

DISTRICT 40 NEWSLETTER

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

Is your Thinker Broken?

Alcoholics Anonymous is a simple program where alcoholics help other alcoholics recover from alcoholism. That is, it and everything else is an outside issue. Then why do people keep trying to add to the menu? What would your waiter say to you if you were at a Mexican restaurant and wanted to order General Tso's Chicken? Makes you think, right? If I remember correctly, when I came into the meeting rooms of AA, I was told my thinker was broken! That is where I could rationalize the wrong thinking and think it was ok, as long as I got my way. Remember those days? Or are we still riding that train of insanity?

This is straight out of the AA Pamphlet, The A.A. Group, P-16.

"The primary purpose of any A.A. Group is to carry the A.A. message to alcoholics. Experience with alcohol is one thing all A.A. members have in common. It is misleading to hint or give the impression that A.A. solves other problems or knows what to do about drug addiction."

I know that some people's first experience with AA might be in a rehab facility. This is where AA meetings are attended by everyone in the rehab. Like some Judges do, when they just send everyone to AA because it has a stronger structure. This is where the message does get watered down in my opinion. When this happens in your group, the elder statesmen should talk to the new members and help them find the correct program that will help them.

When working all three sides of the triangle, it is my responsibility to make sure AA is here for the next suffering alcoholic. As it says in the responsibility statement, "I want the hand of AA always to be there". We owe it to them to help them find a program that will help them. I am sure that is why AA has given this program to any organization that wants to recover from anything. Examples range from drugs, food, sex, and anything else. We do alcohol, the other fellowships can focus on their primary purpose.

Remember AA is a three-legacy program. We do the Steps to help ourselves, the selfish part of AA. We do the Traditions to make sure this program is here for the baby being born down the street destined for alcoholism and the concepts to make this fellowship endure. If the member does not adhere to the principles of the steps he will soon sicken and die. That goes for the group as well, if it does not adhere to the Traditions and the structure of AA it will sicken and die also.

I hope if you are reading this and your sponsor is not a three legacy sponsor you choose to find a service sponsor to learn everything you can about this program that saved my life and so many before me. I owe this to AA to make sure it is here for the next suffering alcoholic and my personal recovery comes a close second.

Yours In Service,
Doug D—DCM District 40

April 2024—Meeting Minutes Pg 1

DISTRICT 40 OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Location:

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

Google Meet

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

Mailing Address:

District 40
PO Box 79119
Houston, Tx. 77279-9119

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: April 9, 2024

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Attendees: 24 online, 9 in-person

Call to Order – 7:04 pm, Doug D.

SERENITY PRAYER- Doug

NEW ATTENDEES – Roxanne M., Northwest Unity Group, GSR

VISITORS- Charlie W., Area 67 PI Chair

Daryl W., Area 67 Grapevine Chair

Thad D., Area 67 Grapevine Committee Member

SECRETARY’S REPORT – Theresa S., (Alt. Tracey C.) accepted.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Ronnie H, (Alt. Amanda L.) accepted.

DCM Report

Let me start with the past assembly, it was at a new location. It was a nice change and a better solution for us as trusted servants. The cost and the ability to conduct it in one day did free up time and money for us. I believe we saved over 5 thousand dollars. That is from the location and lodging and maybe the GSC should look into this concept. The SETA convention, back in January might have had a few issues with the heat but it was well attended with over 1700 people. We did get a small refund for the heat which helped the bottom line. Be on the lookout for the workshops in D40 and across our area. If you are not signed up on SETA-Announce, let me know and I can help. That is where we send notifications for events, workshops, and anything AA-related.

Doug D

ALT. DCM Report

District 40 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 Implementation & Planning Committee has not been put together or scheduled. This committee will be involved in helping to plan and implement all the considerations from the D40 Inventory. Please come see me or Doug if you would like to be involved in this. These were your considerations, and we want to honor them by moving them forward.

D40 Workshops: Part of what came out of those considerations was for District 40 to do workshops.

These will be held quarterly, so the first one should’ve been in April. There is a group in Katy that is doing a workshop already, so I don’t want to conflict with that one. So now I am focused on July for the next one. I will get one of the online groups to host this one. July will BUSY! More to come!

Tradition’s Dinner: The date for this will be Saturday, August 17, 2024. I’m working on something awesome,

so it’s never too early to get a list of volunteers for that, so if you’re interested; please let me know.

Personal things have had me pulled in different directions recently and I was unable to attend the Assembly. Thank God for recovery and to be blessed with life again! But I did miss everyone and was thinking of y’all.

Through love and service,

Mike

April 2024—Meeting Minutes Pg 2

Carol F with the Literature Committee, Daryl W. and Wendy F. with the Grapevine Committee and Charlie W. and Theresa S. with the PI Committee all stated they will have a display table set up at the Traditions Dinner.

GSR Section – Approx 40 minutes

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

Topics:

Grapevine Committee – Presentation and Q&A given by Daryl W., Wendy F. and Thad D.

Here are some of the highlights from their Presentation.

Grapevine was started in 1944 by six individuals. Currently they employ twelve people.

Our Magazines - Member to member sharing of experience, strength and hope, news and events, timely and fresh stories each issue. Our meetings in print - starts with the Preamble, sharing in the middle and ends with

the Serenity Prayer.

Grapevine also publishes and sells books in English and Spanish.

You can follow them on Instagram.

