
DISTRICT 40 NEWS

Volume 27.10

October 2014

District 40 GSR Official Meeting Minutes Southeast Area Alcoholics Anonymous

September 9, 2014

Call to Order: Serenity Prayer, Preamble and Unity Declaration

Tradition IX/Concept IX: reading and summation by Pam F. and Ana D.

Volunteers for next month: Tradition X/Concept X will be Gail B. and Kate E.

Introduction of Attendees: (26)

Albert C. (GSR, First Light Group); **Ana D.** (Rule 62 Group); **Betsy G.** (*Past D40 DCM, Past Area 67 Delegate*, God Meeting Group); **Brad H.** (*Past D40 DCM, Area 67 Newsletter Chair*, Journey Group); **Cheryl B.** (D40 Treasurer, Katy Crossroads Group); **Chris C.** (GSR, Men's Monday Night Supper Step Study, D40 Archives Rep); **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); **Gail B.** (GSR, Katy Crossroads Group); **Jackie V.** (D40 IT Rep., GSR, God Meeting Group); **Jon S.** (Katy Big Book); **Kate E.** (D40 PI/CPC Chair, Memorial Going Home Group); **Kris H.** (*Past D40 DCM, Area 67 Treasurer*); **Kyle M.** (Alt. GSR, Rule 62 Group); **Mary Lou R.** (Alt. GSR, Memorial Going Home Group); **Michelle H.** (D40 Alt. DCM, Rule 62 Group); **Mike J.** (GSR, Katy Big Book Group); **Pam F.** (Visitor, Katy Big Book); **Peter C.** (D40 Intergroup Liaison, GSR, Journey Group); **Rochelle R.** (GSR, Bear Creek Women's Group); **Scott S.** (D40 Coffee Committee, GSR, Memorial Going Home Group); **Tom K.** (SETA PI Committee); **Wendy A.** (D40 Secretary, Katy Crossroads)

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Concept Eleven

(The Twelve Concepts for World Service
How Bill W. explained the spiritual principles that undergird
A.A.'s structure and how the parts work together.)

Short Form:

"The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern."

Long Form:

"While the trustees hold final responsibility for A.A.'s world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Therefore, the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs, and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern."

Principles:

"1. The status of executives

No active service can function well unless it has sustained and competent executive direction. This must always head up in one person, supported by such assistants as he needs. That person has to have ample freedom and authority to do his job, and he should not be interfered with so long as his work is done well."

"2. Paid workers, how compensated

Each paid executive, staff member or consultant should be recompensed in reasonable relation to the value of his or her similar services or abilities in the commercial world. . . . Cheap help is apt to feel insecure and inefficient. It is very costly in the long run. This is neither good spirituality nor good business. Assuming service money is available, we should therefore compensate our workers well."

"3. Rotation among paid staff workers

At A.A.'s General Service Office, most staff members' assignments are changed every two years. When engaged, each staff member is expected to possess the general ability to do, or to learn how to do, any job in the place — excepting for office management."

"4. Full "Participation" of paid workers is highly important

We have already discussed the necessity of giving key paid personnel a voting representation on our committees and corporate boards. They should enjoy a status suitable to their responsibility, just as our volunteers do."

Normal Business:

1. **Secretary’s Report** – Approved as submitted.
2. **Treasurer’s Report** – Approved as amended. August report period ending 9/9/14. Opening balance was \$8,256.43. Group Contributions received this month totaled \$1,240.60. The expenses this month totaled \$23.98. The closing balance is \$9,473.05.
3. **Group News:** None.

Committee Reports:

- a. **Archives** – Chris C. was unable to attend committee meeting; No report.
- b. **Coffee** – Scott S. advised need more coffee and cups. Michelle will bring cups.
- c. **Public Information/Cooperation with Professional Community – PI/CPC** – Kate E. reported at our August meeting we discussed our visits to the Emergency Clinics. All the clinics were happy to except the information we offered about Alcoholics Anonymous for them and their clients. As we continue to visit these clinics we will ascertain if the clinic would like to have pamphlets in their waiting room for their clients.

The Area CPC Committee sent out mailings this month to Training Hospitals, the Military and Child Protective Services. Both the Area PI and CPC committees will be meeting at the Assembly next month. Elections will be occurring at the Assembly for new committee chairs.

Our next District 40 PI/CPC committee meeting will be held on September 27th from 1-3PM and for this meeting only it will be at the I-HOP on I-10 between Wilcrest and Kirkwood.

