

**AREA 67 QUARTERLY ASSEMBLY  
Sheraton North Houston Hotel  
15700 JFK Blvd, Houston, Texas  
Area Assembly Meeting  
Sunday July 13, 2008**

- 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 One – Jim R - District 31**
- IV. **Roll Call – Bill B** – (Please see attached) **83 present for voting.**
- V. **Welcome to our Trustee Conley B and new GSRs and First-timers to assembly, recognized-- 15).**
- VI. **Minutes – Tom K/Deborah D – Approved as corrected Motion – Gus H, Second – Mark**  
**Corrections – Original Page 4 of 6 section XIV** ...All in favor - 81, those opposed -9... Minority opinion? There was a VERY lengthy series of opinions to NOT discontinue this very expensive issue confronting us at the Assembly. Vote to revoke – discussion- revoke: 22 to change the original vote, 51 to let the original motion voted in to stand. Motion to Discontinue Hotel coffee and provide Hospitality coffee **APPROVED** by original vote.  
**Changed to Motion passed.** Minority Opinion was called for and given. Minority vote failed. Original motion to discontinue hotel coffee and to provide hospitality coffee stands.
- VII. **Treasurer's Report – Don B - Approved Motion – Gary S, Second - Gus H.**
- VIII. **Delegate's Report – Gus H**

Good Morning. I'm truly proud and honored to be serving as your Delegate. This has been a great Assembly weekend.

I'd like to take a moment to say a few words about two of our DCMs. Stan S. from District 40 was hospitalized recently and underwent emergency surgery. The last word I got was that Stan was doing fine. I also learned recently that Debbie U. from District 33 will be leaving our Area soon as she and her husband will be moving to Corpus Christi. Debbie will be missed by Area 67, but our loss will be their gain. There is no doubt in my mind that Debbie will be actively involved in AA wherever God may choose for her to be. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the multilingual committee for translating my Conference report yesterday. I gave them the report in English, and four hours later they handed it back to me in Spanish. They do a great job for our Area.

Since the April Assembly, I've been pretty busy and it looks like the pace will continue for a while. The General Service Conference was in April, the District 82 service workshop in May, the Texas state convention in June, I've visited a total of seven Districts so far, and have had the opportunity to speak at two or three Groups along the way. I've got visits scheduled for all other Districts except for District 60 at this time. I will be meeting with the Spanish Districts on July 26 and 27, and I plan on attending the CFC conference, the District 90 convention, and the District 81 T&C workshop between now and the October Assembly.

In my conference report yesterday, I talked a little about what seems to be unfinished business to me. First, in my opinion, I don't feel like the Board has adequately addressed the principle of rotation and how it applies to the General Manager of GSO. We are currently experiencing rotation at this position, so it is not a pressing concern, but it is one which could become problematic down the road. Second, I have concerns about the Conference agenda item selection process. It seems very subjective, and has been made more troublesome by ineffective communications. I may be proposing Conference agenda items which would address these issues, and if so, would certainly want the Area group conscience to weigh in.

On the matter of self-support at the Area level, our Groups have come through. They believe in what we are doing, they support us, they trust us, and they want us to put the support they've given us to good use. We need to start thinking outside of the box. What things can we be doing to reach people we may not be reaching now? I applaud District 31 for their billboard project. What a great way to get the word out.

I think now is the season we need to be thinking about rotation. How can we help smooth the transition for those coming after us in our service positions? How can we keep continuity, enthusiasm, and Unity alive? What are we making ourselves available for? We should be rotating on and not rotating out.

For myself, I pledge to help our next Delegate get up to speed as best I can. I offer whatever time he or she might require. I would like for our next Delegate to know they are prepared before they get to their first Conference. Only God knows what my next AA assignment will be. I just plan on making myself available. I do intend to get more involved at my home Group, to do more 12<sup>th</sup> Step work, to be a better sponsor, and whatever else God might have in store. If I can be of service at your Group or District, or at the Area level, I am available, and please don't hesitate to ask.

I want to thank my good friend Conley B., our SW Regional Trustee, for spending the weekend with us. Conley has touched a lot of our lives this weekend, and I personally appreciate his friendship, his wise and experienced counsel, and his service to our fellowship. Anytime I start whining about the time commitments and responsibilities associated with my current service position, I remind myself of the commitments and responsibilities our Trustees take on. I stop whining pretty fast!

If you liked Conley, you are going to love the October Assembly. Dorothy H., a General Service Trustee, will be visiting us. I'm sure we will ask her to help with the new DCM orientation on Friday night, offer a Trustees report, and help facilitate our elections. Over the next few weeks, we'll be firming up this agenda for her. Also in October, one of the positions we will be electing is our candidate for Trustee at Large. We have many qualified potential candidates in our Area, and I encourage all of them to give serious consideration about standing for this position.

