

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

June 2024—Meeting Minutes Pg 1

DISTRICT 40 OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Location:

COTHA Church, 1225 W. Grand Parkway.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: June 11, 2024

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Attendees: 28 online, 9 in-person

Call to Order – 7:01pm, Doug D.

Serenity prayer- Doug

New attendees

Paul W. – GSR from the Fry Rd. Group
Rachel J. – GSR from the Rule 62 Group
Kim G. – GSR – from Color of Change Group

Report on the 2024 General Service Conference

Rick M., Delegate, and Christina S., Alt. Delegate

Connecting with Unity, Love and Service (Three languages – American, French, Spanish)

The Southwest Region consists of eleven Delegates and one Trustee, Teresa J.

Summary**1. Plain Language Big Book: A Tool for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous**

Approved by the Conference, Rick did not support this version

Points of Interest

- *Preface states that this book is not meant to replace the Big Book.
- *It is meant to make the ideas expressed in the BB easier to access
- *Dr. Silkworth’s letters appear as written with the translation in a second column
- *Steps will appear in Chapter 5 untranslated
- *A new appendix will contain the Twelve Steps as written along with an explanation
- *God is in this book
- *The grave nature of alcoholism is in this book
- *Individuals are referred to as men or women
- *Groups of individuals are referred to as “people”
- *In the Doctor’s Opinion and Chap 2, the distinction between the phenomenon and obsession is muddled
- *Parts of Bill’s Story lose some power
- *No Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
- *Only two footnotes instruct referring to Appendix II
- *“Amends” is translated as “apology”
- *The word “addiction” was used to describe “alcoholism” but this was edited by the Conference Literature Committee
- *The Jaywalker is a female, but why?

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Rick

PLBB has created disunity

There was going to be disunity whether it passed or failed

Quote from Bill W.

Within A.A., I suppose, we shall always quarrel a good bit. Mostly, I think, about how to do the greatest good for the greatest number of drunks.

Q&A

Mike B. - When will it be published? **I don't know**

Paul - Is it AA approved literature? **Yes**

Roy - In English only? **Yes**

Roy - Was the Vendor Alcoholic? **No**

Rick - To The Wives is now "Partners"

2. Around the Picnic Table

The full Report is Posted on the Delegates page

2023 GSO FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

*7th Tradition of Self-Support - \$10.84 million up 2.8% from \$10.55 million in 2022

*Operating Expense before Depreciation - \$17.47 million up 9.9% from \$15.90 million in 2022

*Program Service Expense - \$9.00 million up 46.5% from \$6.14 million in 2022

*Supporting Services Expense - \$8.47 million down 13.1% from \$9.76 million in 2022

*Self-Support - covered 62% of operating expense

*Cost of program services per individual - \$6.43

*AAWS publishing gross profits - \$6.76 million up 38.2% from \$4.89 million in 2022

*Operating surplus before depreciation of \$581,907; operating cash increase of \$358,588

2024 GSO BUDGET

*Operating revenue \$19,642,359 compared to \$18,056,782 in 2023. Contributions \$10,500,000 compared to \$10,841,419 in 2023.

*Literature gross margin \$8,492,759 compared to \$6,763,226 in 2023.

*Total operating expense \$19,024,414 before \$1.02M depreciation compared to \$17,474,874 before \$1.06M depreciation in 2023.

*Operating surplus of \$617,945 before depreciation compared to \$581,907 surplus in 2023.

*Online Contributions continue to increase

A mail contribution costs \$5.60 to process. An online contribution costs \$2.93 to process, a \$2.67 savings

*Contributions by type of Contributor

Groups - 55%

Individuals - 33%

Areas and Districts - 5%

Intergroups = 2%

Other Orgs - 5%

Rick - The worst is behind us, next year we will see a start to replenishing the reserve fund. Literature sales and contributions are increasing.

Q&A

Mike B. - How will they increase the reserve fund? **Smaller GV deficit**

Mike B. - Speculation/Gut feeling? **Wait and see, sincere**

3. Location+ Report Should the General Service Office be Relocated? (for Economic Reasons)

We currently lease space in the Interchurch Building owned by the Rockefellers and leased only to non-profits.

The National average lease per square foot is \$42 and we are leasing for \$25.46. Much research was done by an outside agency and it was determined that GSS should stay where they are for economical reasons.

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4. **General Service Board Inventory** (the full report is on the Delegate page)

My overall impression is that the General Service Board did conduct a fearless and thorough inventory of itself.

As with any 4th Step inventory, action will be required for the inventory to be of value. Action items are included in the report. A working group established by the Board Chair will establish timelines for completing the action items. A close read of the full report may reveal some of the grievances against the Board Chair who resigned. I feel that the report also shows evidence of unprincipled behavior among Board members.

5. **Founder's Writings**

In sum-total, most Areas do not want to see changes to the Founders' writings. No action was taken.

6. **Equitable Distribution of Workload** – passed and the deadline to submit PAI's is September 30.

7. **Agenda Item: Discuss cost effectiveness of continuing to print La Vina** -

The committee recommended that the AA Grapevine Board develop a 5-year financial plan for La Viña with the goal to reduce shortfalls and increase revenue to be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.

Additional committee consideration:

The committee requested that the Grapevine Board develop a plan for a more effective La Viña subscription procedure, fulfillment process and customer service experience and that a progress report be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.

Final Thoughts

While there seemed to be more unity and trust between the Board and delegates, we are not where we need to be.

Based on the number of floor actions and amendments proposed for committee recommendations, the Conference has lost respect for the committee process.

Despite the negative tone of the previous slide, it has been an honor and privilege to serve as your Delegate for the 73rd and 74th General Service Conferences.

I truly appreciate your trust and support.

This has been an experience I never would have wanted to miss.

I hope and pray that each of you do not want to miss it either.

I love and respect each and every one of you.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

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

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

DCM Report

ALT. DCM Report

GSR Section – Tell me what your HOME Group said about hosting the July assembly.

D40 will host the July General Assembly

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

DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Archives Rep: Lilian K.

CFC Rep: Anne M

CPC Rep: [Open](#)

Grapevine Rep:

IT Rep: Peggy A

Houston Intergroup Liaison: Fernando B

Literature Rep: Carol F.- The Area 67 Literature Committee met May 21 on Google meets. Committee members discussed a planned fall workshop that will review the basics of the greater AA structure and how items are developed and submitted for consideration to the annual General Service Conference. Workshop date, place and time are still in development.

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The committee will be represented by Alt Chair Jim M. at the 36th anniversary of the Beginners Group, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, June 15, at St. Michael the Archangel Church, 100 Oak Dr S, Lake Jackson, TX 77566.

The Literature Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month on Google meets. All are welcome

Newsletter Editor:

PI Public Information): OPEN

TFC Rep: Open

Responsibility STATEMENT: All Together

ADJOURN: 9:00 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