

DISTRICT 40 NEWSLETTER

U N I T Y - R E C O V E R Y - S E R V I C E

Step 12

Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Tradition 12

And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.

Concept 12

The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

End of the year

It is that time, time for holidays and get-togethers. I hope we all get out to other groups this holiday season and do some fellowshiping. They say the best way to attract AAers to a place is to have food! So, let's hear about what your groups are doing and when. I did not get any information to put into the newsletter this month but if you have an event, I would like to send it out to everyone in the mid-month email. In the past at our district meeting, we used to have food and a kind of potluck thing. I would like to bring it back next year at the end of this rotation. We tried it at the end of the rotation last year but it did not get the attention we hoped for. It is a great time for our trusted servants to transfer the "stuff" they have for the position to the person who will pick up the reins for the next cycle. I like the way the service manual talks about passing on everything you know to the next one so they can do the job as well or better. This is AA and not the corporate world, where we worry about the unity of the fellowship and not about us as individuals. So, I am looking forward to what all our GSRs will tell us about their Home Groups' events this month. Grab a sponsee or three, grab some friends, or even grab your sponsor and get them out with you. Travel around to other groups' events and enjoy this season with like-minded people. We are members of AA and that is a global fellowship. So, I hope the next time we talk about changing the preamble we use the word earthlings because I have not seen any extratextual groups in the GSO fellowship connection database, YET!

D40 DCM

Yours In Service,

Doug D—DCM District 40

October Treasurer's Report 2023 Pg 2

SETA DISTRICT 40 --- EXPENSE BY MONTH & TOTAL FOR 2023														
	Budget	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total YTD
DCM	\$ 925	\$ 227.70	\$ 30.00				\$ 134.13	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 134.13	\$ 30.00	\$ 134.13		\$ 840.09
Alt. DCM	\$ 900	\$ 227.70						\$ 296.70						\$ 749.40
Secretary / Copying	\$ 150													\$ -
Treasurer	\$ 75									\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00			\$ 55.00
Newsletter	\$ 100													\$ -
PO Box	\$ 160					\$ 166.00								\$ 166.00
Literature Committee	\$ 175													\$ -
PI	\$ 560													\$ -
Grapevine	\$ 50													\$ -
CFC	\$ 50													\$ -
TFC	\$ 75													\$ -
Archives Committee	\$ 50													\$ -
GSO 2022 Contribution	\$ 732	\$ 731.98												\$ 731.98
Intergroup 2022 Contribution	\$ 366	\$ 365.99												\$ 365.99
SETA 2022 Contribution	\$ 366	\$ 365.99												\$ 365.99
IT Committee	\$ 50													\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 300	\$ 31.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 31.00	\$ 31.00	\$ 31.00	\$ 31.00	\$ 31.00	\$ 31.00	\$ 31.00	\$ 31.00	\$ 303.00
Gratitude Dinner - Food	\$ -													\$ -
Fellowship Fest	\$ -													\$ -
Traditions Dinner	\$ 1,300					\$ 300.00		\$ 1,748.58						\$ 2,048.58
Service Workshop	\$ 300													\$ -
SWRAASA (Even Years)	\$ -													\$ -
The Forum (Odd Years)	\$ 1,900						\$ 606.61		\$ 652.01	\$ (278.04)	\$ 246.76			\$ 1,227.34
Delegate Report Meeting	\$ -													\$ -
State Convention Hospitality Suite	\$ -													\$ -
SETA 2023 Hospitality Suite - District 40	\$ 300	\$ 400.00									\$ 300.00			\$ 700.00
TOTAL	\$ 8,884	\$ 2,350.36	\$ 55.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 149.13	\$ 527.00	\$ 667.61	\$ 2,210.41	\$ 713.01	\$ (202.04)	\$ 726.89	\$ 86.00	\$ 255.00	\$ 7,553.37