I can't close this talk without giving special thanks to our Alternate Delegate, Betsy G. Betsy is an amazing woman and a good complement for me. Where I can sometimes tend to be a loose cannon, Betsy always offers a more thorough perspective. I cherish her friendship, I appreciate her service to AA, and I thank God we have had the opportunity to serve together these last few years.

God Bless all of you Area 67! If I can ever be of service to you, your Group, District, whatever... please don't hesitate to call.

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

Good morning! Gus and I are now  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way through our terms as delegate and alternate delegate, and it has been a joy to grow in love and service with you. It has been a wonderful weekend. Conley, thank you for spending the weekend with us. We have enjoyed our time with you. And, thank you to the districts we have visited so far, and we look forward to visiting the remainder of them soon.

State Convention – The convention was held in Odessa this year, and I think the final account was that over 850 attended. The good news is that we heard the report from the host committee that, after all bills were paid, they expected to be able to turn over \$7,000 to the state convention committee to be disbursed to the areas and hopefully used to assist the SCAP committees next year. If you weren't there, you missed a great time!

Delegate/DCM Sharing Session Friday Night -- At the Delegate/DCM Sharing session Friday night, we continued to firm up plans for the Gratitude Dinner. There are flyers available today, and we will also distribute the flyer by email and will post it on the web site. Remember – **it is on a Sunday afternoon again** this year, in order to cut out the cost for security guards. We will be at the VFW Hall in Spring Branch again this year and promise that the sound system will be better.

In keeping with the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee, the Gratitude Dinner is sponsored by Area 67, with the funding provided by voluntary contributions of the members. The current balance in the account is \$823.82,

including a check for \$100.00 which I am handing the treasurer this morning. In keeping with the request to continue to keep costs low, I have asked Marvin W to be our speaker. As we have done in years past, the districts are committing to provide the food items, and we will be serving BBQ. Several of the districts have made donations to cover the cost of the BBQ and additional cash donations will be needed before the event. If you wish to contribute, please give your contributions to the treasurer. The funds we have collected to date are being held "in escrow" for the dinner and are reflected on the financial report in a special area just for the dinner and are not part of the Area income or expense report. Please pick up some flyers for the event, which have been provided through the efforts of District 70.

SWRAASA -- Plans for SWRAASA are continuing. English and Spanish flyers are available, and the flyers have been posted on our web site. Several of our members will be participating as presenters. I have a few copies of the schedule of the presentations, if anyone would like to see one.

Thank you for your time, and let's have a great Assembly Weekend.

**X. Concept Seven - Melissa R - District 31**

**XI. Workshop reports**

**Budget report – Barbara C. Presenter & Marcia P. recorder**

Duane P. called the workshop to order with the Preamble and the Serenity Prayer.

Barbara C., Chair of the Finance Committee, introduced the budget by explaining that the Budget Committee met early in the year to discuss the budget. The Budget Committee consists of the area personnel who have a budget (Area Officers and Committee Chairs).

She explained an amendment that had been made to the budget since the April Assembly involving the expense of coffee at the area assemblies. The area committee had voted to discontinue the purchase of coffee through the hotel at the area assemblies and instead fund the supply of coffee in the hospitality room. This allowed a decrease of budget for coffee from \$1,870 to \$870. This resulted in a decrease of the budget to \$40,827.

There was no voting at the workshop, but questions were asked to clarify the budget before voting on Sunday.

Barbara highlighted several items of interest in the budget:

- Group Contributions for 2009 were estimated by taking last year's actual contributions and multiplying by 2%.
- A new category, Unrestricted Funds, was added on Page 1. SETA currently has \$34,657.98 of unrestricted operating funds. We used \$583 of these funds left over from 2008 to balance our budget for 2009.
- There is a new budget for the La Viña committee for \$1,313.
- The quarterly budgets were reduced by the amount that the coffee budget was reduced.

Questions:

- Duane P. asked for clarification purposes, whether the supplies for the coffee was included in the \$878 for the coffee in the budget. The answer was yes.
- ZBM asked why the receipts for the miscellaneous contributions had increase to \$1,200 when the actual for 2007 was only \$347. The figure is an estimate for contributions from the meetings baskets at the assemblies, and other contributions such as birthday, ICYPAA, and memorial contributions. This change was made after a sense of the assembly was taken in 2005.
- Tom asked whether there wasn't a better way to estimate contributions from the groups. Barbara stated that the budget committee decided not to use averages.
- ZBM asked why the budget for the newsletter had increased to \$3,173 from \$1,900. The change is primarily due to increases in printing and postage.

