

District 81 Committee Meeting Minutes  
August 3, 2022

Call to Order: Danny G. – Serenity Prayer

Traditions/Concept: Concept 8 read by Danny G.

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Danny G. with the Serenity Prayer.

Roll Call: 33 total committee members (28 voting 5 non-voting) and 2 visitors. 35 total attendees.

Danny G. called the meeting to order. Concept 8 was read by Danny G. Cindy performed the roll call. There were 35 attendees, including 33 committee members (28 voting and 5 non-voting). The meeting minutes for July 2022 were presented. A motion was made by Catherine to accept the minutes as written and it was seconded by Tom B. Treasurer's Report (attached) for July 2022 was presented by Kirsten. A motion was made by John C. to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and it was seconded by Gwen.

Committee Reports:

1. Archives – Report (attached) presented by Wes. Meet last Friday monthly @ Alvin Taylor Street @ 2pm. Group histories list was with Tom B. Contact Archives to get your own group history for your group completed or to record member's stories in your group. Contact Archives for your event to use the board. Gwen asked if Archives has an Alt-Chair? No. Tiffany replied.
2. Correctional Facility (CFC) – Report presented by Daryl and stated they been busy and are still going to Carol Young Unit with anywhere between 3-17 people show up. Galveston County jail open for first time in 2 years. Tom said they had 12 guys last night, with 1 guy doing his own meeting. **NEED VOLUNTEERS** to get more meeting opportunities inside the jails. Fill out form to get approved w/copy of DL, SSN, and notary. CFC meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday monthly at 630p at BAC.
3. Public Information/Cooperation with Professional Community (PICPC) – Report (attached) presented by Tim L. Discussed QR code that was added to the Bay Area Printing PSA. Tom ordered literature to stock literature racks. **NEED VOLUNTEERS** to stock the racks. Impression tracking results for June 2022 PSA-414 scanned the QR code and 389 clicked on the link. Billboard is a process looking into Clear Channel. Discussed voice mail and how to market. Texas A&M Health Fair in Galveston coming up for Tom and Paul. **OPEN POSITIONS:** Treasurer/Lit Chair/Alt-Chair. Tiffany asked about the process for a group to “Adopt-A-Rack”? Tom said yes and to **MENTION TO YOUR GROUPS** that you can “Adopt-A-Rack”.
4. Grapevine – Report presented by Linda. **MENTION TO YOUR GROUPS** to go to group conscious and buy a subscription to hand out at birthday night and establish a Grapevine meeting. No committee meeting time has been established. Contact Linda to join committee at 936-662-0902. Grapevine is having supply and shipping delays.

5. Literature – No report given. Committee meeting held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday @ 7p @ BAC in Rooms E&F.
6. Finance and Budget (F&B) – Brandi presented the report. The committee meets monthly at Jason’s Deli on HWY 646 at 6:30 pm the last Wednesday. Will send out budget forms to committees. Committees should look at the past 3 years expenses for 2023 budget process. Report “Deciphering the Treasurers Report” was reviewed.
7. Treatment Facilities (TFC) – John C. presented the report (attached). 6 people in attendance at the meeting on July 29th. Presentations the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at Into Action. Kemah Palms meeting is second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm on Zoom. Doing BARC this month 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 8/16 on GoToMeeting at 6pm. The TFC committee meeting is always the last Wednesday of the month and **NEED MEMBERS**. Last TFC workshop of the year 10/15 1-3p at BAC.
8. Newsletter – Gwen presented report. She was sick last month. Tom, Paul, Ashley, Catherine, and Tim all submitted content for this month’s newsletter. Attended SETA summary. Included Archives Committee reminder. 12 pages 60 copies for \$98.72. Trying to represent all of the committees. To publish content email Gwen [gwen.r@aa-seta.org](mailto:gwen.r@aa-seta.org). Trying to get standing meetings at BAC.
9. Workshop – Catherine G. presented the report (attached). Workshop one month away. Flyers available. **ANNOUNCE ANNOUNCE** “Pathway to Spiritual Awareness”. 4 presenters 4 ways. At meeting talked about the format. 9/10/2022 1-4pm at Dickenson First United Methodist. Pre-register at [c.gregory@aa-seta.org](mailto:c.gregory@aa-seta.org) Final workshop is “Committee Carnival”. Food trucks.
10. Website – Nicole presented report. Newsletter has its own page. **KEEP SENDING FLYERS**. Email flyers to [Nicole.c@aa-seta.org](mailto:Nicole.c@aa-seta.org). Creating another page called “forms”. Committees can have own page. IT Liaison at SETA Assembly is making it uniform-Committees will have own emails (i.e. group emails) then individuals can have access. Starting with Archives.
11. Registrar – Cindy performed Roll Call (results above).

#### Old Business:

1. July was the Assembly where we got to hear all about what Kris was up to at the General Service Conference. You do not need to be a voting member of the Assembly to join us. It is open to all AA members in the Southeast Texas Area. Did you go so that you and your group was informed?

#### New Business:

1. Our Delegate Kris will be coming to speak to us at our September district meeting. He’ll give a condensed version of what was discussed and voted on at the General Service Conference.
2. Quarterly Workshops? Group sponsored workshops? District 81 meet up for fun activities (bowling, movies, etc.) and get to know our trusted servants better, and just maybe, even bring a newcomer along and get them involved and excited about service work??

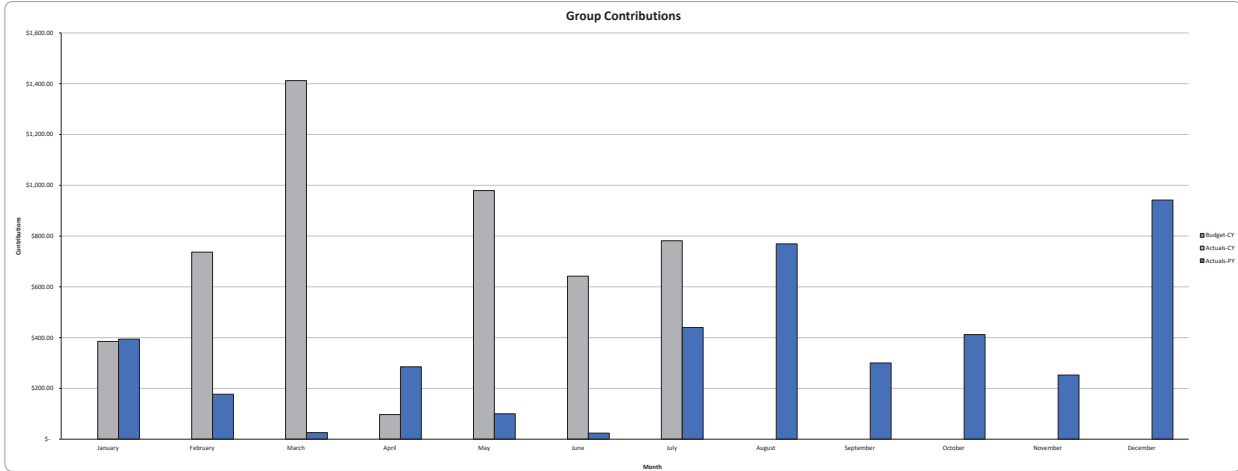
GSR Sharing: N/A

AA Group Announcements:

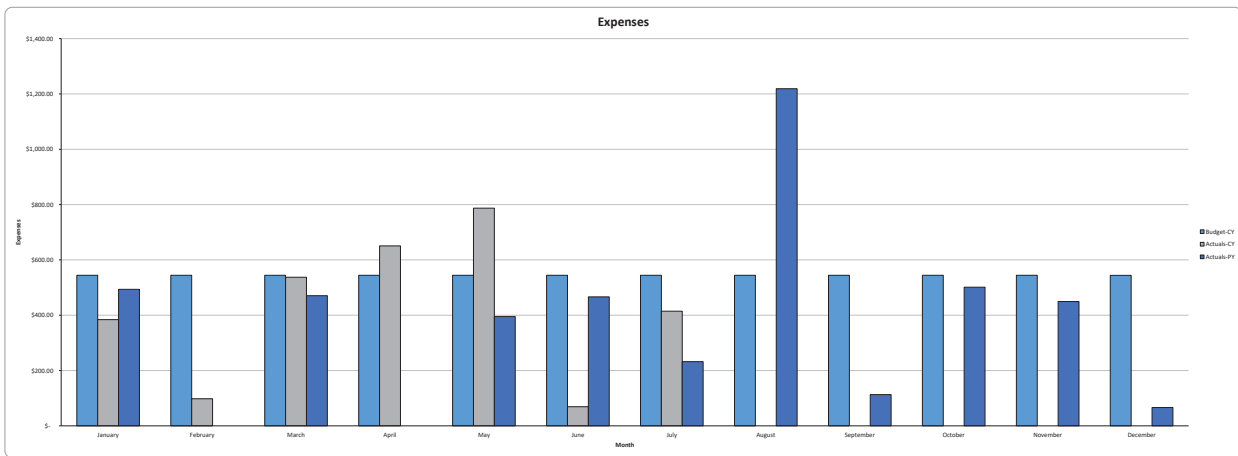
1. Dana-Santa Fe Group's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is 8/13 at 2pm food at 4pm and speakers at 615pm.
2. Cindy-Election for all District 81 positions in October **ANNOUNCE**  
**ANNOUNCE**

Motion to close the meeting was made by Tiffany and seconded by Daryl. Meeting closed.

Opening Checkbook Balance	\$ 13,648.34
Group Contributions	\$ 781.61
Other Contributions	\$ -
Less Expenses	\$ 414.41
Net Income	\$ 367.20
Ending Checkbook Balance	\$ 14,015.54
Prudent Reserve Emergency Funds	\$ (2,000.00)
Restricted Budget Deficit	\$ (4,801.14)
Available Funds	\$ 7,214.40



Income	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	YTD
Budget-CY	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Actuals-CY	\$ 385.00	\$ 736.67	\$ 1,411.98	\$ 96.77	\$ 979.23	\$ 641.96	\$ 781.61	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,033.22
Actuals-PY	\$ 394.00	\$ 177.00	\$ 25.95	\$ 284.88	\$ 100.00	\$ 24.00	\$ 440.00	\$ 769.14	\$ 300.00	\$ 412.19	\$ 252.37	\$ 941.72	\$ 4,121.25



Expenses	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	YTD
Budget-CY	\$ 544.21	\$ 544.21	\$ 544.21	\$ 544.21	\$ 544.21	\$ 544.21	\$ 544.21	\$ 544.21	\$ 544.21	\$ 544.21	\$ 544.21	\$ 544.21	\$ 6,530.48
Actuals-CY	\$ 383.88	\$ 97.94	\$ 537.12	\$ 650.74	\$ 787.06	\$ 69.21	\$ 414.41	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,940.36
Actuals-PY	\$ 493.59	\$ -	\$ 470.44	\$ -	\$ 395.17	\$ 466.21	\$ 231.96	\$ 1,218.80	\$ 112.73	\$ 501.20	\$ 449.38	\$ 66.23	\$ 4,405.71

Group Name:	Group #:	Budget	Month												YTD	
			January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December		
1500 Group	605576	\$ 8,010.00			\$ 150.00											\$ 150.00
33rd Street Galveston	112991		\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00					\$ 75.00						\$ 175.00
6th Street Group	130132							\$ 100.00								\$ 100.00
Alvin Group	112839				\$ 876.98											\$ 876.98
Back To Basics - Texas City	677753															\$ -
Bacliff 11th Street Group	692944			\$ 250.00												\$ 250.00
Broad Highway	?????															\$ -
Breakfast Club	?????															\$ -
Certain Steps	?????															\$ -
Clear Lake City Group	127766															\$ -
Daily Bread	174610															\$ -
Dickinson Bayou Group	135993								\$ 118.79							\$ 118.79
Early Birds????	173796															\$ -
Early Workers Group	637694			\$ 133.33												\$ 133.33
Edgebrook Group																\$ -
Fresh Start Group	176723															\$ -
Galveston Day Group	120778															\$ -
Happy Destiny Group	720976															\$ -
Happy Hour Group (BAC)	173018							\$ 414.00		\$ 169.50						\$ 583.50
Hitchock Group	653384															\$ -
Hope Seekers (Pearland)	652766						\$ 96.77									\$ 96.77
Houston, We Have a Solution (BAC)	?????															\$ -
Imperfect Nooners	699570															\$ -
Jamaica Beach	142623		\$ 110.00					\$ 45.00								\$ 155.00
Keep It Simple Sweetheart- KISS (BAC)	165384															\$ -
Keep On Steppin (Friendswood)	669720															\$ -
Lambda-Galveston	129176									\$ 230.14						\$ 230.14
Live at 5 (BAC)	625071			\$ 217.95					\$ 171.37							\$ 389.32
New Day Group	173527			\$ 100.00						\$ 250.00						\$ 350.00
Night Owls	???															\$ -
Pearland Beginner's Group	689399															\$ -
Pearland Monday Night Group	617706							\$ 140.20								\$ 140.20
Pearland Thursday Gratitude	663342				\$ 150.00											\$ 150.00
The Phoenix AA Group (Galveston)	143647															\$ -
Phoenix Women's (Pearland)	667965															\$ -
Post Office Men's Group	696589															\$ -
Pearland Promises Group	658274															\$ -
Seabrook Serenity Sisters	702461															\$ -
Safe Haven P-11	721635															\$ -
Santa Fe AA Group	164289															\$ -
Serenity Group (BAC)	165186				\$ 185.00		\$ 246.00		\$ 131.97							\$ 562.97
SIS Group (UTSC)	175066															\$ -
Steps To Freedom	?????															\$ -
Sunday Morning Big Book Study	?????								\$ 76.80							\$ -
Sunrise Group - Friendswood	697994			\$ 35.39				\$ 34.03								\$ 69.42
Sunshine Women's	161959															\$ -
Sobriety of Two Wheels (BAC)	705422															\$ -
Texas City Group	113214															\$ -
Waterfront Group/Noon at the Creek	632178															\$ -
West Isle Group	112992		\$ 225.00													\$ 225.00
What's the Point	672040								\$ 200.00							\$ 200.00
This Side of the Lake (UTSC)	626940															\$ -
Young, Wild & Free (BAC)	713122															\$ -
<b>Total Group Contributions:</b>			\$ 385.00	\$ 736.67	\$ 1,411.98	\$ 96.77	\$ 979.23	\$ 641.96	\$ 781.61	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,956.42
<b>% of Budget</b>			4.8%	9.2%	17.6%	1.2%	12.2%	8.0%	9.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	61.9%
<b>Other Contributions:</b>			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Contributions:</b>			\$ 385.00	\$ 736.67	\$ 1,411.98	\$ 96.77	\$ 979.23	\$ 641.96	\$ 781.61	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,956.42

