

**SOUTHEAST TEXAS AREA 67  
QUARTERLY ASSEMBLY  
Sheraton Hotel – Houston Texas  
Area Assembly Meeting  
Sunday October 07, 2007**

- I. **Open – Bonita W** – opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer.
- II. **Preamble - Tandy B** – read the preamble to the SETA Policies and Procedures Manual.
- III. **Tradition IX – Julio J District 66**
- IV. **Roll Call – Bill B** (Please see attached)
- V. **Recognize past delegates** – Mike D Panel 49, Marvin W Panel 51, Paul M Panel 53 and Charles P Panel 55  
**New GSRs and First timers – 9 present**
- VI. **Minutes – Deborah D** – Approved - Motion to approve minutes by Marcia P second by Cynthia B.
- VII. **Treasurer’s Report – Don B** - Approved – Motion to approve report by Sammie G second by Duane P.

Don requested that everyone turn in their receipts for expenses to better reflect our finances.

**VIII. Delegate’s Report – Gus H**

Gus would first like to express his appreciation to Bonita, Tandy, and all those who helped them, for securing this meeting space for our Assembly. We have been faced throughout the year with many difficulties in getting space for our meetings for next year, and at the last minute, we had to jump through hoops for this Assembly. Many people put in a lot of time and effort, and God prevailed. This hotel is, in my opinion, ideal for our needs. Many thanks to all who helped make this happen.

We did something a little different in our DCM / Delegate sharing session on Friday night. Many DCMs had asked what to do about apathy, and how to encourage participation, the age-old problem faced by all DCMs. We put together a panel of past DCMs and conducted a workshop on Unity, Participation, and Enthusiasm. It was a good interactive session. Some of the takeaways included:

- Districts will unite around worthy projects or specific needs. Examples of these are District conventions, monthly round-robins, District gratitude dinners, workshops, hosting Assemblies, Twelfth Step work at local jails and treatment centers, etc.
- Asking someone directly for their help on a specific project or Twelfth Step opportunity almost always works. **“I need your help!”**
- Bringing standing committee work back to the District level should go hand-in-hand with the above.

Gus attended the annual CFC workshop and the T&C weekend in September, both were very well done, great job CFC committee and District 81.

Gus brought the General Service Conference reports, anyone who doesn’t already have one please help yourself. For those Districts who did not receive their conference reports yet, Gus requested that the DCMs take as many as you need back to your District. If we run short, more can be ordered.

Gus would like to take a little time this morning to report about an issue that has become very divisive within the fellowship and on the General Service Board. Many of you will be attending the Forum next week in Denver and you may hear some discussion about this. Gus feels compelled to present the facts to you as he understood and them. The issue in a nutshell can be summarized by the following:

- Is the position of General Manager of the General Service Office subject to our spiritual principle of rotation, or is the length of service for this position undefined? Is this a spiritual matter or strictly an employment matter?
- Who or what determines the length of service for this position? The Board? The Employee? Past Precedent?
- Why is this issue for the fellowship today?

At the General Service Conference in April, a minority appeal was brought to the Conference Trustees Committee. This appeal was signed by six Board members, all Class B Trustees. The nature of their appeal regarded the decision by the Board to **Not** begin the search for a new General Manager. The majority of the Board feels that the position is not subject to rotation and that the General Manager serves as an employee at the pleasure of the Board, for as long as the Board may like. The minority group of Trustees disagrees with this premise. They further feel that the Board is abdicating its responsibility to the fellowship by not

addressing the matter. The reason for bringing this appeal directly to the conference is that this minority group believed their appeal was not going to be heard at the Board level.

The minority appeal was debated by the Conference Trustees Committee and reported out as an additional consideration. There was much discussion on the Conference floor, but no action taken. In the additional consideration the Board was asked to hear the minority appeal at the July meeting, and to define the length of service for the position of General Manager and report this determination to the Conference in 2008. Deliberations regarding such matters as these are normally handled by the Board, our trusted servants, and we in the fellowship hear only of final Board decisions. The fact that this appeal was brought to the Conference now makes it a fellowship-wide issue.

Gus offers following historical perspective. Some of the documentation and background material I have seen concerning this question, indicate that guidelines for length of service for the position of General Manager have been in place for some time. Though there have been exceptions, historically the average tenure for the General Manager has been 5 – 7 years. The letter offering employment to the current General Manager indicated tenure of 5 – 7 years. The Trustee's Procedure No. 9 which outlines guidelines for hiring the General Manager indicates a projected length of service of 5 -7 years. The current General Manager is in his 9<sup>th</sup> year of service, and there is no indication as to how long he might continue to serve or who ultimately defines this length of time.

