

**SOUTHEAST TEXAS AREA 67  
QUARTERLY ASSEMBLY MEETING  
SUNDAY JANUARY 29, 2006**

**I. Open – Betsy G and Terri V**

Betsy opened the meeting with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer. Terri read the preamble to the SETA Policies and Procedures Manual. Betsy recognized Past Trustee Beth R, Past Delegates Mike D, Marvin W, Paul Mi, Joanie M. She noted that past delegates have served our area, and they continue to serve our area and to help us learn how to do this.

**II. Roll Call – June C** (Please see attached)

**III. District Count – Terri V**

District	Count	District	Count
10	4	60	4
20	6	63	4
31	9	64	1
32	9	65	1
33	2	66	2
40	5	70	16
51	8	81	12
52	5	82	3
		90	27
		<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>

**IV. Approval of October 2005 Area Assembly Minutes – Emily McF**

Minutes were approved as written.

**V. Treasurer’s Report – Barbara C**

See Saturday Committee Meeting for Treasurer’s Report. Treasurer’s Report was approved as written.

**VI. Delegate’s Report – Charles P**

I am your Panel 55, Area 67 Southeast Texas Delegate. It’s an honor and a privilege to represent you at the General Service Office and to be your voice at the General Service Conference. Really, all I am is the mouthpiece between you as the membership and the General Service Office. I carry your voice to the Conference. The other half of my job is to carry that information back to you. I try to attend a meeting at each of the districts to give a presentation, so I’ll be talking to you about coming to your district.

I want to thank you for your support of District 90 after Hurricane Rita. As you can tell by this hotel, this area was heavily damaged. We had a mandatory evacuation. As you all know, groups were shut down for several weeks, as was the District 90 Intergroup. Contributions stopped, and districts and individuals from Area 67 stepped up to the plate and helped our Intergroup get back up and running.

In December a lot of us went to the Forum in Rogers, Arkansas. I thought it was the best Forum I’ve ever attended. Thirty-three people from Area 67 attended. Eight of those were DCMs. For those of you who’ve never been to a regional Forum, it’s an opportunity for you to meet, visit with, and ask questions of: Greg M, General Service Manager; Robin B, Grapevine Editor; Leonard B, Class A Trustee and Chairman of the Trustee Board; Gary K,

Regional Trustee; Dorothy W, Trustee-at-Large for the U.S. and Canada; Vince H, Class A Trustee in charge of Finance; Adrian B, GSO Staff; Valerie O'N, Staff Coordinator for the Regional Forum. They gave reports on their positions and AA as a whole and worldwide. There were lots of good questions. Everyone who attended will get a copy of the final report on the Forum. If you don't get your copy, let me know and I'll get one for you. These are held every other year. The next one will be held in Denver, Colorado in 2007.

I want to compliment the SETA Convention Committee for pulling this convention together when the hotel where we were originally booked closed because of hurricane damage. It was a major undertaking to get this convention done. Even though we had the ceiling falling down yesterday and places where there is no carpet, it doesn't matter. I've been in a lot worse places, haven't you?

Gus and I will be going to Oklahoma City March 10-12 to the Southwest Regional Delegates' Assembly. Past Delegates and current delegates (55 and 56) will be there. It's a training assembly for delegates. It's like a mock General Service Conference, and it was very helpful in preparing for the conference.

I have polled most of the DCMs about making a change to the way we have our DCM/Delegate sharing session. Currently we have about an hour on Saturday mornings for the DCM/Delegate sharing session. It's just not enough time, so one of the suggestions at the Forum was to have the DCM/Delegate sharing session on Friday night. Since all the DCMs I polled agreed to this change, I'm going to request that Betsy change the agenda for the next assembly to have the DCM/Delegate sharing session at 7:30 on Friday night. That way we'll have plenty of time to talk and discuss any questions you may have.

Also at the next assembly, I'll be getting the General Service Conference agenda items to you. Gus and I will be selecting a facilitator and co-facilitator for each of the roundtables. We break up into 8 roundtables. Each table will have an agenda item to discuss at their table. That information is turned into me and I carry that information with me to the Conference. The 56<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference will be the last week in April. The theme is "Sponsorship, Self Support and Service in a Changing World."

District 81 brought a proposal to the Assembly last year, and the Assembly was in agreement with the proposal to change the self-support pamphlet. The proposal was sent to New York; it is being reviewed this week to see if it goes on as an agenda item or if they will make a change in the Budget Finance Committee. As soon as I hear something, I'll let you all know what I find out.