	Original Budget	Budget Amendments	Revised Budget	Month												YTD	Variance to Budget Favorable/(Unfav.)
				January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December		
<b>Administrative Expenses</b>																	
DCM	\$ 745.00		\$ 745.00													\$ -	\$ 745.00
Alternate DCM	\$ 495.00		\$ 495.00													\$ -	\$ 495.00
District	\$ 850.00		\$ 850.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 291.70	\$ 50.00	\$ 163.68									\$ 555.38	\$ 294.62
Secretary	\$ -		\$ -													\$ -	\$ -
Treasurer	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00													\$ -	\$ 50.00
Registrar	\$ -		\$ -													\$ -	\$ -
D81 Website	\$ -		\$ 800.00			\$ 51.83										\$ 51.83	\$ 748.17
Regional SWAARSA	\$ 300.00		\$ 300.00													\$ -	\$ 300.00
<b>Service Expenses</b>																	
Archives	\$ 480.00	\$ 411.02	\$ 891.02	\$ 120.00		\$ 245.42	\$ 411.02									\$ 776.44	\$ 114.58
Correctional Facilities	\$ 800.00		\$ 800.00						\$ 103.79							\$ 103.79	\$ 696.21
PI/PCP	\$ 1,110.48		\$ 1,110.48	\$ 263.88				\$ 400.00								\$ 663.88	\$ 446.60
Finance & Budget	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00													\$ -	\$ 100.00
Grapevine	\$ -		\$ -													\$ -	\$ -
Treatment Facilities	\$ 400.00		\$ 400.00			\$ 125.98			\$ 23.46	\$ 19.82						\$ 169.26	\$ 230.74
Literature	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00													\$ -	\$ 100.00
Newsletter	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00													\$ -	\$ 100.00
<b>District Events</b>																	
Assembly Hosting	\$ -		\$ -													\$ -	\$ -
Workshop	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 47.94		\$ 11.91	\$ 223.38	\$ 45.75	\$ 290.80							\$ 619.78	\$ 380.22
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -										\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 6,530.48</b>	<b>\$ 411.02</b>	<b>\$ 7,741.50</b>	<b>\$ 383.88</b>	<b>\$ 97.94</b>	<b>\$ 537.12</b>	<b>\$ 650.74</b>	<b>\$ 787.06</b>	<b>\$ 69.21</b>	<b>\$ 414.41</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,940.36</b>	<b>\$ 4,801.14</b>

Release of Funds

Remaining Restricted not Including the Prudent Reserve \$ 4,801.14

% of Budget 5.0% 1.3% 6.9% 8.4% 10.2% 0.9% 5.4% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 38.0%

Balance per Bank as of July1, 2022

Add: Deposits in Transit	\$	-
Less: Outstanding Checks:		
Check#		
Check#		
Check#	\$	-
Check#	\$	-
Check#	\$	-
Check#	\$	-
Check#	\$	-
Adjusted Bank Balance:	<u>\$</u>	<u>-</u>

Friday, 7/29/22 | 2pm

## District 81 Archives Meeting

Present-Dana H, Tom B, Wesley S, Tiffany S

Absent-Ellen R, Johnny S, Ben B, Ned H, Kunal M

### *Committee Positions and Agreements:*

Dana: Chair

Tom: Treasurer

Ned: Outreach and Interest

Wesley: Key holder/ Audio Archiver

Ellen: Secretary / **Scanned Document Archiver**

Tiffany: Interviewer / Visual Display Archiver

Ben:

Johnny: Mascot

Meeting was called to order by Wes with the Serenity Prayer

### **Projects Discussed:**

#### **#1 *Per Dist. 81 meeting Mar. 2nd access to AA Archives email address: TIFFANY***

- Action: Each committee member to go to SETA web and register for seta archives Gmail (inner organizational communication device).
- Task Master: Tiffany, Ellen, Tom, Dana (Wes is now Dist. 81 Secretary and will have one through his new office)
- Dana has archives Gmail info
- **Update and discussion:**
- **Wesley got email**
- **Tiffany is working to get aa-seta.org email. Area assembly worked on getting Archives general email address through G-space.**

#### **#2 *Digitizing archive documents & audio library of cassettes for future Dist. 81 website and other opportunities***

- ***We need to price an external hard drive for Archives: Tiffany did!***
- ***We hope to make all newly digitized archive items available on the new seta website.***
- Action: Scanning hard copy documents and organizing digital copies into an easily accessible format. **Ellen took 2 selected documents for scanning to be returned at next archives meeting, TBA: Ellen Broke Leg.** Plan to scan “Diary of Two Motorcycle Hobos” from Pete L. by Lillie Mc (Lowery, TX Archive copy) and “A Pre-AA History Book” by Bob S

Jan **Feb** Mar Apr **May** Jun Jul



- Action: Purchase cassette to MP3 converter and organize digital copies into an easily accessible format. **Wesley and Tiffany have one!**
- Task Master Documents: Ellen has access to digital emailing scanner at Unity Bay Area Houston
- Task Master Audio: **Wesley took record and cassettes to try**
  - **Wesley will contact resources within AA**
- **Update and discussion:**
- **Need Hard Drive**
- **Need Budget-Sept 2022 for items: Printing, Hard Drive, Audio Transfer, Send Archivist to Conferences**
- **Put on District 81 Website Audio Files, Email Contacts, Documents**
- **Write up Request for funds send to District 81**
- **For 2023 Budget Dist 81 buys ink, paper, scanner?, Velcro for board, board stuff, HD, Audio Recording device, replace cork board in depository**

### **#3 Proposed monthly archives meeting, *name TBA*, at BAC to gain more awareness and interest**

- Action: Aggregated Meeting Topics/ Purpose, Chairperson commitments, and date and time for use of Room E&F (by the coffee bar) approved by the BAC.
- Task Masters: **Ned and Wesley**  
***Ned and Wesley came up with a meeting structure and suggested that we inquire among existing meetings (Live @5 weekends or 6:30pm Weekdays at BAC) to host a monthly or bi-monthly Archives meeting.***

***Ned will come up with a meeting “pitch” for this new meeting.***

***Ned and Wes to Live @ 5 Group Conscience April***

***Goal: attract more support and interest Bring a friend program!***

***Ellen suggested that we use these meetings also as an opportunity to interview old timers for the archives as speaker meetings.***

- **Update and discussion:**
- **Tabled**
- **Tabled**

### **#3b Recording Old Timers Project**

**Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul**

- Action: Overview the Archives Workbook to learn suggested method and questions of interest to AA Archives.
- Action: Select and confirm Old Timer, scheduling a date and time/ IF on the spot, having list of AA Archive questions on hand and a recording device (phone)
- Task Masters:
  - Update and discussion:
  - K. Ball Withers
  - Request in District 81 Newsletter
  - Group Histories
  - K. Ball withers? 50 years this month
- ✓ *#4 Dist. 81 Display upgrade for AA Conventions, Club events and Meetings*
  - Required Action: New board materials, updated printing of original documents on Archive paper
  - Task Master: Tiffany, Wesley & Ellen
  - Update and discussion:
  - Old Business-Accomplished

#### *#5 Connecting with other districts and the area for Archive Workshops*

- Required Action: Connect with other districts and the Area 67 Archive to see if such a thing exists.
- Update and discussion:
- Table

#### **New Business:**

SF Group requests board.

