

District 82 Committee Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2012

CALL TO ORDER – Kim R.

Meeting was called to order around 3 pm by Kim R. Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer, reading of the District 82 Preamble. The Twelve Traditions were read by Dennis G. including the long form of Tradition Nine.

INTRODUCTIONS, GUESTS, AND ATTENDANCE – Kim R.

The attendance sheet was passed around and there were four guests as noted on the attendance sheet.
Guest Speaker - Deborah D.

- Presentation on 2012 General Service Conference by Area 67 Delegate
- Literature hand outs provided to members
- Slide show of 62nd annual conference in New York, details provided in handout “Anonymity: Our Spiritual **Responsibility** in the Digital Age”
- Kim R. has e-mail with additional information

MINUTES – Jeff H.

Motion made to accept minutes by Kim R. – motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Tandy B.

Provided as a separate document.

Motion to accept Treasurer’s Report by David A. and seconded by Dennis - carried.

Send group contributions to:

District 82 Treasurer
520 Acker St
Clute, TX 77531

GROUP ISSUES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kim addressed fund raising functions by groups.

Cheri K. announced Taylor Street Group anniversary 10/21/12, 1-5 pm, location to be provided.

The location for the SETA Quarterly Assembly is the Sheraton North Houston at George Bush Intercontinental, 15700 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Houston, TX 77032. Phone: (281) 442-5100. For more information, go to www.aa-seta.org.

District 82 Committee Minutes of Meeting, September 9, 2012

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archives Chair – Sherry B.

The archives committee has just about one year left on our lease. We are looking to either renew our lease or possibly move to another location. We would like for the fellowship to help us in our search for a cheaper but secure and accessible location.

Yesterday, we held our monthly meeting in the repository. Right now we have started to scan our most important records which are the early Assembly business minutes. Also, we are working on completing the inventory.

Everyone in the fellowship is welcome to attend our meetings. Normally we meet the 2nd Saturday of each month at 521 N. Sam Houston Parkway east Suite 215 from 10 am to 5 pm. However, in October, we will meet at the assembly on Saturday at 4:30 pm. Hope to see some of you there.

CFC Chair – Sharon W.

During the month of August, I received an official CFC workbook in the mail. Also spoke with a couple of people in association with the mental health area Brazoria County Jail. Also spoke with other CFC members from other areas, while attending an A.A. conference in Houston past weekend. Through these resources, I am educating myself on all the separate and adjoining entities of CFC work.

So far, it appears that I will need the approval from Sheriff Wagner in order to bring a meeting into the Brazoria County Jail. It has been suggested that I should be persistent and not give up....like my recovery!! I am formulating a presentation to approach him with. My newly appointed CFC representative will be assisting me in formulating a presentation with which to approach the Sheriff with, however, if we are not able to go into this facility, we are interested in assisting other local Area CFC's with attending the Plane State TDCJ women's facility once a month. I am also investigating the option of being able to help at the women's TDCJ facility in Texas City.

Also, I need the District 82 Treasurer to assist me paying for my room at the upcoming CFC conference in Houston next weekend (see New Business).

PI Chair - David A.

Provided as a separate document.

IT Liaison - Jeff H.

Recovered the SETA website. We reloaded a backup copy of the web site files dated June 16th, 2012, to another server. Updates to web site since June 16th (small number) may be missing.

We are working through re-establishing e-mail account access on a new "1&1 Email" provider. The IT chair is trying to gain access to the old Webmail files – we will provide updates as they become available.

Contact SETA Postmaster for resetting email account passwords.

TFC Chair - Laurie B.

Rick M. spoke on behalf of Laurie B. – still working through existing issues

DCM Report – Kim R.

Visited the Needville group.

DISTRICT POSITION ELECTIONS

- DCM: Rick M.
- DCM (Alt): open
- Treasurer: Dennis G.
- Secretary: Jeff H.
- Archives: standing position - Sherry B
- CPC: Kim R.
- CFC: Sharon W.
- Grapevine: open
- Intergroup: David A.
- Literature: open
- Multi Lingual: open
- PI: open
- TFC: open
- IT: Jeff H.

