

DISTRICT 40 NEWS

Volume 27.7

July 2014

District 40 GSR Official Meeting Minutes Southeast Area Alcoholics Anonymous

June 10, 2014

Call to Order: Serenity Prayer, Preamble and Unity Declaration

Tradition VI/Concept VI: reading and summation by Ana D. and Kate E.

Volunteers for next month: Tradition VII/Concept VII will be Jeff H. and Marianne O.

Introduction of Attendees: (26)

Ana D. (Rule 62 Group); **Becky M.** (Alt. GSR, Our Common Journey); **Betsy G.** (Past D40 DCM, Past Area 67 Delegate, God Meeting Group); **Cheryl B.** (D40 Treasurer, Katy Crossroads Group); **Chris C.** (GSR, Men's Monday Night Supper Step Study, D40 Archives Rep); **Cindy W.** (Alt. GSR, Katy 12 & 12); **Clarence B.** (GSR, Post Oak Group); **Corrie H.** (D40 Newsletter Editor, Alt. Area 67 Secretary, God Meeting Group); **Deborah G.** (D40 Alt. Secretary, GSR, Rule 62 Group); **Hillary F.** (GSR, Broad Highway Group); **Jackie V.** (D40 IT Rep., GSR, God Meeting Group); **Jeff H.** (GSR, Our Common Journey); **Jes K.** (D40 DCM, First Light Group); **Kate E.** (D40 PI/CPC Chair, Memorial Going Home Group); **Katie C.** (Alt. GSR, Broad Highway Group); **Kelly C.** (GSR; Taking Care of Business); **Marianne O.** (GSR, Katy 12 & 12); **Michelle H.** (D40 Alt. DCM, Rule 62 Group); **Mike J.** (GSR, Katy Big Book Group); **Pam F.** (Katy Big Book); **Peter C.** (D40 Intergroup Liaison, GSR, Journey Group); **Rochelle R.** (GSR, Bear Creek Women's Group); **Rick Mc.** (GSR, Another Chance); **Scott S.** (Alt. GSR, Memorial Going Home Group); **Taylor B.** (GSR, Simply AA Group); **Wendy A.** (D40 Secretary, Katy Crossroads)

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History Corner

Nelson Newcomer: I heard a rumor that A.A. has a President and Vice-President. Please, tell me that's not true!

Angela Archivist: Actually, that is in fact true. But, let me explain.

A.A. is made up of three corporations and the A.A. groups themselves. The corporations have **legal power**, the Conference has **traditional power**.

Your group, and all other A.A. groups which are considered part of the General Service Conference structure, are guided by the "General Service Conference Charter." The Conference Charter is a **spiritual** document which relies upon the force of tradition and the power of the AA purse for its final effectiveness. And, who controls the purse? The groups! The charter also contains some powerful information beginning with the first paragraph, outlining the purpose:

The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous is the guardian of world services and of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Conference shall be a service body only; never a government for Alcoholics Anonymous. (*Emphasis added.*)

There is no President, etc. in the General Service Conference, just the area delegates, trustees, and General Service Office staff members. The Conference does not have any authority to govern in any way what the groups do. The Conference meets once a year to elect new trustees and to approve A.A. literature. The Conference members also review reports from the three corporate boards and have oversight of those entities' activities through the Conference committees. The decisions of the trustees are subject to Conference approval. The Conference can also reorganize the Board if it feels that the trustees have made an error. The balance of power between trustees and Conference makes it workable.

The **legal power** of A.A. lies in the three corporations. The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., is made up of 14 Class B (alcoholic) trustees and 7 Class A (non-alcoholic) trustees. The Trustees have NO salaried financial interest in their posts. Trustees are elected to serve the Board as Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and assistants to those positions. The sole reason for establishing the General Service Board is to comply with the laws of the State of New York. And, The General Service Board has only one purpose – to serve the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. It acts as an agency to maintain services for those seeking recovery through the fellowship.

There are two subsidiary boards, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.) and Alcoholics Anonymous Grapevine, Inc. A.A.W.S. is our publishing entity for literature, such as the Big Book, Twelve & Twelve, pamphlets, etc. Alcoholics Anonymous Grapevine, Inc., publishes our magazine, The Grapevine, and other books, such as *The Language of the Heart*. The boards are made up of trustees, directors, and certain members of the General Service Office staff. Board members are elected to serve the respective boards as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Chairman, plus assistants to those positions. The General Service Office Manager currently serves as President of A.A.W.S., and the Grapevine Editor serves as President of Alcoholics Anonymous Grapevine, Inc.

Each of the board members serving as President, etc., only uses those titles on official documents, and never in connection with the fellowship itself.

So, yes, Nelson Newcomer, A.A. does have a President and Vice-President, but in name only. Betsy G.

