

AREA 67 QUARTERLY ASSEMBLY
Sheraton North Houston Hotel
15700 John F. Kennedy Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77032
Area 67 Assembly Meeting
Saturday April 9th, 2016

I. Open – Troy B – opened the meeting at 8:30 am with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Troy mentions that some changes have been made to this weekend’s assembly schedule as a result of the recommendations that came out of the 2015 ad hoc committee on weekend scheduling. The main change is the GSR Workshop has been moved to this morning (Saturday), and the Area Committee will their meeting tonight.

II. Tradition 2 –District 33-Bill W.- Bill reads the short form of Tradition 2. He speaks about the importance of the GSR’s and how they are the voice of the groups.

III. GSR Workshop – Paul M. – (Panel 63, Area 67 Past Delegate) He explains that he served in 2003 and 2004 as Area 67 Delegate. He starts the workshop with the serenity prayer. He mentions Concept 1. He explains that responsibility and authority for A.A. comes from the groups. The A.A. groups themselves are at the top of this service structure. That is why the GSR’s themselves are so important. The communication, and the unity. He spoke about his experience, strength, and hope as an Alt. GSR, and as a GSR, and how important it was for his growth as a trusted servant for A.A. He explains the GSR position, and the importance of being the go between for the GSO, area 67, and your group. The lines of communication. Paul goes on too explain our district map, the A.A. Group pamphlet, the A.A. Service Manual, our SETA 67 Website, the importance of self support, and the spirit of service rotation. He then speaks about service sponsorship. The importance of A.A.’s group conscious, as a whole.

Paul takes questions from the floor concerning GSRs and asks for experience, strength, and hope for the floor of the assembly.

III. District Committee Member Reports – (See the section titled DCM Reports)

IV. Budget Meeting – Gary S. –(Finance Chair) Gary speaks about the SETA 2017 Budget and the process that the Area 67 budget holders go thru to create the budget for the upcoming year.

He explains that the 2017 Budget, as written, with copies available now, will be voted on by the Area 67 quarterly assembly in July. Gary explains the numbers on the budget, and how they were formulated. Gary turns to Dave P. (Area 67 Treasurer) for further breakdown of the 2017 Budget. Dave answers several questions from the assembly floor about the 2017 SETA Budget.

V. Workshop on Concept VIII & XI – John S. –(Panel 51, Area 1, Past Delegate) John gives the assembly a little of his story, and explains that he was a past Delegate from the Alabama / Panhandle of Florida, and that he has moved to the SETA.

Concept 8: The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of over-all policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.

Concept 11: The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.

John mentions that just because he is a past delegate, that does not make him an expert on the concepts, and neither does it make him any kind of authority. John goes thru the concepts and gives us a quick "snap shot" of them. He mentions that the concepts exist cohesively as a whole, and that he feels it is important to take them in that context.

VI. Afternoon Session – Troy B.- reopens the assembly at 1:00 pm with District 33 presenting Concept II. Bill W. reads : "*The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and effective conscience of our whole society in it's world affairs.*" Bill speaks about his experience as a GSR and voting for the group conscience of his home group. He then talks about the importance of the Delegate process in relation to Concept II.

VII. General Service Conference Agenda Items--Melissa R.---(Current SETA Delegate Panel 65) Melissa gives thanks to all the trusted servants for participating in today's "**Roundtable Discussions**", and the following "**Feasibility Study Workshop.**" Melissa breaks the assembly down to the various group leaders. There are 6 English tables, and 3 Spanish tables. She reads from the A.A. Service Manual about the importance of the GSC to A.A.'s future. Melissa gives a brief history of the Feasibility Study Workshop before the workshop begins. The four discussion topics are 1. Communication 2. Revenue 3. Reducing Expenses 4. Structure.

VIII. Service Committee Reports (See the section titled REPORTS.)

IX. Saturday Assembly Close. –Troy B.---Closes the assembly at 7:45pm

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Area 67 Assembly Meeting
Sunday, April 10th, 2016

I. Open – Troy B – opened the meeting at 8:30am with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

II. Preamble – Kris H – read the preamble to the SETA Policies and Procedures Manual

III. Roll Call for Voting – Brad H. – Using our voting members number system, Brad takes the roll call of all the voting members of the assembly that are present. 95 voting members are present at the assembly. Roll Call count for voting at the assembly is 75 members.

IV. Minutes – Jim K – Jim presented the minutes from the January Assembly. He thanked Troy B. and Kris H. for helping to put the January minutes together for this April SETA assembly. The committee accepted the minutes as they were presented.

V. Treasurer’s Report – Dave P – – Dave mentions that we had a operating beginning balance of **\$72,658.00**. Deposits were made totaling \$12,146.58. Checks were written totaling \$19,547.20, giving a net change of -\$7,400.62. Leaving a total bank balance of **\$65,257.38**. Dave gives an explanation of “Unrestricted Funds”, and answers questions from the assembly pertaining to the SETA accounting system.