Tom Cleaned Repository

#### **Old Business:**

District 81 and 82 Repository

SF Group 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary-Present Archives Board Request, No DJ needed

## District 81 PI-CPC Committee July 2022 Meeting Minutes

Meeting via Zoom 7-22-22

Meeting Chair: Tim L

Attendees: Tim and Tom B

Paul M - out of town

Bill M – could not attend

Dawn F – called. She may also have a potential new member

Jim CC- (potential committee member) could not attend

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### Agenda Items:

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- Discuss our QR code for the PI-CPC to use as we move forward. Recommend using static QR code for Bay Area Printing. The static QR Code only has one link. We will use aahouston.org for the link. – Paul M will update monthly Bay Area PSA with intergroup QR code on it and add our phone numbers for PI-CPC outreach on the PSA as well.
- Literature Rack Update – Tom B ordered \$140 of literature. May have a volunteer (Donna P) to take over for Tom B on literature distribution but we are still looking for someone who can take over this important role.
- Postal Publications Stats from June 2022 PSA.  
Subject: Re: Postal Publications Insertion Agreement - AA -PSA SCAN REPORT  
  
There has been a huge increase on the graph for the month of June when the magazine dropped. 414 people scanned the ad and 389 went to other links in the QR Code to find meetings or to Intergroup.
- Discuss Billboard PSA's. Tim/Paul. Hard target dates: August 17<sup>th</sup> proposal due to Christina so she can add it to the Area Assembly for a vote during the October 2022 meeting. Review Clear Channel statistics. Tim to speak with Paul M and Kristi A about this to see if we can get a presentation to SETA ready for the October conference. Lee Vela with Clear Channel to send all pricing and further information from the 2021 Billboard PSA initiative.

Last email from Lee Vela with CCC on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of July.

Hi Tim – looks like we only have one vinyl left in the market which is currently at Hwy 105 E NS 0.19mi W/O Whipporwill WF. Attached are the proof of performance reports for all that was displayed for you through May which is when you contract ended. Do you want to produce additional vinyl's and posters? If so, we can repeat what we did before and display them and then re-use the vinyls for an extended period of time. Thanks, Lee Vela

- Discuss phone line – We had a caller, and it was productive. The voice mail box worked exactly how it is supposed to. We will be calling our phone vendor to get the email title changed to the PI-CPC name and also adding the phone number to our monthly PSA that goes out via Bay Area Printing.
- Texas A & M Health Fair - RSVP to Krissy Johnson is due by Friday, August 26, 2022, at 5:00pm. Tom B and Paul M have volunteered to work the booth. We would like to see if we can get one of the ladies on the committee to volunteer as well. This is a really fun event to attend.
- Open positions on PI/CPC Committee – Treasure, Literature, and Alternate Chairperson. We will start making more announcements in the meetings.

Thank you for your Service,  
Tim L - District 81 PI-CPC Chair

## **TFC Monthly Report to District 08-03-2022**

### **Activities during the month:**

- Held our monthly committee meeting 06-29-2022, 6:30 via zoom.
- Six members were in attendance.
- Presentations during July were Into Action was 7-12-2022 live, GotoMeeting for BARC was actually done by District 70, Kemah Palms was a zoom on 6-13-2022 at 6:30.

### **Action Items:**

- Upcoming meetings:
  - Into Action 8-9-2022, live:
  - Kemah Palms Zoom 8-10-2022
  - BARC GoToMeeting 8-16, 2022.
- Workshop tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 15 1-3 at BAC.

### **Goals**

- Recruit more manpower to have more monthly presentations.

### **Announcements:**

- Next TFC committee meeting the last Wednesday August 31 at 6:30 via Zoom.
- GSR's please announce to your groups about us

## July Workshop Committee Report

The workshop committee Met via Zoom with the presenters

- The Story board for the workshop was presented
- Time line was presented

Flyers are printed and we ask announce announce announce

E mails will be sent to past participants of workshop to announce

Registrations are coming in for workshop



**Pathways to  
Spiritual  
Awareness**

**Saturday, September 10, 2022  
1-4 p.m.**

**Dickinson First United Methodist Church  
200 FM 517 Rd W, Dickinson, TX 77539**

**Hosted by the Workshop Committee of District 81**

**Registration is strongly suggested by email to:  
[catherine.g@aa-seta.org](mailto:catherine.g@aa-seta.org)**



# District 81

## August 2022



**DCM:** Keith M.  
keith.m@aa-seta.org  
**Alt DCM:** Danny  
danny.g@aa-seta.org



**Archives:** Dana H.  
uaneyecob1@aol.com



**Correctional Facilities:** Darryl H.  
corrections81@gmail.com



**PI/CPC:** Tim L.  
tlopas1967@gmail.com



**Grapevine:** Linda C.  
linda.c@aa-seta.org



**Literature:** Megan B.  
bmegan555@gmail.com



**Finance & Budget:** Brandi W.  
brandi.w@aa-seta.org  
**Treasurer:** Kirstin Y.  
kirstin.y@aa-seta.org



**Treatment Facilities:** John C.  
tfc.committee@gmail.com



**Newsletter:** Gwen R.  
gwen.r@aa-seta.org



**Workshop:** Catherine G.  
catherine.g@aa-seta.org



**Webmaster:** Nicole C.  
nicole.c@aa-seta.org

**Step 8:** *Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.*

**Tradition 8:** *Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.*

**Concept 8:** *The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) With respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.*



*When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help; I want the hand of AA always to be there, and for that: I am responsible.*



# District 81 August 2022

## Upcoming Events & Committee Meetings



**August 3** District 81 meeting at Kelley's in La Marque at 7pm; 4604 Gulf Fwy, La Marque, TX 77568

**August 3** Workshop: How to Read the Financial Report hosted by the Finance and Budget Committee during the District Meeting at Kelley's in La Marque

**August 10** Correctional Facilities Committee meeting at the Bay Area Club at 6:30pm; 2111 Webster St, League City, TX 77573

**August 13** Santa Fe Group 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Asbury Hall, Aldersgate United Methodist Church at 3pm-8pm; 13217 FM 1764, Santa Fe, TX 77510