OLD BUSINESS

District 82 Event Calendar – Tandy B.

Provided as a separate document.

District Inventory – Kim R.

See Attachment 1, Final Results of 2012 SETA Area Inventory

Hosting for 2012 SETA Election Assembly October 6-7th – Tandy B.

Contact Rick M. for further information.

District 82 Committee Minutes of Meeting, September 9, 2012

The following volunteers/assignments are in place for the Assembly:

Hospitality Suite: Alvin Group

Literature Table: Plantation Group

Registration: Beginners Group

New GSR Workshop: Presenter – Tandy B./Recorder – Jackie M.

Advance GSR Workshop: Presenter – Charles R./Heather B.

Open Saturday Assembly: Available/DCM?

Sunday Morning Tradition and Concept: Available

AA Meeting Sunday Morning: Available

The District will have two hotel rooms which can sleep up to four people each. One of these will be for females and the other for males. These will be available for workers to use with priority given to those working in the hospitality suite.

Unity Day 2012

See Attachment 2, Unity Day Final Report

Unity Day Lessons Learned (+/-)

- + Time was good – afternoon setting
- + Alanon involved/participation
- + Jackie speaker attracted additional attendance
- + Paul did a good job
- Alanon expressed desire to be involved earlier in planning
- Meat was close, barely had enough. Need to budget for more next time
- Public Address system difficult to here – utilize stage/rearrange mic/speaker configuration

Budget Committee – Kim R.

Everyone on the committee should start thinking about next year's budget. Committee members need to be ready to go by October.

District 82 Workshop in March, 2013– Kim R.

Planned workshop on March 9, 2013, 10 am – 2 pm at the Alvin Group facility (PENDING approval/confirmation by Alvin, best time may be 3-7 pm, Group Sharon W. to follow up). Workshop theme not yet determined.

District 82 Committee Minutes of Meeting, September 9, 2012

Additional thought from Tandy B. – we may want to invite Area CPC for presentation at future district meeting.

SETA Gratitude Diner – Kim R.

November 18th at Jimmy Burke Activity Center, Deerpark. Still need a few more sides for Mexican theme food. District 82 has lettuce and tomatoes but still need someone to provide grilled onion/pepper (60 lb total) – Kim to verify amount requested.

NEW BUSINESS

CFC Workshop

Sharon W. to attend – additional expense incurred- approval motioned and accepted.

Budget Submission

All bring their budget requests to October district 82 meeting - Secretary, DCMs, Committees, ...etc.

Area Assembly Voting in July

There was discussion on how District 82 feels about the motion the Alt. Delegate proposed.

Area Budget - was sent out with the district email list

Archives Repository – need approval for a place for doing archival work and storage

Next District Meeting Host - 10/14/12

Live to Ride group – pot luck participation is welcome but not required

Areas for Improvement

No report

5:30 pm - Motion to adjourn by Rick M. was second and carried. Meeting closed in the usual manner.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff H.

District 82 Secretary

Distribution:

- District 82 Email List
- Area Committee Chair

Attachment 1

FINAL RESULTS OF 2012 SETA AREA INVENTORY

1. **Should we have a service manual study workshop once a year? (Tradition 1, Concept 1)**
Yes, we would like to see a service manual study workshop; however, we do not believe that once a year is sufficient.
2. **Who has the authority to make changes in their committee times, what they do, etc.? (Traditions 4&9, Concept 3)**
It is the sole responsibility of the group conscience of the standing committee.
3. **How can we simplify the flow chart related to motions? (Tradition 9, Concepts 1&3)?**
ADVISORY ACTION: It is recommended that the Ad Hoc Committee formed to address the Area inventory prepare or have prepared some sort of visual representation at each Area Assembly of the flow chart related to motions.
4. **Is enough being done to encourage GSR's and new timers to have a service sponsor and stay informed? (Tradition 7, Concept 4)**
After careful consideration and discussion, Table 2 respectfully submits the following advisory action that is coming from the group with substantial unanimity.
ADVISORY ACTION: We recommend that the Area add a service sponsor workshop to the quarterly Area Assembly to be held at the same time as the New and Advanced GSR workshops, both in English and Spanish.
ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION;
A. Provide a list of Area members willing to be a service sponsor. Make the list available to workshop participants.
B. Consider to ask for a show of hands of Area members willing to become service sponsors.
5. **Do we understand our process for elections, e.g., rd legacy procedure (sub questions)? (Traditions 7&9, Concept 9)?**
Table 2 believes the Area election workshops provide a good understanding of the 3rd legacy procedures; however, after careful consideration and discussion, Table 2 respectfully submits the following Advisory Action that is coming from the group with substantial unanimity.
ADVISORY ACTION: We recommend that an ad hoc committee be established to review the nominating and voting procedures with the goal of simplifying and expediting the handling of a healthy and spiritual election process.
6. **How do the new attendees become informed of policies and procedures? Committee instruction? (Traditions 7&9, Concept 9)**
After careful consideration and discussion, Table 2 respectfully states they are taking no action on question 6. The reason is, the group believes the Area does a good job of distributing and making the Policies and Procedures manual available.
7. **Are all items on the Area Assembly agenda of value or are we just continuing to do the same thing? (Traditions 1&4, Concept 9)**
This group decided the agenda is useful but can be confusing, especially for "newbies". Points made concerning this were:
A. The Area Assembly exists to enable groups to carry the message.
B. The GSR can be considered "The Keeper of the Traditions",

District 82 Committee Minutes of Meeting, September 9, 2012

- C. New GSR's find it difficult to follow the agenda, to know what to do or where to go. It's hard to understand the purpose of actions taken, and perhaps a guide could be created to go with the agenda to explain the purpose of actions or committees and also a list defining terminology used.
- D. Getting a service sponsor was highly suggested along with utilizing the SETA website.

8. Do the committees support the purpose of the assembly? (Tradition 1, Concept 1)

This group's answer was yes, the committees do support the purpose of the assembly, but the special purpose of each committee is not always clear enough. Suggestions were posed such as:

- A. When a committee forms, be willing to ask is this service really needed? What are the long-term goals?
- B. We need to trust our elected-servants to make prudent decisions. We have a tendency to make judgments and micro-manage.
- C. The area and district leadership are responsible for informing GSR's of their responsibilities. Make it clear that people can also attend other district or committee meetings, ask questions until an answer is found, utilize the websites, attend workshops and assemblies and work with a service sponsor. Encourage reading literature.
- D. Make it known that the archives are available to keep records of our experience, strength and hope so that one can research and find what has and has not worked, thereby, carrying on without making mistakes.

9. How can we better serve GSR's at Assembly? (Tradition 1, Concept 9)

- A. Make sure GSR sessions are beneficial to everyone. Try not to focus on just one or two items. Create an atmosphere for sharing rather than giving a lecture. It could help to have more in number experienced persons available to participate in the sharing sessions.
- B. Once again, utilize service sponsors. Perhaps districts could develop a list of folks willing to serve as service sponsors at meetings.
- C. Encourage GSR's to share their ideas with delegates and/or assembly leaders.
- D. Perhaps add Concept workshops and/or Service Manual workshops.

10. How do we teach new members about service committees and how they can participate? (Tradition 1, Concept 9)

Discussion started with the question on how the Spanish 'GSR's are taught about the goings on in the Area Assembly. In short, all Alternate GSR's are encouraged to attend with their GSR. Positive discussion about the new GSR folders that were passed out today. Question about whether this will continue or is only temporary. Talk about power point presentation on GSR position at workshops. Some discussion about different ways of making the new members more comfortable and informed. Make some assurance that everyone has the same information. The group came up with three suggestions:

- A. GSR folders to be made available at all assemblies.
- B. Job descriptions of service committees in the GSR folders.
- C. AA Group pamphlet as part of the folder contributed by the Literature Committee.

*Additional consideration to be made to Assembly.

11. How do we add training opportunities to the morning (or other section) of the agenda? (Tradition 1, Concept 1, 3, 4)

Discussion of highlighting one or two committee members at every Assembly to learn about their position to the area. Talk about that any group can invite committee members their group about their position. Discussion about the committee members taking a more proactive role in educating those in the area.

