

**SOUTHEAST TEXAS AREA 67
 QUARTERLY ASSEMBLY MEETING
 SUNDAY JULY 10, 2005**

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 Mijares.

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

III. District Count – Betsy G

IV.

District	Count	District	Count
10	1	60	3
20	3	63	4
31	12	64	2
32	8	65	4
33	10	66	3
40	16	70	9
51	12	81	13
52	6	82	8
		90	9
		Total	123

V. Approval of April 2005 Area Assembly Minutes – Emily McF

Minutes were approved as written.

VI. Treasurer’s Report – Barbara C

Barbara noted that the first page of the report is a summary of where we are with the bank in general. The second page shows the detail of the income and outflow. The last 4 pages list individual group contributions. The only groups listed are the 173 groups who’ve made a contribution. This is 27% of the groups in the Area. If any groups you attend aren’t on this list, you might talk to them about SETA and contributing to the service entities. We’ve had more money going out than coming in. Most of that is due to convention money we expected to receive from the 2005 convention that we didn’t receive. The Treasurer’s Report was approved as written.

VII. Delegate’s Report – Charles P

Charles and Gus have been visiting a lot of groups. Hopefully they’ll be able to visit the rest of the groups soon. At the DCM/Delegate Sharing Session the Spanish districts suggested they all get together for one meeting where Charles and Gus can meet with them collectively. They’re encouraging more Spanish people involved in the Area Assembly. We need them. It was also suggested at the General Service Conference that we encourage more young people to get involved in service. The suggestion was straightforward and simple. Invite them to come and be a part of . . . At the 55th General Service Conference he heard, “Listen, Learn, Love, and Lead.” That’s our responsibility. He brought Conference Action Sheets which he encouraged GSRs to pick up and share with their groups. Most of the agenda items we considered at our Roundtable Discussion in April were approved by the Conference. In particular, it was approved that there be an introduction put in the front of the 12x12

explaining that the language is from 1953 and the reasons we don't change any other part of the book.

GSO has a similar situation as SETA with the budget. About 44% of the groups in the U.S. and Canada contribute something to GSO. It costs \$5.92/year per member to keep GSO functioning. The Southeast Area groups only contribute \$2.77/year per member to GSO. Our area is in worse condition. Only 25% of the groups in Southeast Texas Area contribute to the Area. As a result of that we have a \$14K shortfall in our budget. His appeal was to members of SETA to talk to their respective groups and encourage the group conscience to contribute something to GSO, to the Area, to the District. It's not about the money; it's about the spiritual partnership that comes through contributing. If you can't send anything, send a letter. He had people say they disagreed with something going on at Area so they don't contribute, but they don't let us know that. If you don't like something going on in District or in the Area, write a letter. Let us know what's going on. We need that feedback.

We will consider a suggested change coming from District 81 to the 7th Tradition pamphlet. The groups and the District have approved it. The Area Chair has added it to the agenda. It could possibly be an agenda item at the next GSC. His primary job as Delegate is communication – be the communication link between you and GSO. When he got out of the cab in New York City for the GSC, he wondered how a drunken sailor in New York City in 1962 came from there to where he was standing. It's only through a loving God, this program, the steps, and people like you.

VIII. Alternate Delegate's Report – Gus H

We've had one piece of business from SWRAASA to finish that just wouldn't cooperate – that's the transcription. Many people got their CD's or hard copies this weekend. He wanted to give credit to one individual – Lynn G. He wanted to recognize her efforts in getting this job completed. It was supposed to be a group effort, but it pretty much fell on her shoulders. With this, all our responsibilities should be finalized. He had some contact from the Alternate Delegate from Kansas, where the 2006 SWRAASA will be hosted. They're looking for someone to head up the Multi-Lingual part of the program because they were impressed with how it was handled here. Gus spoke with Alejandro who agreed to help, so his name was forwarded to the 2006 SWRAASA Chair.

Almost all districts are committed to the Gratitude Dinner. Districts 63, 64, 65, and 66 will get finalized later this month. We just need to get information from two other districts – 40 and 60 – which should be completed soon. The host district, District 32, has had a problem finding a suitable facility, but if we can't find one there, we'll look somewhere else, possibly where the Gratitude Dinner was held last year. The speaker is lined up; all we have to do is make it happen.