SETA DISTRICT 40 -- GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2023													
District 40 Groups	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
Another Chance Group		\$ 150.00			\$ 150.00				\$ 150.00				\$ 450.00
Bear Creek Fellowship							\$ 80.00						\$ 80.00
Beginners Group													\$ -
Broad Highway Group	\$ 3.59			\$ 37.32			\$ 23.27			\$ 4.83			\$ 69.01
Bunkerhill Tuesday A.A. Group													\$ -
Chapelwood Tues 8pm													\$ -
Colors of Change Group			\$ 49.21										\$ 49.21
Copperfield Willingness Group								\$ 131.20					\$ 131.20
Daily Reflections Group										\$ 10.00			\$ 10.00
Deep Dive Big Book Study									\$ 80.00				\$ 80.00
Drifter's Group	\$ 73.40							\$ 128.00					\$ 199.40
Everything is "Alright Already"			\$ 25.00										\$ 25.00
First Light Group													\$ -
Four Horsemen Group				\$ 40.00					\$ 20.00				\$ 60.00
Fourth Promise Group													\$ -
Friends of Bill W. (Post Oak)	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00			\$ 500.00
Friends of Bill W. (West Houston CC)													\$ -
Fry Road Group		\$ 140.00			\$ 96.00			\$ 96.00					\$ 332.00
Fulshear Group													\$ -
God Meeting Group													\$ -
Good Morning Open Book Study Group													\$ -
Hay Una Solucion								\$ 25.00					\$ 25.00
High Hopes													\$ -
Hockley Group			\$ 45.00				\$ 45.00						\$ 90.00
Houston Young People													\$ -
Journey Group			\$ 24.68					\$ 8.60					\$ 33.18
Just For Today						\$ 31.99			\$ 22.10				\$ 53.79
Just The Black Print Group													\$ -
Katy 12 & 12	\$ 48.14	\$ 47.32	\$ 52.20	\$ 39.63	\$ 50.99	\$ 49.02	\$ 79.56	\$ 78.79	\$ 72.32	\$ 64.35			\$ 580.32
Katy 184 Group		\$ 44.80											\$ 44.80
Katy Big Book													\$ -
Katy Crossroads Group									\$ 60.00				\$ 60.00
Katy Keystone Group								\$ 378.00					\$ 378.00
Katy Primary Purpose Group													\$ -
Kingsland Group													\$ -
Living Now Group													\$ -
Memorial Going Home Group	\$ 24.75			\$ 37.20			\$ 72.45			\$ 61.80			\$ 196.00
Memorial West Group													\$ -
Monaville Group													\$ -
Monday Night Men's Supper/Step Study							\$ 7.05						\$ 7.05
New Beginnings Group													\$ -
New Oxford Group													\$ -
Outpost Group (Men's)			\$ 219.00						\$ 250.00				\$ 469.00
Peek Road Group													\$ -
Primary Purpose Group - SGS													\$ -
Rooted in Love Group													\$ -
Rosewood Thursday Night Group	\$ 184.00		\$ 60.80					\$ 75.00		\$ 97.40			\$ 417.20
Rule 82 Group	\$ 50.00			\$ 45.25			\$ 43.53			\$ 60.27			\$ 189.05
Sage-Piney Point													\$ -
Sage-Piney Point Noon Tuesday	\$ 10.08			\$ 18.01			\$ 23.70			\$ 15.79			\$ 65.58
Saturday Solutions Group	\$ 37.50			\$ 15.91			\$ 28.80						\$ 82.21
Simply AA													\$ -
Sisters in Serenity				\$ 40.49				\$ 3.60					\$ 44.09
Sisters in Sobriety Texas						\$ 129.09	\$ 107.93		\$ 155.68	\$ 94.53			\$ 487.23
Sober in Brookshire													\$ -
So Far So Good Group													\$ -
Spring Shadows Group													\$ -
Spring Shadows Group													\$ -
Stepping Stones in Recovery Katy													\$ -
Steps in Sobriety	\$ 25.00								\$ 25.00				\$ 50.00
Taking Care of Business													\$ -
Tuesday Night Step Study				\$ 56.00				\$ 53.00					\$ 109.00
There is a Solution Group		\$ 92.00			\$ 35.00								\$ 127.00
38 Principles Group													\$ -
Wednesday Reflections							\$ 13.00						\$ 13.00
Westchase Nooners	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00		\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00			\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00				\$ 340.00
West Memorial													\$ -
Wild West Group	\$ 113.50			\$ 96.85			\$ 61.00			\$ 104.00			\$ 374.35
Working With Others							\$ 100.00						\$ 100.00
White Oak													\$ -
Unknown													\$ -
TOTAL:	\$ 669.96	\$ 574.12	\$ 525.79	\$ 533.66	\$ 441.99	\$ 259.80	\$ 685.29	\$ 1,131.19	\$ 925.10	\$ 552.77	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,299.67

October 2023—Meeting Minutes Pg 1

DISTRICT 40 UnOFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

**Meeting Location:
Address:**

COTHA Church, 122W. Grand Parkway, Katy, Tx. Rm. 115

Google Meet
9119

<https://meet.google.com/scf-xndv-uoe>

Mailing Ad-

District 40
PO Box 79119
Houston, Tx. 77279-

doug.d@aa-seta.org DCM

mike.b@aa-seta.org Alt. DCM
theresa.s@aa-seta.org Secretary
ronnie.h@aa-seta.org Treasurer

Date: October 10, 2023

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Attendees: 20 online, 6 in-person

Call to Order – 7:00 pm, Doug D.