Barbara closed the workshop by explaining that the budget includes lodging expenses for the committees that were not necessarily used in 2007 and 2008. Because it is not known whether the new committee member for 2009 will need these funds, it is considered important to include them in the budget.

**Job Descriptions – Paul M. Presenter & ZBM recorder**

Job descriptions are general guidelines. The minimum requirements for many of the Area positions are three to five years continuous sobriety with at least two years of service at the Area level. That means anything from alternate GSR (general service representative) on through to GSR, DCM, officers on Area standing committee, etc.

Specifically, the delegate and alternate delegate positions require minimum of six years continuous sobriety with four years of service to the Area. Officer positions (chairperson, secretary, registrar, treasurer, and each of their alternate) require minimum three years continuous sobriety with two years of service to the Area. The Area Convention chairperson position requires minimum four years continuous sobriety with two years of service to the Area.

Service is what we give back to this life-giving Fellowship. Alternate position is important; it is "in-training". It is the alternate's responsibility to get informed, go everywhere to learn. So it may be viewed as a four year commitment in a position.

PRAY ABOUT IT and we did, with the Serenity prayer. It is good to have some experience on that committee, at district or area level. REVIEW JOB DESCRIPTION, available at [www.aa-seta.org](http://www.aa-seta.org) on each position webpage if supply here is gone. See WHAT SPECIAL TALENTS ARE NEEDED to perform the job. TALK TO THOSE who has done the job, the truth about time & energy needed. TALK WITH FAMILY; consider your employment, about the impact on them if elected.

ASK yourself: 1) what can you BRING TO the position? Are you well-organized, energetic, good with numbers, do you have good follow-through, time availability, etc; 2) what can you LEARN FROM the position? Open-mindedness, how to listen better, how to place principles before personalities (theirs and/or yours).

When you do all that is suggested, then you ought to CONSIDER: the TIME, TRAVEL, ENERGY, and FINANCE requirements needed to do the job to the best of your ability, and PRAY ABOUT IT. It is both a privilege and an honor to serve Alcoholics Anonymous. Enjoy the journey in Service.

Questions:

- I am alternate. After 6 months of not liking it, do I finish or step aside?
  - Ask your service sponsor; step aside if heart isn't in it; check your motives.
- I just became an alternate GSR, is there a regular time to elect?
  - Ideally, elected & hold position for 2 year term coinciding with Delegate Panel years. At group level, elected Sept or Oct in even years, to begin 2 yr term in Jan of odd year.
- What is a service sponsor?
  - One who walks you through the Traditions, Concepts, & the Service Manual, showing you how to be responsible in service, in life. We are responsible for keeping AA alive & healthy & passing it on.
- Person shared on rewards of service: new talents, expanded horizons, and an entire psychic change.
  - Any position, liaison to delegate, is all about COMMUNICATION.

The workshop closed on time, with the RESPONSIBILITY Statement said in unison.

### **Archives – Lee G. Presenter & Sara D. recorder**

The Archives Committee Workshop was held to explain to the Area Assembly the reason the committee intends to restructure the committee and the reason for the amendment to the Policies and Procedures coming out of that change.

Panel members were Lee G, moderator, Sherry B, Dick P and Bill H. Dick spoke about the meaning and importance of archives as well as giving a brief history of the Archives Committee, or "how it was." Sherry spoke about what has happened, briefly describing the way it has been for our committee members and injecting some humor with her personal history or the part she has played.

Bill H spoke about the committee's aspirations. The panel, as a whole, explained the reason for dividing the duties of the Chair, who is non-rotating so that there is a rotating chair conducting the business side, including the power to vote at Assemblies, and a non-rotating Archivist. It was expressed that one hope held by the Committee was to find a space open more hours to the members for work on the collection, which would also allow for space for a display of the Area's archival items.

Questions:

Betsy G, Alternate Delegate, asked for clarification on who would possess voting privileges. Marvin W, Ex-Delegate, commented that the Committee needed to do the work and present the results to the Area. The current Chair and Archivist responded that Jane S, Ex-Delegate, who is now deceased, had researched the possibility of renting a storage space with an attached office and climate control but that she had deemed it too expensive. Lee G explained that the Committee expected to do the legwork but was appealing to the Area for whatever additional assistance they might have to offer. Marvin W and ZBM volunteered to be on an ad-hoc committee to research the Committee's options. There were other comments regarding the urgency for preservation and suggestions regarding storage and means of accessing records electronically.