District 82 Committee Minutes of Meeting, September 9, 2012

12. **What do we want the long-term future of the Archives repository to be?
How do we fund it? (Traditions 1&7, Concepts 1&2)**
Group agreed to having repository — kind of sort of?
*Further discussion/No action.
13. **If we eliminated committee budgets, except for our delegate would the work still get done?
(Tradition 7, Concept 1)**
Some work would still get done. Budget is necessary to get all work done.
Take no action.
14. **Has a mechanism been implemented to prevent delays in filing future tax returns?
(Tradition 7&8, Concept 9)**
We do not believe any action has been taken. All procedures are the same. There was an incident due to human error. We feel that action should be taken to help prevent future problems.
Minority concerns that action could undermine the trusted servant policy.
15. **Do contributions/donations supporting committees undermine or interfere with SETA's finances? (Tradition 7, Concept 8)**
We do not feel it interferes and recommend take no action.
16. **What is the Finance Committee's oversight role when reviewing new Area expenses?
(Tradition 7, Concept 8)**
A. Make recommendation for an Area workshop on the Finance Committee's role, including the budget process.
B. Require the Finance Committee to submit a committee report to the Assembly every quarter.
17. **Can Area committees accept contributions from groups or individual SETA members?
(Tradition 7, Concept 8)**
Voted 15 — 5, no action.
18. **How can we bring more unity into our area and restore trust? (Tradition 1, Concept 1&2)?**
Obtain more unity and trust by expanding communications/workshops/inventories — keeping principles before personalities and keeping to the Traditions.
19. **How can we assure each standing committee has an old-timer and expert support to help new timers? (Tradition 1, Concept 9)**
Additional Consideration: The Job Description document that was recently revised by an Ad Hoc committee should be revisited to redefine and strengthen the qualifications for each of the Chairs of the standing committees.

Additional Consideration: Have each standing committee create and post guidelines for their particular work separate from job descriptions.

Recommendation: Create an Advisory Committee made up of past chairs of standing committees to help with questions and provide continuity of service.

Recommendation: Have an annual Leadership Workshop held at one of the SETA Assemblies.
20. **Are we fostering inclusiveness of Hispanic and English members in districts with overlap?
(Traditions 1&3, Concept 1)**

District 82 Committee Minutes of Meeting, September 9, 2012

Additional Consideration We are not fostering inclusiveness however, we should be and we would consider this entire issue to be worth additional consideration.

21. **How well are we practicing principles vs. personalities? (Tradition 1, Concept 1)**

In general, group 2 felt like we are doing ok in this area, but can certainly improve. Among the many ideas that the group liked were the following, although votes were not taken on these issues:

1. Consistent adherence to the SETA Rules of Procedure helps. Be educated about how SETA works so we understand.
2. We can keep principles before personalities by articulating the principle, tradition or concept underlying each action under consideration.
3. If we listen to gossip, we are gossiping. One participant had been told before her first assembly to "watch out for" certain people.
4. Develop a brief statement of the principles (a cheat sheet) for the chair to use when passions run high. Examples:
 - A. Our common welfare comes first.
 - B. We have one ultimate authority - a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience.
 - C. We need to listen to those with experience, even when we do not like them personally.
 - D. We have to watch out for pride which means not repeating a point made just because they didn't say it the way you would have.
 - E. To have an informed group conscience we need to listen to everyone.
 - F. The principle of humility requires that we listen to others, one moment at a time.
 - G. Open mindedness is a principle to remember.
 - H. We are all human and make mistakes.
 - I. As alcoholics, we need to focus on the positive and not just the negative.
 - J. Are you listening to the principles, or the personalities?
 - K. Passion at the mic reflects devotion, not divisiveness.
 - L. Trusting in a higher power means trusting our process.
 - M. What would God have us do?
 - N. Is leaving early the best for our process?
5. Room set - up should be considered. When there is a line at the m/c, there is not enough room for people to move. One attendee was accused of pushing when she turned around and ran into someone.
6. Personalities are dwarfed by principles so long as we focus on studying and using Traditions, the Service Manual, Concepts, Robert's Rules of Order, etc.

