

AREA 67 QUARTERLY ASSEMBLY
Moody Gardens Hotel and Convention Center
Galveston, Texas
Area Assembly Meeting
Sunday January 17, 2016

I. Open – Troy B – opened the meeting at 8:30am with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

II. Preamble – Kris H – read the preamble to the SETA Policies and Procedures Manual

III. Minutes – Jim K – Jim presented the October minutes from the Area Committee. He also informed the committee that he had completed the amendments and translations requested for the July minutes.

IV. Treasurer's Report – Dave P – Dave mentions that we had a operating beginning balance of **\$79,729.29**. Deposits were made totaling \$51,961.18. Checks were written totaling \$59,032.47, giving a net change of -\$7,071.29. Leaving a total bank balance of **\$72,658.00**. Dave asks if there are any questions from the floor.

V. Delegate's Report – Melissa R-

Good morning to all the members of the South East Texas Area. My name is Melissa R. and I'm honored to be serving as Area 67 Panel 65 Delegate. Welcome everyone and Happy New Year! A special welcome to our guests - I'm excited to have Don M, Irene D and Yoli F. with us for our 54th SETA Convention.

I want to thank Mary and the Convention Committee for their hard work in putting on this convention – it's a complicated venture and we all appreciate the dedication it takes. I also want to thank Ronald C., our Alternate Delegate, for serving our Area and Alcoholics Anonymous so well! He's always ready, willing and able to help

General Service Conference Inventory Report

I received the Conference Inventory Reports in English – they were held up in the holiday shipping chaos - but I did get them to as many DCMs as possible, to distribute at their district meetings prior to the convention. The Spanish version is not yet complete; we expect them in a couple of months.

It's exciting to learn the results of this 3-year process and I look forward to discussing them and considering ways to put some of the findings into action.

For example, this year's Conference Theme is "Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions and Concepts." Presentation topics are

- Connecting With the Newcomer;
- Connecting With Each Other; and
- Connecting With A.A. as a Whole.

The Workshop topic is "Anonymity – The Spiritual Foundation."

One of the items in the Inventory Report regarding the "year-long process effectiveness" caught my eye. The question was "how well is the message of the conference theme being carried out throughout the year?" A response to this question in the Report is "Throughout the year in most areas, the Conference theme is given very little attention: the theme often gets lost and the focus shifts to agenda items, especially controversial ones..."

I think that applies here too, so one thing I would like for us to consider is how we can keep

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more of a focus on this year's theme and presentation topics throughout the year; consider presenting workshops on Anonymity – the Spiritual Foundation and using the Presentation Topics and sub-topics as topics for our Groups' meetings.

Proposed Agenda Item for the 66th General Service Conference

I received a letter from Mary Clare L., the Conference Coordinator for the next two Conferences, about our Area's Proposed Agenda Item on the Agenda Selection Process. She informed me that our proposal has been approved to go forward to the Trustees' January Board Meeting.

There it will be reviewed by a sub-committee of the Trustees Committee on the Conference, which was appointed to review the agenda selection process and the additional considerations put forth by the 2015 Agenda Conference Committee. This additional consideration requested more delegate participation in the selection process.

The Trustees will determine the final agenda for the Conference at the January Board Meeting. Mary Clare also informed me that another area's has put forth a similar proposal which has also been approved to go forward to the sub-committee as well. This would be Area 38, Eastern Missouri. So our proposal has made it to this stage! The Final Agenda will be out in mid-to-late February and I'll let you know as soon as I receive it.

"Treatment Facility/Accessibilities Committee" - Delegate's Conference Committee

The Trustees Committee on CPC, TF/Special Needs-Accessibilities agreed with the Conference Committee on TF/Special Needs-Accessibilities' additional consideration to discontinue use of the "Special Needs" nametag as it does not describe the full range of the Committee's scope. This will also be on the Conference Agenda.

2015 International Convention

The 2015 International Convention held in Atlanta over the July 4th weekend, had the largest attendance ever at 57,000, just ahead of the 1995 Convention in San Diego, which had 56,000. Due to a greater-than- expected attendance, the cost of travel to and from hotels to the convention site, provided by shuttles was much higher than expected. The cost of security provided by the Atlanta Police Department and Homeland Security was much higher than expected as well.