VI. Delegate’s Report – Melissa R-

Good morning. My name is Melissa R; I’m currently serving as Panel 65 Delegate for SE Texas Area 67. I want to welcome all the newly elected trusted servants for the Area, Districts and Groups. Your Alternate Delegate, Ron C., has been serving our Area and Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole very well. We’ve made some Group and District visits this year and we’re scheduling the Delegate GSC Report now. Be sure to check with your DCM to find out when and where your District’s report will be.

Since my main role is to inform you about what is going on in Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole and to be the voice of the Area at the Conference, then to complete the flow of communication we’ve worked on this weekend, you will need to learn the results of the Conference week – and to carry that information back to your Districts and Groups.

Thank you again for your participation in yesterday’s workshops and for providing me with the information I need in order to be an effective member of the General Service Conference,

I want to provide some basic information and updates on the following:

Financial Information for the year ending December 31, 2015:

- Total Contributions came to \$7,154,156. This was \$154,156 higher than the projected budget of \$ 7 million.
This was also \$256,077 higher than last year's contributions.
- Publishing sales: Net sales of literature were \$12,489,433. This is 2,113,000 less than the projection of 14,820,000. However, it is only \$ 348,000 less than literature sales of 2013.
 - Gross margin from literature sales were \$9,732,441.
 - Gross sales from eBooks for January – December 2015: \$244,132. Units distributed: 62,409.
- A.A. Grapevine: ended 2015 with net income of \$245,204. This is approximately \$70,000 less than 2013.
 - There was a budgeted Net Loss of \$14,614.
 - Gross profit for the magazine ad subscription products was \$1,432,614 (ahead of budgeted gross profits of \$14,367);
 - Gross profit on books and related items was \$505,806;
 - Overhead costs came in at \$227,899 less than budgeted - \$1,733,336. This savings occurred mainly in Website expenses and General & Admin Expenses.
- La Vina: ended 2015 with a gross profit of \$63,160. This was ahead of budget by \$6,187.
 - Gross profit on related items was ahead of budget by \$782;
 - Overhead was under budget by \$4,252;
 - Net difference between revenue and expenses for 2015: \$146,378. This is \$13,073 less than budgeted.
 - * Remember that the Conference voted and approved a 1991 advisory action that the La Vina magazine is funded by the General Service Board as a service to the fellowship.
- Reserve Fund: A.A. Grapevine maintains a balance in the Reserve Fund to fund its unfulfilled subscription liability. The balance as of December 31, 2015 was \$1,943,500 while the actual subscription liability was \$1,873,708 so there is an overage. A transfer of \$260,000 was made to the Reserve Fund last month. This is the third consecutive year that the A.A. Grapevine has been able to make substantial transfers of excess working capital to the Reserve Fund! The Reserve Fund is currently at \$14,584,000, representing 9.5 months.

Update on Area 67 request for a format change of existing A.A. service literature: In 2014, our 5 Spanish districts requested a new format - audio version - of an existing service piece of A.A. literature titled; "Twelve Concepts for World Service", catalog number BM-32. I recently learned that the same request was made by an area, in California. The latest news on this request is that it has been discussed and is in the line-up for possible future action. No further information has been available. I will try to learn more about this while I'm in NYC.

I've received updates on two additional items of interest and I've attached them to this report. First – I have the final financial report on the 2015 International Convention. The final figures came in at a \$210,431 loss.

We discussed this in January and some of you may have noted the Agenda Item under International Conventions and Regional Forums to review this report. A sub-committee has been formed to review contracts for the 2020 International Convention, which will be held in Detroit.

Next, I have an update on the 75th Anniversary Big Book. No sales of note have occurred and the GSB Treasurer opted to write off an additional \$85,962, representing 22,251 books, in 2015. This results in a Net Loss of \$3,911 for the Commemorative Big Book. We will have more discussions on this at the Conference.

<http://http.unikronstreaming.com/unikron/aa/mp3/2013/Bill-W.-1948-On-Rule-62.mp3>

The 66th General Service Conference will begin seven days from now – almost to the hour. I go prepared for this Conference because you have provided me with your feedback, your ideas and your support and I'm honored to represent the Southeast Texas Area.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Delegate.

VII. Alt. Delegate's Report – Ron C.-

Good Morning My Name is Ron C. and I am an Alcoholic. I also have the honor of serving as Alternate Delegate Panel 65 Area 67. SWRDA (Southwest Regional Delegate Assembly) was held in Oklahoma City in March. This was the first year that SWRDA was held at a new hotel (not the Biltmore). The hotel and the entire experience were truly enjoyable. It also gave me an opportunity to meet and share experiences with Alt-Delegates, Delegates, past Delegates, the current Trustee and past Trustees from the other eleven Areas in the Southwest Region. The amount of knowledge that is transferred in this weekend is enormous.

Melissa has been extremely busy preparing for the General Service Conference. The final Agenda items along with over 800 pages of background material are available. We have visited two Districts and are scheduled to visit one more District and one Group Conscience meeting prior to Melissa leaving for New York. So with all the visits and the Assembly's mock round tables she will be well informed of the sense of the Area before attending the General Service Conference.

The Gratitude dinner planning is moving along. District 66 is our host District and District 31 is our co-host District. We have meetings the first Saturday of every month at District 66. I will be approaching District DCMs about district contribution to this self-supporting event. We still have not finalized a location or a theme but should be accomplishing that very soon.