Gus personally can see both sides of the debate, though he finds himself leaning toward the minority position. There are no performance issues with the current General Manager. In Gus's opinion, he has done and continues to do an exemplary job managing our General Service Office. The easiest thing to do would be to keep him in the job. However, Gus thinks we need to take the spiritual high road with this matter, and thoroughly address how the principle of rotation applies at this level of service. First, the easiest thing to do is frequently not the best thing to do. Just because the recruiting and hiring process for a new General Manager might be difficult, and there is always uncertainty as to how someone new might perform, we should not shy away from this work or this uncertainty. AA is well grounded in our principle of faith overcoming fear. Second, our time-tested spiritual tradition of rotation has served us very well. Gus also stated that most of us who have been in service for a while agree on the spiritual merits of rotation. Though it can be frustrating and difficult at times, the principle probably keeps us more in line with God's will than if there were no established principle of rotation. Though we sometimes find ourselves spending a lot of time on matters of AA business, we always fall back to the premise that AA is a spiritual entity with a little bit of business to conduct. It's not the other way around!

There are Areas considering crafting an agenda item for the 2008 General Service Conference to address this matter, but Gus thinks it would be a mistake for Area 67 to try doing this at this time. The Board, including Conley B. our new SW Regional Trustee, is well aware that the fellowship is looking for answers. The Board is under the microscope. At this time let's trust the process, and the process is not broken. As soon as more is known Gus will report back to us. More will be revealed!

Gus thanks all of us from the bottom of his heart for the trust we have placed in him, and for the opportunity to serve and represent Area 67. There is no higher priority or greater calling in my life today ahead of being the best Delegate I can be for this Area. I ask you for your prayers as we go forth from here. If Gus can ever be of service to you, your Group, or your District in any way, please don't hesitate to call.

## IX. Alternate Delegate's Report – Betsy G

Betsy congratulated District 66 for their fine work hosting our Assembly this weekend. She stated that having been in service for quite a while, she did not ever remember a Spanish District hosting the Assembly. What an outstanding job!

The **Regional Forum**, to be held in Denver, will be next weekend. There are a few flyers available. They are also on the web site. It is not too late to make your reservations. However, the Red Lion Hotel is completely booked. You will need to make a reservation at the hotel next door. We hope to have a large contingent present. Betsy passed the Multi-Lingual Chair's information on to the alternate delegate for Colorado, and she passed it on to GSO. Everardo will be working with the GSO staff to see that our Spanish members will be active participants at the Forum. We have one of the best Spanish communities in the country, and this will be an opportunity for them to be of service to our fellowship in the SW Region.

At the Delegate/DCM Sharing session last night, we continued to firm up plans for the **Gratitude Dinner**. There are flyers available today, and it has been placed on our web site and emailed through the "AllSETA" email account. Remember – it is on a Sunday afternoon this year. Beth R. will be our speaker.

We have a request from the Oklahoma Area; one of the items Betsy is responsible for is writing a quarterly article for the SWRDA newsletter. She mentioned that the play is written and performed by members of District 32, on "How to (or Not To) Lead an AA Meeting" and received a request for the script. She has sent the script on to the Oklahoma Area Secretary. The members of District 32 are to be congratulated!

On that same note, recently, at the District 40 Fellowship Fest, the "World Premier" of "How Stella Got Her Conscience Back" was performed for the first time. The play was written and performed by members of District 40. It was excellent, and hope you all get to see it at some point in the future.

Betsy echoed all of Gus' comments on the CFC Conference, District 90 Conference and the District 81 Traditions and Concepts Weekend. All three events were excellent, well attended, well planned, and a lot of good fellowship. There were many opportunities for our members to participate in their own recovery as well as learn how to be of service to our fellowship.

Finally, a big thank you to all the districts for the warmth and hospitality extended to Gus and Betsy during the district visits. As always, she came away from each event full of gratitude for all the hard work being done in our Area.

**X. Concept III – Hugo E District 66**

**XI. Ad hoc committee reports – SCAP/Funds – Paul M**

The members of the committee were Mike D., past delegate and past state Convention Chair; Barbara C., current Seta Area Finance chair; Charles P, past delegate and current State Convention Executive Committee Chair; Debbie U. past SCAP Committee Chair and Paul M. past delegate and 2013 State Convention Chair. We shared with each other via e-mail over the past 3 months and met on Saturday as a committee to review the following:

- 1) Consider distribution of funds received from the Texas State Convention.
- 2) Evaluate the activities of the SCAP committee.