**August 17** Literature Committee meeting at the Bay Area Club, room E/F, at 7pm

**August 24** Submissions for September Newsletter DUE Please email submissions to gwen.r@aa-seta.org

**August 25** PI/CPC Committee meeting at the Bay Area Club at 5pm

**August 25** Webmaster meeting at the Bay Area Club at 5pm

**August 26** Archives Committee meeting at the Alvin Taylor Street Club at 2pm; 204 S Taylor Street, Alvin, TX 77511

**August 31** Finance & Budget meeting at Jason's Deli in League City at 6:30pm; 2755 Gulf Fwy S, League City, TX 77573

**August 31** Treatment Facilities Committee meeting at 6:30pm via Zoom: 868-5564-9879; passcode: 06-10-1935

**September 9-11** SETA Correctional Facilities Conference Doubletree Houston Intercontinental; 15747 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Houston, TX 77032; 832-883-9110

**October 1-2** SETA Assembly at Doubletree Houston Intercontinental

**October 7-9** Southwest Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (SWRAASA) \$15 registration; 6808 107<sup>th</sup> Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133; swraasa2022@gmail.com

**October TBD** Literature Workshop hosted by the Literature Committee; stay tuned for more info!!

**November 11-13** 5<sup>th</sup> National Corrections Convention

## Letter from the Editor



Salutations!

When I started working on our District newsletter, I thought it would be neat to copy the Step, Tradition, and Concept that corresponds numerically with the month on the first page. I don't know if anyone noticed, and I didn't realize it myself until after I sent it out, but last month for July I copied Concept 6 instead of Concept 7! Thank goodness we claim progress, not perfection. But I would be remiss if I didn't address it. So, I would like to shine a little light on the Concepts and explain why they are important, as I understand them.

Basically, Bill W. wanted to be sure that A.A. could continue to thrive after he and the other original members were gone. So in 1962 he wrote the Concepts for the purpose of laying out general guidelines for how A.A. might operate for the best service to the alcoholic that still suffers and still maintain our traditions. They lay out the purposes and functions of the General Service Conference, the General Service Board, the incorporations, and other important parts of A.A. It is a list of early experiences of A.A. that helped inform its early members of some pitfalls to avoid and some healthy rules of thumb for perpetuating A.A.'s effectiveness. Like much of the official writings that we hold dear in this program, the Concepts are suggestions, not laws. They leave room for future generations of members to interpret them as may be considered best for the current circumstances and needs, while still remembering the learned lessons of past members lest we needlessly repeat mistakes.

I think it is important for members of A.A. who wish to get involved in general service to understand these things because it is we individuals that make up the largest part of the "upside-down triangle"! The General Service Board is not in charge, we are! But if we expect them to serve us as best they can, we should take it upon ourselves to be as informed as possible. By reading the Concepts I have learned about the "Right of Decision", the "Right of Participation", and the "Right of Appeal". Maybe learning the concepts isn't as immediately vital to my sobriety as working the steps or working with a new sponsee, but it is vital to the continuation of our society as a whole. It is important to know the power

**Concept 7:** *The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness.*



of my voice as a member of A.A.

I recently heard of small group who meet once a month to read the A.A. Service Manual together so they could learn its contents and understand it better. I think this is a wonderful idea. If you have a service sponsor or service sponsees, you might want to go with them through the service manual this way. If nothing else, it would make reading it somewhat more fun and social, staving off glassy-eyed boredom as you read it with those close to you in the Fellowship.

I feel super blessed to be able to learn more and more about our miraculous fellowship. I once heard A.A. being referred to as a "pie". You can stay on the edge and just get the crust, or you can get in the gooey middle and have it all. I want the whole pie!

I am honored to be active in District 81!

-Gwen R.

District 81 Newsletter Editor

## Features



### “Defects of Character” versus “Shortcomings”

I was recently reading an interesting article from the winter edition of “Box 459” and there was an article titled “Did You Ever Wonder”. The article is as follows:

We are often asked “What is the difference between ‘defects of character’ in Step Six and ‘shortcomings’ in Step 7?”

According to G.S.O.’s archives Bill W. commented about his use of “Defects of Character” and “Shortcomings” interchangeably in the Steps in a personal letter he wrote dated March 7, 1963.

*Thanks for your inquiry, requesting to know the difference between ‘defects of character’ and ‘shortcomings’ – as those words appear in the Steps. Actually, I don’t remember any particular significance in these phases. In my mind, the meaning is identical; I guess I just used two ways of expression, rather than to repeat myself. It’s just as simple as that.*

In another letter, dated November 16, 1965, Bill again responded to a similar inquiry. His letter read, in part:

*When these steps were being done, I didn’t want to repeat the phrase ‘character defects’ twice in succession. Therefore, in Seven, I substituted ‘shortcomings’, thereby equating ‘shortcomings’ with ‘defects’. When reading most people do equate that way and there seems to be no difficulty. I used them as though they both meant the same thing – which they appear to many people.*

*I guess it’s a problem in semantics, all right. For example, it is possible to say that each time you fall short of an ideal, to that extent is your character defective. Looking at it in the other way, ‘shortcomings’ can be read as a mere failure to do what should have been done, so I guess you have to take your pick.*

I hope you get as much out of this article as I have. I have sat through a lot of AA meetings listening to some of the wildest, craziest, explanations of this and I hope this sets the record straight.

-Tom B.

District 81 Archives Committee Member  
New Day Group - Galveston



### Featured Prayer:

#### Thomas Merton Prayer

My Lord God,

I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following Your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please You does in fact please You.

And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this You will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore I will trust You always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for You are ever with me, and You will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Submitted by Virginia S.

### August 2022 Issue:



## Features



### Guidelines on Literature (G.S.O.)

People in A.A. will say that what's in A.A.'s Conference-approved literature is what guides groups in A.A. and "everything else is just someone's opinion."

A.A. Conference-approved Literature - What does it mean?

The term "Conference-approved" describes written or audiovisual material approved by the A.A. General Service Conference for publication by the A.A. General Service Office (G.S.O.) Books, pamphlets and audiovisual material that are published by A.A. will have the statement "This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature" printed on the item. In the document CONFERENCE-APPROVED LITERATURE - Service Material from the General Service Office, the definition of "Conference-approved" is further explained:

"Conference-approved material always deals with the recovery program of Alcoholics Anonymous or with information about the A.A. Fellowship. The term has no relation to material not published by G.S.O. It does not imply Conference disapproval of other material about A.A. *A great deal of literature*

*helpful to alcoholics is published by others, [emphasis added] and A.A. does not try to tell any individual member what he or she may or may not read."*

- CONFERENCE-APPROVED LITERATURE - Service Material from the General Service Office

The A.A. General Service Conference meets once a year. The pamphlets, booklets and material approved for publication by A.A. World Services out of this process goes through a thorough process of review:

"Conference approval assures us that a piece of literature represents solid A.A. experience. Any Conference-approved booklet or pamphlet goes through a lengthy and painstaking process, during which a variety of A.A.s from all over the United States and Canada read and express opinions at every stage of production."

- CONFERENCE-APPROVED LITERATURE - Service Material from the General Service Office

A.A. newsletters, bulletins and meeting lists may reprint A.A. materials:

"A.A. Conference-approved literature is copyrighted with the Copyright Office, Library of Congress, Washington D.C. USA. To ensure the continued integrity of A.A. literature, and to make sure the A.A. program will not be distorted or diluted, permission to reprint must be obtained from A.A.W.S. in writing. However, A.A. newsletters, bulletins or meeting lists have blanket permission to use the material, providing proper credit is given to ensure that the copyrights of A.A. literature is protected."

