

AREA 67 QUARTERLY ASSEMBLY
Council on Alcohol and Drugs
303 Jackson Hill St, Houston, Texas 77007
Area Assembly Meeting
Sunday October 5, 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 Nine – Barbara P. - District 32**
- IV. **Roll Call – Bill B** – (Please see attached) **90 present for voting.**
- V. **Welcome to the assembly new GSRs and first-timers - ~ 15 attending, Class A Trustee Herb Goodman and Past Delegates – Panel 39 Beth R, 49 Mike D, 51 Marvin W, 53 Paul M, 55 Charles P to assembly recognized).**
- VI. **Minutes – Deborah D – Approved as corrected Motion – Duane P, Second – Gary S**
Corrections – Original Page 8of11 Finance report ...\$30 to \$45; should read \$.30 to \$.46. Page 3of7 Workshop reports ...\$40, 827 should read \$40,837. Same section ... multiplying by 2% should read increasing by 2%.
- VII. **Treasurer’s Report – Don B - Approved as read Motion – Mark A. District 52, Second – Carol E. District 20**
- VIII. **Delegate’s Report – Gus H**

Greetings Area 67: I know this morning that many of you are displaced, that many of our Groups are displaced, and that all of our lives have been affected by recent events. In the aftermath of hurricane Ike, we have been given new opportunities to *“practice these principles in all our affairs!”* District 81 had to cancel the Three Legacies workshop, the CFC committee had to cancel or postpone the annual CFC convention, and we had to cancel the visit by General Service Trustee Dorothy H., but our Area continues to be blessed. Isn't this a wonderful facility we are meeting in today? I take my hat off to our Area Chair and the other Area officers, for being able to secure this facility for our needs while their own lives were in turmoil. There has been a tremendous outpouring from other Areas and GSO, wanting to help any way they can. I keep telling them that I think we will recover well, and in time, will be a stronger Area for having gone through this time, but I also ask them to keep us in their prayers. If we know of a specific need for outside help, please let me know. A lot has happened since we last met:

- On August 17th, we lost our dear friend and panel 41 past Delegate Linda O. Like I have said to myself so many times in the past, I am grateful that I got to know Linda, but at the same time I am saddened that I didn't get to know her better. She will be missed. It is customary in our Area that we send a memorial contribution to the General Service Board when one of our past Delegates passes away. I will be making a motion under new business that we do this in the honor of Linda today.
- Betsy and I have visited all Districts at least once this year, with the exception of District 60, and have visited a few of our Districts several times. I received the final conference reports in August, and have been giving these out to Districts as I visit them. There are many Districts that I haven't been to since I received these reports, and I have brought your reports with me today. Please see in the back of the room. You will find a box of reports with your District number on the side. I was also able to attend the District 90 convention in August.
- We had a brief meeting this morning with most of our currently serving DCMs and a few of the incoming DCMs. We had planned to have a new DCM orientation this weekend, but obviously had to cancel those plans. It was the consensus of the group though, that we try to have this orientation at the January Assembly if at all possible.

I'd like to take a few minutes to talk about the state of AA as I see it today:

- Though not fully supported by Group contributions, the General Service Board and the office are financially sound. Group contributions account for about 70% of funding for the services provided, with the balance of funding coming from profits on literature sales. Over all, we are on sound footing, and our treasury is well managed.
- If you will remember, there was an advisory action from the conference this year that we gather input from the fellowship on self support and finances, and I anticipate we will get some guidance from the board on how this will be accomplished in the near future.
- There will be a significant change in AA leadership over the next few months. There is an active search process underway for a new General Manager for GSO, and at the 2009 conference, there will be two directors, and seven Trustees rotating, including the current Chairman of the Board.
- Grapevine Inc. continues to struggle with self support, and too often I see the Grapevine taking a back seat at the Group and District levels, and at other Areas. The future of the Grapevine depends on us. As most of you know, the only income Grapevine receives is from magazine subscriptions and products we buy. I think Area 67 made a bold positive move when we created our own La Vina standing committee last year.
- I do have concerns with the current conference committee agenda item selection process. I feel that in some ways, the Conference process is being marginalized. Later today, I will ask for a sense of the Area on a proposed Conference agenda item I intend to submit.