- d. **Correctional Facilities Committee – CFC** – OPEN
- e. **Grapevine** – OPEN; Michelle H. requested old issues be donated to take to prisons; New book just released called *Sober and Out*.
- f. **Intergroup** – Peter C. reported that he was unable to attend the August Delegates meeting. Bookstore will be raising prices of AA literature by 10-25% as of October 1, 2014. This reflects price increases from AAWS.

g. **Information Technology – IT** – Jackie V. reported Positions Open: Alt. Chair, Alt. Postmaster, Alt. Support, Alt. Webmaster, Secretary, and Alt. Secretary. Jeff H./Webmaster attended the first National AA IT Workshop in St. Louis, MO and he reported that there were about 70-80 participants with some visitors from the General Service Office. Because it was so successful, they will have another workshop next year, place and dates TBA. Waco M./Support will back up at least 4 laptops from SETA Officers/Committee Chairs at the next Assembly to be held 10/4-10/5/14. The Committee had a welcomed visitor – Clarence B./GSR Post Oak Group who expressed an interest in joining the committee. Clarence has excellent knowledge of software and hardware and will definitely be an asset to the Committee. Next IT Committee Meeting will be the 3rd Saturday of the month, 9/20/14 at SBMC versus the 4th Saturday due to SBMC having its alcathon occurring the last weekend of the month. The Committee reviewed and made changes to the final leg of the IT Guidelines. So that the Committee can present the

final version at the October Area Assembly with a workshop on Saturday and vote on Sunday, the Committee will review its changes at the next IT Committee meeting on Saturday, 8/23/14.

- h. **Literature** – OPEN.
- i. **Treatment Facilities Committee – TFC** – OPEN.
- j. **Newsletter** – Corrie H. reported that changes needed to be made to newsletter before being submitted to IT website.

Current Items:

1. **2014 Gratitude Dinner – Cheryl B. (Co-Host Chair)**
 1. Would like to make “reimbursement” from District 40 to Wheel House for the flyer copies that were made by its member.
 2. Format and Speakers not yet chosen for dinner.
2. **District 40 Elections – 2015-2016 Term**

Congratulations to our new servants who start their terms in January 2015!

DCM	Michelle H.
Alt. DCM	Corrie H.
Secretary	Ana D.
Alt. Secretary	OPEN
Treasurer	Kyle M.
Alt. Treasurer	OPEN
Archives	Chris C.
Coffee	Scott S.
PI/CPC	Jennifer C.
CFC	Cindy M.
Grapevine	OPEN
Intergroup	Peter C.
IT Rep.	Clarence B.
Literature	OPEN
TFC	Pam F.
Newsletter	Deborah G.

There are still several positions open, all are welcome to attend and serve at the District level!

In addition, individuals volunteered to chair the following 2015 events:

- 2015 SETA Convention Hospitality Suite – **Wendy A.**
- 2015 SETA Gratitude Dinner – **Cheryl B.**

Announcements:

- **SETA Correctional Facilities Conference:** September 12-14, 2014, Crowne Plaza Suites Hotel, 9090 Southwest FWY, Houston, TX 77074
- **District 40 PI/CPC Committee Meeting:** September 27, 2014, 1:00-3:00 PM, I-HOP, 11225 Katy Frontage Rd., Houston TX 77079
- **SETA Assembly, Area elections for 2015-2016:** October 4-5, 2014; Sheraton North Houston, 15700 John F. Kennedy Blvd, Houston, TX 77032
- **2014 SWRAASA:** October 10-12, 2014, Omni Hotel, 960 North Shoreline Drive, Corpus Christi, TX
- **SETA Gratitude Dinner:** November 16, 2014, 2:00-6:00pm, VFW Hall, 1560 Foley, Houston, TX 77055

**2014 SWAARSA “I Am Responsible!”
How We Felt...**

It wasn't until almost five years into my sobriety that I was introduced to Service at the District and Area levels. I attended my first Regional Forum with friends in the program; merely as a tag-a-long. Little did I know that a short video on the history of AA and the understanding of the structure and its purpose would have me hooked!

Now five years later, I had the honor of attending my first SWAARSA as a GRATEFUL trusted servant for District 40. I want to thank each of you for allowing me to be one of the representatives of our district and entrusting me to bring the tools back to use during my term and hopefully for many more in the future. Southwest Texas Area 68 were great hosts and made the experience and educational an enjoyable one.