- CONFERENCE-APPROVED LITERATURE - Service Material from the General Service Office

When A.A.'s copyrighted literature is reprinted, it must show one of the following statements:

*Reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.*

*Reprinted with permission of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc.*

Note: The A.A. Preamble is actually copyrighted by The Grapevine Inc.

## AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

### Does your home group have a Grapevine Rep?

*"Grapevine Representatives are the link between AA Grapevine and the groups. It's a fun way to get involved! All you have to do is announce the latest issue at your meeting, let people know how they can participate by sending in stories, or jokes. It's easy to get started. Simply let your homegroup know that you are interested. Register with us online and you will receive a complete information kit from the Grapevine office."*

[aagrapevine.org/get-involved/become-grapevine-rep](http://aagrapevine.org/get-involved/become-grapevine-rep)

# District 81 August 2022

## Features

Many AA members believe that only Conference-approved literature should be used in meetings. While statements from the GSO on this topic have been scarce, the GSO did issue a statement in a 1978 Box 459 Newsletter:

"It [Conference Approved] does not mean the Conference disapproves of any other publications. Many local A.A. central offices publish their own meeting lists. A.A. as a whole does not oppose these, any more than A.A. disapproves of the Bible or any other publications from any source that A.A.'s find useful. What any A.A. member reads is no business of G.S.O., or of the Conference, naturally."

- Box 4-5-9 newsletter, 1978 (Volume 23, No 4)

In keeping with the General Service Office's statement "A great deal of literature helpful to alcoholics is published by others" individuals in A.A. groups do not have to limit themselves to information obtained just from the Conference review process:

"There are many helpful books also." - Big Book, page 87

Many thousands of books, articles, pamphlets, newsletters, tapes and videos used by AA members and groups are NOT Conference-approved literature. *Twenty-Four Hours a Day*, published by Hazelden since 1954, was the second largest best seller (behind the Big Book) to A.A. members for many years. This book is used by A.A. groups in meetings and is clearly NOT Conference-approved literature.

Bob Pearson (1917-2008), General Manager of the General Service Office from 1974 to 1984 and Senior Advisor to the G.S.O. from 1985 until his retirement, wrote this:

"If you were to ask me what is the greatest danger facing A.A. today, I would have to answer: the growing rigidity — the increasing demand for absolute answers to nit-picking questions; pressure for G.S.O. to "enforce" our Traditions; screening alcoholics at closed meetings; prohibiting non-Conference-approved literature, i.e., "banning books; [emphasis added] laying more and more rules on groups and members. And in this trend toward rigidity, we are drifting farther and farther

away from our founders."

- Bob Pearson Closing Speech, April 1986 General Service Conference

Twenty-seven years later, what Bob says about "book-banning" is still true. There is book-banning in A.A. Perhaps the book-banning fever is even hotter today than it was when Bob gave his speech.

The concept of book-banning in AA is based on the misinformed notion that only Conference-approved literature is allowed in A.A. meetings. But this is not true. Literature published by non-AA entities is not banned.

Quote from Box 4-5-9 from GSO, Vol. 23:4, 2006:

"Any literature that pertains to the principles of AA or is approved by group conscience, is perfectly acceptable to be read by any AA member or in an AA meeting."

**Submitted by Ashley S**

**District 81 Literature Committee Member**



### Are We Promoting Gambling?

I am becoming disturbed as to how some groups and districts are raising money. Instead of voluntary contributions I am starting to see some groups and districts encouraging members to "contribute" by offering raffles, slave auctions, casino nights, half the pot (cash) and *illegal in Texas*, etc in order to raise money for whatever the need is at the time. This plays on the fact that Alcoholics want something for nothing but will take something for anything (if they think they are getting a deal).

The issue came up in my home district not long ago. One of the groups was having an anniversary and had a flyer letting everyone know that raffles and half the pot drawings would be available. I asked why our district was promoting illegal activities. You see in the State of Texas any kind of raffle having to do with cash is illegal (see Texas Attorney General Fact sheet # 8232). In order to conduct a raffle, that does not involve cash, legally, a nonprofit organization must have, among

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The Texas Penal Code outlaws gambling activities, conducting an illegal raffle could constitute criminal conduct.

It was shared with me from an old timer that there was a group in Houston years ago that promoted some illegal wagering in the back room. It all seemed fine among AA members. One Sunday morning, in big headlines across a Houston paper, "AA Group Busted for Gambling". Is that the message that we want to carry. Is that the kind of impression that we want to make on the newcomer and our neighbors. Would you want to send your son or daughter to an organization like that for recovery? I am not against gambling but when it is tied to the name of Alcoholics Anonymous I have to speak out.

The long form of the 7th Tradition says "The A.A. Groups themselves ought to be fully supported by voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal...." We stress not taking money from outside sources but we fail to impress on our members what voluntary means. In Webster's dictionary one of the definitions for Voluntary says "freely given". Spiritual growth comes when you give expecting nothing in return. This is called self-sacrifice.

When I first came into AA I had a hard time with the contribution basket that was passed around at our home group meeting. I thought that there were no dues or fees for AA membership and I acted accordingly. Actually if I want to be real honest I was one of those alcoholics that tightened up when I sobered up..... Definitely selfish and self centered.

As I grew in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, I began to learn about our Traditions. My sponsor insisted that, like A.A.'s 7th Tradition of Self Support, I too needed to be self supporting through my own contributions. He said if I always put a buck in the basket (more today) that God would make sure I always have some to put in. He said that I was to practice a little humility and sacrifice for A.A.

Please let's ask ourselves do we really need the money that bad. Do we want to damage this fellowship? Is it our ego that is driving us? Is it our desire for more property and prestige? Let us get back to giving without expecting anything in return

because it is the right thing to do. AA members will give when they feel that it is going to help carry the message. They do not need to be coerced with offers of something for nothing. We need to support this fellowship that has saved our lives and hopefully will be here to support countless more.

In Love and Service

-Paul M



### Spiritual Growth from Giving

When I first came into A.A., I had no idea about self support. I always wanted to be supported through your contributions not my own. I basically wanted other to do the work for me and pay my way. I had a hard time with the contribution basket that was passed around at our home group meeting. I had never given anything to anyone unless there was something in it for me. You told me that there where no dues or fees for AA membership and I acted accordingly. Actually if I want to be real honest I was one of those alcoholics that tightened up when I sobered up..... Definitely selfish and self centered.

As I grew in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, I began to learn about our Traditions. My sponsor, Bill, insisted that, like Alcoholics Anonymous 's 7th Tradition of Self Support, I too needed to be self-supporting through my own actions and contributions. He said that I had to work the steps, he was not going to do them for me and that I get a job, so that I could practice this principle in my own life. What a concept. He said if I always contributed to the basket that God would make sure I always had money to put in the basket. That has always seemed to be the case. I was told that I should also be self supporting through my actions and participate in my home group as well as A.A. as a whole.

