

Southeast Texas Area Assembly



3rd Quarter Area Committee Meeting Minutes Saturday July 19, 2025

Online via Zoom

NOTICE: Area Guidelines prohibit publishing personal email addresses or phone numbers, so email addresses have been converted to position-based email addresses.

This we owe to A.A.'s future; to place our common welfare first to keep our Fellowship united.

For upon A.A. unity depend our lives and the lives of those to come.

Working Together - Increasing Trust

Area Committee Meeting Minutes

Saturday, July 19, 2025 9:00 AM

Online via Zoom

Open Meeting @ 9:00 am

Serenity Prayer Patty H.

Preamble to [SETA Policies & Procedures Manual](#) Reino F.

ROLL CALL – Area Committee Attendance Elizabeth G.

Roster link will only work with those with a seta-aa.org email address.

PDF will be sent out quarterly

Roster contains confidential information and should not be shared outside of this committee.

Several DCM's and Alternates are shown vacant, go to the registrar table and fill out the form.

Review & Approve Previous Area Assembly Minutes Fernando B.

- Minutes are extremely detailed, suggested to shorten and remove names due to non profit, in order to save time and mainly due to fiduciary reasons - if money or trouble came up would not want to have it tied to any one person
- When we have motions and other voting, want to make sure who is correct and keep a record of them

No corrections, Minutes accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report Presentation to Area Committee Alicieo M.

- Operating Funds
 - Beginning Funds - \$95,203.19
 - Deposits - \$48,812.13
 - Checks Written - \$47,665.82
 - Ending Balance - \$96,349.50
 - Unrestricted Balance \$60,498.50

1st Quarter 2025

- Operating Funds
 - Beginning Funds - \$95,203.19
 - Deposits - \$48,812.13
 - Checks Written - \$47,665.82
 - Net - \$1,146.31
 - Ending Balance - \$96,349.50
- Restricted Funds
 - State Convention Loss - \$3,000
 - Prudent Reserve - \$25,351.00
 - Convention Loss Reserve - \$7,500.00
 - Ending Balance - \$35,851.00
 - Unrestricted Balance \$60,498.50
- Convention Funds
 - Received full funds - \$3,000
- Banking Issue - Our Chase accounts were in jeopardy of being closed due to documentation regarding our articles of organization to confirm our entity's active registration. Due to our 2016 filing as unincorporated, it no longer met Chase's corporate banking standards. We were not able to provide documentation.
- As of June 2, 2025, we have closed the Chase accounts and opened 4 new accounts with Education 1st Credit Union in Beaumont, which does not require us to be incorporated.
 - Operating Account
 - Savings Account
 - SWARRSA Account
 - SETA Convention Account

Comments

- Many thanks for getting this situation resolved.

No Corrections, accepted as submitted.

SETA Convention Review Ad hoc

Danny G.

General Goals and Objectives:

- Review historical financial outcomes of conventions. What caused negative outcomes and why?
- Correlate location of convention upon financial outcome
- Review oversight of convention finances and budgets
- Make recommendations for future convention oversight and improved financial outcomes
- Make recommendations for changes to SETA Convention Guidelines
 - *Note: We did not do this one because of the inventory motion in July.*

Expected results / Recommendations for:

- Locations with increased probability of positive financial achievement
- Formation of Oversight Process

Expected Completion Date:

- Initial update on March 28 th, Committee meeting and April 5th, Area Assembly
- Final Recommendations and/or motions submitted on July 19th, Area Assembly

Review historical outcomes of conventions. What caused negative outcomes and why?

- Trying to make the convention bigger and better than before.
- Registration - mail-in vs. digital
- Flyers
- Printing of programs
- Number of speakers
- Number of rooms the committee paid for
- Coffee budgets at hotels other than Moody Gardens
- Bands? / Entertainment
- Food and beverage minimums
- Overestimating the number of attendees
- Hospitality budget

Causes:

- Lack of oversight from the area they serve.
 - YPAAs have advisory committees that they report to. SETA also has this, but it is not utilized. Sounds like all conventions have advisory committees.
- Not outlined very well as to what is expected of the convention. The relevant Area committees should participate to better understand and make recommendations on where the money is being spent, how many registrations are coming in, etc.
- Budget items need to be approved by the entire convention committee prior to money being spent.
- Electronic records are not getting passed around. We used to pass around binders from chair to chair.
- We need to check with Finance for templates.

Correlate location of convention upon financial outcome

- Galveston: historically has done well
- Beaumont: historically has done well
- Houston: historically struggles
 - May try to overcompensate to ensure they are a viable convention.
- College Station: never did well because there were not a ton of hotels up there at the time.

Location does make a difference in the financial success of the convention.

Review oversight of convention finance and budget

We know that there is a lack of oversight. People do not act accountable for the money of the area.

Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations

- Committees should be provided with:
 - Clearly defined purpose of the convention with the new chair and the committee
 - Template from finance committee
 - More active advisory board
 - The advisory board should show up to the first and biannual convention committee meeting to ensure their presence and ability to help is known.
 - Transition outline
 - Records you need to keep = agendas, minutes, and treasurer's report
 - Suggested meetings
 - Suggested timelines
- Committees should:
 - Review the budget with the entire committee prior to submitting to the Finance and Budget Area Chair.
 - This budget should not change without a review from the F&B Area Chair.
 - Create budgets before they do anything
 - All committee chairs need to have their budgets approved.
 - Book and pay for hotel rooms for only the Chair, Co-chair, Treasurer, Registration, Security positions, as outlined in the guidelines.
 - Book and pay for hotel rooms for only the 8 additional rooms (i.e., speakers, trustees, etc.) as outlined in the Guidelines.
 - Use tax-exemption status.
 - Pass on resources from one convention to the next to avoid repetitive expenses (i.e., security vests, hospitality supplies, etc.)
- Area should consider:
 - Clearly defining the purpose of the convention with the new chair and the committee.
 - Increasing the seed money to allow access to early expenditures at discounted rates (e.g., flights for speakers, purchasing of supplies, etc.)
 - Potentially only host conventions in more historically profitable locations.
 - Whether the area is accepting of losing money for the convention.
 - Signing a multi-year contract with a locked rate with a larger chain of hotels.

SETA Standing Committee Participation Review Ad hoc

Tony A.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as the Chair of the Ad Hoc Standing Area Committee Participation Committee. For those who aren't familiar with this ad hoc, The committee members are Jackie M. DCM D82-P73, current AREA Finance Secretary; Kristi A. D31, AREA PI Chair-P71; Don M. D31, current AREA CPC Chair; Luis P. D66, current AREA Bilingual Chair; David L. D51, current Alt-DCM, AREA CPC P69; and Joel G. D- AREA Archives Chair.

Committee Ad Hoc Agenda

Name- Review of SETA Standing Area Committees' participation

Subject matter focus- Improved visibility and member participation in the Area

Committees

General goals and objectives-

- *Review the current time restrictions on Committee presentations at the assembly*

- *Assess possible new locations or the feasibility of the San Jacinto meeting area for future events, including costs and accessibility.*
- *Consider events/activities that could be supported by the Area to improve participation in Area Committees*

Expected results-

- *Recommendations on future events/activities to increase the Area Committee member participation*
- *Recommendations to increase the visibility of Area Committees at the Assembly and Committee meetings*
- *Financial aspects of any events or activities*

Expected completion date -

- *Update at Area Committee meeting on March 28th and Area Assembly on April 5th*
- *Final recommendations and/or motions submitted on July 19th, Area Assembly*

The ad hoc committee was formed to look at ways that the area can get more members involved in the standing committees and help the suffering Alcoholics. The first item we looked at was the time limitations imposed on the area assembly as it transitioned to one-day assemblies. This no longer allows the standing committees time to address the whole assembly or time for breakout rooms. The result is that the area standing committees cannot inform the districts and group members about the action programs they're currently involved in, the needs of the area, districts, and groups, or how members can get involved. Another problem is completing the area business before the 5 PM deadline. As many of you are aware, we can't access San Jacinto College before 8 AM and must have the doors locked by 5 PM. This also places a burden on IT to set up the audio/video and break it down to meet this deadline.

We asked members to complete a survey, and I want to thank everyone who took the time to complete the questionnaire. We received sixty-three responses to the study and received many great suggestions. Overall, the membership responded that they would like more information and more options to participate in the standing committees. I will be sending the survey results to SETA Announce.

Some of the suggestions we received from the questionnaire:

General goals and objectives-

1. Find a location that doesn't have the time restraints of San Jacinto College.
2. Return to two-day assemblies. These two-day assemblies could be one, two, or three times a year.
3. Consider an online roll call to save time instead of an oral roll call.
4. Provide lunch whenever possible to keep attendees on campus.
5. Encourage GSRs and DCMs to attend the AREA Committee meeting for better informational flow and idea sharing.
6. For voting, consider reverting to in-person-only assemblies due to online technical issues and confusion.

Other suggestions: Consider events/activities that could be supported by the Area to improve participation in Area Committees.

1. Offer mini-workshops on service topics.
2. Service Committee Day, host a specific day for AREA Service Committees with food and fellowship.
3. Breakout rooms for committees at assemblies.
4. Allow time for the committees to address the whole assembly.
5. Promote tables and displays at meetings.
6. Districts invite the committees to speak at their monthly meetings.

7. Q&A for newcomers.
8. Ensure new members have space to share and be heard.
9. In-person meetings outside of assemblies.
10. Brief introductions, allow 5 minutes for each committee to introduce themselves.
11. Informational videos: Create looped videos introducing committees for continuous display.
12. Make fliers available for groups to post.
13. Newsletter features, encouragement of "want ads," and spotlights in the newsletter.
14. Encourage teamwork among committees and share information, as well as recruit new members.
15. Utilize GSR training to foster committee involvement.
16. Organize "boots on the ground" at the area level to promote direct service.

We asked that when completing the questionnaire, you not consider finances. We wanted to learn about the needs of AREA 67, Districts, Groups, and how we can do a better job of helping the suffering Alcoholic. After reviewing the survey results, I joined the Finance Committee to discuss options that would be feasible for the area. The Finance Committee expressed reservations about resuming two-day assemblies for the short term due to uncertainty about the number of registrations and costs of the State Convention, as well as the expenses required for SWRAASA 2026. However, additional funds are available due to the savings from no longer holding the assemblies in a hotel. The committee agreed that there should be enough funds available to have at least one two-day assembly next year and possibly two, depending on the venue and special event costs.