I'll continue to serve on the Report and Charter Committee, which deals with the Service Manual and the directories. After I come back in May Gus and I will begin the "Gus & Charley" Show where we hit the road to give presentations to your district. We traveled over 7,000 miles last year, and will probably travel more this year. It's a great time.

Thank you for allowing me to serve the Fellowship that saved my life.

## **VII. Alternate Delegate's Report – Gus H**

My hat is off to the convention committee, who were able to change hotels, change weekends, re-coordinate all the speakers and get out the flyers. It's a great demonstration of the unity we have in this area.

I've been to several Forums, and the Forum in Arkansas is the best I've ever attended. It was an inspiring weekend and gave me more faith in the ongoing process at GSO. Our delegate gave a wonderful presentation on sponsorship. One of the sessions we attended dealt with DCM/Delegate communications. The most important job as DCM is good communications so we can come up with an informed group conscience. Some areas have three Committee meetings and one assembly a year. I believe we're doing a better job of communicating in the way this area is set up with four assemblies a year, but we can always improve. One suggestion was to have the Delegate and DCMs meet on Friday night with no distractions; I think it will be time well spent.

We're all in this together. We weren't doing a good job of communicating the spiritual principle of self support. We're getting better at that, and the Area rose to the occasion. The

dollar contributions are up, and the number of groups participating in contributing is up. We need to keep in mind that self support is not an event, it's away of life.

The 2005 Gratitude Dinner was great – great hall, great speaker, and a great time. Thank you, District 32, for hosting that event. District 31 was co-host and volunteered to host the 2006 Gratitude Dinner and District 52 will co-host. We have no budget for the Gratitude Dinner, but we have ideas on how to pull this off. One suggestion is to have every district contribute \$100. Another is to have one common meal. There are lots of ways to do this. I'd like the DCMs to come to the April assembly and discuss this at the DCM/Delegate session.

A lot of people participated in the Conference agenda item process, and they helped us come to a consensus of what information we want to send Charles with to the conference. We'll do that again next assembly. If you have any ideas on how to improve that process, let us know.

Any way I can be of service to you and your districts, please don't hesitate to contact me.

#### **VIII. SETA 2006 Convention – Mary-Ann M**

We've had a great convention, and a lot of people did a lot of hard work to pull this off. It's been a success. We had about 900 people register for the conference. We kept expenses down. There were a few bumps in the road – we moved chairs when the ceiling fell, some rooms didn't have phones, but it worked. We'll have a final budget tally at the April meeting.

#### **IX. 2006 State Convention Chair – Mike D**

Everything is going well. The chairs were full at our planning meeting this weekend. We hope everyone is planning to attend the convention. The 2006 State Convention will be held at the Houston Marriott Westchase on Briarpark at Westheimer (the old Adams Mark). Some flyers have an incorrect zip code which we've written over. Registration goes to: 61<sup>st</sup> State Convention Treasurer, P. O. Box 3076, Bellaire, Texas 77402-3076. Please send your registration early so we can get things going. We can use your help. Our meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at the hotel at 7:00. You can also go to our website at [www.txaa2006.org](http://www.txaa2006.org) and look at the different committees. The website is also on the flyer. The SETA website also has a link to this site. If you'd like to help with one of the committees, you can go to that website and send the chairperson an e-mail. Hope to see you at the convention on June 9-11.

#### **X. 2007 SETA Convention Chair – Bonita W**

The 45<sup>th</sup> Southeast Texas Area Convention, "The Steps We Took," page 59, Alcoholics Anonymous, will be held at the Moody Gardens Hotel on January 12-14. Room rates will be \$105/night. Start saving now. Tandy and I have come up with a meeting schedule which we will discuss at the first meeting of the committee, which will be held on February 12 at 2 pm at Moody Gardens. We hope all those on the committee will be able to attend this important first meeting. Bill B is our treasurer, Mark C will be handling the registration and plans to be at the April assembly to start early registration. That means our flyer guy, John S, will be busy coming up with a rough draft before April. Jim A. is already planning entertainment. Patrick is our pick-up guy. Bob E is excited about heading the newcomer committee. Deborah R will be hospitality and coffee. Pauline is the Voice of the Convention. Randy B will do literature. Zaz will be handling CFC. The rest of the committee is ready to go. We as a committee hope to spread the word, encourage early registration, and show enthusiasm like has been shown here in Beaumont.

#### **XI. Roll Call for Voting – June C**

Seventy-one (71) voting members were present. Forty-seven (47) = 2/3 majority.