He also pointed out to me that the long form of the 7th Tradition says "The A.A. Groups themselves ought to be fully supported by *voluntary* contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal...." In Webster's dictionary one of the definitions for voluntary says "freely given" He shared that through practicing sacrifice I would gain a little humility in my life, which I lacked and that Spiritual growth comes

## Features

when you give expecting nothing in return.

I went through the stages of watching what others put in the basket and judging them. My sponsor told me it was not my place to be judging others and to just take care of my side of the street. Then I wanted to know what THEY were doing with MY money. Again, my sponsor told me that this was where money and spirituality mixed and as soon as the money hit the basket that it was GODS money. It was needed to support my group services and A.A. as a whole.

Today I try and put more in the basket, sometimes \$2-\$3 at meeting. A friend of mine from New Mexico said that in his group they have the Quart Club. Members contributed the price of a quart of whiskey each week. Have you seen the price of whiskey lately?

Through the years my concept of self support has grown. I see that it permeates all aspects of my recovery. I have to be self supporting in my actions, in the steps, in the practice of the Traditions and through the actions I take in service. As Bill W. our so-founder states so eloquently "self-sacrifice and unselfish constructive action": is vital for my continued spiritual growth. By giving a little money and a little time expecting nothing in return has help me grow. Let us all continue giving with out expecting anything in return because it is the right thing to do. For this self-centered alcoholic sacrifice has been so important for my recovery. We need to support this fellowship that has saved our lives and be there for the countless to come.

Thank You  
-Paul M



### **Raffles: To Be or Not To Be in Accord with the AA Traditions**

RAFFLES: WHAT ARE THE GUIDLEINES?

Any raffle breaks Traditions IV, V, VI, VII, and IX.

By definition of a raffle: TO LAY WAGER, (M.E.: a dicing game.)

By definition of Contribute: To give for a common Purpose (Lat: to gather together)

To lay wager is not voluntarily contributing, but giving in exchange for a possible future payback.

Tradition IV states each Group is autonomous EXCEPT in matters affecting A.A. as whole. Associating raffles with A.A. does affect the Whole.

Tradition V states each group has but one primary purpose: TO CARRY ITS MESSAGE TO THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS. A group is a spiritual entity. Raffles have nothing to do with the spiritual, nor does it carry a message of recovery, merely one of chance.

Tradition VI states an A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any ...outside enterprise, whether such affiliation is actual or implied. Raffles is an outside enterprise, is an activity outside the primary purpose that can indeed harm the name and purpose of A.A. as a whole.

Tradition VII states every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting. Part of our personal recovery is becoming responsible and independent, accepting no hand-outs given in pity, nor with strings attached to the giving, but paying our own way into a common pot for a common purpose. The Tradition warns that problems may arise if Money, Property or Prestige/Authority are placed before our primary purpose.

Tradition IX states A.A. as such ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly RESPONSIBLE TO THOSE THEY SERVE. We distinguish between spiritual simplicity and functional simplicity. Spiritual simplicity is one drunk talking to another to help each get & stay sober. The functional simplicity is to organize responsible service workers to help provide opportunities to carry the message. When we keep Tradition V ever in mind in ALL Activities, we retain spiritual simplicity in action. To get A.A. into anything apart from its primary purpose would create dangerous complications.

See also Self-Support: Where Money and Spiritually Mix Pamphlet, F-3

Submitted by Paul M 53/67



# District 81 August 2022

## Features



### PI/CPC Committee Update

Here is an update on what the PI-CPC committee has been up to this year. We have been actively involved working to spread the message to the alcoholic who is still suffering. We are able to do this in a variety of ways. That's what makes the Public Information and the Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee so cool.

This year we have ensured that each library in Galveston County has a copy of the Big Book and the Twelve and Twelve.

We have been working with Bay Area Printing to get a PSA (Public Service Announcement) published each month for League City and surrounding areas. This particular PSA is distributed to 4 different community newsletters.

We were invited to the TDCJ Parole offices in Galveston County in April to speak with over a dozen Parole Officers and talk to them about what AA does and what AA does not do.

We have a committee phone voice mail box set up for callers who would like our committee to come out and speak about AA or for callers who need information about AA and where meetings are located.

In June of this year, we ran a PSA that hit over 32,000 homes and business in the League City and surrounding area. Our newest PSA is a Message of Hope with Family Unity being the focal point. We have been working with QR codes that can track how many times our PSA was scanned and how many times the viewer clicked on the links to take them to the AA Houston/Galveston area website or the AA Houston/Galveston area meeting schedules. This last June's PSA had 414 people scan the QR code on the PSA add and had 389 people that clicked on one of the links taking them to the AA website or the AA meeting schedule.

One of the biggest questions about PSA's are? Is it worth the cost? Here is how I think about it. How much is one person life worth? If a PSA reaches one person and gets them into recovery, then it's doing its job. The last PSA had 389 people click on one of the AA links provided. Bottom line is, we are working on spreading the message to the alcoholic who is still suffering that "There is a Solution".

### Have a Problem with Alcohol? There is a Solution

Each day, somewhere in the world, recovery begins when one alcoholic talks with another alcoholic, sharing experience, strength, and hope.  
Printed with permission from Alcoholics Anonymous

Call Alcoholics Anonymous  
**713-686-6300**  
[www.aahouston.org](http://www.aahouston.org)

SCAN CODE to access:  
website

713-686-6300 | [qrcr.de/alcoholicsanon](http://qrcr.de/alcoholicsanon)

Upcoming goals that we still have for 2022 are as follows.

We are working with Clear Channel Communications to see if we can duplicate the 2021 Billboard initiative that we had last year. This still needs to go through several different layers of approval.

We are going to distribute meeting schedules to various Galveston County Hotels.

We still must ensure that all our AA literature is stocked at over a dozen locations around Galveston County. This includes all the jails, parole offices and all other locations with literature racks. This is ongoing year-round.

We have an upcoming Health Fair at Texas A & M Galveston on September 7th we are attending.

We also have another paid PSA that we are going to put out towards the Christmas Holidays.

We have the following open committee chair spots on the PI-CPC Committee. We are in need of a Treasure, Literature Chair, and an Alternate Chairperson. Service is one of the Keys to Sobriety.

Finally, I would like to thank the following committee members for their hard work this year. Paul M, Tom B, Dawn F, Cindy P, Laura A-S, and Bill M. You all have done a fantastic job. Thank you for your service. Please join us for one of our meetings or feel free to reach out to me. We meet the last Thursday of the month at 5pm at the BAC.

-Tim L.  
District 81 PI-CPC Chairperson



# District 81 August 2022

## Calls for Action and Service



### Pathways to Spiritual Awareness

**Saturday, September 10, 2022  
1-4 p.m.**

**Dickinson First United Methodist Church  
200 FM 517 Rd W, Dickinson, TX 77539**

**Hosted by the Workshop Committee of District 81**

**Registration is strongly suggested by email to:  
c.gregory@aa-seta.org**



### Archives Committee

Our awesome Archives Committee is beginning the process of digitizing the District 81 collections of our records in every media format, from scanning pictures and documents to converting stories from tape to MP3 and THEY NEED YOUR HELP!! It's a great way to do some service work and stay in the middle of the action! Reach out to the Archives Chair or drop in on their committee meeting, last Friday of the month, 2pm, at the Alvin Taylor Street Club, in the upstairs room.