The program consisted of several presentations to choose from throughout the day. Keeping in mind my upcoming position; I chose carefully in order to broaden my knowledge of the responsibilities of Alternate DCM. I attended presentations on AA History, DCM, Involving the Alternate, Area Chair, Workshops, and Traditions to get a feel for others Service Experience as a whole. The leaders did an excellent job of sharing their experience in each position and always left time for questions and other participants to share at the end of the hour.

In the evenings, we heard from our Regional Trustees (Current and Past), Delegates and Alternate Delegates. They answered questions, shared memories and gratitude, presented the concepts and represented our Area and Region very well. As I was taught to do in the rooms of AA; listening to the similarities in experience and other's path forward helped me to feel at home and excited at my journey ahead. Much like any other service positions I have served in, this will be a learning process.

I am grateful to have so many teachers to guide me and to have the opportunity to serve Alcoholics Anonymous in gratitude for saving my life and in hopes of protecting the traditions for the still suffering alcoholics who will walk through the very same doors one day.

Corrie H.
Incoming Alternate DCM – District 40

The Path We Took...

This years' SWAARSA experience taught me that no two experiences are exactly the same – and for me, that's a good thing and it's exactly what I need. After checking into the hotel room, my wife and I rushed down to try to make the opening meeting and hear the delegates' experience. Fortunately for the Friday night session I was in the moment as I listened to all the presentations.

The next morning, we woke up early to attend our first workshop and support our past DCM. He did well and my experience was still familiar to the previous SWAARSA experiences I had before this year.

The Path We Took... (cont'd)

After the workshop, we discussed the plan for the day. As I attended the workshops, my experience was different than before. The seating wasn't the same way, the lights and arrangements were different. (Sound familiar?) Although it was arranged and presented differently, I still came away from every session with new knowledge to share about service and SWAARSA. So I surrendered to the now and pulled away these experiences from this year.

Through the Advancing Technologies and Website workshops, I learned that there is a National AA Technology Workshop that met for the first time this past year. Many of the Areas had similar experiences in embracing the growing technology in society and integrating that with AA and the service structure. Protecting anonymity through more technical online communication is one of the common grounds our areas face.

Rotating in next year as an Alternate position, I attended “Involving the Alternate” workshop with my group and was able to hear experiences about every alternate position from Alternate GSR down to Alternate Delegate. The importance of the support in alternate positions was shared through many peoples experience – as was the preparation and experience the Alternate position gave servants for other service positions.

I attended the “Traditions 9 and 10” workshop and listened to the experiences of a couple that has influenced my sobriety and service from the first assembly I attended. Paul M. was the Area Delegate at my first assembly and I remember the uplifting spirit and professionalism he brought up at the podium which made me comfortable in the overwhelming setting of an Area Assembly. Zasu M. taught me about the importance of the minority opinion and encouraged me to stand before the assembly and represent my group or my district. The workshop for the Traditions was very interactive and they represented our area well.

The last workshop I attended was for the “Registrar” position. As incoming Alternate Registrar for the Area, I listened to see how I could be supportive to the Area Registrar. I also heard someone share their experience as a District Registrar, which I thought is a helpful District position.

We finished the day hearing the experiences and presentations from all the Regional Trustees. I was reminded of a few things. One, as the program of AA changes, I have an opportunity to attend conferences such as SWAARSA, in order to learn about and embrace new changes and universal challenges in the AA service structure. Two, I am fortunate and blessed to stay sober and have an opportunity to have attended enough conferences to have a comparison to learn from.

Brad H.
Incoming Alternate Registrar – Area 67

**What We Took Away...
(Workshops Attended)**

Treasurer-

-Importance of communication through all avenues (email, phone, reports, mail)
-Make yourself approachable to all members, the questions can lead to more effective reporting & service

AA History 1939-1950-

There is a lot of work that goes into this service weekend & all of the other workshops I attended were picked specifically to help me become a more effective DCM for our District. I attended this workshop strictly for personal reasons, I enjoy hearing our history & will do my best to pass on the encouragement & excitement of learning more to fellow members.

Area Chair-

Excellent list of resources to utilize
Don't forget who's in charge, God. Make sure that He gets a chance to share & everyone has a chance to hear. Tradition 2. Flexibility
Good ideas can come from unlikely source. Open mind. Concept 9. Be flexible
Principles before personalities. As chairperson you have the opportunity to put the 36 principles on display. Tradition 12

Keep opinions to self as chairperson you can have an influence & that is not the chairperson's job. Stay out of fellow servants resentments, it will affect your ability & effectiveness to serve.