**XII. Finance Committee – David H**

Good morning everybody. First of all I want to congratulate all of you on a job well done last year. The area found itself in a bit of a financial bind and you all stepped up to help out. Y'all took the situation back to your districts and groups and they responded positively. The districts came through in an outstanding way also, contributing nearly 8 times the amount projected in the budget. When you combine these factors with the fact that the area officers and committees cut back on their expenses, resulting in expenditures that were 20% lower than budgeted, we have a successful year. Every group and district has proven that the Seventh Tradition is still alive in our area; I guess it just needed a little reviving. It's wonderful to witness what a little faith in a Higher Power and some footwork on our part can accomplish. I don't generally do this, but I'm going to go out on a limb here. On behalf of the other area officers and myself I want to say "thank you" to all of you who made these results possible.

We are not out of the woods yet, but we have found a trail. Now all we have to do is stay on this path. This is the year when all budgets have had all the fat removed and been cut to the bone, so I am asking all of you to keep emphasizing the Seventh Tradition in your groups and to help keep us headed down the trail. We can then help you carry the message of AA and offer the services that reach out to the alcoholic who is still out there suffering.

It is time, once again, for the Budget Committee to meet to prepare next year's budget proposal. All officers and standing committee chairs should see Joanne to get their worksheets. Please have these filled out and copies made for the meeting. The meeting will be on Saturday, February 25, at the Post Oak Club at 1:00 pm. The address is 701 North Post Oak Road. The phone number is 713-956-5061.

Thank you for your attention here today and I hope everyone has had a great weekend.

**XIII. Election of Liaison to Spanish Intergroup**

No candidate stood for Liaison to Spanish Intergroup. The item will be placed on the agenda for the next Assembly.

**XIV. Election of Alternate Registrar**

Bill B stood for Alternate Registrar. Beth R made the motion to elect Bill as Alternate Registrar; Charles P seconded the motion. Bill was elected as Alternate Registrar.

**XV. Ad Hoc Committee on Conventions – Beth R**

The committee met briefly yesterday, and briefly mapped out some directions we were going in, so I don't have anything substantive at this time. We will be meeting before the April Assembly. I'll provide you with a report at that time.

**XVI. Newsletter Proposal – John S**

SETA can't afford to send out so many newsletters. The Newsletter budget for 2006 is \$1,000. This is enough money to print out and mail at most 1,600 newsletters, or 400 per quarter. We've been printing and mailing about 650 newsletters per quarter. In the October newsletter on the front page I put a notice for people who wanted to continue receiving the newsletter to notify me either by e-mail or by U.S. mail. So far I've received two dozen e-mails and no responses by U.S. mail. From this lack of response, I have to conclude that either most people don't read the SETA newsletter or most people don't care if they get it any more. I propose that we purge the newsletter mailing list to eliminate some names. If the list can be trimmed to 350-400 names, the 2006 budget will be sufficient. The Newsletter editor will work with the SETA Registrar to figure out how to eliminate some names from the list but still send the newsletter to the active members of SETA, to the AA groups and other organizations that receive the newsletter and would like to continue getting it. I would also

like to ask all of you to send me your e-mail address to [Newsletter@aa-seta.org](mailto:Newsletter@aa-seta.org) and I will make sure you get a newsletter by e-mail.

Terri noted that if you ask to be put on the mailing list for the newsletter, you're on that mailing list until you say you don't want it anymore. When John is talking about eliminating names from the Newsletter list, there are people who have been on the list who don't attend meetings any more. Some people might not even be alive any more. Betsy said this clean-up has been done several years ago, and needs doing again. No decision needs to be made on this right now. It's going to be referred to an ad hoc committee.

## **XVII. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in St. Louis – Gene J**

Five people from this area went to the Spiritual Homecoming in St. Louis, Missouri, which was a 50-year celebration of when Bill and Bob turned AA over to General Service Conference. The first and second conferences were in St. Louis. The five who attended were: Zaz M, Paul M, Katie G, Joanie M and I. Gene had nuggets from each session she went to. The first was from The Home Group session – welcome the newcomers at the door and find out if they have a drinking problem so we can help them get what they need. In the session on Bill W's relationship with Father Dowling, Dowling told Bill, "There is something in you that if it's lost, the world will never hear it again." Another saying of Father Dowling was, "The devil goes for pride and riches; God goes for humility." In the session on how GSO offers collective experience, "We are not an authority to tell AA what to do. The message has to be vague enough to be accurate." Another one was, "Leadership should always be on tap, not on top," and "Our discerning vote must be unified, tested with the questions – was it the truth; was it just; was it love?" In the session on leadership in AA they really emphasized talking with each other. Talk with each other, then accept the group conscience. "Our opinions are worth nothing. We must sacrifice self to serve." Respect and trust was always emphasized. In the session on Singleness of Purpose, she heard, "We don't know where we're going until we know where we've come from," and "It takes honesty to get us sober, but tolerance to keep us sober." A quote from Bill W was, "Our response to traditions violations are often far worse than the violation itself." Clancy said, "AA works more slowly than antidepressants, but the knowledge and experience gained are more valuable in the long run." The main idea she came away with was that AA is a charge for us to keep it alive and pass it on.