We looked at several locations to get an idea of the costs of event spaces, community centers, and auditoriums. Many options within the area are significantly less expensive than meeting rooms in hotels. For example, in Texas City, a venue that holds 500 people would be \$324 a day for 6 hours and an additional \$100 an hour. It also has four breakout rooms at an extra cost. The total costs could be as little as \$1,410.00 for a resident of Texas City or \$1,552 for a non-resident for a two-day assembly. I used this to point out that there are affordable venues; however, I don't know if this venue would be acceptable to meet our needs.

Some additional considerations include that some members may still require motel rooms near the meeting location. Other Areas, such as Additionally, depending on the venue, IT may need some upgrades in audio/video equipment, such as a PA system and projection equipment. IT also needs to consider storage and transportation of the equipment.

Besides the questionnaire, we spoke with both current and past Delegates and Trustees from the SW Region. Several members of Area 67 attended the SWTA 68 assembly last month in Round Rock. We learned that our area isn't unique. Assembly costs are affecting all areas. After speaking with trusted servants from other areas, most have either relocated their assemblies from hotels to different venues or are considering making a change in the future. Several areas are also struggling with participation in their standing committees.

I gained valuable insights into how they save time while still providing information to their members. Some of the examples are.

- AREA 46, New Mexico, has committee breakout rooms and limits discussions on motions to Saturday only. Sunday is reserved for voting and minority opinion.
- SWTA 68 limits voting on motions to only two assemblies a year. At their June assembly on Saturday, they had three hours set aside for the Standing Committees. They had three breakout rooms going on at the same time, and each committee had 50 minutes to present to the attendees.
- NETA 65 officers meet for breakfast, then an officer joins each committee meeting. They also rotate, having two workshops per assembly.
- In AREA 10, Colorado, the committees cover the costs of the rooms needed from their budgets. This makes the committees responsible for determining whether a room is necessary.
- AREA 25, Kansas, has breakout rooms for each committee at their assemblies, allowing time for the committees to meet with the assembly attendees.

San Jacinto College has been an excellent temporary solution to reduce the costs of assemblies. However, it doesn't address all of the needs of AREA. This committee was formed as a fact-finding committee. What we learned was that the AREA wants more involvement in twelve-step service and not to be rushed at the area assemblies.

The Ad Hoc suggests that SETA Chair Patty H. form a committee to research meeting locations that allow two-day assemblies and meet the needs of SETA, including breakout rooms, IT requirements, and hotel rooms within a reasonable distance and affordable. Have at least one or two two-day assemblies in 2026. To allow time for the Standing Committees to address the whole assembly and have committee breakout rooms during the two-day assembly.

We also encourage every member of SETA 67 to go to www.qq-seta.org and learn more about our Standing Committees and how you can get involved. Each Committee has a monthly meeting, which can be accessed via Google Meet or Zoom. Details on how to join are available on the website.

We also hope some of these ideas can help you carry the message and our primary purpose.

I want to thank everyone on the Ad Hoc, Finance, and IT Committees, Patty, and all those who completed the questionnaire, as well as those who took the time to answer our questions.

In Love & Service,

Tony A. Standing Committee Ad Hoc

Questions and Comments:

- Looking into what to do for the next year (another hotel, another venue or for 2 days)
- Looking at 2 days, suggesting going back to 2 day assemblies for as many as possible when financially responsible.
- Hotels are pretty much out
- Hotels are probably out of budget. We could maybe manage one 2-day Assembly at a hotel, but the bigger savings would come from a community center or auditorium. Colleges like Blinn or Bryan often have weekend availability, and we could also look into Houston-area colleges or community centers for a 2-day event.
- Most districts already have these committees filled, so their chairs should be attending the area committees. For example, in Finance, we don't see reps from every district. Getting them involved would help strengthen and promote the committee meetings. Thanks, you're doing a great job.
- 3 members joined me for last month's TFC Committee, and it really is a great way to get involved. It's only an hour a month to attend the area committees, and we're here to support the groups and districts. If we don't know your needs, we can't help you.
- This request really falls under the alternate chair's role—putting together an ad hoc to look at possible Assembly locations. As an area committee, though, we need to remember our purpose: supporting districts and groups. It's our job to go out and find out what they need, not just ask them to come see us. If a district committee is already doing well, we should look for ways to add value and provide support. Otherwise, there's no reason for them to join area committees.
- As we look at the viability of a 2-day event, we also need to address the hotel issue. As mentioned, some people will require a stay, and we'll need clear guidelines on eligibility and reimbursement. Otherwise, even if we don't use a hotel venue, if everyone still books hotels, we're back in the same situation. Desire to be included in the discussion and recommendations of the new Ad Hoc, if formed.
- The chair can form an ad hoc committee without a motion, should that happen now and then have them present at assembly to get ideas and options. It's also up to you whether you want to get a sense of the Area Committee first. If the Area feels there isn't a need, it is still up to the chair
- We are the only area that is having one day assemblies.

- Discussed the idea of having a dedicated Area Committee Day—a full day just for area committees, separate from the Assembly. That’s something the Ad Hoc Committee could explore as an option. When visiting Area 68, they hold two assemblies a year focused solely on committees, with no voting, and it really strengthens their service work. Giving that kind of attention to our area service committees is vital for supporting 12-step work.
- But to get a sense of the area, maybe we should take a vote.
- Made an informal motion that we form an Ad Hoc Committee to review possible new locations for the Area Assembly and committee meetings—locations that would provide increased time and availability while also supporting our Area’s needs.
- Decided it was more the sense of the area than a motion, to see if the area committee supports this and the moving forward of it.
- 25 supporting the ad hoc finding an alternate location.
- This isn’t about opposing new locations outside of San Jacinto College. The concern is doing this just to give area committees more time for report-outs. Report-outs have been happening for years, yet participation has always been a challenge.
- Dedicated service days—separate from the Assembly—would be a stronger option. These could even be held at San Jac from 8 to 5, focusing fully on carrying the message through the committees. That would be more effective than returning to 2-day assemblies, which increase costs without solving the participation issue.
- Exploring new locations remains the responsibility of the alternate chair should continue leading that effort.
- There is agreement that both committee needs and the bigger picture can be addressed. More than one person will be needed to support the committee, and volunteers should be encouraged to step up. Input and notes from those who have previously participated could help guide the work.
- One option could be dedicating a full day to committee work. It was also noted that historically, only about 15% of groups or members actively participate in service work, and this has been consistent across different areas and states.
- In Southwest Texas, there were four assemblies each year: two voting assemblies in October and April, and two workshop assemblies in January and July. During the workshop assemblies, each committee held its own workshop that members could attend, which was considered very effective.
- An ad hoc committee is being formed to look at District 10, which has historically had limited participation in district leadership. Districts 20 and 60 have expressed interest in the discussion. Elizabeth G. will head up the committee, which will review whether combining districts should be considered and gather input from groups in District 10. A report will be presented in October.

New Business

1- PAI – Initiate study to identify less costly locations for the GSC

Rick M.

The proposed agenda item was introduced to address the ever-rising cost of the General Service Conference. Concern was expressed that the financial increase being asked of areas is not sustainable.

For reference, the estimated cost for the most recent 75th General Service Conference is \$10,250 per area, while the 74th General Service Conference cost \$9,250 per area. Based on this rate of increase, it is projected that by 2028—or the 80th General Service Conference—the cost could rise to as much as \$17,000 per area. Many areas already struggle to meet the current minimum contribution, raising serious concerns about future affordability.

It was noted that substantial cost savings could be realized by relocating the General Service Conference outside of New York City. For example, a hotel near Intercontinental Airport was identified as a potential site, offering rooms at approximately \$89 per night (similar to rates we have historically paid). This location has a large meeting room, sufficient breakout rooms, and free airport shuttle service, eliminating costly ground transportation. The only additional need would be a food vendor.

In contrast, the most recent conference in New York required hotel rooms at \$350 per night for approximately 135 people over seven nights, representing a massive expense. Transportation costs also added significantly, with travel from LaGuardia to the conference hotel running around \$100 each way.

It was suggested that the General Service Board conduct a thorough, comprehensive study of alternative locations for the General Service Conference, similar to the study previously done for the location of the General Service Office. This type of analysis would provide a fair and realistic look at potential cost savings and long-term sustainability.

The proposal has strong local support: the Beginners Group in District 82 approved it unanimously, and District 82 as a whole has also expressed unanimous support.

Comments

The motion to study alternative locations for the General Service Conference continued with additional context and perspectives.

It was noted that when the *Location Plus* ad hoc conducted its study, it reportedly examined both the GSO office location and the Conference location. However, a significant flaw in that study was identified: the two considerations were treated separately, rather than jointly. The office study concluded that moving the GSO would be too costly due to the need to send materials back to New York, while the conference study concluded that moving the Conference would be too costly due to the need to transport materials from the office. The joint possibility—moving both together—was not considered.

It was suggested that relocating both to a more centrally located city, such as Kansas City, could reduce costs significantly, given lower real estate and hotel expenses. It was also observed that much of the study reflected outdated assumptions from the 1970s, such as physically moving copiers and paper. In today's context, much business can be conducted electronically, and printers could even be purchased inexpensively at the location if needed, rather than moving equipment.

The point was made that conference planners may carry a "New York bias," assuming New York-level hotel and transportation costs. In reality, many business hotels near airports offer rooms at \$90 per night, with shuttle service reducing transportation costs. This is in contrast to New York, where recent conference hotel rooms cost \$350 per night, in addition to costly transportation from airports.

It was also noted that while the *Location Plus* study provided a thorough review of the GSO office, particularly highlighting the high cost of moving the archives, the same level of detail was not given to the location of the General Service Conference. Though the committee's work was reported at the Conference, nothing specific about moving the Conference appeared in the final presentation.

The suggestion was made that a new study should be conducted by an outside firm to ensure neutrality and to avoid any built-in New York bias.

During the discussion, it was further emphasized that the issue is not only that areas may be unable to afford the increasing costs, but that if areas cannot meet their contributions, the GSO and AAWS must assume the shortfall. This places an even greater burden on overall contributions and literature sales, which ultimately fund all operations.