There will be an Additional Forum in The Southwest Region in Denver June 3-5, 2016. This will be the last of the Additional Forums put on by the General Service Office. The Regional Forums started in 1975 and is a chance for the members of AA to find out more information about the services offered to the fellowship by the General Service Board, AA World Services, the Grapevine Corporate Board and the staff of the General Service Office. The theme for this Additional forum is Communication.

Also in June the Texas State Convention will be held in Austin Texas on June 24-26, 2016. This is the 70th annual Texas State convention and should be filled with fun and fellowship. Hope to see you there.

SWRAASA (Southwest Region AA Service Assembly) this year will be in Rogers Arkansas October 21-23, 2016.

Flyers for all the events are available and can be found on the Area's website.

Trudging the Road

Ron C

Alternate Delegate Panel 65 Area 67

VIII. Unfinished Business

A. Convention Updates

1. 2016 SETA Convention – Debbie F. gave an update for Mary M. (who is ill) about the past convention in Galveston, and tells us that Mary M.'s final report is still to come. Debbie goes on and gives out statistics and numbers from the 2016 SETA Convention.

2. 2017 SETA Convention –Julian L. —Gave a brief report on the progress of the 2017 SETA Convention Committee. She mentions some of the exciting activities planned for the upcoming convention.

3. SETA Convention Guidelines—David A. was not able to present an update, a member of the committee gave a brief update of the progress being made on the guidelines.

B. Open Positions—Alternate Secretary—Troy B.--No one stands. We will revisit this open positions in July.

IX. New Business

1. Report from 2016 Area Budget Presentation Workshop—Gary S.—Gary tells us about the responsibilities of the Budget Committee, and reminds us that each of the budget holders is responsible for the dollars that are contributed by the members of Area 67, and divided to the various budget holders. He talks about how the accounting is done, and they will be presenting a history of the past three year's budgets at the July assembly. We also will be asking for a vote on the 2017 Budget in July. Gary answers questions from the floor about the proposed budget.

2. Report from the Concept Workshop--John S.- "I talked about Concepts 8 and 11."

3. Report from the GSC Agenda Item Roundtable Discussions.—Melissa R.- Melissa asks the various "Agenda Item Roundtable" recorders to come to the microphone, and give their reports. The recorders report on the group conscious of each of the various GSC Agenda Items discussed at the various roundtables. The recorders who presented the 10 Roundtable reports to the assembly are: Connie R., Even K., Jeff H., Michelle H., Buddy M., Deborah G., Eliseo S., John C., and Edwin C.

4. A Motion from The Floor Concerning Melissa R., Our Current Area 67, Panel 65 Delegate – Patrick C.-(Past Delegate, Area 67, Panel 63)

Patrick thanks the chair, and states:

"I would like to make a motion that the Southeast Texas Area 67 send our Delegate, Melissa R. to the 66th General Service Conference, fully informed but not instructed."

The motion is seconded, and the **motion passes unanimously** to a standing applause.

5. Floor Action (A motion to fund trusted servants to go to the GSO additional forum in Denver Colorado)—Troy B.-Troy reads the motion as submitted by Melissa R.:

The final "Additional Forum" to be presented by GSO is being held in Denver, CO on the weekend of June 3-5, 2016. The topic is Communication.

Because SE Texas Area 67 has advanced knowledge and experience in both of these areas, it would contribute to the success of this event to have Area 67 members from the SETA IT/Web Committee and the SETA Multi-Lingual Committee attend and share their knowledge.

No budget allowance has been set aside for any Area 67 member to attend this Additional Forum; however, because of the one-off nature of the event and because Area 67 has exceptional skill and talent in the areas which are the theme of this event, I make a motion that Area 67 fund one member from each of the above-named committees, to be selected by lottery, to attend the Additional Forum, not to exceed \$1200.00.

Troy opens the floor for discussion, and several comments are made both for and against this motion from the microphone. Troy asks for additional discussion and questions.

Roll Call to vote on this motion-Brad H.- Brad takes the count of voting members present at the assembly to vote on this motion.

Voting on the "floor action" motion—Troy B- Troy states we will now vote on the motion from the floor. He restates the motion. Troy asks for a show of hands for those in favor and for those opposed. Only 3 votes are opposed. Troy asks for the minority opinion and it is presented at the microphone. Troy states, "based on the minority opinion, would anyone like to change their vote?" "Seeing no hands, **the motion carries.**"

The 2 funded members are selected by lottery. Jeff H. representing the IT Committee, and Edwin C. representing Multilingual Committee.

6. New Grapevine Chair—Troy B.- Troy mentions that Eliseo S. is willing to stand for the vacant La Vina chair position, and after qualifying before the assembly, he is elected by acclimation.

X. Announcements—Kris—Thanks District 33 for be the Assembly host at this Assembly. District 31 has stepped up to host in July. Mentions that many fliers are on the table for upcoming events.

XI. Close Assembly – Troy- The April 2016 SETA Assembly closes at approximately 11:00 am with the A.A. Responsibility Statement.