Zaz said there were over 1300 people who attended the Spiritual Homecoming. Twenty-three Area Archives from the U.S. and Canada were there. A lot of Father Dowling's original work was included. We gathered on Thanksgiving Day, and the St. Louis AA members had a wonderful dinner. People attended the Spiritual Homecoming from the U.S., Canada, and England. The set up was a combination of the Forum and SWRAASA. There was an old timer's meeting, topic discussions. It was jam packed with information and the emphasis was on the history of AA. "If you don't remember where we came from, we may forget where we're heading." It's up to us to carry the message on. They recognized past and current delegates. Over 60 attended. The oldest panel was Panel 20, which was 1971. This is a family disease. Alanon's and AA's walked through that Spiritual Homecoming together. Without one, the other wouldn't be here. They said the infancy of AA was from 1935 to 1940. The youth began in 1941. 1951-54 was the college years, seeing if the conference would work. In 1955 AA grew up. Some thoughts she came away with were discernment, spiritual voice with direction. It's up to us to prepare.

Katie felt the Spiritual Homecoming was especially moving. She was nervous about being away from home on Thanksgiving Day, but being there and having my AA family around me was wonderful. The archives exhibit was overwhelmed. There were people constantly in that room representing Archives, and if you had any questions, there was someone available to answer them. Being in the auditorium on Sunday helped me to see how much she's in the middle of AA. She was standing in line going to the banquet, and discovered the woman in front of her was someone she'd grown up with, so they had this connection all weekend, not only with AA and Alanon because she was a part of Alanon, but she was a part of Katie's growing up, and she would never have had that if she were not in AA today. The thought she walked away with was she needed to be available to the newcomer. She believes that we've

gotten away from that. What she also learned was that within the next 5-10 years, all the people who knew Bill W. will be gone. It's left up to us to carry this message to the next generation.

Joanie felt going to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary was a highlight for her. Last year in 2005, AA celebrated 70 years since it was founded. We gathered at the end of November for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous. If you will take time to read Bill's word in "AA Comes of Age" on how this transpired about his vision with Dr. Bob of releasing the fellowship, stepping aside, and allowing the General Service Conference to be the effective voice for Alcoholics Anonymous. Our Delegate, Charles, is a Panel 55 Delegate. Every time you hear Panels, it's referring to what started in St. Louis 50 years ago. What she took away from the Spiritual Homecoming, and from this weekend, too, is that Alcoholics Anonymous is alive and well. We will continue to do our job, which is to carry the message.

**XVIII. New Business – Terri V**

Charles P proposed we increase the Treasurer's budget to cover quarterly mailings to all GSRs. This letter should be a "thank you" to those who have contributed to the Area and another letter to those groups who have not contributed, asking for their help. Terri stated this will be referred to the Finance Committee.

Charles received a request from the Hispanic districts to ask the General Service Office to have the pamphlet, "Co-Founders of Alcoholics Anonymous" (P53), translated into Spanish. Joanie M said the translation could possibly already be in process. Charles will look into this.

Zaz M asked about discussing changes to the district count. Terri said that due to time constraints, this would be discussed at the April assembly.

**XIX. Announcements – Terri V**

- The Committees eligible for April hotel suites are Finance, Grapevine, and CPC.
- The host district for April will be District 31.
- District 60 volunteered to be the host district for July.
- The dates for the remaining 2006 SETA Assemblies are: April 8-9, July 8-9 and October 7-8.
- The 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Texas State Convention will be in Houston on June 9-11 at the Marriott Westchase.
- SWRAASA will be in Wichita, Kansas, on October 13-15.

**XX. Close – Terri V**

We closed in the usual manner.

Respectfully submitted,  
Emily McF

SETA Secretary

### **Area Actions**

- **The election of the Liaison to the Spanish Intergroup has been moved to the April Assembly.**
- **Bill B was elected as Alternate Registrar.**