It was acknowledged and agreed that this perspective had initially been overlooked when viewing the issue strictly from the standpoint of area budgets, but that the broader impact on AA as a whole must also be recognized.

Requesting a sense of the Area on the proposed agenda item. It was clarified that the motion would be submitted regardless of the Area's decision, but that broader review and support at the Area level increases the likelihood of inclusion as it moves "down the triangle." While it was acknowledged that this may not always guarantee success, the effort is part of due diligence. The request was made for the Area to formally support the proposed agenda item.

A question was asked if there were other people that support this PAI, whether or not from the area or not.

It was stated that it was presented at the home group and home district, both of which supported it unanimously. Shared desired to get it out to more areas but it did not happen.

29 people voted in favor of this motion (this was just getting the sense of the area).

2 - PAI - General Service Board conducts an inventory every three years.

Rick M.

It was noted that there remains a sense of distrust and disunity across the service triangle, much of which can be traced back to the events of January 2023, when the Board chair was asked to resign. Whether or not that action was necessary, it was perceived by many as being handled in an unprincipled manner. As a result, the 73rd General Service Conference passed an action item requiring the General Service Board to take an inventory of itself. While the Board did follow through and produce a significant list of action items, only a few of those items appear to have been addressed to date.

The importance of inventory as a principle was strongly underscored. Just as the Area conducts its own inventory every five years, it was argued that the Board should be held to a similar standard—on a more frequent basis. Conducting the inventory every three years would allow each trustee serving a four-year term to participate at least once with substantial experience on the Board. A five-year cycle, by contrast, could leave trustees participating only at the very beginning of their term or rotating out before participating again.

The desired outcome of this proposal is to strengthen trust, transparency, and unity across the Fellowship by ensuring that the "tip of the triangle" actively practices the principle of regular self-inventory.

Questions and Comments:

A question was raised: Why is the proposal calling for facilitators from outside of Alcoholics Anonymous? If it is acceptable for Areas and other service bodies to use facilitators from within A.A., why would the General Service Board need to rely on someone from outside the Fellowship?

In response, it was explained that the suggestion to use an outside facilitator is rooted in the principle of transparency. While groups and districts often conduct inventories with the help of another trusted servant from within A.A., that person is usually from outside the specific group or district being inventoried. In this case, the intent is similar—to ensure the process is objective and not influenced by internal dynamics. The view was expressed that having a facilitator from outside Alcoholics Anonymous could strengthen the perception of fairness and impartiality, though it was emphasized that this is only one opinion.

Question was raised: What would be the cost associated with bringing in an outside firm?

In response to a question about potential costs, it was noted that the expense of an outside facilitator would likely be comparable to other existing costs. While significant, it was not believed to be prohibitive or a "showstopper." It was also acknowledged that those with more experience in this area may be able to provide a more precise estimate.

Support was expressed for the motion, with several suggestions offered for refinement. It was noted that the inventory may need to extend beyond the General Service Board to include both of the corporate boards and their directors, since much of the day-to-day work takes place there. Conducting an inventory only of the General Service Board could overlook significant contributors to A.A.'s operations.

Regarding facilitation, it was suggested that the process be led by a trained facilitator who is a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, but not currently serving on the General Service Board or either corporate board. This would ensure familiarity with A.A.'s Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Concepts, while still maintaining neutrality and objectivity.

It was stated that the proposal is an excellent and much-needed idea. A further suggestion was made to consider including GSO staff in the inventory process, since they hold much of the Fellowship's institutional knowledge and long-term experience. This could provide valuable insight and strengthen the overall effectiveness of the review.

Additionally, the question was raised regarding who would be responsible for developing the inventory questions. It was noted that this step is critical, as the quality and focus of the questions can significantly affect the outcome of the inventory.

It was noted that in the previous inventory conducted by the General Service Board, participation included randomly chosen standing delegates along with an equal number of board members. However, concerns were raised that at least one delegate who participated felt their voice was not fully heard, suggesting the process may not have been balanced.

This highlighted the importance of carefully considering who participates and how input is valued in any future inventory process. It was acknowledged that many important questions are being raised, and it may not be possible to address them all within a single proposed agenda item. The suggestion was made to focus first on securing an action or advisory action, and then allow further details to be developed through subsequent process.

It was emphasized that this proposal should be seen as a starting point, with the understanding that the process can be fine-tuned as it moves forward. The issues raised regarding the corporate boards and GSO staff were acknowledged as highly relevant, as there may be significant challenges within those groups as well. However, it was felt that including all of these elements in a single proposed agenda item would be too much at once. The intention is to begin with a focused action, while leaving room for expansion and refinement in the future.

Appreciation was expressed for the proposal and the effort behind it, with agreement that the work is much needed. A concern was raised, however, regarding the suggestion to use an outside facilitator. It was noted that A.A. operates under the principles of self-governance and self-support, with members and groups making their own decisions. Bringing in an outside entity to conduct the inventory could be seen as contradictory to those principles. A preference was expressed for the inventory to be conducted within A.A. rather than by an outside organization.

In response to the suggestion of including the corporate boards in the inventory, it was noted that doing so would also bring in the voices of the 13 staff member service secretaries, ensuring their perspectives are represented. This was seen as a meaningful addition to the process.

26 people voted in favor of the motion (sense of the area)

Opposing Views:

It was expressed that the language of the proposal would need to be reworded in order to gain full support, particularly regarding the use of an outside facilitator. Agreement was voiced with the view that the facilitator should come from within A.A., rather than outside the Fellowship. The sense of the discussion was that an internal trusted servant or body would be more consistent with A.A.'s principles of self-governance and self-support.

After hearing input from several members, the proposer agreed to accept a friendly amendment: the language would be revised to specify that the inventory be facilitated by a trained facilitator from within Alcoholics Anonymous, rather than from outside. It was noted that there are trusted servants within A.A. who are capable of serving in this role.

The chair then asked for a sense of the voting members on whether they were in favor of the friendly amendment.

A question was raised regarding the wording of the amendment. Specifically, concern was expressed about the use of the term "trained facilitator." Since there is no official training process within A.A. for facilitating inventories, it was suggested that the language be adjusted to "experienced facilitator" to more accurately reflect available practice.

It was confirmed that the proposal will be corrected and redistributed this week, so that the Assembly will have the updated version. The chair returned the discussion to the question of whether the Area Committee supports the proposed agenda item, with the agreed-upon corrections:

- The facilitator will be from within Alcoholics Anonymous.
- The wording will be changed from "trained facilitator" to "experienced facilitator."

The corrected language will be presented at the Assembly for consideration.

25 people voted for this new motions with the friendly amendment (sense of the area)

It was acknowledged that the issues raised regarding the corporate boards and staff members are valid and important, but the priority for now is to move forward with the current proposal and seek approval. The possibility of addressing those additional matters in the future was left open. Appreciation was expressed for the thoughtful feedback and for the service of all those who contributed to the discussion.

3 - PAI- Provide Final General Service Conference Agenda items with background material available to the entire Fellowship by no later than February 1st **Jim M.**

It was explained that this proposed agenda item was submitted last year by the Southeast Texas Area but did not make the final agenda—a common outcome for first-time submissions. The item is being resubmitted this year because of the strong belief in its importance.

A survey was conducted, and one of the most telling results came from the final question: *"Would you have felt it would have helped to have more time to discuss final agenda items?"* Nearly 90% responded affirmatively, indicating broad agreement that more time is needed for thorough review and discussion.

The purpose of the proposed agenda item is to allow A.A. members, groups, districts, and areas have more time to review and discuss final agenda items before they are taken to the General Service Conference. The goal is to develop a more fully informed group conscience, which delegates can then carry to the Conference.

The current timeline was reviewed:

- September 30: Deadline for submitting proposed agenda items.
- January: Trustees meet to finalize agenda items.
- Mid-February to early March: Final agenda items and background material are made available.
- This leaves roughly six weeks for individuals, groups, districts, and areas to review the materials and develop a group conscience.

While it was noted that Southeast Texas is fortunate to have strong communication among delegates, past delegates, and committee members, even in this Area it remains difficult to fully inform the group conscience in the short time available. Other areas, with fewer resources or less active communication networks, face even greater challenges.

The motion is rooted in A.A.'s Traditions and Concepts:

- Concept One: *Our final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.*
- Tradition Two: *For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.* It was emphasized that allowing more time respects these principles by giving the collective group conscience greater opportunity to develop.

It was acknowledged that the trustees have significant responsibilities in preparing agenda items and that their January meeting plays a critical role in finalizing them. For this reason, it may be difficult to adjust the timeline as currently structured. However, the proposal is not intended to dictate the exact mechanics, but rather to request that the fellowship be given more time overall.

The Area Committee was asked to once again approve and support this proposed agenda item. Regardless of the Area's decision, the Literature Committee and individual members will submit the proposal, but wider support is sought to strengthen its impact.

Questions and Comments

Support was expressed for the importance of allowing more time for consideration of agenda items, while also noting that the process involves more steps than were outlined in the presentation. Members were encouraged to review the bonus pages in the electronic version of the Newsletter, which contain a more complete cycle of the timeline.

It was further shared that GSO is currently testing artificial intelligence translation software, which could greatly speed up the production of background material in all three languages. If this technology proves reliable, it could significantly shorten the time needed for translation and distribution. The sense was that these improvements are coming, whether or not this motion is adopted—though the timeline for implementation is uncertain.

It was clarified that this proposed agenda item was approved by the Area last year and submitted, though it did not make it onto the final agenda. The Literature Committee noted that this outcome is not unusual, as very few items are accepted on their first submission. The process moves slowly by design, to ensure that careful and thoughtful decisions are made.

The Literature Chair emphasized that this remains a priority item for the Area, which is why it is being brought forward again for approval and resubmission.

Before proceeding to the vote, the chair reminded everyone of the voting procedures for the Area Committee, which differ from those of the Area Assembly. At the Area Committee, the following apply:

- Officers vote; alternates vote only if the officer is absent.
- Area committee chairs vote; alternates vote only if the chair is absent.
- Intergroup liaisons vote.
- DCMs vote; alternates vote only if the DCM is absent.
- GSRS and past delegates do not vote at the Area Committee.