A sub-committee has been appointed to review contracts for the 2020 International Convention, which will be held in Detroit, so hopefully this outcome can be avoided in the future.

The preliminary agenda items list has been released. And as soon as the Final Agenda is out, Ron and I will be visiting your District Meetings, to familiarize you with them, discuss and get feedback. The Round Tables Workshop will be held in April, as usual. Let's get more of our Area members involved this year. Work with your Groups; inform them about the Agenda Items; get their input. It's our Fellowship - and it's our responsibility as well as our privilege to be a part of the process.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you, and to serve Area 67 and Alcoholics Anonymous!

In love and service,
Melissa R
Delegate, Panel 65
Email: delegate-65@aa-seta.org

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VI. Alt. Delegate's Report – Ron C.-

Good morning My name is Ron C. and I am an Alcoholic. I am also have the honor of serving as Alternative Delegate Panel 65 Area 67.

The Grapevine/LaVina challenge ended December 20, 2015. The State or Province that shows the largest increase in new subscription for Grapevine or LaVina in 2015 at the end of 2015 will have an issue of that magazine dedicated to that State or Province. November's numbers show Texas had an increase of approximately 27% of new Grapevine subscription and approximately 53% of new LaVina subscriptions. If you, your group or your district would like to buy additional gift subscriptions for other members and help carry the message of recovery, please let me or Harold the Grapevine Chairperson know.

The Area 67 Gratitude Dinner was held November 8, 2015 at the VFW Hall in Katy, Texas. The host district, District 40, and the co-host district, District 66, did an excellent job and made the Gratitude Dinner and easy process. It was an honor "serving" with them and special thanks to Cheryl, Michelle, Deborah, Pam, Arnoldo, Andres, and Victor. I don't know what to do without seeing ya'll on the third Thursday of every month. All the Districts in the Area and volunteers from all over did an excellent job. The cooperation and dedication made the entire day a success. Our wonderful speaker Yoli, our new Southwest Regional Trustee, had an amazing story. The Area Service Committees CFC, CPC, Grapevine, PI, Literature, and TFC had displays and both the PI and Literature Committees gave away "door" prizes. Remember planning for the 2016 Gratitude Dinner will start soon and it's never too early for your District to decide how they would like to help. The Host District is District 66 and the co-host is District 31. It should be a fun ten months of planning.

The Regional Forum was held October 9-11, 2015 in St. Louis, Missouri. The Forum was hosted by Area 38 which is Eastern Missouri. I had the opportunity to meet with the Alt. Delegate within our Region and also to meet the new Director of the General Service Office. Current Trustees and past Trustees were also in attendance. We had a number of people from our Area and it was great to hang out with them. The final report has been released and if you would like a copy please let me know. I can email you an electronic version. It is not yet posted on the GSO Forum website. If you missed the Regional Forum in 2015, there will be an Additional Forum in the Southwest Region in Denver June 3-5, 2016. Also the Texas State Convention will be June 24-26, 2016 in Austin Texas and the SWRAASA this year will be in Rogers Arkansas October 21-23, 2016. Flyers are available and are posted on the Area's website.

Thanks for the opportunity to Serve
Ron C.
Alternate Delegate Panel 65 Area 67

VII. Roll Call for Voting – Brad H. – Using our voting members number system, Brad takes the roll call of all the voting members of the assembly that are present. 95 voting members are present at the assembly.

IX. Unfinished Business

1. Open Positions

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Troy reminded the committee that we still had an open position for the Alternate Secretary. Dee M. stood for the position; there was some discussion from the floor on as to the qualifications and her meeting them. Troy announced that he would have Dee serve as the interim Alt. Secretary until the position could be filled.

2. Convention Updates

2016 SETA Convention – Teresa O. gave an update for Mary M. about the current convention and attendance.

2017 SETA Convention –Julian L. —Gave a brief report on the progress of the 2017 SETA Convention Committee.

3. SETA Convention Guidelines—David A. was not able to present an update, a member of the committee gave a brief update of the progress being made on the guidelines.

4. Voting on Motions from the Ad-hoc on 3rd Legacy Elections- Troy asked Deborah D. to come to the podium to assist with questions before voting took place. Deborah informed the area that the first four motions could be combined as these were all related to changes to the P&P manual. The first vote (which passed) was to combine these four motions under one vote. There were friendly amendments presented to the committee and accepted and are noted as follows.