Charles mentioned self-support and talks about it from district to district. Gus has learned quite a lot from these discussions. It's not what he thought it was. Self support is not a destination, an end result; it's a way of life. One of the symptoms of our problem is that we have 25% of the groups in this area contributing to the area. Throughout the region that averages 50%. What's wrong with that picture? The big hurdle we have to cross is misinformation or an uninformed group conscience. He was under the impression we weren't getting the message out about what our needs are, but it's also that we need to listen to what the groups have to say about why they're not contributing. The self-support message he wants to carry is sharing the facts about SETA and GSO, asking for advice on how we can best carry the message about the Area's position, and listen. We'll get past this. Something he believes very strongly is the time we spend, the energy, the effort, the time, and the money we put back into AA is what we call service work. The only reason for it is to enable more and better 12-step work.

IX. SETA 2006 Convention – Ricky L

The theme for the SETA 2006 Convention will be “A Manner of Living.” All his committee members have been selected. He wanted to stress pre-registration, which would keep them from having to request advances for the conference. The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn, Beaumont Plaza. The room rates have been lowered to \$59, \$69, and \$79. They have one complimentary hospitality suite, with 200 rooms blocked for the convention. All the AA speakers have been selected; the Alanon speaker has not yet been decided, but that decision should be made soon.

X. 2006 State Convention Chair – Mike D

Mike reported that they haven't started meeting monthly yet, but everything is in the works and ready to go. The convention will be in Houston at the Marriott Hotel (the same hotel as last time with a different name) the weekend of June 10, 2006.

XI. 2007 SETA Convention Chair – Bonita W

The 45th SETA Convention will be held at Moody Gardens in Galveston on January 12-14, 2007. The theme of the convention will be, “... the steps we took” from Alcoholics Anonymous page 59. Room rates are \$105 plus tax. This will be the third time we've held the convention at Moody Gardens; they know what to expect and have always been very accommodating to us. Basically they are honoring the same contract as before except for a few minor changes. She's been announcing the convention at her home district and in meetings all year. She met with the hotel last year and the committee will begin holding monthly meetings in February. The committee is in the process of being formed; we do have some of the committee members committed. This committee will be pushing early registrations, asking all the DCMs and GSRs in Area 67 to begin announcing this convention after January 2006 in their district meetings and home groups.

XII. International Convention Regional Hospitality Suite – Deborah D

SETA was very well represented at the hospitality suite. Of all the suites we attended (we tried to make them all), ours was one of the best. We had so much great energy and enthusiasm that it was contagious. Our job as volunteers was to: greet everyone that came in; have them sign the banner with all 7 states in our area and highlighting San Antonio (so in 2010 they can look for their names); give them a pin, magnet and bookmark; HAVE FUN! This hospitality suite was truly an international event. Many friends from around the world came by to visit and left by stating, “See you in San Antonio, Texas in 2010!”

XIII. International Convention Web Broadcast/Houston – Michael C

He wanted to thank GSO for the opportunity to view the web broadcast of the flag ceremony for those of us who were unable to attend the International Convention. He was truly impressed with all the alcoholics he related with. The flag ceremony began with the flag from Aruba. When this person walked up, there was a question mark on the back of this person's shirt. That meant anonymity. We saw everyone from the back, never from the face. It was as if he was in Toronto. Watching the flag raising ceremony with the bagpipes – somber, moving music – he oscillated between tears and goose bumps. He was connected, and filled with the spirit. When they announced the flag from Guatemala, cheers went up from people in the room from Guatemala. He knew that anywhere he went in the world that he could find alcohol, he could find a meeting. He especially wanted to thank the Council on Alcohol and Drugs in Houston for allowing us to show the flag ceremony there. Since we're self-supporting through our own contributions, there were about 80 people attending and we raised \$250 to pay for the room. Districts brought coffee, cups, etc.; everyone pitched in to set up and clean up. Hopefully we'll be able to do this again.