With that clarification, the chair announced that a vote would be taken on the proposed agenda item and read the item aloud once again for the record.

Vote - 24 For, 0 Against

Passed Unanimously

4 - Multilingual Committee requested funds of \$915 for purchase of new equipment. **Luis P.**

In presenting the motion, it was explained that the request arose from a practical need within the Multilingual Committee. Currently, translation services are being handled using a personal cell phone, which ties up the device for the entire duration of meetings and conference calls. For example, on the day of the meeting, the personal phone had been in use continuously since 8:30 a.m. to facilitate translation access.

This situation has limited the ability to use the phone for other purposes and placed a burden on the individual providing the service. The committee discussed this at its most recent meeting and unanimously agreed to bring forward a motion requesting Area support to purchase a dedicated phone for the committee's use, ensuring that translation services are available without reliance on personal devices.

The committee clarified that all supporting paperwork had already been submitted, including a price quote for the phone and service plan. The total projected cost is approximately \$1,000 for a full year, covering both the purchase of the phone and the service required to operate it.

The motion being presented is for \$915 in additional funding to cover this need. Committee members emphasized that the request is intended solely to ensure the continuation of translation services as part of their service work, without relying on personal devices. Questions from the body were welcomed.

Support was expressed for the motion. It was noted that without a dedicated phone, participation in the Multilingual Committee would be limited to those who already own personal mobile devices. If a trusted

servant does not have such a device, they would be unable to provide translation services. Providing a phone specifically for the committee ensures equitable access and enables all trusted servants to serve effectively in this role.

Further support was voiced for the motion, emphasizing that the translator has been relying on a personal phone to provide services. Approval of the request would allow for a phone dedicated solely to the Multilingual Committee's use, ensuring that translation can continue smoothly while also freeing the individual's personal phone for their own needs. This was presented as a practical and necessary step to support the work of the committee.

A question was raised about whether a more cost-effective option could be considered in place of purchasing a cell phone with a full service plan. Specifically, it was suggested that the committee might use a Wi-Fi-only tablet paired with a Bluetooth speaker, which could provide clearer audio for translation in a room setting. This approach might reduce costs compared to maintaining a dedicated phone and cellular service, since tablets are relatively inexpensive and would not require ongoing phone service fees.

It was suggested that, if the Area decides to purchase a device for translation services, the matter could appropriately fall under the purview of the IT Committee. In that case, the equipment would be purchased and managed by IT, and then loaned out to the Multilingual Committee for its work. This would be consistent with past practice, as the IT Committee has previously provided laptops and other devices to committees on a loan basis.

It was explained that the IT Committee has not previously been involved in purchasing or managing equipment for other committees. While it is not considered a bad idea, this would represent a change in practice. One challenge noted is that equipment management currently relies on a single person to handle logging and distribution, which limits the ability to provide devices widely.

It was stated that the suggestion could certainly be discussed further within the IT Committee, but no commitment could be made without the committee's input and response.

It was acknowledged that there may be other technological options to support translation services, such as tablets or alternative setups. However, the committee emphasized that, based on their current level of familiarity and resources, the most functional and reliable solution at present is a dedicated phone. Exploring other options would likely require additional technical expertise and support that the committee does not currently have available.

It was clarified that the translation process relies on a conference call phone number. Because of this setup, a Bluetooth speaker would not meet the need; it would only project the Spanish translation into the room, creating conflict with the English being spoken by the chair. The dedicated phone system allows translation to function as intended.

It was further noted that other Areas use specialized translation equipment costing \$5,000–\$6,000. By comparison, this request is modest, asking only for a phone to continue the service. Concern was expressed that Spanish-speaking districts are being shortchanged without adequate support, and that providing this equipment would be a reasonable and necessary step to help ensure full participation.

The committee further explained that the current translation system operates through a conference call, which does not require specialized equipment. Participants only need to bring their own earpieces to connect and hear the translation through the call. This eliminates the need to purchase or maintain expensive equipment that could become outdated or unreliable.

The key requirement, however, is the ability to place and maintain the conference call, which must be done through a phone. With this setup, up to 300 people can be connected to the translation simultaneously. By contrast, purchasing equipment for that many individuals would be unfeasible.

For these reasons, the committee emphasized that a dedicated phone is the most practical and effective option. While other technologies might be possible, the current system depends on a phone to function.

Additional support was voiced for the motion, with agreement that Spanish-speaking members are often underserved and that this request represents a modest but important step toward greater inclusion. It was noted that listening is already difficult in a crowded room, and doing so in another language without adequate tools is even more challenging.

The speaker encouraged approval of the request while also recommending that the Area continue to explore long-term improvements to translation services. The only concern raised was ensuring that the dedicated phone, once purchased, is properly safeguarded and does not get lost or misplaced.

During discussion, a question was raised about whether the proposed cost included insurance coverage (such as AppleCare or similar), to allow the phone to be repaired or replaced in case of damage.

In response, it was clarified that insurance had not been specifically requested in the initial motion. However, the estimated cost for the phone and service was approximately \$915, and it was believed that insurance could be added for an additional \$25-\$40 if desired.

Vote - 28 For, 0 Against

Passed Unanimously

5- Revision of Newsletter guidelines

Allise B.

A motion was presented to consolidate the many past Area actions regarding the Area Newsletter into one clear and comprehensive policy. The intent is to simplify procedures, clarify distribution and content guidelines, and update practices in line with current needs.

Distribution

- The Newsletter will be distributed by email via the SETA announce list and posted on the Area website.
- When released, it will appear temporarily on the homepage and remain available on the Newsletter page.
- Printed copies will be produced: 250 copies in English (for the 12 active districts) and 100 copies in Spanish (for the 4 active districts).
- Each issue will be limited to 8 pages in length.

Anonymity & Contact Information

- In keeping with the 11th and 12th Traditions, contact information will be limited to position-based email addresses.
- Where no position-based address exists, individual addresses may be used with first name and last initial only.
- No last names or phone numbers will be printed under any circumstances, including within personal email addresses.

Content

- The Area Newsletter will remain focused on service-related content, distinguishing it from district newsletters that often emphasize recovery.
- Statements will be included, when appropriate, clarifying this focus and noting the right of the editors to edit or decline submissions if they are off-topic, inappropriate, or cannot be accommodated.
- Proper credit will be given for any material quoted from A.A. or Grapevine literature.

Sources

- Past policy narrowly restricted contributions to regional trustees, Area officers, standing committees, DCMs, GSRs, and past delegates. This unintentionally excluded important sources, such as the delegate and alternate delegate, as well as newer service structures like national and binational working groups (e.g., National PI/CPC Working Group, National A.A. Technology Workshop, National Corrections Conference).
- The new proposal broadens this by allowing content from "any reputable A.A. source," trusting editors to exercise sound judgment.

The motion consolidates decades of Area actions regarding the Newsletter. Commentary was provided comparing past policies with the proposed framework. The presenter stressed that this approach gives the editors flexibility while still protecting the principles of A.A.

Questions and Comments

It was questioned about the cost of the printing. It was noted that the Newsletter printing costs were already included in the current year's budget. With the assistance of a new customer service representative, a lower quote was obtained by calculating all 350 copies together (rather than 250 English plus 100 Spanish separately). This adjustment brought the estimated cost down to approximately \$280.

Attention was also drawn to item 2(c) of the motion, which specifies that no last names or phone numbers will be printed, including when they appear in personal email addresses. This is in line with A.A.'s 11th and 12th Tradition anonymity practices.

It was observed that the Newsletter has long maintained a practice of not publishing phone numbers, due to concerns about privacy once the material is posted online. The intent has been to avoid making such personal information too public. The speaker noted an openness to hearing the views of other Area Committee members on this matter.

A request was made for clarification regarding the Newsletter's content guidelines—specifically, whether submissions would be limited only to service-related experience and exclude all personal experience.

In response, it was explained that the intent is not to prohibit sharing experience, but rather to emphasize that the Area Newsletter is service-focused rather than recovery-focused. The goal is to highlight service work taking place, as well as upcoming service opportunities, in keeping with the long-standing purpose of the publication.

It was shared, from the perspective of a past Newsletter editor, that receiving submissions which included personal experiences in service was often valuable. Such contributions not only conveyed information but also helped members get to know one another better. While agreement was expressed that the Newsletter should remain service-related, concern was raised that overly restrictive guidelines might "tie our hands" and limit the richness of content. A balance was suggested to allow for service-related personal sharing while keeping the overall focus on service.

It was explained that decisions about Newsletter content are made collaboratively, and when difficult decisions arise, there are editorial advisory boards in both English and Spanish to provide guidance. These boards include the delegate, a past Newsletter chair, and representatives such as Edwin and Luis, among others. The members of each board are listed on the front page of both the first and second quarter issues. This structure ensures that any tough calls are made by a committee rather than by a single individual.

Vote - 26 For, 1 Against

Minority Opinion - A concern was raised regarding the restriction on publishing phone numbers in the Newsletter. It was noted that, in certain service roles such as the Treatment Facilities Committee Chair, contact with both alcoholics and non-alcoholics (e.g., treatment facilities) is essential. In these cases, having a phone number publicly listed may be necessary to ensure accessibility and effective communication.

It was clarified that while Newsletter guidelines traditionally prohibit publishing phone numbers, the SETA Announce committee previously revisited the policy. After discussion and review of practices in other Areas, the decision was made to allow phone numbers in announcements when necessary—particularly for event flyers or situations where contact is essential.

The guiding principle is that phone numbers may be included only with the knowledge and consent of the person submitting the information. It was also noted that, unlike in the past, entering a phone number into Google no longer automatically reveals the individual's identity. While reverse lookup services exist, the direct privacy risk has been reduced. The decision to allow numbers was made to better support A.A.'s mission by ensuring that members and facilities can reach the appropriate contacts when needed.

Another perspective was offered in support of allowing phone numbers in communications. It was noted that many trusted servants already include their phone numbers in emails, as texting is often the most reliable way to be reached. With multiple channels of communication available, the phone remains the most direct.

Echoing earlier points, it was emphasized that phone numbers can no longer be easily reverse-searched on Google, and anyone going to the lengths of paying for such a service would have other concerns. For these reasons, phone numbers were seen as a practical and necessary tool for accessibility.