22. **Have we adopted transparency at every level of service? (Traditions 1, 8 & 9, Concept 12)**

In general, yes. We can improve, of course, and the following was suggested:

1. The website can be improved significantly in terms of organization.
2. Everything a GSR needs should be on the GSR page. No one knew to look for information on the Chairman's page, for example.

District 82 Committee Minutes of Meeting, September 9, 2012

3. If important information is posted on the website, a link should be mailed out (i.e., agenda posting)?
4. We can do better at translating everything.
5. Communication is enhanced by using the service structure. Information from the Area goes to DCM's who distribute it promptly to GSR's. Likewise, group decisions should be communicated promptly to DCM's who then communicate it to the Area, Failure to use this process leads to confusion which can lead to the appearance of a lack of transparency.
6. GSR's should make an effort to stay in communication with DCM's as that is their role on behalf of their group.

23. **Are we being self-supporting financially and physically (participation, attendance)? (Tradition 7, Concept 1)**

The overall answer is no.

There are over 500 groups in our area with only about 10% of the groups contributing financially. It's not just about money, it's about being present for service. Several said that upon visiting groups to promote service, they were not received well. Some groups have decided by group conscience not to participate in service outside their groups. In A.A., the turnover of people can be quick, and many know nothing of the Concepts. It needs to be made known that the area representatives do not set policy, the group actually does and should convey the upper hand.

Suggestions for improvements are as follows:

1. Sponsors are very key in transmitting to sponsees the idea of responsibility And the need to help direct sponsees into service. It can be apart of sharing one personal story of recovery with others. We, as sponsors, need to convey something that others want.
2. Long distances can be a problem for some. It was suggested that assemblies rotate to different locations around the area.
3. For assemblies, have a greeting committee for new GSR's, and perhaps create a buddy system for them while attending the assembly.
4. Have a different color badge for new GSR's, and perhaps another color for established GSR's.
5. Promote the assembly's speaker meeting on Saturday night, inviting others to come.
6. Create fun, as in a contest between districts as to which group brings the most GSR's.
7. Find good ways to bring young persons into service work.
8. Those already in service positions could be very positive in conveying information from the assembly. No belly aching about anything.
9. Visit groups without representation on a regular basis so as to develop A trusted relationship, thereby, setting a tone where there is more open- mindedness about service.

District 82 Committee Minutes of Meeting, September 9, 2012

24. Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers AA committees and office workers? OT/NT? (Tradition I, Concept I)

Most of the time, there is trust. Sometimes we criticize what we don't know, but coming to assemblies affords us opportunities to understand and learn-more.

It is good to ask questions in a non-accusatory fashion, and to ask for the sake of gaining knowledge.

Trust takes practice. Offering to help or stepping up to participate is an option to learning more.

We need to remember our servants are volunteers doing the best they can.

The financial end has experienced less trust. Patience with questions is good. We need to make sure our servants have good sobriety,

We all need to learn the Concepts which helps in understanding.

Do we support the officers (take someone's inventory).

Service sponsors to keep centered and help with frustrations with officers.

Trust? Most of the time. Sometimes criticize what we don't know. Come to assembly to understand more.

Good to ask non-accusatory questions to be informed Criticism creates bad atmosphere, bad example for others. Practice trust. Offer help.

As Area, fairly trusting. Financial end has experience less trust. Get lots and lots of questions.

We need to take our own inventory and not others.

Transparency. To make improvements: Practice better and more communication, especially from groups to assembly and assembly to groups.

25. How do we get more groups to participate in the service structure? (Tradition 7, Concept 1)?

Encourage DCM and Alt. DCM to visit groups more often. Primarily groups not represented at District meetings. Share their enthusiasm in service work and encourage group participation.

26. Do we promote minority opinion? (Traditions 1&2, Concepts 1&2)

Yes, and there is room for improvement.

27. What message are we carrying to our assembly members? (Tradition 5, Concepts 9&12)

Consensus was that lots of times there is confusion and a lack of solidarity. We must make service work more attractive by getting more cohesive and by better listening and making service work less intimidating.

