

**SOUTHEAST TEXAS AREA 67
QUARTERLY ASSEMBLY MEETING
SUNDAY July 9, 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. Yesterday we had some great workshops and will have some voting today from what came out of those workshops.

There seems to have been some misunderstanding on information given on forms. New Group forms and Group Change forms should be given to the Area Registrar. She will update our database and this information will automatically be sent to GSO.

Betsy recognized; Past Delegates Paul M, Marvin W, Mike D and Past Delegate from Alaska, Harold P. She noted that past delegates have served our area, and they continue to serve our area and help us learn how to do this.

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

Some people have not been receiving mail being sent to them because our database was not recognizing the second line for apartment number, so it wouldn't appear on the labels. If anyone has not been receiving their minutes, please contact June to verify that your address shows up correctly in the database.

III. District Count – Terri V

District	Count	District	Count
10	1	60	6
20	16	63	5
31	14	64	4
32	8	65	0
33	2	66	4
40	5	70	12
51	7	81	12
52	7	82	4
		90	17
		Total	110

IV. Approval of April 2006 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

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. The General Service Conference was held two weeks after the last Assembly.

With Co-founder Bill W's words from Concept XII in mind, the 56th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous US/Canada was held at the Crowne Plaza Times Square, April 23-29. The 136 members who make up the GSC consist of delegates from the 93 service areas, Class A (non-alcoholic) and Class B (alcoholic) trustees, and directors and staff of AA World Services and the AA Grapevine, Inc. Chairing this year's Conference were Leonard Blumenthal (non-alcoholic) chairman on the board and Greg M., GSO's general manager.

General Service Board Report: Leonard Blumenthal, Chair

This year six new trustee were appointed. Currently the translation for the BB in Hebrew is near completion, and the Arabic 12X12 is in progress. Last April, the Daily Reflections in Simplified Chinese and Latvian become available. BB is available in 52 languages and can be ordered from GSO. We do not accept AA funds that are earmarked for disaster relief or any other specific project. The US State Dept. contacted GSO about eight professionals from Russia who are concerned about alcoholism in rural communities and Siberia.

Grapevine Board Report: Mike P., Chair

Monthly circulation of 102,000 with a pass along rate of at least three readers and the sale of approx. 75,000 back issues a year. The print magazine is not only financially viable, but carrying the message to a quarter million people. Will be out in large print soon. The Grapevine is now reaching people in other media as well: In 2006, 120,000 people visited the Grapevine's redesigned web site, 3,590 subscribed to the digital archive, 1,600 listened to MP3 recordings of Grapevine stories. This summer, online recordings will be extended, so that members can subscribe to a recorded version of the current magazine, which they can listen to from desktops, iPods, or on the road in MP3 compatible CD players.

LaViña Presentation: Hernan M., La Viña Editor

LaViña in now 10 years old. Spanish is fast overtaking English as a second language.

AAWS Board Report: Gary K., Chair

Purpose is to assist the groups. New Groups: A net total of 1,100 new AA groups registered with GSO last year. Plans are underway to rewrite the Fellowship data base to make it operate more efficiently and provide easier access for area registrars as they help us keep our records current. The 70th International Convention had 44,000 AA members, families and friends in attendance. The convention incurred a deficit of \$39,040, less than 1% of the total convention expenses. In 2005 there were over three million visits to the web site, 27% more than in 2004. The redesigned web site was launched December 31, 2005.

GSO Relocation Study: Ron G. AAWS Director

Moved to 475 Riverside Dr. in 1992. A 10 year lease of 45,000 sq. ft. of space. It was original in Newark NJ and moved to NY in 1940 to Lexington Ave. Next on 44th St. 345 E. 46th St., 468 Park Ave. South, then 475 Riverside Dr. Owned by Rockefeller Foundation. In 1988 a study to move from Park Ave. South. In 1997 there was a review but conference decided it was best to stay in the NY area and try to secure a good rate of renewal early. Will give up some floor space by 1500 – 2000 sq. ft. for cost saving. History of the office in NY was part of the consideration of not to move. Lock in current rates for 10 years. There would be a 44 year pay-back of cost to move.

Presentation/Discussion: Finances: Vince Keefe, chair, Class A Trustee

- When we decline outside contributions we take on the obligation to pay our own bills. If more groups would contribute we could reduce the cost of literature.
 - *The controversy is not about money but how to use the money. The number of alcoholics we are serving is increasing everyday. Q&A
1. Are you getting more from GSO than you are contributing????
 2. How much would each group need to send so literature would be free???
A. \$6.14/member per year, \$136.85/group per year
 3. Strong Home Groups hear our voices...those who have a GSR. Those who don't have a GSR, even though they are doing 12 Step work, can't hear our voices so do not contribute.
 4. "The \$1.00 in 1964 in today's money is \$6.14"
 5. Participating through the Basket...this is an act of gratitude despite my fear of financial future. With full participation comes self-support. Not for monetary value but for the future value of our society. Do we take the time during a meeting when passing the basket to explain where the money goes? If we are to be self-supporting without literature sales it will require more self sacrifice! Concept 12, warranty 2...