As my time as your Delegate comes to a close in the near future, I would like to take a moment to reflect on a few things, I have enjoyed being your Delegate, and serving with you. I would like to thank our Area officers and committee chairs, our DCMs, our GSRs, and our past Delegates for their service and commitment to Area 67 and to AA as a whole. And I would especially like to thank all of you for allowing Betsy to serve as Alternate Delegate these past two years. Betsy has been a good check and balance for me, she has been my trusted advisor, and she has been a cherished friend. I thank God that we got to serve so closely together these last few years.

As we go into our elections today, we will be closing one chapter of our lives and opening another. Rotation is good for AA and it is good for us as individuals, and I believe we should rotate on to something new not rotate out to pasture. Be available to serve, and let God decide where he needs us.

For the first time in a few years, I won't be standing for anything today, but I will be rotating on. I look forward to being a more regular member at my home Group, spending more time with sponsees, and to being more of a back bencher at the Area level. I remain at your service though, and please call if you ever have a need.

Folks, thank you for allowing me to serve as your Delegate. It's been an honor and a privilege. It's been a blast!

IX. Alternate Delegate's Report – Betsy G

Good morning! This has been a scary month for us. It was good to get here this morning and see this family of friends and get to hug so many of you. Some of us are really struggling right now with power which still has not been restored, repairs which have not yet been made, and some who have lost everything, including their homes. I would ask that all of us keep those still in need in our prayers and lend a helping hand where able.

As Gus mentioned, since we last came together, we lost another of our elder statesmen, Panel 41 Past Delegate, Linda O. I came into general service in 1991, and Linda was the delegate at that time. She was one of those ladies that seemed unapproachable to me, as did many of our elder statesmen at the time. But as I grew to know Linda and serve with her on the Public Information Committee, I found her to be one of the most caring individuals I had ever met. One of the main things that I admired about Linda was her love of the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, and her undying desire to see this fellowship preserved for those who will come after us. Many of you never got the opportunity to meet Linda or get to know her. The last time she attended the Assembly was April 2007 when she served as one of the round table facilitators on the Conference agenda items. She continued to serve as an active member of the Public Information Committee until shortly before her death. For many years, she was the voice of Southeast Texas AA to those calling to request a presentation by our Public Information Committee or one of the other committees. She was so knowledgeable on our service structure that she was able to direct the calls to the proper committee for further handling. I don't know how long she served on the PI Committee, but I have personal knowledge of her service to that committee for over 18 years. Her home group was the La Branch Street Group, and she attended as often as she was able to do so and served her group in many capacities.

Delegate/DCM Sharing Session – We met briefly this morning and finalized the plans for the Gratitude Dinner. District 70 has provided 500 flyers for distribution today. Please take these flyers with you and distribute to your group members. The flyer has also been distributed by email and it is posted on our web site. Remember – **it is on a Sunday afternoon again** this year and will be on November 23rd at the VFW Hall in Spring Branch.

The current balance in the account is \$1,023.82, plus \$250.00 held by District 33 and an additional \$500.00 allocated by District 40. Our speaker will be Marvin Wicher, Panel 51 Past Delegate and active member of District 81. As we have done in years past, the groups and districts have committed 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 help defray the cost for rental of the facility. 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. If you wish to contribute so that we can continue to build a prudent reserve, please give your contributions to the treasurer.

SWRAASA – SWRAASA is next weekend, guys. I have brought some English and Spanish flyers/registration forms, and the flyers/registration forms are also posted on our web site. Several of our members will be participating as presenters. The final schedule is now available, and I have a few copies with me today, if anyone would like to see one. The SWRAASA Committee will have greeters at the airport to help us find our way to the shuttles to the hotel.

If you are planning on going and have not registered, please get your registrations in as soon as possible. On Friday night, there will be a delegate sharing session and we will hear from Conley B., our Trustee. There will be a full day of events on Saturday and there will be Ice Cream Socials on both Friday night and Saturday night.

I want to close by acknowledging all of the members of this outstanding Area Committee which has served Area 67 for the past two years. Thank you. Our committee members have all been vigilant in their duties, and this group of trusted servants has been one of the best that it has ever been my privilege to serve with. You are all to be commended. You are AA's future, and I believe our future is secure.

And I must say a huge thank you to Gus for all of the time, patience, understanding, and kind words he has given me over the past two years. We have become good friends and I will never forget our time together. Gus, you have been an outstanding delegate and role model for those who will come after you.