Reports

District Committee Member (DCM) Reports

(Reports are from either the Committee Meeting (Online) or from submitted Reports)

District 10 – Inactive

District 20 – Linda G.

2nd Thursdays 7pm [Zoom](#)

- No Report

District 31 – Jennifer C.

3rd Sundays 2-4pm Hybrid [Map](#) [Google Meet](#)

The District 31 DCM shared updates covering March through June:

- **March–April Outreach:** The DCM traveled to multiple groups across the district to provide education on how agenda items are submitted, the process they follow, and how the service structure flows from groups to GSO.
- **April District Meeting:** The district hosted Rebecca S. from District 65 (Accessibility, Area 65) via Google Meet. She delivered a strong presentation on accessibility in A.A., explaining the scope of the work and answering questions. This generated valuable discussion and provided GSRS with topics to bring back to their home groups for further consideration.
- **May–June Presentations:** The district received presentations on Safety in A.A. and from Corrections regarding facility-related service opportunities.
- **New Group:** A new group has formed in New Waverly, holding a Saturday 10:00 a.m. meeting.

District 32 – Mark E.

2nd Sundays at 1pm [Map](#) [Zoom](#)

- No Report

District 33 – Cody R.

3rd Saturdays 11am [Map](#)

District Growth and Transformation

Friends in Recovery,

Our district has experienced remarkable growth and resilience over the past months, demonstrating our commitment to service and carrying the message of recovery.

Significant Developments

- Brazos Valley Intergroup Transition
- In a critical move for our local AA community, the Brazos Valley Intergroup has officially dissolved. Our district has stepped up to assume key functions, including:
- Management of the local AA hotline
- Maintenance of the district website
- Ensuring continuity of essential communication services

Committee Achievements

Our district has made substantial progress in building our service infrastructure:

Treatment Committee: Active and engaged in supporting recovery in treatment facilities

Corrections Committee: Working diligently to support alcoholics in correctional facilities

Unity Committee: Major milestone achieved!

- Selected new dates for our Unity Conference
- Transitioning from February to July for 2026 conference

Financial Stewardship

- Our newly formed standing Finance Committee is making significant strides:
- Developing comprehensive financial strategies

- Actively discussing the implementation of a fully funded prudent reserve
- Ensuring transparent and responsible financial management

Ongoing Service Priorities

- Continued committee development
- Strengthening group participation
- Expanding our ability to carry the AA message

Over the past months, we've:

- Re-established the Blue Can Fund for correctional facility literature
- Recruited volunteers for multiple service committees
- Reorganized our committee structure
- Maintained a spirit of unity and service

Closing Thoughts

Our district continues to grow, adapt, and serve. Each member's commitment strengthens our fellowship and supports those seeking a path to recovery.

In Fellowship and Service,

Cody R.

District 33 DCM

Area 67 - Southeast Texas

District 40 – Mike B.

2nd Tuesdays 7-9pm [Map](#) [Google Meet](#)

Hello Area 67!

District 40 meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month @ 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, hybrid.

Physically: 1225 West Grand Parkway South, Room 115

Virtually: <https://meet.google.com/nmn-zuqc-xop>

From May to July 2025, the activity included the May 13th meeting with 25 attendees, the June 10th meeting with 25 attendees, and the July 8th meeting with 20 attendees.

Open positions (Alt-Secretary, Alt-Newsletter, PI, Grapevine, CFC, Finance Committee Rep) remain, with Ally H. elected as Newsletter Editor on May 13. We're really excited to have a District Newsletter again, and Ally is doing an incredible job!

Part of our agenda every month is to have space for GSRs, Alt-GSRs and attendees to share based on a topic provided or to ask questions or share what is going on at their home groups, and how we as the District can support them. Some of the topics covered Traditions/Concepts education (May) group inventories (June) and 7th Tradition disbursements (July).

The Traditions Dinner occurred on May 24, 2025, with Rick M. speaking. Juan Carlos did an amazing job! Rick engaged the function with a wonderful talk followed by an informative Q&A. Thank you to all the Area committees that showed up to support the function and inform our attendees!

In June, we had Christina and Bella come and give the GSC Report. Thank you to both of you for all the hard work you do for our Area! Come and see us any time!

Also in June, Reino asked District 40 to vote to volunteer for the July 26th Assembly. We are grateful for the opportunity to be of service.

In July, we had Pam come and visit us to talk about SWRAASA. If you haven't had Pam visit you and get you excited about supporting SWRAASA, you're missing out!

The District Size AdHoc, led by DCM Mike B. with six volunteers, continues to explore splitting the district, meeting on the first Tuesday from 7:00-8:00 PM. If you'd like more information on this, please get with me or Juan Carlos.

Thank you for letting me be of service!

Gratefully submitted,

Mike Bolyard

832.724.3050

mike.b@aa-seta.org

Homegroup: Primary Purpose Group - Spiritus Contra Spiritum

District 40 DCM

District Meetings:

2nd Tuesday the month

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

HYBRID

1225 West Grand Parkway South, Room 115 & on Google Meet

<https://meet.google.com/nmn-zuqc-xop>

District 51 – Kevin S.

2nd Sundays 6pm [Map](#) or [Map](#)

- No Report

District 52 – Donna G.

1st Tuesdays 7-8:30pm [Map](#) [Google Meet](#)

- No Report

District 60 – Eric V.

1st Wednesdays 6:30-7:30pm [Zoom](#)

- No Report

District 62 – Vacant

Every 2 weeks on Saturday 6:00 pm

District 63 – Antonio M.

2nd Saturdays 6pm [Map](#)

The district continues to support all Area 67 activities as well as Spanish-language interdistrict meetings.

The district maintains active committees, including La Viña, Corrections (CFC), Literature, and Ludic. These committees support a variety of events for Spanish-speaking members of Alcoholics Anonymous in Houston, as well as contributing to the success of Area 67 assemblies and conventions.

That concluded the report, with gratitude expressed for the opportunity to serve.

District 64 – Jose M.

All Saturdays 6pm [Map](#)

Good morning to all members of Area 67.

District 64 currently has 60 active groups and 12 GSRs who attend the Saturday meetings at 6:00 p.m. Each meeting includes one hour of service manual study.

Group visits are scheduled on Tuesdays, as Wednesdays are currently reserved for meetings of the organizing committee of the upcoming South Texas Hispanic Assembly, to be held November 14-16, 2025, in Houston, Texas, at the Quinceanera Hall on JFK Blvd. supported by the four Spanish-speaking districts.

Eventos recientes y futuros:

- June 28 – District 64 received a visit from our delegate, Christina.

- July 25 – Regular Saturday meeting will be moved to Friday to accommodate attendance at the Area Assembly.
- July 26 – District 64 will attend the Area Assembly at San Jacinto College.
- August 3 – District 64 will host a Corrections Workshop (CFC) for the four Spanish-speaking districts, 12:00–3:00 p.m.
- August 15–17 – District 64 will attend the Texas State Convention.
- September 10 – District 64 will host the Interdistrict Meeting for the four Spanish-speaking districts of Houston at 8:00 p.m.

DCM and Alternate: José and Arturo.

District 65 – Cristian S.

All Saturdays 6pm [Map](#)

- No Report

District 66 – Ramses G.

All Saturdays 6pm [Map](#)

District meetings are held every Saturday from 6:00–8:00 p.m. at 5645 Hillcroft Avenue, Suite 301, Houston, TX 77036. The district currently has 24 active groups. Attendance at district meetings varies from 1 to 18 groups represented by their GSRs, who bring reports to share.

Committees:

- La Viña Committee – Meets on Tuesdays from 8:00–10:00 p.m. with both a chair and liaisons. They regularly visit groups in the district.
- Corrections (CFC) – Meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Four liaisons from different groups participate. The committee visits groups as a body and supports correctional work.
- Literature Committee – Responsible for managing and distributing service literature for the district. Members visit groups and support all service activities.

These committees are active in district meetings and also participate in Spanish assemblies, Spanish conventions, and Area 67 events. Additionally, the committees maintain a Friday visiting schedule for groups, and they respond to invitations from groups for special events.

District 70 – Sara B.

2nd Wednesdays 7pm [Map](#)

- No Report

District 81 – Danny G.

1st Wednesdays 7-9:00pm [Map](#)

State of the district: District 81 remains very active and focused on our primary purpose. All of the standing committee chair positions are filled and actively carrying the message. Group participation remains very strong and we are looking forward to new members getting involved from our various groups. We have Christina S. coming in August to discuss what went on at the GSC.

Archives: Busy digitizing our history and creating a database that will make it easier to look up and upload our history. We've recently moved the archives from the Alvin Taylor Street Club to the Bay Area Club in League City.

CFC: Busy with meetings at Carol Young and Galveston County Jail. They celebrated the meeting anniversary at the Carol Young Unit this past month.

PI/CPC: John C. just recently stood for the chair position after Michelle C. had to step down. The committee is busy! They have been very busy with various Billboards and placing ads in local magazines and handouts. They continue to come up with new ways to reach the alcoholic that stills suffers using QR codes and handouts to lead newcomers to local resources.

Grapevine: Working to involve groups to build a strong and lasting committee.

Literature: Continues to look for/inform us of all the new AA literature and any changes that might come up. They've started to pull the outdated pamphlets and put them in a binder for archives, as well as introducing the newer pamphlets for us to update our literature racks.

Finance & Budget (F&B): We have a strong F&B and are working on being fully funded for 2025. They continue to meet and accommodate the district's ever-changing budget.

TFC: Holding meetings at each treatment facility monthly. Regularly holding workshops. **Newsletter:** Continues to amaze us! The goal is to highlight events, share stories of recovery and make announcements. Starting to interview members within our district—always practicing the principle of anonymity—about their experience, strength and hope on AA topics!

Web: Chartered to Design, Build and Maintain our website, which is a central repository for events, committee information & group schedule for our district, etc. Please check us out at www.aadistrict81.org.

Accessibilities: Enables people to access service commitments through hybrid and continues to think about ways to ensure access is available to all who want to serve.

Workshop: Had a great workshop on Emotional Sobriety that was well attended and now is getting ready for an upcoming workshop on Sponsorship September 13th 1-4pm at the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.

In love and service, Danny G. and Andrea W.

District 82 – Jennifer W.