Cost per member per year; 2004-\$5.92, 2005-\$5.75, 2006-\$6.14. 2006 is based on \$7,946,337 budget which is higher because of Medical obligations.

Throughout the busy week Conference sessions began at 9 am and often continued to 9 pm and beyond. There were presentation/discussion sessions on this year's theme "Sponsorship, Service and Self-support in a Changing World" and area service highlights.

Most of the work of the Conference took place during the meetings and deliberations of the eleven standing Conference committees. Delegates review background material on items forwarded to them, and any resulting committee recommendations are presented to the entire Conference for a vote. The group conscience of the Fellowship results in Conference Advisory Actions. Some of these actions are:

- Correctional --- the draft manuscript of AA in Prison: Inmate to Inmate be approved.
- Finance --- the word "donation" be replaced with the word "contribution" in AAWS literature.
- Literature -- The committee suggested that the word "largely" be added, when appropriate, to references in A.A. World Services service material concerning any changes to the first 164 pages of the Big Book. The committee recommended that the Third Edition of the Spanish BB continue to be developed and report be brought back to the 2007 Conference Literature Committee.
- Public Information—the TV public service announcement "Testimonials" be approved completing a four year replacement schedule initiated by the 2002 GSC.
- Report & Charter—the graphic, "Service Structure Inside the AA Group: as it appeared in the 1998-99 edition of the AA Service Manual be restored.
- Archives-- Recommended GSO Archivist annually provide a list of proposed archival recordings for possible production and sale by AAWS. Information---->>>> Lots of discussion and concern about selling any archives. Some recordings Greg M. said GSO has over 5000 CD's going all the way back to Bill which cost \$300,000 to move from old reel to reel. This was done to preserve them. GSO could recoup some of the cost by selling these.

Among the many activities during the week, New York Intergroup hosted a hospitality suite on Saturday, where early arriving Conference members could get together for fellowship and coffee, greeting old friends and meeting new ones. Tuesday afternoon Conference members and their guests visited the GSO and Grapevine offices. Throughout the week volunteer AA members led tours of the city for the approximately 85 guests who had accompanied Conference members to New York. A Circle Line boat trip around Manhattan Island and a tour of NBC studios were among the activities.

Friday afternoon the Conference officially closed with the Serenity Prayer recited in four languages, English, Spanish, French and Japanese.

Saturday morning the delegates met for closing brunch. Followed by delegates and guest boarding busses for a trip to Bedford Hills, New York, to visit Stepping Stones, the home of Bill W. and his wife Lois—this was a nice ending to a wonderful Conference experience.

I want to thank you and God for allowing me to serve the Fellowship that saved my life.

VII. Alternate Delegate's Report – Gus H

I'm proud to be serving as your Alternate Delegate of Panel 55, Area 67. Gus has been amazed at how well Charles effectively communicates the Delegate's information, as he did again this time. Congratulations to District 20 for your participation this morning of 16 people is great.

Hope you were able to attend the Ask-It-Basket last night. I'm thinking of asking ZBM and Paul and Bonita and Marvin to come to our district and put on an Ask-It-Basket Workshop! I've never seen anything like it. It says in the BB, "We are not a glum lot." Everyone had a lot of fun, particularly the presenters. Everyone really enjoyed it.

The convention mailing label database is being updated from the 2006 convention in Beaumont and will provide the Galveston convention that list so they can get their flyers out.

Area 67 has really come a long way. Today we are self supporting through group contributions. Self Support is not a destination; it is a way of life. We're there now; we need to stay there. Group contributions are up roughly 20% from the last five years. The number of groups contributing is up 10-15%.

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

VIII. 2007 SETA Convention – Bonita W, Chair

The 45th SETA Convention will be held at Moody Gardens in Galveston on January 12th, 13th and 14th 2007. The theme of the convention will be "... the steps we took" from Alcoholic Anonymous page 59. Room rates will be \$105. plus tax. If your district is planning on hosting a hospitality room please contact me at SETA2007@houston.rr.com. There are a limited number of hospitality rooms available and must be pre-approved.

We have been accepting pre-registrations this weekend and want to thank all those who have already taken the time to register. There are several expenses such as flyers, programs, mail-outs and transportation costs that we need to cover prior to the convention. We are again asking that everyone announce the convention at their home groups and stress the importance of pre-registrations.