Suggestions:

- Come across as a more spiritual group and be less political.
- When a situation gets heated maybe Chair call for a moment of silence.
- When service positions are filled, the commitment needs to be made to fulfill that commitment completely.
- There needs to more of a connection with the old timers and the newer members willing to do service. More mentoring!

28. Are we a spiritual entity under Tradition 5 and Concept 1? (Tradition 5, Concept 1)

Consensus is yes. Discussion was that improvement be made.

1. Delegate must feel supported by Area.
2. Keep principles before personalities

Suggestion was to have a banner to hang at the front of assemblies to remind people why we are here.

- Defensiveness drove out responsibility.
- Political/Personal agenda is the message we are carrying to others.

District 82 Committee Minutes of Meeting, September 9, 2012

- Self-sufficiency is not working - we have shut God out.

29. Is there a God Consciousness expressed in our assembly meetings? (Tradition 2, Concept 2)

Yes	14
No	4
Abstained	4

Thoughts:

- If Group Conscious represents God Consciousness, then there needs to be more than 2/3 votes than simple majority votes.
- All present in service is an expression of God Consciousness.
- Trusted servants have a real concern to serve the Area.
- What is our primary goal: Personalities, politics, or principles?
- God Consciousness is here, though it may need improvement.
- It is expressed through the attendance, willingness to listen, and the Serenity Prayer.

30. Do we utilize and express spiritual principles in decision making? (Tradition 1, Concept 1)

Yes	14
No	3
Abstained	3

Thoughts:

- Voicing our opinions is spiritual.
- Unity, a common bond, versus personal opinions (I'm right...You're wrong)
- Finding out the REAL facts before decision making.
- These begin with our home groups.
- These things (spiritual principles) come back to sponsorship... to have a strong service structure.
- Through reflection, after the vote, we can measure to what extent we utilized spiritual principles.
- Spiritual principles mentioned were: listening, compassion, tolerance, forgiveness, unity, trust, fairness, and humility.

Attachment 2

DISTRICT 82

UNITY DAY FINAL REPORT

September 9, 2012

We want to express our gratitude for being allowed to serve the District and our Groups as the co-chairpersons for the 2012 Unity Day Celebration. The hamburgers were great and there was plenty for everyone. The Al-Anon members brought great deserts. The leftover food was donated to the Women's Crisis Center in Bay City.

The cost of the Celebration came in under budget. The Speakers were given gift cards. Our total expenses were \$203. There is a detailed financial report attached.

We had 80 people sign the register and people from 12 of our 22 groups were in attendance. There were 5 members in attendance from other Districts. We had 6 Al-Anon members attend as well. Your feedback from last year's celebration was a great help for this year. We think a great time was had by all.

Again, thank you for allowing us to serve the District.

In service,

Jim Bob H. and Sherry B.

Committee Co-Chairs

2012 Unity Day Celebration

2012 Unity Day Financial Report		
September 9, 2012		
Year	2012	2011
Beginning Balance Budgeted (+)	350.00	250.00
Income (+) Extraordinary	7.00	170.00
Income Total (+)	357.00	420.00
Expenses Total (-)	(203.07)	(417.00)
Ending Balance	153.93	3.00
Group Contributions	2012	2011
Extraordinary Income	(+)Income	(+)Income
A New Life Group	0.00	
Alvin Group	0.00	
Angleton Group	0.00	40.00
Bay City Group	0.00	
Beginners Group	0.00	
Brazosport Group	0.00	
Brockman Road Group	0.00	
Clean Air Group	0.00	100.00
Easy Does It Group	0.00	
Freeport Group	0.00	
Live To Ride Group	0.00	
Needville Group	0.00	
Plantation Group	0.00	
Primary Purpose Group	0.00	
Sargent Serenity Group	0.00	
Surfside Group	7.00	
Sweeny Group	0.00	
West Columbia Group	0.00	30.00
Wharton Group	0.00	
Total	7.00	170.00
2012 vs 2011 Expense	2012 (-) Expense	2011 (-) Expense
Food	(107.31)	(325.00)
Gifts	(52.14)	(60.00)
Publicity	0.00	0.00
Rent	0.00	0.00
Supplies	(43.62)	(32.00)
Total	(203.07)	(417.00)

Page 1