1st Sundays 1:30 pm [Map](#)

District 82 is happy to be home to many active members in the AA service triangle. Two members have drafted and proposed three PAIs, which were presented earlier in this meeting. Thank you for your dedication to the fellowship of AA. We also appreciate committee feedback on these PAIs. In following our District's last inventory, we are working on unity of fellowship. Thus, when Christina came and joined us for the Delegate Report, it doubled as a potluck! There was a good turnout and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Our next service to our district will be a workshop in the 4th quarter.

District 90 – David S.

1st Sundays 1:30pm [Map](#)

DCM Report July 2025

Our District meetings are held the first Sunday of the month at the I-10 East Club located at 1235 Crockett St., Beaumont Texas 77701.

Our June District 90 GSR meeting had 47 in attendance. Currently all Committee positions are filled, and 1 Alt position is open. WE are encouraging all GSR, s and Committee members to attend the upcoming July Assembly. Maps were distributed for Assembly location. We are gearing up for our upcoming annual District 90 Convention August 8-10th 2025 at the Elegante Hotel in Beaumont Texas, and our Annual Traditions Workshop in September. Our Area Delegate (Christina S) (and Alt (Bella L.) attended our June 1st district meeting to give their reports. District 90 has agreed to Host the October Assembly.

David S.

DCM District 90

Service Committee Reports

(Reports are from either the Committee Meeting (Online) or from submitted Reports)

Archives – Joel G., Chair

Second Mondays @ 7pm [Google Meet](#)

- No Report

CPC – Don M., Chair

First Mondays @ 7:30pm [Google Meet](#)

CPC Report to Area 67, July 2025

The committee is still trying to connect with the chairs of the district committees. An email was sent to every DCM with the only responses coming from DCM's that didn't have a CPC chair. I would request that all DCMs send their CPC chair information to cpc-chair@aa-seta.org.

The committee also needs volunteers to assist in presentations in their district. I will put a QR code in my report to the secretary and the newsletter to sign up to volunteer for events in your district.

Kudos to Kate E for her assistance in covering events.

Our monthly meeting is the first Monday of each month at 7:30 on Google Meet.

CFC – Harold B., Chair

3rd Wednesdays 7:30-9pm [Map](#) [Google Meet](#)

The SETA Corrections Facilities Committee (CFC), Area 67, meets on the third Wednesday of every month from 7:30–8:30 p.m. at Houston Intergroup (5151 Mitchelldale, Houston, TX 77092). All committee positions are filled, and contact information is available on the Area CFC webpage. Training dates, flyers, guidelines, and service requirements are current on the aa-seta.org website.

Financials:

- Beginning balance (Jan 1, 2025): \$20,273.88.\
- Contributions received (Q1 & Q2): \$29,283.68.
- Current bank balance: \$23,907.14 with \$17,918.04 available for purchases.
- Funds are used exclusively for literature for incarcerated members, either carried in by volunteers or mailed upon request.

Meetings & Coverage:

- CFC carries meetings into 40 TDCJ facilities, including 5 trusty camps. Over half of the units receive weekly meetings.
- Currently, there are 4 Spanish-language meetings in TDCJ facilities.
- Additional outreach is carried into county jails: Harris, Galveston, Montgomery, Fort Bend, and Brazoria Counties.

Correspondence & Pre-Release:

- The committee continues to receive letters from incarcerated members seeking sponsors or pre-release contacts.
- A list of volunteers across Texas is maintained to help inmates transition into AA upon release.
- More volunteers are needed for correspondence and prerelease sponsorship. Guidelines: men write men, women write women, no home addresses used. Flyers and sign-up sheets are available.

Workshops & Presentations (2025):

- Presentations at several groups: Serenity, Cypresswood, Delta, Group 1502, Old Town Spring, Bay City Club, Willis PPG, Champions, and District 31.
- March 9 – District 63 (Spanish) held a workshop and volunteer training; 11 people applied and trained.
- May 3 – District 81 held a workshop with online training, led by Sarah E. (Co-Chair).
- August 2 – Workshop at District 52/Lamplighters with TDCJ training, 2–5 p.m.
- August 3 – Spanish District 64 CFC Workshop and Volunteer Training, 12–3 p.m.
- Flyers for both events available at Assembly.
- CFC will also have two tables at the State Convention in August.

Regional & National Participation:

- Attended the District 65 NETA Conference in Arlington; presentation given on the History of CFC in the U.S. and shared experience with a sister area.

- Upcoming: Annual Service Conference, September 5–7, 2025, Sheraton North (Houston).
 - Events include: TDCJ orientation, corrections professional panel, volunteer panel, correspondence panel, and an inmate speaker.
 - The conference will be bilingual (English/Spanish). Scholarships available.
- National Corrections Conference: November 7–9, 2025, in Nashville, TN.

Closing:

Harold expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve, noting the ongoing need for volunteers and collaboration with other committees (Archives, Grapevine, Treatment).

"I would not be here to even have a chance if not for you, my fellow servants. Thank you."

Finance – Kevin W., Chair

3rd Wednesdays 8pm [Google Meet](#)

The Finance Committee meets on the **third Wednesday** of each month at 8:00 p.m. via Google Meet. Attendance has been consistent, with regular participation from members.

Budget Process and Language

- In April, the committee discussed a motion to revise the budget process and reviewed related language and procedures.
- A suggestion was made to rename *"fully funded"* to *"pre-funded"* for clarity, but the committee decided to retain *"fully funded"* for consistency with standard financial language.
- The committee reviewed a possible **fiscal year change** from January–December to February–January. Concerns were raised about the impact on area rotation and budget timing. One proposal suggested approving a percentage of January expenses in advance, pending full budget approval.

Delegate Funding Letter

- A draft letter to the **General Service Board** regarding the cost of fully funding delegates was reviewed. The recommendation was that the letter should come from the Area. The importance of directing it to the General Service Board—not only the GSO—was emphasized.

SWAARSA 2025 Funding

- In April, a proposal was introduced to allocate **\$35,000 from unrestricted funds** to support SWAARSA 2025.
- The **2025 Area budget** includes **\$50,702 in approved expenses**, but the Area has not formally adopted a **fully funded budget model**. As such, funds are not recognized as restricted, and the reported **unrestricted balance** remains fully available. The committee clarified that under current practice, the SWAARSA Committee must formally request funds from the Area.
- The committee discussed the importance of distinguishing **restricted vs. unrestricted funds** for clarity and planning but noted that changes to financial reporting will only occur if the Area adopts a fully funded budget model.

2026 Convention Budget

- A preliminary budget for the **2026 Area Convention** was presented in April, based on **800 attendees** and financial patterns from the past two years.

- Cost-saving measures were considered, including eliminating the ice cream social, exploring alternate food options, and adopting digital payment systems (e.g., Zelle).

Two-Day Assemblies Discussion

- An ad hoc committee presented a proposal to transition to **two-day assemblies**. The Finance Committee discussed the potential financial impact but agreed to delay consideration until after the **2026 Area Convention, SWARSA 2025, and the State Convention**. Concern was expressed about the financial risk, particularly if any of these events operate at a loss, which could place significant strain on the Area budget.

Committee Service

- In April, the alternate chair position was filled.
- In July, the alternate secretary position was filled.

Grapevine – Terry P., Chair

3rd Thursdays 7pm [Google Meet](#)

The last 3 months have been busy. I have given grapevine materials to different GVRs in different districts. Set up a table at district 40 traditions dinner and did a giveaway. We have teamed up with intergroup to put a grapevine book on sale every month. This month is Prayer and meditation normally \$18 on sale for \$13.50. We have purchased 7 grapevine books that will be placed in the speaker baskets at the state convention. We are currently preparing for the state convention and are excited to attend.

Information Technology (IT) – Brad H., Chair

Last Saturday 11am-1pm [Google Meet](#)

The IT Committee continues its work to support Area 67 through website updates and administration of CETA Workspace accounts.

New User Deletion Policy

- Accounts that have not logged in within 90 days of creation will be deleted.
- Accounts inactive for over one year will be disabled.
- A warning will be issued prior to deletion.
- This policy will be shared on CETA Announce.

Open Service Positions

- The committee is currently seeking an experienced Google Workspace Administrator and webmasters.
- Position descriptions and requirements are posted on the IT Committee webpage.

District Participation

- District IT Chairs and webmasters are encouraged to attend monthly IT Committee meetings to strengthen communication and collaboration between districts and groups.

Meeting Schedule

- The regular July meeting has been postponed due to the Assembly.
- The next IT Committee meeting will be held on Saturday, August 2, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The La Viña Committee has been actively participating in three recent meetings and is preparing to hold a workshop on July 27, 2025, in District 65. It was agreed to organize four rotating workshops across the four districts, ensuring broad participation and engagement.

The Grapevine Committee also agreed to host a workshop in Victoria with support from Paula M. The committee remains focused on sharing the latest Grapevine news and motivating members to contribute.

Grapevine Updates:

- A new book will be released in September 2025, based on stories from the *Grapevine* archive.
- The digital subscription has been modernized through the Grapevine website, in addition to the continued availability of the print edition.
- Recent workshops have been successful in encouraging subscriptions and promoting awareness.
- As of June 26, 2025, there were 270 subscriptions reported across four districts.

Publications:

- The July issue of *Grapevine* and the August issue of *La Viña* include stories from three members in our Area, along with letters and reflections submitted by others. These experiences highlight the ongoing importance of the magazine as “our meeting in print.”

Upcoming Meetings:

- The next committee meeting will be hosted by District 66 at 8:00 p.m. on July 30–31, 2025.
- A following meeting will be held in District 63 (date to be announced).

The committee remains committed to keeping Grapevine and La Viña alive and thriving through workshops, subscriptions, and member contributions.

Literature – Jim M., Chair**3rd Tuesday 7:30pm-8:30pm [Google Meet](#)**

The Literature Committee continues to experience strong participation and discussion in its monthly meetings, held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Information and links to join are available on the Literature Committee page of the Area 67 website.

Participation and Outreach

- District Literature Representatives are especially encouraged to attend, as participation from the districts has been limited.
- A review of the CETA district pages showed only three districts listing literature representatives. DCMs are encouraged to update district pages with accurate information.
- The committee reminded members that many service committees rely heavily on literature and invited all service committees to collaborate with Literature for support.