The speaker line-up is filled, on Friday night following the 8:00 speaker there will be the Steps we took speaker line up which will consist of four or five 10 minute speakers. The new GSR workshop will be bright and early Saturday morning along with the area committee meeting followed by a "Traditions in Relationship" workshop facilitated by Scott and Linda L. of Tennessee on Saturday morning.

The committee is still working on tweaking the schedule so that we can allow plenty of time for meals and fellowship between speakers and activities. If you haven't had a chance to register yet please come to the table in the back and someone will be happy to assist you.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve.

IX. 2006 State Convention – Mike D, Chair

The convention was held June 9-11 at the Westchase Marriott. It was very well attended, and we had a great time. The speakers, the hospitality suites, the coffee was all great. The committee wants to thank everyone who attended. Those of you who came helped put money back into your area of the State of Texas to help the still-suffering alcoholic. We were able to return the \$6,000 seed money along with a profit. At our last Executive Committee meeting it was approved to raise our prudent reserve because of the rising costs of putting on the State Convention. The prudent reserve was raised from \$15,000 to \$17,000.

Because the State Convention Committee requires that if the State Convention loses money, and if this area is not the host area, we would be responsible for 15% of the loss, i.e., Dallas has the Convention next year. If they were to lose \$10,000, our area would be responsible for \$1,500. Because this convention made money, this area should see about \$2,000 and to our SCAP Committee. However, Mike requested Betsy appoint an ad hoc committee to research this so we can set up a State Convention Prudent Reserve that will eventually will cap out at \$5,000 in the event of State Convention losses. This money would come from income from the State Convention. An example would be the State Convention in Austin in two years. The room rates will be \$145/night. They are concerned there will not be money to give back to the areas, and the possibility of losing money.

X. Roll Call for Voting – June C

Seventy seven (77) voting members were present. Fifty-one (51) = 2/3 majority.

XI. Finance Committee – David H

The Finance Committee for the Area recommended that the 2007 Proposed Budget be accepted and approved as presented. The budget passed.

XII. Election of Liaison to Spanish Intergroup

Angelo M stood for Liaison to Spanish Intergroup. His election was passed by acclamation. He will finish out the current term through the end of 2006. If he wishes to serve for the next two years, he will need to stand for this position again in October.

XIII. Ad Hoc Committee on Conventions Proceeds – Patrick C

As a result of the Policies & Procedures Workshop and the points that were brought up, the Ad Hoc Committee withdrew the motion, take it back to the Committee and make the recommended changes. The revised amendment to the Policies & Procedures Manual will then be sent out with the minutes 45 days prior to the next assembly and will be up for vote in October.

XIV. Newsletter Committee – Charles P

The Ad Hoc Committee members are: Paula D, District 51; Lee G, District 52; and Gene J, District 31. This committee was asked to review the SETA Newsletter. Several newsletters from other areas across the US were reviewed. The committee discussed the content, distribution methods, funding, committee composition and benefit to the area. After much discussion and consideration the following are our suggestions:

1. Committee should have additional committee members to help with composition, production and mailing.
2. Newsletters shall be mailed to everyone for whom a mailing label is supplied by the Area Registrar. An e-mail copy may be sent to anyone requesting it by providing a current address to the Newsletter Editor but this will not replace a hard copy that is mailed.
3. That the budget should be increased to cover the cost of publishing and mailing.
4. Newsletter should contain articles about recovery from AA approved literature and area members' experience, strength and hope.
5. The SETA website address should be placed on the front page of each issue.
6. Quarterly Area Assembly agenda should be included.

The Area Newsletter is a vital and direct communication link between the Area Officers and Delegate, GSRs, activities in the districts and services to the membership to help them do twelve-step work. The unity of Area 67 is dependent upon a well-informed group conscience; our Newsletter is the key. The motion passed to make the recommended changes to the Newsletter.

Discussion followed regarding who can submit articles. Charles stated he knew of no restriction on this. John S, Newsletter, felt it was up to the editor to make the decision on what can fit into each issue. People could submit general interest articles that the editor could use at any time for different issues where space is available. Marcia P was on the last ad hoc committee for the Newsletter and stated that one of the recommendations made was that any GSR be allowed to submit an article to the Newsletter. This recommendation was amended to any member of Alcoholics Anonymous. That recommendation passed.

XV. Gratitude Dinner – Paul M

The ad hoc Committee members for the Gratitude Dinner are David H, Marcia P, Tandy B and Paul M. They have been meeting via the internet. There were many questions concerning the event, how it started, and its history. The committee hopes to have a recommendation for the Assembly in October.