Involving the Alternate-

Alternates are not just there to bail you out, they are not only someone to call on for help. Responsibility to pass on experience & knowledge, learn together, serve together & grow together, an excellent opportunity to lead the district by example through teamwork. Encourage, support, and set up for success

Workshops-

-6 websites were provided for a wealth of information from formats to topics
-Topic: be topical & timely
-Getting the Word Out: invite, invite, invite
-Format: panel, sharing session
-Unity: bi-lingual, tri-lingual & beyond
-Fun: we are not a glum lot

DCM-

A lot is lost when past DCMs stop coming, send them invitations to come participate
-Keep finger on the pulse of district & committee events to look at whether or not the traditions are being honored

Create district field trips to visit dark groups-fellowship while serving with enthusiastic attitudes

Ask, Ask, Ask

Have a district archives “show & tell”. Hook them with history
Approach groups with “I/We need your help” instead of talking down or shaming
Bigger is not better. Do we really need more people, or do we really need more participation? Is there a good cross section of district represented?

It is my responsibility to make that one person feel welcome, safe, encouraged, supported to suit up & show up

What I took from the presentations throughout the weekend were reported on a more personal level in last month's newsletter article.

Michelle H.; Incoming DCM – District 40

District 40 Financial Report Period Ending 10/14/14	Current Month	Budget*	Year to Date	Current %	YTD %
INCOME					
Traditions Dinner Donations		\$140.00	\$253.00		
Service Workshop Donations					
State Conv - Hospitality Suite					
SETA -Hospitality Suite			\$100.00		
Fellowship Fest (Ice Cream Social)					
Group Donations	\$108.70	\$7,095.00	\$353.00		5.0%
Taking Care of Business Group	\$50.00				
Tuesday Night Step Study Group	\$22.20				
Rosewood Thursday Night Group	\$11.50				
Post Oak Group	\$25.00				
Total Income	\$108.70	\$7,235.00	\$6,656.67	1.5%	92.0%
*** EXPENSES ***					
DCM		\$500.00	\$296.70	0.0%	59.3%
Alt. DCM	\$91.00	\$500.00	\$192.23	18.2%	38.4%
Secretary / Copying		\$100.00	\$19.65	0.0%	19.7%
Treasurer		\$75.00		0.0%	0.0%
Newsletter		\$221.00		0.0%	0.0%
Rent/Coffee Donation		\$180.00		0.0%	0.0%
Coffee		\$25.00		0.0%	0.0%
PO Box		\$70.00		0.0%	0.0%
Literature Committee		\$100.00		0.0%	0.0%
PI/CPC	\$148.90	\$2,380.00	\$391.73	6.3%	16.5%
Grapevine		\$80.00		0.0%	0.0%
CFC		\$250.00		0.0%	0.0%
TFC		\$0.00		0.0%	0.0%
Archives Committee		\$100.00	\$61.64	0.0%	61.6%
Intergroup Liaison		\$0.00		0.0%	0.0%
IT Committee		\$100.00		0.0%	0.0%
Miscellaneous		\$100.00		0.0%	0.0%
***Gratitude Dinner	\$260.00	\$300.00	\$300.59	86.7%	100.2%
*** Fellowship Fest		\$250.00		0.0%	0.0%
*** Traditions Dinner		\$800.00	\$899.31	0.0%	112.4%
*** Service Workshop		\$250.00	\$164.98	0.0%	66.0%
***SWRAASA (Even Years)	\$1,482.16	\$1,500.00	\$1,482.16	98.8%	98.8%
*** The Forum (Odd Years)					
*** State Convention Hospitality Ste					
***SETA Assembly Host District					
*** SETA - 2014 Hospitality Suite ***					
Total Expenses	\$1,982.06	\$7,881.00	\$3,808.99	25.1%	48.3%
*Budget Approved as of 10/8/13					
<i>Beginning Bank Balance</i>	\$9,434.69				
<i>Total Expenses</i>	\$1,982.06				
<i>Total Income</i>	\$108.70				
<i>Prudent Reserve (0.25xBudget)</i>	\$1,970.25				
<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>	\$5,591.08				
Ending Balance / Total Funds	\$7,561.33				
<i>Unspent Portion of Budget</i>	\$4,072.01				

Deposit 10/14/2014	
Check #	Amount
1020	\$50.00
1106	\$22.20
29725884	\$11.50
13315	\$25.00
	<hr/>
	\$108.70

Treasurer's Report -
September report period ending 10/14/14. Opening balance was \$9,434.69. Group Contributions received this month totaled \$108.70. The expenses this month totaled \$1,982.06 for flyers for Gratitude dinner, SWRAASA travel costs and PI/CPC. The closing balance is \$7,561.33.