Normal Business:

1. **Secretary's Report** – Approved as amended.
2. **Treasurer's Report** – May report period ending 6/10/14. Opening balance was \$6,319.90. Group Contributions received this month totaled \$156.72. Katy BB Group donated \$100 for the hospitality suite for the 2015 SETA Convention in January. The closing balance is \$6,576.62. NOTE: Expenses/Income for the Traditions Dinner will be reported next month. Approved as submitted.
3. **Group News:**
 - a. Cheryl B. followed up on news regarding Katy Crossroads and the Insurance Liability Certificate with the church, the church is wondering if AA as a whole has a certificate; the issue is still pending in regards to the group and the church.
 - b. Marianne O. followed up on news regarding the incident at the Katy 12 & 12; the group has been basing the meetings more on the Traditions and the issue has been "resolved".

Committee Reports:

- a. **Archives** – Chris C. reported the Old business discussed: Committee member resolving issue of housing former Trustee documents in the Area 67 repository. (I do not understand the conflict or obstacles regarding this? It was explained to me but really made no sense). New business discussed: Moved and accepted "work days for fun" kept informal and at any committee members or other volunteers convenience. 2 committee members working with GSO and Larry Jewell's son to create a Houston AA history book. Discussed "Deed of gift"/ Collective development and policy requirements whether necessary or not? Discussed need for website improvement.
- b. **Coffee** – Scott S. (filling in for Nancy R.) reported that all is well! Michelle had some leftovers from the Traditions dinner that were donated to the District's coffee supply stash.
- c. **Public Information/Cooperation with Professional Community – PI/CPC** – Kate E. reported at May meeting we decided to reach out to the Clergy that were invited to our breakfast meeting to try and determine how best to plan an event for them and get participation. When contacting the Clergy we will also inquire as to how to get a PSA in their weekly bulletins. At our meeting in June we will be distributing some of the laminated emergency clinic flyers we have designed along with cards for distribution. We will review responses to this project at our July meeting. Our district committee has responded to a request to be an exhibitor and answer questions about AA at an event being held by the Council on Alcoholism. Two members of the district committee will also be doing a presentation for LCDC's in training next week. Both of these events are outside our district boundaries and I appreciate the committee members' willingness to help. Our next District 40 PI/CPC committee meeting will be held on June 21st 1-3PM at the Spring Branch Memorial Club.
- d. **Correctional Facilities Committee – CFC** – Paul W. absent; No report.
- e. **Grapevine** – OPEN
- f. **Intergroup** – Peter C. reported that Intergroup's Open House & Tax Free Day is Saturday, June 14, 2014 from 10:00-2:00. If groups are placing a large order, it is suggested they utilize online/phone ordering so the office staff can have the order filled and ready for pick up ahead of time.
- g. **Information Technology – IT** – Jackie V. reported Jeff H.

(Webmaster) who will be attending the first National AA IT Workshop in St. Louis, MO. from August 8th through August 10th, is busy compiling information in regard to other area websites. Waco (Support) is in the process of researching various certificates and their cost and most likely will recommend the multi-domain wild/card version. Due to conflict of events at SBMC, the June meeting will be the 3rd Saturday versus the 4th Saturday from 10am to noon. Positions Open: Alt. Chair, Alt. Postmaster, Alt. Support, Alt. Webmaster, Secretary, and Alt. Secretary

- h. **Literature** – Taylor K. was absent; No report.
- i. **Treatment Facilities Committee – TFC**– Trent P. was absent; No report.
- j. **Newsletter** – Corrie H. reported READ IT! Please submit articles! Jes K. recommended submitting an "article" by writing something down that maybe you weren't able to share in a meeting but wanted to.

Current Items:

1. **2014 Gratitude Dinner – Cheryl B. (Co-Host Chair)**
 1. Met at the Delta Club at 10am on May 31, 2014
 2. Flyers - The artwork was finalized and Cheryl B. will provide 500 copies to for the SETA Assembly in July.
 3. Site - Michelle and the Alternate Delegate toured the VFW venue in Spring Branch to finalize details with the site manager.
 4. Food - Confirmed there will be a Tex-Mex taco bar menu because meat prices are at an all-time high due to the drought conditions in farming communities.
 5. Next meeting will be at the Delta club on Saturday, June 28th at noon.
2. **Visitation Committee- Kate E.**
 1. Continuing to pass around the sign-up book and pass out flyers.
 2. Chris C. reported on visiting a group; the group stated that they did have a GSR but have not attended District; He said it was a positive experience and he would go back to that group.
 3. Nancy had attended one group and left information with them.
 4. Kate E. visited the Alright Already Group; the group decided to have a group conscience 2 weeks from Kate's visitation date to elect a GSR.
3. **2014 Traditions Dinner – Michelle H.**
 1. Was a big Success!
 2. Lots of new people stepped up and worked well together.
 3. Members attending doubled from last year; approximately 90 people.
 4. Food was tripled in amount from last year.
 5. Financial Report will be available at next month's district meeting but in a rough estimation, after expenses about \$153 and some change was brought in.
 6. District 40 still has a good reputation with the church!
 7. Jes K. commented that the caterers were happy to work with us and we now have a good standing with them as well!