XVI. New Business – Betsy G

Parth M made the following motion: In the interest of keeping with our stated area conscience of wanting to do away with printing of pie charts with respect to recommended group contributions, I motion that we remove the pie chart from the 7th Tradition information page which is printed on the last page of the SETA quarterly minutes." The motion was seconded by Marcia P. It was amended to include changing the sentence in the second paragraph be changed to, "Please support each of these group services with contributions from your group treasury after all group expenses have been met, in accordance with your informed group conscience." The last sentence is stricken. After quite a bit of discussion, the motion passed, however, after the minority opinion was stated, the motion was made by Fritz B [REDACTED] and seconded by Debra R to postpone the motion on the pie charts and appoint an ad hoc committee to research this information and report back to the October assembly. This motion passed.

The Finance Committee presented the following items:

Betsy G requested that the Quarterly Assembly budget for 2006 be amended to add \$550. This would cover the cost so that Don M, current AAWS Director, may attend our October Assembly to conduct the Third Legacy workshop and assist with our elections. The Finance Committee makes the recommendation that this increase be granted for this purpose. The motion passed.

Based on the recommendation of the Newsletter Ad Hoc Committee and the resulting assembly action, the Finance Committee makes the following recommendation: The Newsletter budget be increased for expenses by \$915, bringing the budget to a total of \$1,915 for 2006. The motion passed.

ZBM made a motion as follows. It may have been the finance committee's desire to make the CFC workshop/conference expense be more transparent to the assembly by having an offset income line item, but in so separating the expense from the CFC budget to an Area line item, the word "Advance" was added and changed the intent of the expense. It was intended to be an expense item to the Area, the cost of doing a special annual workshop. The CFC Committee has acted responsibly and prudently in its administration since 1999 so as to infringe as little as possible on the financial stress of the Area, ever mindful that the final expense could not exceed the approved budgeted expense amount. It was never intended to "make money," be a source of income, or even have an income offset to this expense. The Budget Committee can change the amount proposed, but ought not to have changed the handling or the intent. It was, and is, an expense item of the CFC, and should be put back within that service committee's budget. Thus, I move to amend the 2007 budget by deleting the expense and income line items titled "Correctional Facilities Workshop Advance" and "2006 Correctional Facilities Workshop Advance Return" and reinstate the expense amount as part of the SETA Correctional Committee proposed budget total. The motion was seconded by Sheryl L. Discussion included questions about balancing the budget, since this motion would cause a deficit. Gus H. made a motion to amend the motion to add \$1,000 to the "Miscellaneous Contributions" line item in order to have a balanced budget. Randi B. seconded the motion. The amended motion passed.

Randi B proposed that an ad hoc committee research and make recommendations to the funding and benefit of moving the Area Committee meeting to the Sunday Assembly meeting. Betsy will appoint a committee for this.

In October, Don M, former AAWS Director from Colorado, will be conducting a workshop on the Third Legacy and will assist with our elections on Sunday morning. Please go back to your groups and search your conscience. Make sure your group is represented on that Sunday morning, and keep in mind that God does not call the equipped; He equips the called.

XVII. Announcements – Terri V

- 93 voting members and 69 non-voting members registered, totaling 163, with 43 rooms.
- The Committees eligible for October hotel suites are Archives, CFC, and Website Committees.
- The host district for October will be District 33.
- The Corrections Conference will be held September 8-10 at the Clarion Inn in Houston.
- SWRAASA will be in Wichita, Kansas, on October 13-15, 2006.
- Traditions and Concepts Workshop will be held October 20-22 at the Ramada Inn, 23rd Street & Seawall in Galveston.
- The next Gratitude Dinner hosted by District 31 will be held November 18. It will be a spaghetti dinner and will be held at the Jimmy Burke Activity Center, 500 West 13th in Deer Park.
- The 45th Annual SETA Convention will be held January 12-14, 2007, at the Moody Gardens Hotel in Galveston.

XVIII. Close – Terri V

We closed in the usual manner.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily McF
SETA Secretary

Area Actions

- The 2007 SETA budget was passed.
- Angelo M was elected the Liaison to the Spanish Intergroup.
- The motion passed to make the changes to the Newsletter as requested by the ad hoc Newsletter committee.
- The motion passed to postpone voting on the pie chart motion and to elect an ad hoc committee to report back their findings at the October assembly.
- The motion passed to amend the 2006 budget by \$550 to cover the cost of having Don M, AAWS Director, attend the October Assembly to conduct the Third Legacy Workshop and assist in elections.
- The motion passed to increase the newsletter budget for 2006 by \$915.
- An amended motion was passed to remove the Correctional Facilities Workshop Advance and the 2006 Correctional Facilities Workshop Advance Return line items in the 2007 budget and increase the CFC budget and Miscellaneous Contributions line items by \$1,000 each.