

8TH District General Service Sharing Session Minutes Wednesday, September 5, 2001

CALL TO ORDER

Tony N. D.C.M. District 81 opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. Charles I. read the Twelve Traditions. The Attendance Roster was circulated for sign-in (see attached attendance list). Introductions were made.

MINUTES

The minutes of the August 2001 District Meeting were submitted. David H. made a motion to accept the August 2001 minutes. Bill H. seconded the motion. The August 2001 minutes were accepted.

TREASURER

The September 2001 Treasurer's Report was reviewed. The 2002 SETA Convention Reserve amount of \$423.00 will be moved from the "Six Month Prudent Reserve" report to the "Contributions for Hospitality Suite" report. The "Total Prudent Reserve" balance will change to \$1021.000. Tandy B. made a motion that the report be accepted as corrected. Bill D. seconded the motions. The September 2001 Treasurer's Report was accepted as corrected.

Group Contributions should be sent to: --District Treasurer, 1507 Winnie Galveston, TX 77550.

GROUP ISSUES

David H. commented on the poor attendance from this (district 8) committee at the last workshop on August 25th, 2001. Three GSRs showed up for this workshop. He felt that this was a ridiculous turn out. We had the Area Alternate Delegate and others driving long distances to put on this workshop and most of this committee don't even bother to show up. That is embarrassing. I am not talking about humility; like we talk about in meetings, I'm talking about down right embarrassing. This committee asked for these workshops and then you don't show up. Tony N. asked for comments. Amy R. commented that even though we are into service and somewhat sober, I think that we need a reminder call. I think it might be a good idea to get a GSR phone list going and call people a day before to remind them. I happened to show up at this one but a lot of times I need to be reminded. We don't need to be anybody's baby sitter but a reminder call might help. Violet M. commented that sometime people get ill and can't make it. Rodney R. commented that this has always been one of the strongest Districts in the Area. And one of the most united Districts. These workshops are not just for the GSR. We should bring two or three people with us to these workshops. Grab a sponsee, a new person at the meeting, anyone who will come and get them to these workshops. There is a purpose for these workshops. If we have one person who picks up something up its worth it. If we spend months working on something and setting up a date people ought to try to get there. When setting these up in the future look for a topic that is needed and will draw a crowd. I don't think that was the case here. Get some people here and get them involved. That's the only way this district is going to grow. There is a lot of time and hard work spent on these workshops. They are there for us to grow spiritually and mentally and in service. As Trusted Servants of our various groups, we have a lot of responsibility on us to carry the message of A.A. to others in our District and in the Area. That is why it is important to be at workshops, district meetings and area meetings. That is how we keep A.A. active in this district, and area. People get enthusiasm for service from workshops. Tony N. commented that apathy is what kills us. Most of the folks that were at the August 25th workshop in Clute were not from the local area. This committee mandated to the DCMs that they do four workshops a year but no one wants to suit up and show up. The GSRs do not get a free ride. These are about your work not the DCMs work. If you are not going to show up and give your support, what is the use in having a workshop? The majority of the people that were at the workshop probably could have done a Sixth Tradition workshop. The people that really needed to know and learn about the Sixth Tradition were the ones that weren't there. That is where the apathy comes in. Glenn B. commented that the reason there were not more people from that area at the Sixth Tradition workshop is probably for the same reason there is more people at the meeting downstairs tonight than there are up here at this service meeting. It's not like that workshop wasn't announced. We can't drag people to the things. Also, look how long it to Bill to get people interested in these Traditions. He pointed out that there were more at this workshop than at the last workshop we had.

SERVICE MANUAL

The committee began read the Service Manual on page S57 and stopped on page S60 at Nonalcoholic (Class A0 Trustees).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHIVES

- ❖ A GSR donated some old Grapevines to the area archives.
- ❖ Archive Committee meets the 2nd Thursday, 7:30 PM, Intergroup Office, 4140 Directors Row, Houston. During Assembly months the Archives Committee also meets on Saturday afternoon at the Assembly.

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COOPERATION WITH PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

- ❖ No Report
- ❖ Normally, the CPC meets the first Monday each month at Shoney's, 610S @ Kirby, 6:00 eat, 6:30 meeting

CORRECTIONAL FACILITY COMMITTEE

- ❖ No Report
- ❖ CFC meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month, St. Joseph's Hospital, Houston, 7:30 PM.