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

OPEN

Treatment Facilities Chair

OPEN

PI/CPC Committee

Kate E.

CFC Chair

OPEN

Intergroup Liaison

Peter C.

Grapevine Rep.

OPEN

Newsletter Editor

Corrie H.

Coffee Chair

Scott S.

Archives Chair

Chris C.

IT Liaison

Jackie V.

History Corner

Nelson Newcomer: As I participated in last month's Area elections, I realized that we were electing people to serve as **committee** chairs and the recommendations for who should serve as the chairs (with the exception of the Finance Committee) came directly from the committees themselves. What is the purpose of these committees?

Angela Archivist: -- Starting at the bottom of the service structure, our General Service Board (GSB) employs the service committee structure. Virtually every piece of business that is addressed by the GSB is based on work performed by one or more service committees, both regular (permanent) and ad hoc (temporary) committees. Each member of the GSB serves on up to 4 service committees at one time. These committees, depending on their individual duties and assignments, handle oversight and policy formation through many telephone conferences and face-to-face meetings, either in person, or through the internet. These duties include such things as correspondence with the fellowship, drafting and reviewing new literature and revision of existing literature apropos to each committee, and communicating with the related General Service Office staff person and other personnel. Each committee chairperson reports back to the GSB on the committee's actions and approval, when appropriate.

One of the committees, for example, the Trustees' Nominating Committee, works behind the scenes to interview candidates from both within the fellowship (Class B Trustees, directors and appointed committee members) and outside the fellowship (Class A Trustees and, occasionally, appointed committee members) The committee also selects and interviews candidates who have submitted their resumes for the position of General Service Office Manager. In each case, the Committee narrows the field of candidates down to between 2 and 4 candidates, who are then interviewed by the full GSB.

Each permanent committee is supported by a corresponding paid staff member serving on a General Service Office desk. That person, and the supporting staff personnel who are assigned to that staff member, handle the day-to-day operations. The staff members are so valuable to the operation of our service structure that they are also a part of the annual General Service Conference, including a voice and vote. In all cases, the staff members provide a valuable service to our fellowship as a whole. Another function of the staff members is to go out into the fellowship and participate in Regional Forums, Special Forums, and speaking at Area and State Conventions. Each year, at our SETA Convention, a Trustee, director, or staff member from the General Service Office is invited to speak. These events are one of the best ways that our AA members can meet and interact with our trusted servants and special workers.

Within our Area, we have thirteen permanent service committees. Ad hoc committees are also appointed as well, when approved by the Area Assembly, to review and make recommendations to the Area Committee and Assembly. Recently, we had an active ad hoc committee which reviewed and revised our Area Job Descriptions which were presented to the Area Assembly and approved. Beginning immediately after the 2014 April Assembly, our trusted servants began operating under the new guidelines. A similar committee will again be appointed in 2016 to update the recently revised job descriptions, as needed.

There are **many** opportunities for service within our fellowship, but, unfortunately, not nearly enough volunteers to do the work. One of my former sponsors strongly emphasized the importance of serving on a committee every year. I have done so continuously since I got sober, and will continue to do so as long as I am needed. It is my pleasure to do so, and I appreciate that serving has greatly enhanced the quality of my sobriety. You only need to try it to fully understand the benefits of service. Please consider serving in the next year. ***The fellowship needs you!***

Betsy G.

Upcoming Events

1. **Intergroup Delegate's Meeting:** October 16, 2014, 8:00pm
2. **District 40 PI/CPC Committee Meeting:** No November meeting, next meeting December 20, 2014, 1:00-3:00 pm, SBMC
3. **Intergroup 11th Step Workshop:** November 8, 2014, 9:30am-2:30pm
4. **SETA Gratitude Dinner:** November 16, 2014, 2:00 to 6:00p.m., VFW Hall, 1560 Foley, Houston TX 77055

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 Committees meet 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
NOVEMBER 11, 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.