XIV. International Convention Web Broadcast/District 90 – Ginger Q

The District 90 Website Committee sponsored a web broadcast of the opening ceremonies of the International Convention in Toronto. We held a potluck dinner at 6:00 pm with the broadcast at 7:00 pm. There were approximately 30 people in attendance. Lamar University loaned us a projector and David O from St. Francis group loaned his computer for the broadcast. We set up around 4:00. The food and fellowship were wonderful. The broadcast started shortly after 7:00. The flag ceremony was very moving and reminded us that AA works the same all over the world. We are all united in our primary purpose of carrying the message where ever it may take us. It was the next best thing to being in Toronto with alcoholics from all over the world. We would be happy to do it again in 2010 although she suspects most of us will be in San Antonio for the real thing.

XV. AAWS Trustee – Beth R

We've been most fortunate to have Jane S in our area. She's a past Delegate, was Area Chair, and five years later she sent in her resume as AAWS Director. A director of AAWS or the Grapevine has never come from this region. She was selected and functioned as she did in every job she has had in Alcoholics Anonymous – she did a beautiful job for the four years she was Director. She would have been elected General Service Trustee for AAWS Board, but due to personal reasons, she declined, finished her four years, and left the board. We owe her a tremendous vote of gratitude, not only the Area and Region, but AA as a whole.

XVI. Software Ad Hoc Committee – Betsy G

At the last assembly she was asked to appoint an ad hoc committee to look into the software needs of the area. That was expanded to look into updating our records on the physical location and condition of the computer equipment we now have. She appointed Lisa H as Chair, Paula D as a member of the committee, and there were three volunteers.

XVII. Hotel Contract Renewal – Terri V

As was voted at the last assembly, we now have a signed contract with the Clarion. The room rate will be a littler higher -- \$55 + tax. However, we'll pay less for our meeting space the more room nights we have. It will be important next year to let us know the room nights you'll be staying at the hotel. As the contract states, the hotel only hold the rooms until one week before the Assembly, so if at all possible, try to make your reservations ahead of time to ensure you get a room. This weekend they were almost full, so if you came in Saturday looking for a room, you might not have gotten one.

XVIII. Roll Call for Voting – June C

Eighty-eight (88) voting members were present. Fifty-nine (59) = 2/3 majority.

XIX. Removal of Funding for SWRAASA Pool from Budget

A motion was made at the April Assembly by Gary Smith and seconded by Zaz M to remove the line item of the funds in the 2006 budget to send an additional four committee members to SWRAASA. This motion was postponed so is automatically placed back on the agenda for July. The motion passed.

XX. Rescinding Motion – Finance Committee

The Area Policies & Procedures Manual states, "The proposed budget shall include all projected income and Assembly approved expenses." Therefore, the Finance Committee

made a motion to rescind the motion made and passed during the April assembly, "... to discontinue the practice of including projected income from Area conventions in the Area budget." The motion passed.

XXI. 2006 Budget Proposal – David H

The Finance Committee recommended accepting the proposed amended budget with one change in removing the SWRAASA line item, which would lower the budget deficit to \$11,944. Beth R discussed further amendments to the budget. She made a motion to make an amendment to remove the line items for the Gratitude Dinner of \$1,600; the Advance for CFC of \$1,000; and the Newsletter of \$2,603; from the budget, for a total of \$5,203. Sherri seconded the motion. Beth withdrew her amendment to the motion. The budget motion failed.

XXII. Election of Liaison to Spanish Intergroup

Concha G was nominated for Liaison to Spanish Intergroup. Paul M made a motion to elect Concha; Gus H seconded it. Concha was elected by acclamation.

XXIII. New Business – Betsy G

Traditionally when a past delegate dies, the Area has sent \$100 in memorial to the General Fund. Beth made a motion to send \$100 in memory of Helen McC to GSO. Bill B seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Liaison to the District 90 Intergroup has resigned. An item of business will be placed on the agenda in October to elect a new Liaison to the District 90 Intergroup.

Our Delegate, Charles P, wanted a sense of the Area to the proposal from District 81 for a Request for 2006 Conference Action to remove the pie charts from pamphlet F-3, "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix." The letter states the pie charts are very misleading to any group's uninformed conscience, that many groups don't realize the pie charts are merely suggestions. Marvin stated that any individual of Alcoholics Anonymous has the right to petition Alcoholics Anonymous to do anything. The person who originated this request can write directly to get it changed. The sense of the Area recommended the proposal.