Conference Agenda Items

- In April, the committee reviewed and submitted feedback on two agenda items:
 1. Updating the book *Living Sober*.
 2. Expanding Article 3 of the Conference Charter regarding the founders' writings.
- The committee has been actively engaged in gathering and sharing information about the founders' writings and intends to continue that work.

Survey & Timeline

- In May, the committee conducted a Google survey on members' views regarding the timeline for reviewing Final Conference Agenda Items.

- In June, the committee formally approved a proposed agenda item (discussed earlier in this Assembly) to allow Final Conference Agenda Items to be made available earlier to the fellowship.

Upcoming Participation

- The Literature Committee will be represented at the Texas State Convention in August, with a display table. Members are invited to stop by and connect.

Multilingual – Luis P., Chair

First Wednesday 7:30pm [Map](#)

Louis, an alcoholic, reported that the committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 8:00–10:00 p.m. in District 63. The committee has a strong and supportive group of members, with many volunteers actively participating. Gratitude was expressed for the opportunity to serve, with the hope that the committee will continue to grow. The committee stands ready to help in any way it can.

Newsletter – Allise B., Chair

No standing meetings

Allise, Newsletter Chair, reported that the second quarter Newsletter and Bulletin have been released electronically and are now back from the printer. This marks the first edition to be printed in full color. Distribution will take place at the upcoming Assembly. DCMs unable to attend are asked to arrange for their alternates or another representative to pick up copies for their district.

Work is underway on the third quarter Newsletter, which will focus on General Service Conference results. Contributions related to the post-conference process, Tradition One and Two, and Concept One and Two are encouraged. A submission form will be re-sent to all members for convenience.

It was noted with gratitude that Maddie A. has returned from vacation, but with concern that Stephanie D., the bilingual alternate chair, is struggling and considering leaving A.A. Members were encouraged to reach out and help her feel welcomed and valued.

District Support & Participation:

- The committee would like to better support district Newsletter committees but lacks a mailing list.
- DCMs are encouraged to list their Newsletter representatives' email addresses on district pages or register them with the Area registrar. With that information, the Newsletter Chair can make direct contact.

Open Service Positions:

- Several open positions are listed in the Newsletter (with some differences between the English and Spanish editions).
- The committee is particularly in need of:
 - Volunteers to manage distribution (potentially split between English and Spanish districts).
 - Someone skilled at adding electronic links to the online version, as this task is time-intensive each quarter.

Other Updates:

- Suggestions for software alternatives to Canvas are welcome, as current tools remain challenging.
- The Newsletter naming contest is in its final call for entries in both English and Spanish. Links to submit entries are included in the electronic Newsletter and will also be included in this afternoon's email reminder.

Elise closed by thanking all who support the Newsletter Committee and invited greater participation so that the workload does not fall heavily on a few members.

Public Information (PI) – Vacant

4th Tuesday 7:30pm [Google Meet](#)

- No Report

- No Report

TFC – Tony A., Chair**15th of the month 7pm [Google Meet](#)**

I want to thank all the groups, districts, and Area Treatment Facility Committee members for their dedication and commitment to twelve-step service.

We're currently trying to identify all of the treatment facilities, meetings, and contact information within Area 67. As of today, we have identified 72 facilities within our Area. Eleven of these facilities currently hold AA meetings on-site or would like to begin meetings.

We need more volunteers to attend meetings, work with the treatment facilities, and assist the districts and groups in SETA. The TFC has several open positions. If you would like to get involved, you can learn more at our monthly TFC meetings, held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7 PM on Google Meet. For a link, you can visit the SETA website at www.aa-seta.org, under the 'Treatment' section.

In Love & Service,

Tony A. TFC Chair, AREA 67

Intergroup Liaison Reports

(Reports are from either the Committee Meeting (Online) or from submitted Reports)

Houston Intergroup – Bryon A., Liaison**3rd Thursdays 8pm [Map](#)**

The Houston Intergroup continues to serve as a service entity for local groups and associations of groups.

Key Highlights:

Open House & Tax-Free Day: Scheduled for August 23rd, along with additional events (details forthcoming).

Hiring a New Manager/Secretary: Intergroup is currently seeking a new Manager/Secretary.

Qualifications include: minimum 5 years continuous sobriety, proficiency with Microsoft Office and QuickBooks, strong leadership and conflict resolution skills, and the ability to stay highly organized and detail-oriented.

This is a paid, salaried position.

The employment draft has been completed.

Further details and flyers will be shared as they become available.

9th District Intergroup**3rd Thursdays of even numbered months 8pm [Map](#)**

- No Report

Oficina Intergrupul Hispana – Jose B., Alt. Chair Liaison**Saturdays 6pm [Map](#)**

Good morning. My name is José. I am an alcoholic. I hope that everyone is doing well today.

We would like to share the activities that take place as part of our service:

- District Meetings are held every Saturday from 6:00–8:00 p.m. at the Service Center. These meetings may occasionally be rescheduled when there are other activities, such as the Area Assembly, Spanish Assembly, or other official events.
- Comité del Paso Doce: Members of this committee support carrying the message through various activities and service opportunities.

The Hispanic Intergroup Office continues to serve the fellowship with multiple committees dedicated to communication, outreach, and events.

Women's Committee

- Provides 24/7 phone coverage for women seeking information about Alcoholics Anonymous.
- Volunteers connect callers with the closest group and answer questions.
- The committee meets Wednesdays from 8:00–10:00 p.m. at the Intergroup Office.

- Dedicated women's phone line: (281) 794-3294.

Public Information Committee

- Provides public information and outreach about A.A.
- Maintains a presence on Radio María every Friday from 6:00-7:00 p.m. to share A.A. information.

Newsletter and Archives Committee

- Collects information from groups and A.A. events for inclusion in the Intergroup Newsletter.
- Maintains and updates the Houston Area Group Directory.

Events and Festivities Committee

- Organizes activities to raise funds for Intergroup events.
- Currently preparing the program for the 43rd Anniversary of the Oficina Intergrupl Hispana, scheduled for August 24th.

Website and Social Media Committee

- Responsible for maintaining the Intergroup website and updating social media (WhatsApp, Messenger, Instagram, Facebook) every two weeks.
- Works in cooperation with Hispanic Intergroup of the Southwest.
- From June 27 to July 12, the platforms reached 16,820 people, generated 11,447 views, and engaged in 68 conversations with individuals seeking help.

Office Operations

- The Intergroup Office secretary is available Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- The office currently supports 34 groups, with average representation of 15-23 members per meeting.

These service efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to A.A. and to supporting both local and Area-level events.

Intergrupo Hispano del SW (D66 & 62)

(no info) [Map](#)

- No Report

Announcements Reino E.

44th Annual District 90 Convention - August 8-10 2025 - Beaumont, Texas.

78th Annual State Convention - Houston, Royal Sonesta August 15-17, 2025

TXSCYPAA - October 24-26, 2025, Marriott Hobby Airport

SW Regional Forum - November 14-16, Marriott Albuquerque, NM

63rd SETA Convention - January 23-25, 2026, Holiday Inn Beaumont

2026 SWRAASA - October 9 - 11, 2026 Hyatt Regency Baytown - Houston

Close Meeting

Responsibility Statement - I am responsible....when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help; I want the hand of A.A. to always be there and for that, I am responsible.

Adjourned @ 12:51 PM

Southeast Texas Area Assembly



3rd Quarter Area Assembly Minutes

Saturday April 5, 2025

San Jacinto College North - In person

Online via Zoom

NOTICE: Area Guidelines prohibit publishing personal email addresses or phone numbers, so email addresses have been converted to position-based email addresses.

*This we owe to A.A.'s future; to place our common welfare first to keep our Fellowship united.
For upon A.A. unity depend our lives and the lives of those to come.*

Working Together - Increasing Trust

Area Assembly Minutes

Saturday, July 26, 2025 9:00 AM

San Jacinto College North

AREA ASSEMBLY

Open Meeting @ 9:00 AM

GSR Workshop-Hybrid-English and Spanish

Open Meeting - Serenity Prayer

Patty H.

Preamble to [SETA Policies & Procedures Manual](#)

Reino F.

ROLL CALL – Area Committee Attendance

Elizabeth G.

Roster link will only work with those with a seta-aa.org email address.

PDF will be sent out quarterly

Roster contains confidential information and should not be shared outside of this committee.

Several DCM's and Alternates are shown vacant, go to the registrar table and fill out the form.

Recognize: New GSR & DCMs, past Delegates

Patty H.

Review & Approve Previous Area Assembly Minutes

Hannah S.

Minutes were approved as corrected (refer to Committee Meeting Minutes) for corrections.

Treasurer's Report Presentation and Approval

Aliciea M.

Minutes were approved as corrected (refer to Committee Meeting Minutes) for corrections.

Comments and Questions

Issue Raised: Questions were asked about whether the banking difficulties experienced with Chase were unique to this Area or also affecting other Areas. There was concern about whether this situation should be reported or shared more broadly within the service structure.

Response: It was explained that these issues are not specific to this Area. They are part of federal banking regulations—particularly "Know Your Customer" laws—that require banks to verify and monitor organizational accounts. Many organizations and businesses are being affected, not just this area.

Clarifications:

- The Area is autonomous and manages its banking according to its own needs, which may differ from other Areas.
- A member raised the point that there used to be an option for nonprofits to register as organizations rather than corporations and questioned if that had changed.
- It was noted that Area actions previously supported using a bank instead of a credit union for consistency across treasurer rotations.
- However, the current treasurer reported choosing a credit union with multiple co-op branches in Houston and across the Area, ensuring both the treasurer and alternate treasurer could conveniently make deposits.

SETA Convention Review Ad Hoc

Danny G.

Refer to Committee Meetings Minutes for Report

No Comments

Refer to Committee Meetings Minutes for Report

Questions and Comments

- Professional Support Idea: A suggestion was raised about the possibility of engaging a professional meeting planner to help with identifying answers and solutions regarding assemblies and conventions. While potentially expensive, it was noted this might bring clarity and efficiency.
- Workshops at Conventions: Another member suggested incorporating workshops into the Area convention as a way to broaden participation and get more people involved beyond the small percentage who usually engage. Some districts are already experimenting with short workshops, and volunteers expressed willingness to help present at district meetings.
- Finances: It was highlighted that while financial prudence is important, the Area currently holds \$65,000 in unrestricted funds. Since these funds do not have a designated purpose, it was emphasized that spending them to carry the A.A. message is both appropriate and necessary.
- Ad Hoc Committee Formation: An ad hoc committee has been officially formed to review possible new locations for assemblies. This committee will be chaired by an individual who previously participated in researching new venues, bringing relevant experience. The committee will begin its work and present options for consideration at the October Assembly.