I also must acknowledge my husband Marty for all his help over these past years. He has scheduled his time off from work so that he could come with me and assist me in my role as “pack mule” as we visited the districts. His love and support have been invaluable and I appreciate him so much.

As we have trudged this road of happy destiny together, many of you have called upon Gus and me to visit your districts and committees, and have allowed us to offer whatever help and guidance we could, and I thank all of you for allowing me to serve you and this wonderful Area. The spirit of unity is alive and well in Area 67, from our groups, to our districts, to our Area Assembly. I value my time with you these past two years and thank you for my sobriety. I truly appreciate being given the opportunity to serve this fantastic fellowship.

X. Concept Eleven – Gary S - District 32

XI. Unfinished Business

2009 SETA Convention Report – Debra R – SETA 2009 Committee will be meeting October 15 at the Delta Club at 6:30pm. The new flyer should be on the web site in English and Spanish; please download and take to your groups and district meetings. The hotel bill is based on rooms, please register. Houston is always well attended and if possible we remember to stay at the hotel where we can enjoy the fellowship and make sure this convention is a success. Registration is \$105/night.

2010 SETA Convention Report – MaryAnn M - The 2010 SETA plans are commencing nicely. The hotel is the MCM Elegante` and Melissa B. is the co-chair. We have 4 speakers confirmed and are pleased to report the room cost will be \$92.00 per night for a standard room. Hospitality suites are available as well. The hotel block has not been opened up as of yet but I will notify everyone when it is. We are excited and ready to get down to business right after this year's SETA in Houston. We will meet monthly in Beaumont and Quarterly in Houston at the assembly meeting.

Everyone who has some extra time and would like to get involved in service is invited to contact me and get on our volunteer list! Contact me at 409-838-2128 or 409-673-9121 or email maryann@bcm.tmc.edu.

XII. Roll Call for Voting – Bill B - 91 present to vote

XIII. New Business

Memorial Contribution \$100: to the General Service Office for our past delegate – Linda O – Motion from Gus H and second by Charles P. **Motion Passed.**

Third Legacy - Beth R – read from the service manual.

Hotel search for 2010 – Bonita W – What is the sense of the area to pursue the contract for the same hotel for 2010 at the Sheraton where we currently meet? Our contact is through 2009. The sense of the area assembly was in majority agreement to continue meeting at the Sheraton Hotel IAH for 2010.

General Service Conference – Gus H - Sense of the area assembly was positive to review the process of how agenda items are selected for the 2009 General Service Conference.

CFC Conference 2009 – if you registered for 2008 your registration will be good for 2009, if you want a refund contact Holly D, Chairperson.

Election of 2011 SETA Convention Chair: Galveston – Tom B.

Election of Trustee at Large Nominee – Harold P

Election of 2009-2010 SETA committees:

Delegate	Betsy G	Grapevine	Jackie V
Alt. Delegate	Bonita W	Literature	Walter G
Chair	Tandy B	Public Information	Open
Alt. Chair	Deborah D	La Vina	Jose P
Area Registrar	John O	Finance	Don B
Area Alt. Registrar	Gary S	Newsletter	Barbara M
Secretary	Cynthia B	SCAP	Tracey K
Alt. Secretary	Debra R	IT	Duane P
Treasurer	Zaz M	Houston Intergroup	Katie G
Alt. Treasurer	Ron C	Multi-Lingual	Moises L
Archives	Lee G	Brazos Intergroup	Open
C.P.C.	Open	Spanish Intergroup – North	Open
Correctional	Holly D	Spanish Intergroup – South	Open
Treatment	Travis H	District 90 Intergroup	Monica

XIV. Announcements – Tandy B

Host for April Assembly is District 51

October 10-12, 2008 – SWRAASA Hosted by Area 38 – St Louis MO

October 18, 2008 – District 20 – Don't Survive the Holidays ENJOY the Holidays – 303 Jackson Hill

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 23rd St Beaumont TX

December 5, 2008 – Woodlands group would like to invite all standing committee chairs to come a talk about what they do as a committee. Please come with your display boards.

January 9-11, 2009 – 47th Annual SETA convention – Hilton Greenspoint Dr Houston TX 77060

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

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah D

Area Secretary