## XII. Unfinished Business

**2009 SETA Convention Report – Debra R** – SETA 2009 Committee will be meeting Aug 20 and Sept 17 at the Delta Club at 630pm. The Wyndham is officially the Hilton and taking reservations. The new flyer should be on the web site in English and Spanish; please download and take to your groups and district meetings. Houston is always well attended and remembers to stay at the hotel to enjoy the fellowship and make these conventions possible. Please pre-register as soon as you can. Sane and Sober

**2010 SETA Convention Report – MaryAnn M** - The 2010 SETA convention committee is under way! My very capable co-chair is Melissa B. We have secured the Elegante Hotel and Convention Center for the 3rd weekend in January 2010 at a room rate of \$92.00. This is the same rate as this years district 90 convention - so we are very pleased the Hotel continues to be so generous in working to make this event a success. Our first official committee meeting will be at the first Assembly after this years SETA convention. Much has already been done and we are in great shape.

I appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve. Anyone wishing to volunteer can reach me at (refer to SETA roster for MaryAnn's Contact info) I look forward to working for all of you.

## XIII. Roll Call for Voting – Bill B - 83 present to vote

## XIV. New Business

**2009 Budget Proposal** – Motion and second out of committee to accept the 2009 budget as amended. See report given above. Question what was the amendment? As a result of an assembly action we voted at the last assembly to discontinue hotel coffee. Discussion from the floor: why do we include misc. funds before receiving them and why not include reimbursement for mileage to the committee chairs. **Motion Passed.**

**Archives Restructure Policy & Procedures Amendment** – See details in the committee minutes on Saturday. Motion and second out of committee states:

We respectfully propose the following change to the SETA Policies and Procedures Manual:

The sentence in the SETA Policies and Procedures Manual, page 4; section The Area Assembly; under NOTE, that reads:

*The only exception in Area 67 is the non-rotating position of Archives Chairperson.*

Be changed to read:

*The only exception in Area 67 is the non-rotating position of Archives Committee Archivist.* Discussion from the floor: confused about wording, not clear and not enough information. Vote as follows – 63 for, 5 opposed and 5 abstain.

**Motion passed.** Minority opinion given and a vote to revote were 7. Paul M. made a motion to reconsider and Patrick C. seconded the motion. Yes was 23 and No was 51, revote failed.

**Seed Money Request – Betsy G** made the motion and Paul seconded the motion. See Committee minutes for more details. The motion states that the Southeast Texas Area Assembly authorizes the SETA Treasurer to pay \$100.00 to the St. Louis SWRAASA Committee as its share of the increase in the seed money to be forwarded to Denver as seed money for the 2010 SWRAASA. **Motion Passed.**

**2008 SWRAASA Travel expense increase – Barbara C** made the motion out of committee as follows: to increase the funding by \$600 to send 7 people. The 7 positions are 3 officers, delegate, alt delegate, chairperson and 4 committee chairs which are the Multi-lingual, Correctional Facilities, Finance and Public Information. **Motion Passed.**

**XV. Announcements – Tandy B**

July 19, 2008 – PI/CPC Informational Workshop – Spring Branch Memorial Club – Houston TX  
July 20, 2008 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy of AA – Up the Street Club – Webster TX  
July 26, 2008 – Our Common Journey Group celebrates 15 years as a group – Houston TX  
August 9, 2008 – How to Chair a Meeting District 31 Spring TX  
August 9, 2008 – Sobriety in Print Workshop – Delta Club – Houston  
August 22-24, 2008 – Love & Tolerance is our Code – District 90 conference – Beaumont TX  
September 12-14, 2008 – Correctional Facilities Conference – Crowne Plaza 9090 Southwest Fwy, Houston TX  
September 13, 2008 – Mid County AA 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary 2:00 PM 908 Boston Ave, Nederland TX 409-728-3474  
September 20, 2008 – A Celebration of AA's Three Legacies – Bay Area Club 2111 Webster St, League City TX  
October 10-12, 2008 – SWRAASA Hosted by Area 38 – St Louis MO  
November 23, 2008 – Gratitude Dinner Area 67 2:00 PM – VFW Spring Branch 1560 Foley St, Houston TX 77055  
November 30, 2008 – Gratitude Dinner D90 4:00 PM Cost \$10 – St Andrew's Church 1350 N 23<sup>rd</sup> St Beaumont TX  
January 9-11, 2009 – 47<sup>th</sup> Annual SETA Convention – Hilton Greenspoint Dr Houston TX 77060

**XVI. Close – Bonita W** -We closed in the usual manner.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah D  
Secretary