GRAPEVINE

- ❖ No Report
- ❖ The Grapevine website – www.aagrapevine.org. You can see what's coming, check out the calendar, and submit letters, order books and tapes.
- ❖ The Grapevine Committee meets on Saturday afternoon at the Quarterly Area Assembly.

INTERGROUP

- ❖ No Report
- ❖ The Intergroup Committee meets on the 3rd Thursday of the even numbered months at 8:00 PM in the Intergroup Office and Book Store at 4141 Directors Row, Suite D & E, Houston. The phone number for questions is 713-686-6300.

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE

- ❖ No Report
- ❖ PI meets the 3rd Monday of every month (except during Assembly months) at 7:00 PM in Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Drive near Richmond Ave. & Beltway 8, Houston 713-850-9425. During Assembly months the meeting is held on Saturday afternoon at the Assembly.

TREATMENT FACILITY COMMITTEE

- ❖ Opened the meeting with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer. Six people were in attendance. A member read Tradition One. Everyone introduced himself or herself and a sign-in sheet was circulated. Meeting went into reports and service responsibilities (group elections). The TFC still lacks an Alternate Chairman and a Treasurer. Following are some of the Hospitals or Treatment Facilities that we will be checking on or have been in touch with. Barbara Jordan Healthcare (UT), which used to be the Houston Recovery Campus, Sally House, Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Facility (RSAT) (Harris County Community Supervisions Corrections Department). All these facilities need follow up to see how we can help. SETA Website needs someone to develop our web page and maybe put different institutions we go into. District 90 Conference (August 17-19, 2001), Correctional Facilities Conference (September 14-16, 2001) needs someone to display and represent us. Memorial Herman Prevention and Recovery (1515 LaConcha) Sandra Wicoff asked us to contact her back on 08-15-01. She said that she was interested, but was going on vacation. West Oaks Hospital, New Freedom Halfway House (women's halfway house in Spring Branch) on Johanna, one block east of Hammerly and Work Rd. still need to be contacted. SETA Convention (Beaumont January 2002) If anyone goes to this convention committee meetings be sure and make contact with a District 90 Rep. to set up a display. A report was given on the Committee Awareness Workshop July 28, 2001. The workshop and presentation to staff and clients was excellent. Aggieland Convention on August 3-5. Announcements were made at the convention regarding the TFC. Met a contact at the convention who is trying to get District 33 involve in the TFC. A detailed "BTG" presentation was given to the committee. There was some interest in looking through the archives to find more history about the TFC here in Houston. Any new facility leads or any questions were asked for. Due to the holiday, the next meeting will be on September 9, 2001. Up Coming Events
August 11, 2001-District 40's Annual Traditions Event
August 11, 2001- Santa Fe Group's 29th Anniversary
August 17-19, 2001 District 90 Conference
- ❖ The Treatment Facility Committee meets on the 1st Sunday of the month (except during Assembly months) at 3:30 PM in the St. Joseph Hospital's Cullen Family Mental Health Building located at 1404 St. Joseph Parkway (formerly Calhoun), Houston. During Assembly months the meeting is held on Saturday afternoon at the Assembly.

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ELECTIONS

GSRs, please inform your groups of the positions of service that are open at the district level. Anyone wishing to find out more about them or stand for a position should attend the next district meeting.

- ❖ Alternate DCM 81
- ❖ Archives Liaison
- ❖ CPC Liaison
- ❖ CFC Liaison
- ❖ PIC Liaison
- ❖ Becky C. stood down from the Grapevine Liaison Position.
- ❖ Violet M. stood for the Grapevine Liaison position and was elected by acclamation.

OLD BUSINESS

- ❖ 6th Tradition Workshop

David opened the workshop in the usual manner. The presenters Paul M. and Bonita Mc were introduced and the workshop was turned over to them. Paul asked that we go around the room and everyone introduce themselves. Bonita started by reading the sixth tradition in the short and long forms. This was followed by Paul presenting some of the history as to how the traditions were developed. A special emphasis was placed on the events and ideas of early AA members that led to the Sixth Tradition being chartered.