The Finance Committee received a proposal to make the Gratitude Dinner a self-supporting event, as apposed to the current status of being an Area expense only; that AA attendees contribute \$5 each to attend the dinner; any AA who cannot afford the \$5 contribution may attend anyway; and the Area Treasury will absorb any costs not covered by contributions, and will receive the excess proceeds if contributions are greater than expenses. Sara D, Area Archivist, did research and shared that Martha W presented the Gratitude Dinner as a way to give back to the Area. David H said the way the Gratitude Dinner is set up is a policy of the Area to be free, Someone suggested this should go back to the Budget Committee for consideration, Betsy stated the Budget Committee does not have the right or the privilege to change any decision the Area has made. With Martha's motion, we voted to fully fund the Gratitude Dinner. This body has to decide whether to take contributions. Gene J seconded calling the question. The motion failed.

A request was brought to the Finance Committee from the Multi-Lingual Committee for \$150 to purchase a transmitter to aid in the interpretation of Assembly meetings to our Spanish-speaking members. The Finance Committee recommends that the funds for this purchase be approved. The transmitter allows the interpreter sitting in the back of the room to hear everything being said at the podium. The motion passed.

John S, Newsletter Editor, wanted to get a sense of the Assembly to stop mailing the Newsletter, at least for 2006. The newsletter would still be made every quarter and e-mailed to the Area with a request that everyone print it and share it with their home groups. A sanitized version of the Newsletter could be made available on the website. Move the Newsletter job under a different committee. It's a one-person job; a committee is not needed. These changes would save \$2,400 in the 2006 budget. The Assembly gave a positive response to consider this for future agenda item.

We're looking into ways to continue to educate the GSR's on what SETA does for the groups in the area. She has workshops in mind, but should anyone have any ideas on that, please contact Betsy.

XXIV. Announcements – Terri V

- The Committees eligible for October hotel suites are Corrections, Treatment Facility, and Website Committees.
- The host district for October will be District 40.
- A new conference titled Weekend of Traditions and Concepts on the Beach will be October 21-23, in Galveston, TX. Facilitators will be Gary K., current SW Region Trustee and David H., Past Delegate, Area 10 Colorado.
- SETA District 31 Archives presents Oldtimers Day on Saturday, November 5, Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Humble, TX.
- The Spirit of Homecoming Comes Alive will be November 25-27 in downtown St. Louis, Missouri.
- The next Forum will be held December 2-4, 2005. at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 3303 Pinnacle Hills Parkway, Rogers, Arkansas 72758, 479-254-8400.
- The 44th Annual SETA Convention will be held January 13-15, 2006, at the Holiday Inn Beaumont Plaza in Beaumont, TX. The SETA Assembly will meet before the regularly scheduled meetings at the conference.

XXV. Close – Betsy G

We closed in the usual manner.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily McF

SETA Secretary

Area Actions

- The motion passed to remove the line item of the funds in the 2006 budget to send an additional four committee members to SWRAASA.
- A motion was made by the Finance Committee to rescind the motion passed in April to discontinue the practice of including projected income from Area conventions in the Area budget. The motion passed.
- The 2006 Proposed budget motion failed.
- The motion to send \$100 to GSO in memory of Helen McC passed.
- The motion passed to elect Concha G as Liaison to the Spanish Intergroup.
- The sense of the Area recommended a proposal by District 81 to remove the pie charts from pamphlet F-3, "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix."
- The Finance Committee received a proposal to make the Gratitude Dinner a self-supporting event, as apposed to the current status of being an Area expense only; that AA attendees contribute \$5 each to attend the dinner; any AA who cannot afford the \$5 contribution may attend anyway; and the Area Treasure will absorb any costs not covered by contributions, and will receive the excess proceeds if contributions are greater than expenses. The motion failed.
- The motion passed for the Multi-Lingual Committee to purchase a transmitter for \$150 to aid the Spanish interpreter.
- The sense of the Area voted positively toward canceling the printing of the Newsletter in 2006 and moving the Newsletter Committee of one to another committee.