SERENITY PRAYER- Doug

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Theresa S., (Alt. OPEN) accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Ronnie H, (Alt. open) Report given by Doug D., accepted.

DCM Report

D40 Oct Meeting

Hello D40, my name is Doug D and I have the privilege of being the DCM of District 40 this rotation. I will touch on two topics in my report this month. Remember District is here to support you, the Groups of this district. Let us know how we can help your group. Oct Assembly Time

Next weekend is our Area Assembly, I ask all GSRs to show up because we will be voting on a few things: a P&P change and the area budget. You will see in the attachments, some of the P&P changes. To condense it to one day if possible. This would allow for a few things. Less cost for assemblies (ballrooms, break-out rooms, and hotel rooms).

Plus, time, having the possibility to conduct quarterly business in one day would be less of a burden on the trusted servants. SETA is a quarter of Texas; some members have to travel a lot further than we do here in the Houston and surrounding area. With that said, think about this meeting and if you would like anything changed. We will be voting on the Area Budget also; it has been cut down some. The majority of it has to be in there because it is allocated by the Area P&P manual. We all know that these discussions where money is involved can be Fun! But it is good for the discussion when people are so passionate about a program and want to see it keep growing. With that said, remember that in this next topic. Budget Time It is time for us to look over our budget. The current budget will be attached to the district 40 October agenda mailout. If you are a budget holder, please review your line and let me know if you want to change anything.

Doug D

ALT. DCM Report

October 2023 Alt-DCM Report

GSRs and Alt-GSRs, as always please let me know how I can best serve you and your homegroup, so that we can carry out our primary purpose.

The District Inventory Ad Hoc Committee was unable to meet this past Monday. Our next meeting is

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scheduled for the 23rd and it will be focused on gathering all the notes from past meetings to submit a report to the District. From there a committee will be formed to start the implementation of what we came up with from the Ad Hoc. This committee will go through all the considerations and identify the action items and the timelines to implement them. If you are interested in being a part of that, please let me know and I will add you to the calendar invite. Already so many great changes have been implemented, and we're excited about the ones to come!

Those of us that are here in person have noticed a difference in the room. I have insured that we should have at least two tables here in the future for our use, and if needed we can pull chairs from the room next door, We'll just need to put them back.

I am working with SETA IT to get the recordings from the Traditions Dinner posted to District 40's page. More to come on that.

The hunt for a more affordable storage unit continues. I have narrowed it down to two. More to come on that as well.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the Assembly this weekend!

Through love and service,
Mike

GSR Section – Approx 40 minutes

New GSR – introductions, tell us about your home group.

#1: Farah, update on topic from last month's meeting on Hashtags

I attended the SW Regional Forum as an individual A.A. member. I asked the question about A.A.W.S. using #Addiction on LinkedIn and if they were open to including #Alcoholism. I mentioned using #Alcoholism would bring awareness and build on the search algorithm. The response from someone at A.A.W.S. was that they would take it back and discuss on that following Monday in New York. I asked our Area Delegate Rick how would I know if they agreed to use #Alcoholism and he said there really isn't any follow-up so we would know if we see it on LinkedIn. I also went to the mic and read to the Forum a response we had received from the GSB about my home Group's P.A.I. GSB said the P.A.I. was under review. I read exactly what the PAI was to the Forum and asked the Panel if they were doing any kind of cost containment. Someone responded some projects were on hold. After the Forum I received a link to provide feedback about the SW Regional Forum and sent a suggestion that there should be follow up on the suggestions given at the Forum so the fellowship would know if any actions were taken.

#2: Share from attendee to the SW Forum

Anne - El Paso was amazing. GSO gave a great history lesson on the office in New York and addressed several issues of a financial nature. For me, the session on online meetings was most beneficial. As requested, we came up with two questions to present to GSO pertaining to online meetings. After a brief discussion, we came up with:

1. Is there anything in the 12 & 12 that would go against the online meeting format?
2. What is the best way to include virtual meetings in the US/Canada service structure?

This discussion is just beginning at the higher levels, and some questionnaires have been sent out--lengthy questionnaires, but it turns out they actually use those things, so it will be interesting to see how this absolutely necessary topic unfolds.

General Sharing Session

Mike B. - Primary Purpose Group - Spiritus Contra Spiritum meets every Thursday @ 8p CST on Zoom. You can get the information on our meeting on our website www.ppg-scs.org. On the last Thursday of the month, we have our Celebration of Sobriety Speaker Meeting where two home group members that are celebrating birthdays pick a speaker to speak on their behalf for 30 minutes. The rest of the month on Thursdays we study the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, line by line. We have a lot of fun, come join us!