Paul and Bonita related to the group their experiences while working on committees such as Public Information, Correctional Facilities and Cooperation with Professionals. It was emphasized that while doing presentations or making information on Alcoholics Anonymous available to the public we must be very careful not to appear to be affiliated with the hosting organization. We were made aware of how easily the public can and does associate AA with other groups and organizations.

Also discussed was how some groups may affiliate themselves with outside issues by advertising on flyers some activities. These could include dances, raffles, car washes and other fund raising events. The emphasis here is that AA does not have such activities. We should always be self-supporting through our own contributions.

The role of the AA club in relation to the groups was also discussed. Clubs are not groups and some activities at club facilities have nothing to do with the program of Alcoholics Anonymous or the groups that meet there. A good point was made that through sponsorship individuals learn the difference between the group and the club.

About half way through everyone took a break to have chips and sandwiches and enjoy some casual conversation before continuing to the second portion of the workshop.

There was a question and answer session after the break. An "Ask it Basket" was used along with people voicing their questions. We had a good discussion and sharing of ideas by everyone. The following is a general list of questions that were asked : *Clubs & how they are governed ; Coffee being sold at meetings by the clubs ; The pie chart for dispersing money from the groups ; Meetings in jails ; Literature distributed and displayed in public places ; Are we promoting AA through the standing committees ; Information at health fairs being displayed on the same table with information on various health issues ; The relation between AA and Intergroup ; Is the "Mouth of the Brazos" convention an outside issue.*

Once again we would like to thank Paul and Bonita for the great work they did presenting this workshop. In addition to the presentation pamphlets and GSO guidelines for related topics and the traditions were available for everyone to take with them.

The expenses to put this workshop on were: RENT = \$15.00 FLYERS = \$40.00 FOOD = \$54.88 LITERATURE = \$23.62 TOTAL = \$133.50

We had a total of 20 people in attendance. Only 3 GSRs from district 81 and 82 attended.

NEW BUSINESS

- ❖ Gratitude Dinner- District 81 and 82 has been asked to contribute to this year's dinner. District 81 is to bring desserts and District is to bring salads. Each district is expected to provide a volunteer to help with the clean up after the dinner. The dinner will be on November 17, 2001 5:00 PM, at the University of St. Thomas, Jerabeck Center (Bldg 30). The address is 4000 Mt. Vernon and 1200 West Main in Houston, TX 77006 The GSRs should take this to the Groups and ask them to support the district in this effort.
- ❖ District Meeting Room- Amy R. asked if the District Committee could do anything about the dust and mold in the meeting room. David H. reminded the committee that we could request that the room be cleaned but that is all we could do.
- ❖ Area Inventory- David H. showed a copy of the area inventory results to the District committee that was present. He offered to get copies of the inventory to anyone that would like a copy.

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- ❖ District meeting schedule- Rodney R. asked the District 8 Meeting Schedules. Where are they? Do we have any available? David H. said that several copies of the 1999 edition of the District Meeting Schedule. David H. made a motion for the Secretary to update the District Meeting Schedule. The motion was seconded by Violet M. The motion passed. Tandy B. and Mark W. will work together to get the schedule updated and available to the committee.
- ❖ Tony N. reminded the GSRs at the meeting that there would be several workshops held at the up coming assembly at the Courtyard Marriott in Houston on October 14-15, 2001. Some topics are the SETA Gratitude Dinner, Seventh Tradition-Self-Support at the Area Level, and the SETA Convention.
- ❖ Tony N. said that Chuck G. has some of the District supplies at his home. Violet reminded us that the District has storage closet here at the Alvin Taylor St. Club. The supplies could be stored there. Jan D., hospitality suite chair, said that she would inventory the items that we have stored.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ SETA Convention January 5-7, 2002 In Beaumont, TX
- ❖ Quarterly Assembly October 6 & 7, 2001 at the Courtyard Marriott in Houston, TX
- ❖ MOB Conference September 21-23, 2001 Lake Jackson, TX
- ❖ 51st GSC Final Reports are available to take back to your groups.
- ❖ GSRs ask your Groups for donations to the 2002 SETA Convention Hospitality Suite.

CLOSE

Violet M. made a motion to close the meeting. Dana H. seconded the motion. The meeting was closed in the usual manner.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tandy B.

8th District Secretary