The Ad-Hoc committee has five recommendations that we are submitting as formal motions to the Assembly (ITALAZIED WORDS ARE FROM THE FRIENDLY AMENDEMENTS):

1 Motion (PASSED)

The committee makes a motion to change the first three sentences of the first paragraph of the section on voting (Pg. 9) of the SETA Policy & Procedure Manual.

#2 Motion (PASSED)

The committee makes a motion to move all area business to Saturday, and only hold elections on Sunday Assembly.

#3 Motion (PASSED)

The committee makes a motion to change the fourth sentence of the first paragraph of the section on voting (Pg. 9) of the SETA Policy & Procedure Manual. In addition, this change will need to be made to section 2 of the voting procedures on the same (Pg. 9) of the manual.

#4 Motion (PASSED)

The committee makes the motion to begin using the electronic spreadsheet created by the IT Committee for the October 2016 election and *whenever possible*, to discontinue the use of the white board: this change will need to be made to section 2 of the voting procedures on the same (Pg. 9) of the manual.

Original Section:

FIRST SENTENCE: Election of the Delegate, Alternate Delegate and Officers of Area 67 shall take place biennially during the fourth quarter assembly.

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SECOND SENTENCE: The Assembly will conduct a workshop on Area Committee job descriptions during the third quarter assembly.

THIRD SENTENCE: A workshop on election procedures (Third Legacy) will be conducted during the fourth quarter assembly.

FOURTH SENTENCE TO END OF PARAGRAPH: Any member willing to stand for any area committee job must be present or submit their intention in writing. Nominations will be accepted from the floor. Voting Procedures will be as follows:

Recommendation:

CHANGE FIRST SENTENCE: Election of the Delegate, Alternate Delegate and all other Area Committee members of Area 67 shall take place in even years during the October quarter assembly.

CHANGE SECOND SENTENCE: The Assembly will conduct a workshop on Area Committee job descriptions during the July quarterly assembly before elections.

ADDED SENTENCE: The Area Chair will complete all known business on a special Saturday evening session so that the Sunday October Assembly of the even years can be dedicated solely to elections.

CHANGE THIRD SENTENCE: A workshop on election procedures (Third Legacy) will be conducted during the October Assembly weekend prior to the elections.

CHANGE FORTH SENTENCE: Any member willing to stand for any area committee position must be present or submit their intention to stand, in an email or hand written letter to the Area Chair. Nominations will be accepted from the floor. Voting Procedures will be as follows:

Original:

2. The names of the members of the current area committee who have a minimum of six years of continuous sobriety and four years Southeast Texas Area Assembly service and present will be posted on the board, and those members will be polled to ascertain their willingness to serve as Delegate or Alternate Delegate.

Recommendation:

CHANGE: 2. the names of the members of the current area committee who have a minimum of six years of continuous sobriety and four years Southeast Texas Area Assembly service and present *will be polled to ascertain their willingness to serve*, or those that have submitted intent to stand will be added to the electronic spreadsheet. In addition, any person with a minimum of six years of continuous sobriety and four years Southeast Texas Area Assembly service may advise the Assembly of their willingness to serve as Delegate or Alternate Delegate. All candidates shall qualify by stating their sobriety dates and service histories.

#5 Motion (Passed)

The committee makes the motion to encourage the Area Chair to have a 30 minute elections workshop in April 2017. The workshop will discuss the results of the survey conducted following the 2016 elections. If the Assembly is not satisfied with the timing of the 2016 elections, then a vote to rent the electronic voting system for the October 2018 Assembly would be proposed.

X. New Business

1. Election of 2018 SETA Convention Chair- Troy reminded the area that this position should have been decided in the October Assembly and that he had forgotten to add it to the agenda. He asked if there were any members willing to stand. Both Ronnie B. and Brooks (?) both stood

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and qualified for the position. Troy asked both to step out of the room as the area voted. Ronnie B. was elected with a 64 to 13 vote.

XI. Announcements—Kris—District 33 will be the Assembly host in April 2016.

XII. Close Assembly – Troy- The January 2016 SETA Assembly closes approximately 9:30am with the A.A. Responsibility Statement.