Announcements:

- **District 40 PI/CPC Committee Meeting:** June 21, 2014, 1:00-3:00 PM, Spring Branch Memorial Club, 1200 Blalock, Ste. 378, Houston, TX 77032
- **District 52/District 40 Joint Meeting for Delegate Report:** Date changed to June 28, 2014, 11:30 AM, Parkway United Methodist Church, 5801 New Territory Blvd., Sugar Land, TX 77479
- **68th Annual Texas State AA Convention:** June 20-22, Hilton Hotel, 815 Main St., Fort Worth, TX, 817-870-2100
- **Area Assembly:** July 12-13, 2014, Sheraton North Houston, 15700

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
OPEN

Literature Chair
Taylor K.

Treatment Facilities Chair
Trent P.

PI/CPC Committee
Kate E.

CFC Chair
Paul W.

Intergroup Liaison
Peter C.

Grapevine Rep.
OPEN

Newsletter Editor
Corrie H.

Coffee Chair
Nancy R.

Archives Chair
Chris C.

IT Liaison
Jackie V.

The Bottom Line

“Now that we are sober in AA, the word ‘support’ has to do with sharing, people, self-respect, gratitude, and what we are privileged to give-not take-in material terms.”

Pg.8 Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix

Before I came to AA my Mother-in-Law hid her jewelry when I came to visit, every time I called my Daddy it somehow ended up costing him hundreds of dollars he did not have & I was a master at forging my husband’s name on credit card applications. I believed that I was entitled to anything & everything that I could get my alcoholic hands on, then came the bottom.

When I came to AA with my big bag of financial devastation in tow there was a huge part of me that believed if only we had more money most of my problems would be instantly better. I was given ten dimes, one quarter & a Big Book. My husband told me that we put a dollar in the basket & pay for our coffee because we are sober & it was the right thing to do. Ten dimes sound very loud dropping in the basket when you are humiliated. It was several weeks later until I progressed to four quarters & then finally it happened...I was given paper money. At first it was one whole dollar & then the unexpected happened after months & months. I was given a five dollar bill & told to make it last all week, finally I had arrived!

There was no way I could have understood what the quote above means or felt like had I not earned the privilege of paying my own way not because it’s what we do & right, but because it was what I wanted to be. I needed to drop ten dimes in the basket until I wasn’t embarrassed anymore. I needed to pay for every single cup of coffee I drank in front of witnesses until I could honor the honor system. I needed to stop watching to see how much other people were putting in the basket to decide how much of my five dollar bill I was going to put in the basket to learn that when I respect others truth I can stand peacefully in mine. I needed to come to the simple truth that sharing, people, self-respect & gratitude cannot be bought only earned through living the spiritual life.

Tradition Seven in my life today has grown into so much more than a basket being passed around. It has taught me that when I remember the immature, hateful, thief I was when I walked into the doors of AA, I remember that I will owe a debt to AA that I can never repay in this lifetime. That for the rest of my life I will give what I can to the basket, coffee kitty, the fellowship, the newcomer, all three legacies & to God. It helps me remember that I can be a taker or a giver.

I spent the July 4th holiday at my Mother-in-Law’s house this year & she didn’t hide her jewelry or purse and that my friends is...the bottom line!

Michelle H.
D40 Alt. DCM

Upcoming Events

1. **District 40 PI/CPC Committee Meeting:**
August 30, 2014, 1:00 p.m., Spring Branch Memorial Club, 1200 Blalock, Ste.378, Houston, TX 77032
2. **District 40 Elections**
Next Month: September 9, 2014, right here, 7:00 p.m.
3. **2014 SWRAASA:**
October 10-12, 2014
Omni Hotel, 960 North Shoreline Drive, Corpus Christi, TX.

The following Committees meet at:

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

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 10:00 am to Noon at:

Spring Branch Memorial Club

1200 Blalock, Suite 378

Houston, TX. 77055 Telephone: 713-468-9103

Literature Committee

Bay Area Club located on Webster Ave., Webster, TX at Noon on the 2nd Saturday of the month

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 2nd Saturday of the month at 10 AM

at 521 N. Sam Houston Pkwy, Ste. 215.

*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

JUNE 10, 2014 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.

