

AREA 67 QUARTERLY ASSEMBLY
Hilton Hotel
12400 Greenspoint Drive
Houston, Texas 77060
Area Committee Meeting Minutes
Saturday January 10, 2009

- I. Open – Tandy B.** – opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer
- II. Preamble – Deborah D.** – read the preamble to the SETA Policies and Procedures Manual
- III. Roll Call – John O’.** – (Please see attached)
- IV. Minutes** – We had only a one day Assembly in October 2008 for elections; no other minutes.
- V. Treasurer’s Report – ZbM.** (Please see Sunday’s report)

VI. Delegate’s Report – Betsy G.

Good morning. Thank you to the Convention Committee for this wonderful convention. I have had a great time so far, and it has been a real treat to get to spend time with so many sober people. I am looking forward to the rest of the weekend. And a special Thank you to our Regional Trustee, Conley, for visiting with us this weekend. Conley, it is always a pleasure to get to spend time with you.

Some anticipated changes have begun at the General Service Office. We now have a new General Manager, Phyllis H., past Pacific Regional Trustee from Olympia, WA. Phyllis is the first woman to hold that position. And, at the end of this year’s Conference, The Very Reverend Ward B. Ewing, a current Class A Trustee, will assume the office of Chairman of the General Service Board. The Reverend Ewing is from New York City.

There have been some price increases announced. Beginning July 1, 2009, the cost of AA Grapevine books will increase by \$2.00, with the exception of “The Best of Bill” which will remain the same. AA Grapevine subscriptions will go up to \$27.00 annually. I will give you more detailed financial information tomorrow morning. The cost of the big book is also projected to increase \$1 to \$2 beginning in July.

Alcoholics Anonymous now has a face on the world wide web. The one minute version of the PSA “A Force of Nature” was posted at the end of the year in English, Spanish, and French. As of this morning, the English version had 18 hits and the Spanish version had 12 hits.

I have received my Conference Committee assignment, and I have been assigned to the Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community. I was Chair of our Area CPC Committee in 1999, and have served on the area committee for many years. Needless to say, I was pleased with the assignment. Another plus to my assignment to that committee is that my assigned Delegate Buddy is the Alt. Chair of that committee.

I have asked the Chairperson for time on the agenda to bring an item of new business for discussion. As some of you may know, the last Conference approved two streaming videos for the AA.Org web site which are geared towards professionals, and they are now in place. I have drafted a proposed agenda item to be considered by this year’s Conference relating to those two videos, as well as an additional one which will be considered by this year’s conference. My concerns are related to our spiritual tradition of anonymity and how the use of full faces in the video, even though there is a disclaimer, may dilute our tradition in the public eye.

Finally, the Area has been busy lately discussing question posed to the fellowship by last year’s Conference relating to fully funding the General Service Office solely through the contributions of AA Members, without relying on profits from the sale of literature. We will hold a workshop on this matter during tomorrow morning’s Assembly.

Thank you for your time and attention, and let’s have a great weekend!

VII. Alternate Delegate’s Report – Bonita W.

It is an honor to serve as your Alternate Delegate and I will give my report Sunday as to not be repetitive.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. 2009 SETA Convention Report – Debra R – Welcome everyone! I hope you are having a good time; any complaints can go to David H. Just kidding this has been a true teamwork event and I am very glad to have served as the Chair. There is still a need for room nights. We are accountable for 270 and as of Jan 1 we had 243, so may have a loss of \$3000 there.

IX. Election of CPC Chair- Betsy G introduced Dave P. recently from Fort Smith, Arkansas.

X. Election of PI Chair- Patrick C. introduced Jim B. from District 81

Still open are:

Brazos Valley Intergroup Liaison
Spanish Intergroup Liaison

NEW BUSINESS

- XI. Finance Committee report- Don B.** The Budget committee meeting will be Saturday, March? from 1:pm to 6:pm at the Post Oak Club- exact date to be announced
- XII. Hotel search for 2010 – Deborah D.** At the April Assembly we will vote on a contract to continue meeting at the Sheraton hotel in 2010. The contract is for the same terms as 2009.
- XIII. 2009 Quarterly Assembly Budget increase request—Deborah D.** Due to growth in committees that meet at SETA, we need more space. We have asked the Sheraton Hotel to include in our contract 3 extra break-out rooms. We need two of the rooms to hold up to 20 persons each and a breakout room for Saturday and Sunday, the executive suite on the second floor at a cost of \$100. This is a charge of \$50 each day.
We need to ask for a budget increase of \$300 for 2009. This provision is already included in the 2010 contract.
ZbM. asked about changing the format of the meetings at the Assembly to use less rooms, more frequently. Bonita W. indicated that we decided to go with the extra rooms instead of increasing the times. Bonita said the committee decided not to increase the time-half the meetings in the morning and half in the p.m. It is too unwieldy. Deborah D indicated these extra rooms are available up to 3: pm if a district wants to meet. They just need to make the arrangements through her.
- XIV. Workshop tomorrow-Tandy B-** We will have a workshop tomorrow at the end of the Assembly tomorrow morning, about 1 hour.
- XV. Proposal-Betsy G-**She reviewed videos on aa.org. There is one for corrections and the medical profession. A third will be reviewed at this year's conference. Her concern is: In her work on the CPC committee and in talking to professionals she finds they do not understand our Traditions, especially anonymity. She was concerned that two General Service approved CPC videos show full faces during a depiction of an AA meeting. There is a disclaimer at the beginning and end of each video saying that actors are used in place of alcoholics. She believes this diminishes the understanding and appreciation of our spiritual principle of anonymity. Tomorrow she will submit a proposed conference agenda item for the Area's backing. It has to be submitted to the conference coordinator by January 15 for this conference to address this issue while they are considering the third video Her comments are:
- The professional will see an actor, and then forget the disclaimer when he perceives a familiar face, his neighbor. He will conclude his neighbor is an AA. This may color his feelings toward that neighbor.
 - This in complete opposition to our prior emphasis at the local level on complete anonymity.
 - It negates our workbook's emphasis on humility shown through anonymity.
 - Is anonymity less important now than in the past?
 - The aa.org website should be the place where the purest AA message is found.

Betsy's proposed agenda item for the 59th General Service Conference reads: ***We recommend that our current practice of using full-faced characters in the streaming videos on the AA.Org web site be reviewed from the perspective of whether or not it diminishes the understanding and appreciation of our spiritual principal of anonymity, that anonymity always be in the forefront of our relationship with press, radio and film, and that full faces never be depicted in any video, whether it be as a PSA or as a service piece.***

By a show of hands Betsy will bring this proposal before the Assembly tomorrow with our recommendation and second.

Two opposed. Minority opinion is:

ZbM is not opposed to going to the Assembly, but is opposed to going with a recommendation without a little more time and information to look at it. She cannot recommend, but does believe it should be at the Assembly for discussion.

Beth R. said we need to make sure this recommendation gets turned in on time.

Tandy B. questions whether we really have all the facts of this issue. Do we know why we have videos with actors' full faces? Why do we have that? It was just recently at the last general service conference that this was passed.

SW Regional Trustee-Conley B couldn't speak to the approval process of the PSAs. One of the committees he is assigned to this year is the CPC/Treatment Facilities. This subject came up and Conley said he was absolutely opposed. The video says that the actors are not AA members. But this year a segment had to be redone because they found out that one of the actors was an AA member. Which brings up the whole issue if an actor subsequently becomes an AA member what are going to do with the videos because they now contain full faces of AA members? No one has been able to answer that question. I voted, in committee, absolutely positively against the videos being produced until there is a discussion of these issues. Chris C. is the producer of these videos. His thing is that full faces show a wider range of emotions. He thinks that the issue will be brought up again; It is just a matter of where it comes from. I think Betsy was advocating just for the issue to be reviewed and discussed. If there is no discussion, then we will just continue to be doing this. It could be in Corrections, PI, and Treatment. There are four different committees that could be affected. Force of Nature was the first video that showed full faces.

XVI. April Assembly Agenda Items: Roundtable Conference Agenda discussions; 2010 budget proposal

XVII. Announcements-Debra D.

1. sign in for voting

2. announcements should be placed on the back table
3. There will be no oral reports, so please email your reports to Cynthia B
4. the host district for April is to be determined-either District 51 or 90, July and October assemblies currently have hosts,
5. we are taking requests to host in 2010

XVIII. Close – Tandy B-we closed in the usual manner-The Lords Prayer

