Pacific Group	\$42.00				
Rosewood Thursday Night Group	\$24.80				
Sisters of Serenity	\$6.36				
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$211.16</b>	<b>\$7,375.00</b>	<b>\$1,318.99</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>17.9%</b>
<b>***EXPENSES***</b>					
DCM		\$500.00	\$234.92	0.0%	47.0%
Alt. DCM		\$500.00	\$82.05	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	\$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		\$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%
***SAR/ASA (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%
***SEIA Assembly Host District		\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%	0.0%
***SEIA-2013 Hospitality Site***		\$1,000.00	\$1,141.79	0.0%	114.2%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$7,801.00</b>	<b>\$1,428.76</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>18.3%</b>
<b>*Budget Amended as of 2/12/13</b>					
<b>Beginning Bank Balance</b>	<b>\$4,820.23</b>				
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>				
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$211.16</b>				
<b>Prudent Reserve (0.25% Budget)</b>	<b>\$1,950.25</b>				
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>\$3,081.14</b>				
<b>Ending Balance/ Total Funds</b>	<b>\$5,031.39</b>				
<b>Unspent Portion of Budget</b>	<b>\$6,372.24</b>				

## Deposit-District 40 SEIA

Check#	Amount
1009	\$50.00
104	\$42.60
3132	\$4.00
1394	\$83.70
9866304483	\$6.36
1173254249	\$24.50
	<b>\$211.16</b>

**Treasurer's Report -** Opening balance \$4,820.23, Closing \$5,031.39. There were no expenses for the month of February. Total income was \$211.16. Made changes to budget totalling \$176 that were approved last month. Added \$50 for the Secretary/copying expenses, \$100 for the IT Chair and an additional \$26 to cover the increased cost for the PO Box.

### History Corner

**Nelson Newcomer:** I heard that the General Service Office can tell our group what to do. Is that true?

**Angela Archivist:** Unfortunately, there are some people in A.A. who mistakenly believe that the General Service Office (GSO) staff are the "A.A. police" and can dictate to the groups how they should conduct their meetings and other group activities. Nothing can be further from the truth.

The GSO Staff have a huge reservoir of shared experience from other groups and from our archives. It is the repository of our history, including Bills writings on the formation of our traditions and steps. Many individuals and groups contact GSO whenever a hotly contested issue concerns the members of the group (usually hoping the GSO staff will back up their side of the issue), and the staff is always available to share information with the group members. There is one MAJOR caveat. GSO staff never tells a group what it can or cannot do. They merely share experience, strength, hope and information. Many times, their correspondence begins with "The shared experience on file in our office" or something similar to that. On this subject, Bill said: ***"With respect to its own affairs, the group may make any decisions, adopt any attitudes that it likes. No overall or Intergroup authority should challenge this primary privilege. We feel this ought to be so, even though the group might sometimes act with complete indifference to our Traditions....The group's 'right to be wrong' would be inviolate."*** Examples of types of decisions a group could make that would not affect other groups or A.A. as a whole might be to decide whether to have open or closed meetings, speaker or discussion meetings, etc.

The groups are free to conduct their business as they see fit, also with one MAJOR caveat which is clearly stated in the long form of the Fourth Tradition: ***"But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount."***

What exactly does the long form of the Fourth Tradition Mean? Basically, it means the group has the right to be wrong in its decisions, unless those decisions are far-reaching, thus affecting AA as a whole. An example of this would be a group that affiliates with an outside entity, such as Al-Anon, CA or other 12 step program, or with any other organization, such as a treatment center, church or club. True, groups meet in such places; however, the groups should be very careful that the group pays rent for the space and that the facility is in no way involved in the formation or daily management of the group. As long as the group remains complete separate from the facility, the group is not breaking with this tradition.

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)

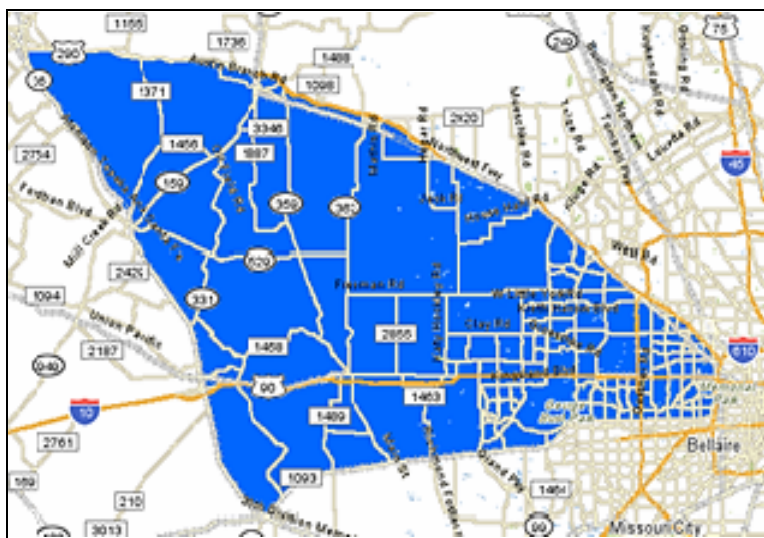
\*Archives Committee

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

APRIL 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](mailto:SETA-40@aa-seta.org) and [intergroup@aahouston.org](mailto: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](mailto:SETA-40@aa-seta.org) and attend the monthly District meeting at the Bear Creek Community Center. HWY 6 at Patterson Rd.