With the new Grapevine and LaViña Apps, you will be able to read the latest magazine, explore the Grapevine or La Viña archive, listen to the audio of each article in the magazine, listen to the podcast aired every Monday, enter your own sobriety date for a daily calculation, build your own daily spiritual maintenance checklist, send articles to friends and get published! Grapevine is looking for feedback from subscribers so send in your comments and suggestions.

Fun Facts

On November 5, 2023, the Grapevine app reached the Top 20 on Apple's Magazine and Newspaper App Charts. Today #39. In January they averaged 34 new subscribers a day, 238 a week and 1,020 a month. Two Grapevine subscriptions were given away to Mike B. and Baymar.

Thank you, Daryl, Wendy, and Thad, for your presentation!

PI Committee – Presentation and Q&A given by Charlie W.

Public Information (P.I.) means carrying the message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic by informing the general public about the AA program. We carry the message by getting in touch with and responding to the media, schools, industry, and other organizations which can report on the nature and purpose of A.A. and what it can do for alcoholics.

To name just a few things we have done this past year putting literature out in public locations, such as Big Books (Spanish & English) in libraries, small literature racks in a couple churches, a Hepatology clinic, and a local hospital. We have done one A.A. presentation at a Catholic Charities event in both English and Spanish. The committee has recently taken part in 2-3 Health Fairs at area community colleges with another coming up in June at Lee College in Baytown (D70:) There is so much more we can do to reach out, but our committee is lacking participation. Many of our districts have open service positions, including PI. A rewarding opportunity is available if you're interested.

We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month on google meet. Contact Charlie at Charlie.w@aa-seta.org or Theresa at theresa.s@aa-seta.org for more information.

Thank you, Charlie for your Presentation!

Theresa S. shared she has PI stuff to pass on to anyone who is interested in the D40 position such as literature racks, pamphlets, Adopt-A-Rack Flyers, Adopt-A-Flyers, and a PI workbook.

Doug informed everyone about the D40 Newsletter, sharing that everyone is invited to write an article.

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DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Archives Rep: Lilian K. – absent

CFC Rep: Anne M – District 81 is holding a TDCJ Training/workshop/application on Saturday May, 11 2024 from 10am-4pm.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

Wolton Hall

4613 Hwy 3

@ Dickinson Bayou

Dickinson, TX 77539

This is the same location where the Dickinson Bayou Group Meets. Lunch and snacks will be served. Please bring your phone and/or a laptop with internet, as the volunteer training is exclusively online. No Chaplain or Warden. Know your driver's license and SS numbers. They will discuss each question as a group. The test will not let you continue to the next question until you answer correctly. The next training, at the moment, will be held at the Southeast Texas Area 67 Correctional Facilities Conference on September 6th, 7th, and 8th, 2024. Details/flyer to follow when we get closer to the date. Area 67 Bluecan balance as of 01/01/2024-29,827.33 with contributions for the month sitting at 7,024.44, so thanks to everyone for their contributions.

Yours in God and Service,

Anne M.

CPC Rep: Open

Grapevine Rep: Wendy F. – participated in the Grapevine Presentation. Cost going up for grapevine subscriptions so the committee bought more before the price went up so they could give them away at AA events. There will be a Writing Workshop in D82, date TBD. There will be a Grapevine table set up in D31 at their Founder's Day in November. There will be a Grapevine Hybrid Event coming up. Grapevine had a table set up at the April Area Assembly. There is a new Grapevine Book available called "Our Twelve Steps".

IT Rep: Peggy A – unable to attend. The committee is in need of people to stand for open positions within the committee.

Houston Intergroup Liaison : Fernando B- absent

Literature Rep: Carol F.-The Area 67 Literature Committee held a workshop March 16 at Church of the Holy Apostles in Katy. About 30 people attended the three-hour event which utilized the round table format so that individuals would have the opportunity to express their views on questions posed by the AA Trustees Literature Committee concerning possible future changes to the writings of the founders.

Lively discussion was had with many members expressing the wish that the founders' writings should be preserved with no alterations in light of modern cultural trends. A consensus did not seem to form around the question of formulating a policy to preserve the writings that would require a 75% majority approval by groups in AA in order to make any changes. Currently, only the steps, traditions and one warranty are protected in this way.

The literature committee meets at 7:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month on Google Meets. All are welcome. Contact daniel.k@aa-seta.org to be placed on the reminder email list if you'd like to join the meeting.

Newsletter Editor: Ethan – absent

PI Public Information): OPEN

TFC Rep: Open

New Business

Rick will give D40 his GSC report on June 11, 2024.

Old Business

AD-Hoc to review and rewrite D40 P&P Manual – Needs more volunteers.

Inventory Ad-Hoc needs more volunteers.

Open positions 2023 - CPC, TFC & PI Rep

April 2024—Meeting Minutes Pg 4

Q. Marilyn – What were the major takeaways from the Seta roundtables and the Delegate Report.

A. Doug – did not have any specific information. Each table was given two items to discuss. Rick’s Delegate Report consisted mainly of preparations for his trip to the General Service Conference (GSC). The Delegate stated he was “informed, not instructed”.

Responsibility STATEMENT: All Together

ADJOURN: 8:31 pm

**2024 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	Tracey C	
Treasurer	Ronnie H	Ronnie.h@aa-seta.org
Alt Treasurer	Amanda L	
Archives	OPEN	
Newsletter Editor	Ethan	
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