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Doug D. – shared that his home group just completed an inventory. Marilyn asked about the outcomes. Doug stated the group needs a Sponsor Workshop. The information was collected by Ron C., and we do not have his report back yet.

Peggy A. -New Beginnings Group is experiencing low attendance. Tuesday at 7pm is a BB Study. They meet at Cornerstone Church on Mason Rd. and Park York.

Marilyn – made comments about the Twelve Steps Illustrated pamphlet.

- It is a WE program

-God should NEVER be removed from the 12 Steps

-The Plain Language Steps in pamphlet 55 remove the words God and We

Farah – it says I, I, I.

Shannon – I drink, we stay sober

Farah – can't change 12 Steps or 12 Traditions

Cory M – was at Forum and said that all Sharing Sessions were about attendees complaining

Also stated that his sponsor is “service orientated, more interest in service work

Carol F. – Billy N is going through the concepts online, Mike B. has the link

Mike B. – Billy is finishing the Traditions and then will start Concepts.

Caitlyn – has flyer for Billy N. and will email it.

Fernando B. Area Newsletter is on Seta Announce

Doug D. – The Service Manual helps you be a better GSR.

SWAARSA will be in Houston in 2 years.

VENMO is a great way for online groups to contribute to AA.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Archives Rep: Lilian K. – no report

CFC Rep: Anne M – I was finally able to get approved through TDJC after a long wait--since July--so I am hoping to have much more to report in the coming months. I will be writing an article for the District 40 newsletter about the approval process for volunteering in TDJC and perhaps some other topics as they arise.

CPC Rep: Open

Grapevine Rep: Wendy F – no report

IT Rep: Peggy A – the next meeting will be in person at the general assembly on October 14

Houston Intergroup Liaison: Fernando B-

The next meeting is October 19

Literature Rep: Carol F.

The Area 67 Literature committee meets at 8:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month on Google meets, similarly to the District 40 meetings. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. If you are interested in attending, please contact Area Literature Rep Carol F at carol.f@aa-seta.org.

This month, we talked again about the workshop we are planning for the spring, but details are not available yet.

Literature Chair Dan K. pointed out and the committee discussed a few paragraphs of the final report of the 2023 General Service Conference concerning the history of the development of the plain language version of the book Alcoholics Anonymous. This portion of the report was written by John W., AAWS Nontrustee Director, and begins on page 30 of the report and is copied below. Dan felt this portion might be of interest to people who may not understand why this project was undertaken.

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Discussion at the 66th General Service Conference in 2016 resulted in an additional committee consideration that “the need for ‘plain-language’ recovery literature be explored by the Trustees’ Literature Committee as a way to make the life-saving message of Alcoholics Anonymous more accessible.”

That exploration led to the creation of subcommittees for *Researching Issues, Possible Tools and Access to the Book*, known as RIPTAB-I and RIPTAB-II.

In RIPTAB-I, they looked at established literacy levels to guide discussions of what language comprehension skills a reader — the prospective alcoholic — would need to comprehend the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

And they reviewed what other simplified “recovery” materials from outside A.A. were being used by members instead of Conference-approved literature to meet these needs. The subcommittee concluded that literacy concerns indeed reflected potential accessibility barriers and it learned how this can be related to factors such as education, ethnicity, immigration status, and incarceration.

At the 70th General Service Conference, the Conference Committee on Literature requested the trustees make available the RIPTAB presentation. A video of that presentation was produced and distributed to the Fellowship with a request for feedback.

RIPTAB-II was tasked with continuing the work of the Trustees’ Literature Committee, and the RIPTAB-I subcommittee, to further gather information about issues related to Fellowship requests regarding the language of the Big Book.

A progress report was then forwarded to the 2021 Conference Committee on Literature focused on accessibility and relatability of *Alcoholics Anonymous* in terms of reaching a wider demographic of alcoholics. The idea of a new book was not meant to replace the Big Book, but rather to overcome barriers so the A.A. message might reach more suffering alcoholics.

At the 71st General Service Conference in April 2021, there was a Conference Advisory Action which recommended “that a draft version of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* be translated into plain and simple language and be developed in a way that is accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible and that a progress report or draft be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.”

In July 2021 at the meeting of the Trustees’ Literature Committee, a subcommittee was created to research various study guide workbook tools as directed by the Conference Literature Committee (CLC) and related agenda submissions and track the development of the Plain Language Big Book. Noting the CLC’s request that the book be “developed in a way that is accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible.”