After much discussion the committee recommends that:

- 1) The South East Texas Area continue to distribute the funds received from the Texas State Convention to the SCAP Committee
- 2) The SCAP Committee review and update their committee guidelines. In addition we recommend the SCAP Committee formulate a new guideline to establish a prudent reserve. This prudent reserve is to cover the percentage of any loss at the State Convention level as laid out in the Texas State Convention Guidelines.

**XII. Unfinished Business – SETA Convention Reports**

**2008 College Station – Tim C - January 18-20, 2008.** Room rates are \$85, suites \$99 and meeting space \$1000 per night. Tim reports that thanks to the Area for its trust and patience in allowing me to serve as this year's committee chairperson. The way this works in that the convention planning committee serves the Area and the Area serves up a successful convention. Are you listening? Let me make this point very clear: this is the Area's convention. It is just around the corner and it is time for the Area to come together for the success of this event. Cynthia B will be coordinating the hospitality suites.

This planning committee has met monthly all year. Thanks for the outstanding effort, support and directions. As we all know, this committee, like every other committee is staffed by members of the fellowship who already serve the fellowship in other capacities at the Area and district levels, in their home groups, as sponsors, etc... but have graciously added service to this convention to their already full plates. Any credit for it's' success belongs to the committee and those who attend.

**XIII. 2009 Houston - Debra R - A planning session was held Sat 10-6-07 at the Quarterly. Still lining up committee Chairs - so grateful for the wonderful response to help. Joe B. is the Treasurer and he will be looking for a PO Box and Bank. We are looking for area speakers for 10pm Friday night so if anyone wants to submit a name/tape let someone know who is on the committee (Debra R., David H., Emily Mc.). Plenty of more good stuff on the way but right now want to encourage the fellowship to attend the 2008 in Bryan-College Station. It is a great conference spot!**

Thanks again for the opportunity to serve and carry the message.

**XIV. New Business –**

**Finance Committee recommendations – Barbara C – See report.** There are two items requested for a budget increase:

- The Literature Committee is asking for support from the area. They have been very active and would like (an addition) added to their budget. There is a motion and second out of committee. **Motion Passed.**
- The SETA Website committee would like to respectfully request (an increase) for the Website budget. Descriptions as follows: A) (An increase) to cover the purchase cost of Laptop computer to be used to maintain the website and will rotate to the incoming committee chairs. B) (an increase) to cover the purchase cost for two licenses of Adobe Acrobat used for document security management. C) (an increase) to cover the purchase cost for two licenses of Web Authoring Software which will put us in legal compliance of copyright requirements. There is a motion and second out of committee. **Motion Passed.**

**Area Committee recommendations -** An Ad-hoc committee will be formed to and charged with the development of IT Guidelines which will include upgrade, maintenance, licensing, software, storage for all computers and other electronic assets. From this committee we hope to have a recommendation on who will manage these assets.

**Literature Committee** – The Literature Committee is asking for support from the area. We would like to request that GSO publish a Literature Service workbook. Right now we only have guidelines (the yellow sheet) and every other standing committee such as PI, TFC, and Grapevine have workbooks produced by GSO. There area assembly approved.

**XV. Announcements – Tandy B**

District 66 – Thank you for hosting.  
District 81 - Host for April 2008 assembly  
Registration for this weekend was 147 with 52 rooms.  
Correctional Facilities Committee is looking for a Secretary.  
Check with the register to update our SETA database  
All committee and dist reports need to be given to the area secretary.

**Events:**

SW Regional Forum October 12-14, 2007 – Denver Colorado  
District 31 Hosts the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Old-timer's Day, Lamb of God Lutheran Church Humble TX 77339  
SETA Gratitude Dinner November 18, 2007 Rosenberg Convention Center 3825 Highway 36 South Rosenberg TX 77471  
46<sup>th</sup> Annual SETA Convention January 18-20, 2008 Bryan College Station  
District 33 Unity February 29 – March 2, 2008 College Station Conference Center  
District 20 – Monthly First Saturday Speaker meeting – St Thomas University, Anderson Hall  
Grapevine Committee Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month Delta Club 6:30-8:30 pm

Area committee meeting will meet at 7:30 am and the GSR workshop will also meet at 7:30 am at the SETA

**XVI. Close – Bonita W**

We closed in the usual manner.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah D  
Secretary