Another project underway at Archives includes recording the stories of Longtimers for posterity. If you know someone with long-term sobriety and would like to nominate them to be a part of District 81 AA history, please reach out to us! Remember to respect anonymity and kindly ask their permission before emailing us. We would love to hear some stories!

The Archives Committee is responsible for collecting the histories of the groups in our District. Email us for a copy of the group history form, fill it out, and send it back, or have your GSR bring it to Tom B. at the next District meeting. If your group has a complicated history, that's okay -- we still want to know it! Do your best, God's got the rest!!

Want to see your article, flyer, joke, quote, favorite prayer, artwork, or AA member shout-out featured in next month's issue?

**Send it on in! → [gwen.r@aa-seta.org](mailto:gwen.r@aa-seta.org) Submissions for September are due August 24**

Please keep submissions relevant to AA and free of profanity. AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization, or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes.

*Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.*

# July in Review

**July 9-10 Seta Assembly** Troy B. had a fun method doing the Area Inventory Workshop. He asked all in attendance for their answer to the question "What is one thing for Seta to be more efficient in carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic?" We were each given an index card to write our idea on, and, following a period of sufficient mixing, each idea was anonymously rated, and the highest rated ideas were selected as topics for breakout roundtable discussion!

We also got to view a Youtube Video entitled "AA 12 Concepts for World Service Explained"! The United Kingdom General Service Office created it and gave America's GSO permission to create our own versions in American-English and Spanish.

Kris H., our Area 67 Delegate went on to report what happened at the last General Service Conference, the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual GSC. They met in Brooklyn April 23-30. This conference was titled "AA Comes of Age 2.0". He showed us 2 of the PSA's that were approved. These are examples of "advisory actions" coming out of Conference. The videos "When Drinking Is No Longer a Party" and "My Drinking Built a Wall" can be found on the GSO website.

A lot happens at an Area Assembly, too much to adequately record for the purposes of a newsletter. However, I feel that it is important to try and relay some of the highlights of what Kris H. said since he went to the General Service Conference. Since I have been reading the A.A. Service Manual, I am just beginning to understand the vital importance of our conference and what goes on there. And while nothing can take the place of showing up to the assembly and hearing straight from the horse's mouth (what a weird expression), I have taken it upon myself to try and record just some of what was shared by our Area Delegate.

Here's what I got:

Kris explained that those in attendance went to what's called a 1728 Meeting, called that because 1728 is what you get when you multiply 12x12x12. Kris brought up the theme of autonomy, "which is a refusal to be dominated", a very important aspect to our traditions. At the same time, unity cannot occur when exclusion is present, which highlights the importance of validating remote meetings.

Kris attended a Delegates only meeting: Panel 71 delegates working to help prepare the Panel 72 delegates.

They viewed presentations, conference committees updates, had meals and breaks, and had general sharing sessions -- everything that happens at the conference is scheduled down to the minute!

Kris got Covid and was banished to his room to view the final day of Floor Actions at the conference via Zoom, losing his voice and his right to vote. Kris shared that this was a major disappointment, in the current pandemic setting, that hybridization methods had not been put in place to accommodate. However, he said that having lost his vote did not change the outcome of the proposed actions; he was planning on voting with the majority.

There were 135 Conference Members in attendance.

GSO/Grapevine staff 15 = 11.2%

Trustees/Directors 27 = 20%

Delegates 93 = 68.8%

These percentages show that the elected representatives make up the majority of the voice heard at the conference. The Growing Spanish-speaking community in AA of America still lacks real representation in the form of a Delegate. Kris anticipates a growing movement to change this at the Area level and higher! The majority voted that English, Spanish, and French translations of literature and information put out at the same time!

Kris explained to us the differences between the terms "agenda item", "committee recommendation", "conference advisory action", and "additional considerations".

There are 123k Groups globally!! 63 GSO's!!

Kris has been serving on the committee for the Grapevine Inc and it has been losing money the past 4 years.

He gave us a very abbreviated financial report Groups donated over 10 million dollars despite literature sales being down. The Groups are contributing more to the bottom line than literature, which, after considering the cost of production, is almost in the red. He showed us where our money is coming from and where it's supposed to be going. There has been some return to the prudent reserve and there is a plan to slowly make up the deficit that occurred during the pandemic.

# July in Review

Kris showed us the other members of the GV/LV Conference Committee, members of our fellowship working to make our little magazine relevant, available, and profitable to our organization.

The French-Canadian's version of the GV called La Vine makes about as many subscriptions for their much smaller population as we have in America. He was going to discuss solutions to increase our circulation here in the states by hopefully modeling what it is La Vine is doing.

While there is no discussion on the horizon to rescind the use of "people" instead of "men and women" in the AA Preamble, there are no AA police and you can say whichever you prefer at your meeting! The word "people" appeared in the Grapevine in July 2021 and it is still there is the most recent issue a well.

Not a single agenda item was rescinded or modified, including the "Plain Language Big Book". As early as next conference, there will be a manuscript in some form of a plain and simple language of 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Big Book will be put before the Literature Committee.

90 Agenda Items resulted in 36 Committee Recommendations, 32 of which became Advisory Actions. No Actions taken by the 71<sup>st</sup> GSC were rescinded.

Please keep in mind, if you and/or your group want to bring an agenda item to the attention of the General Service Conference, you should submit your item to GSO by September 15<sup>th</sup> this year!

Three important dates:

1. Sept 15<sup>th</sup> – Proposed Agenda item Deadline
2. October 31 – 5<sup>th</sup> edition stories due ([aa.org/submit-bigbook-english-5<sup>th</sup>](http://aa.org/submit-bigbook-english-5th))  
There have only been some 20 submissions (out of over a million of us! Get your stories in!!)
3. December 15 – 4<sup>th</sup> edition Spanish stories (email: [4LGHistorias@aa.org](mailto:4LGHistorias@aa.org))

Kris covered the agenda items that were passed and the conference wrapped up on time!

## **July Finance & Budget Report**

Opening Checkbook Balance:

\$13,648.34

Group Contributions:

\$781.61

Other Contributions:

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Less Expenses:

\$414.41

Net Income:

\$367.20

**Ending Checkbook Balance:**

**\$14,015.54**

Prudent Reserve Emergency Funds:

(\$2,000.00)

Restricted Budget Deficit:

(\$4,801.14)

Available Funds:

\$7,214.40

For more information on the Finance & Budget Report, contact [kirstin.y@aa-seta.net](mailto:kirstin.y@aa-seta.net)

### **Helpful Resources:**

AA World Services: [aa.org](http://aa.org)

Southeast TX Area 67: [aa-seta.org](http://aa-seta.org)

Kris H.: [kris.h@aa-seta.org](mailto:kris.h@aa-seta.org)

District 81: [aadistrict81.org](http://aadistrict81.org)

Houston AA intergroup: [aahouston.org](http://aahouston.org)

Houston Al-Anon intergroup: [houstonalanon.org](http://houstonalanon.org)

AA Grapevine: [aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org)