The subcommittee adopted the name “TABB” (Tools to Access the Big Book) and worked with the Publishing Department to review potential writers for the project. In February 2022, we unanimously selected a finalist. After the Conference, the subcommittee continued on but with some new members as part of a regular rotation. We have met eight times. Some of those meetings were joint meetings with the Publishing Department, and with the writer.

A formal contractual agreement was completed with the writer in May 2022. The Publishing Department’s estimate for completion of the project is May/June of 2023. A cadence of about a chapter a month.

The writer has now submitted ten chapters to Publishing, as well as the Preface, the Foreword, and the beginnings of a glossary. They have all been shared with TABB after editorial review and revisions.

We continue to submit feedback, including suggested changes, with an expectation of additional rounds of refinements to ensure the tone and tenor of each chapter is faithful to the guidance and suggestions contained in the Big Book. Meanwhile, the subcommittee is awaiting the final revised set of chapters to keep the project moving forward.

The enormity of the task and the importance of getting it right has not been lost on the subcommittee.

I am reminded of Bernard Smith’s talk on why we need a Conference. And I ask myself, why do we need a Plain Language Big Book?

We may not need a Plain Language Big Book to insure our own recovery. We do need it to insure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room with a reading disability. We need it to insure recovery of a child being born tonight who, destined to alcoholism, may not understand the vernacular of a century’s old book. We need a Plain Language Big Book to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth which brought us back to life.

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Newsletter Editor: Sara A. -

1. Writing suggestion: if you have a committee, we would love an introduction to post in the newsletter for those who are learning about the different committees
2. Remember the QR code contains the current newsletter. Post and share with your groups.

PI Public Information): OPEN

TFC Rep: Clara T.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT - Inventory

(See Mike's Alt. DCM Report)

AD HOC Committee Report – Outreach

Ask for volunteers for the D40 Outreach Committee (David R. and Jeff A.)

Come up with the packet and short introduction to each group

Work with volunteers to reach out to every group in

OLD BUSINESS:

Open positions 2023 – Alt Secretary, CPC & PI

Responsibility STATEMENT: All Together

ADJOURN: 8:30 pm

**2023 District 40
Officers and Committee Representatives**

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>
DCM	Doug D	Doug.d@aa-seta.org
Alt DCM	Mike B	Mike.b@aa-seta.org
Secretary	Theresa S	Theresa.s@aa-seta.org
Alt Secretary	OPEN	
Treasurer	Ronnie H	Ronnie.h@aa-seta.org
Alt Treasurer	Jeff A	
Archives	OPEN	
Newsletter Editor	OPEN	
Grapevine Rep	Wendy F	wendy.f@aa-seta.org
IT Rep	Peggy A	peggy.a@aa-seta.org
Literature Rep	Carol F	carol.f@aa-seta.org
CFC Rep	Anne M	anne.m@aa-seta.org
Intergroup Rep	Fernando B	Fernando.b@aa-seta.org
CPC Rep	Eric C	
PI Rep	OPEN	
TFC	OPEN	

AREA 67 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee	Meeting Date & Time	Location
Archives	2nd Monday of the Month 7pm	Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/uus-pbqk-xip Online Only
CPC - Cooperation with the Professional Community	1st Monday of the Month 7:30p	Zoom ID: 632-634-860 Passcode: 153379
CFC - Correctional Facilities	3rd Wednesday of the Month 7:30p	Zoom ID: 4772549035 Passcode: heartbeat Houston Intergroup 5151 Mitcheldale St, HTX 77092 Conference Room
Grapevine	3rd Thursday of the Month 7:30p	Zoom ID: 114 207 273 Passcode: 610793
Intergroup (Delegate's Meeting)	3rd Thursday Every Other Month 8p	Zoom Call (786)686-6300 for more info
IT - Internet Technologies	4th Saturday of the Month 10am	Google Meet: ID: nqm-vypy-yao
Multi-Lingual	1st Thursday of the Month 7:30p	District 66 4800 5645 Hillcroft Suite 410 HTX, 77036
Literature	3rd Tuesday of the Month 8:30p	Zoom ID: 257 198 925 Passcode: 443980
PI - Public Information	4th Tuesday of the Month 7:30p	Zoom ID: 330 417 285 Passcode: 153379
TFC - Treatment Facility Committee	15th Day of Every Month 7p <i>At times the 15th of the month can fall on a weekend or holiday. When that occurs, the TFC meeting will automatically be held <u>on the following business day</u>.</i>	Zoom ID: 552 569 731 Passcode: 169753