Roll-Call for VOTING

Elizabeth G.

82 voting members (75 in person and 7 online)

New Business

New Positions

Public Information Chair

During the discussion, a past Public Information (P.I.) Chair asked where inquiries for speaking engagements were currently being directed, since the P.I. email accounts may not be monitored. It was clarified that no one seems to be actively checking those emails.

Although the past Chair did not want to stand for the position again, they volunteered to at least receive the emails to prevent missed opportunities. Leadership expressed appreciation and suggested coordinating with the Webmaster to ensure the messages are forwarded. They also encouraged groups to consider members who might be willing to take on the open P.I. Chair role.

9th District Intergroup Liaison

Darlene S. - submitted intent to stand via email, citing prior service experience as group chair (3x), intergroup representative, group secretary, District 90 convention committee member, and area convention registration.

- The candidate requested to stand via Zoom due to illness.
- Question from the floor: *Can someone be elected without being present?*
 - Answer: Yes, Per the Policy & Procedure Manual, page 11, members may stand by attending in person, via Zoom, or by submitting written/email intent. Nominations may also come from the floor.
- The assembly confirmed the candidate's eligibility.
- Vote: Taken by show of hands. No opposition was noted.

Result: Candidate elected as Ninth District Intergroup Liaison..

1 - PAI – Initiate study to identify less costly locations for the GSC

Rick M.

Proposal:

- Initiate a study (using an outside firm) to identify less costly locations for the General Service Conference.
- Concern: Conference costs are rising steeply. Estimated per-area cost:
 - 74th Conference: \$9,250
 - 75th Conference: \$10,250 (estimate, likely higher)

- Projection: Could exceed \$17,000 per area by the 80th Conference.
- Main drivers: high NYC airfare, hotels (\$350/night), and transport costs.
- Alternative: Comparable facilities near major airport hubs at far lower costs (example: Sheraton at \$90/night).

Discussion Points:

- Support voiced that AA could save significant funds and avoid "we've always done it this way" thinking.
- Suggestion: Use local printing instead of shipping equipment to reduce costs.
- Clarification: Per-area costs multiplied across 93 areas = approx. \$830,000 per conference.
- Concern raised about staff logistics—currently lodged at conference hotels; commuting would be burdensome if held elsewhere.
- Responsibility for logistics would remain with GSO conference staff.
- Note: Hotels are already booked in New York through 2029; earliest possible implementation would be 2030.

Vote Outcome:

- Online and in-person votes combined: 64 in favor, none opposed.
- Result: Area supports forwarding the PAI.

2 - PAI - General Service Board conducts an inventory every three years.

Rick M.

Proposal:

- Require the GSB to conduct a fearless and thorough inventory every 3 years.
- Led by an experienced AA member facilitator (not a trustee, corporate director, or GSO staff).
- Results with action items to be reported at the following General Service Conference.

Rationale:

- Events in January 2023 (Board Chair's resignation) created distrust, lack of transparency, and disunity.
- Previous inventory (requested at the 73rd Conference) produced action items, but reporting back has been inconsistent (only a Compliance Committee and Code of Conduct noted).
- Regular inventories would promote accountability, transparency, and trust.
- A 3-year cycle ensures most trustees (4-year terms) would experience one inventory during service.

Discussion Highlights:

- Support: Seen as a way to strengthen trust and apply AA principles of self-inventory at the highest level.
- Concerns raised:
 - Should corporate boards also be included? (risk of giving them an "out" if excluded).
 - Frequency: 3 years may be too often, creating constant "audit mode" and overloading trustees.
 - Whether results must be reported vs. simply acted upon.
 - The vetting process for the facilitator—must be rooted in AA principles.
- Debate over whether inventories should be self-motivated (like groups) versus imposed.

Vote Outcome:

- For: 55
- Against: 18
- Minority opinion shared: include corporate boards, review facilitator vetting, reconsider frequency.
- Some members changed votes after minority opinion, but discussion clarified this was a sense of the area, not binding policy.

Result:

- Area supports forwarding the PAI with substantial unanimity , though concerns remain about scope (corporate boards) and frequency.

3 - PAI- Provide Final General Service Conference Agenda items with background material available to the entire Fellowship by no later than February 1st **Jim M.**

Proposal:

- Require that final conference agenda items and background materials be made available to the entire fellowship no later than February 1st each year.

Rationale:

- The current timeline gives trustees committees 14-20 weeks to prepare, but groups, districts, and areas only about six weeks to review and discuss materials.
- Moving the release up would increase time for discussion by about 30%, leading to a more informed group conscience.
- Grounded in Tradition Two (ultimate authority in group conscience) and Concept One (final responsibility resides in the collective fellowship).
- Previously submitted (last year) but not placed on the final agenda.

Supportive Points:

- Provides more time for groups and service bodies to carefully review lengthy background material.
- Strengthens communication between fellowship members and trusted servants (GSRs, DCMs, Delegates).

Concerns Raised (Minority Opinion):

- The change may shift workload pressure from areas to trustees/staff, without solving the underlying issue.
- Suggested alternative: move to a biennial (every-other-year) cycle, which would give all levels of service much more time to review and consider items in depth.

Vote Outcome (Sense of the Area):

- For: 56
- Against: 3
- Minority opinion shared but no vote changed.
- Overall, the assembly supports forwarding the PAI with a super majority.

4 - Multilingual Committee requested funds of \$915 for purchase of new equipment. Luis P.

Proposal:

- Provide \$915 in funding for the purchase of a new dedicated phone to support translation services.

Background:

- Currently, the Multilingual Chair has been using a personal phone for live translation during assemblies.
- This creates issues (missed personal calls, difficulty multitasking, not self-supporting).
- The requested funding covers the initial phone cost and first year of service.
- Ongoing cost after year one would be about \$65/month (\$780 annually).

Discussion:

- Clarified that the phone will support both English-to-Spanish and Spanish-to-English translation.
- Members asked about warranty coverage; the committee is checking on that.
- Support expressed that AA should not rely on personal equipment for essential services.
- Responsibility for the phone will rest with the Multilingual Chair.

Vote Outcome:

- In favor: 73 (28 in-person, 13 online, plus additional counted)
- Opposed: 0
- Result: Motion passed unanimously.

5 - Revision of Newsletter guidelines

Allise B.

Proposal:

- Adopt a consolidated set of guidelines for the area newsletter, replacing all prior actions.

Key Points of Guidelines:

- Distribution:
 - Email to SETA accounts.
 - Posted on the area website (homepage temporarily, permanently on the newsletter page).
 - Printed copies (budgeted for 250 English and 100 Spanish) distributed through the Area Committee and DCMs.
- Anonymity & Contact Information:
 - Use position-based email addresses where possible.
 - First name + last initial allowed.
 - No last names.
 - Phone numbers permitted after friendly amendment (initial draft excluded them).
- Content:
 - Service-related material relevant to SETA..
 - May include credited pieces from reputable AA sources.
 - Uncredited material is from the newsletter committee.
 - Excerpts from AA Conference-approved literature and Grapevine with permission.
 - The editor reserves the right to edit or decline non-service-related or inappropriate content.
- Format:
 - Page limit dictated by budget.
 - Excess material may appear in future issues or digital supplements.

Discussion:

- The main debate centered on whether phone numbers should be allowed.
- Friendly amendment accepted to allow phone numbers but continue protecting anonymity by avoiding last names.
- Clarification from IT/webmaster: last names remain disallowed, but phone numbers are permitted in practice.

Vote Outcome:

- In favor: 71
- Opposed: 1
- Result: Motion passed (71-1).

Purpose:

- The ad hoc inventory committee began its process to evaluate the purpose and direction of the SETA convention.

Process:

- Led by Troy, with committee members Maddie, Byron, Harold, and Patty.
- Groups were formed for discussion:
 - Spanish-speaking members placed together as one group with a note-taker.
 - Online participants were also treated as a group; asked to take notes in the chat and send them in.
 - Remaining attendees divided into 10 groups (by counting off 1-10).

First Task:

- Each group was asked to discuss the first question:
 - *"What is the purpose of the SETA convention?"*
- Groups had 20 minutes to discuss and record their thoughts.
- Everyone was instructed to return and share responses by 3:10 p.m.

Notes:

- Spanish-speaking participants were given special coordination for accessibility.
- Group materials (folders, notebooks) were distributed to facilitate note-taking.
- This session was framed as the starting point for defining the role and goals of the SETA convention.

Step 1 – Defining Purpose

- Groups reported back on their discussion of the *purpose of the SETA convention*.
- Common themes included:
 - Unity and fellowship
 - Carrying the message and supporting newcomers
 - Promoting service and educating members about service opportunities
 - Fun and camaraderie in sobriety
 - Showcasing SETA and connecting groups/districts
 - Sharing experience, strength, and hope
 - Celebrating recovery through meetings, workshops, and traditions.

Step 2 – Question: Continue Supporting the Convention?

- The body debated whether to continue supporting the SETA convention, especially given recent financial losses.
- Arguments in favor:
 - Conventions are vital for unity, service, and carrying the message.
 - Past losses don't mean the event should end; adjustments and inventory work are underway.
 - Conventions often serve as members' first introduction to service.
 - With better guidelines and accountability, the event can be financially sustainable.
- Concerns raised (minority opinion):
 - Reliance on Moody Gardens as a venue may no longer be viable.
 - Overlap with district and state conventions could dilute purpose and participation.
 - Financial sustainability remains questionable without major adjustments.

Vote Outcome:

- Yes, continue supporting the convention: 60 votes
- No, discontinue: 4 votes
- Minority opinion was shared, but a motion to reconsider failed.
- Decision stands: The Assembly will continue to support the SETA convention.

Step 3 – Next Phase

- Groups were asked to reconvene to provide:
 - Additional Considerations – recommendations for the ad hoc committee to review.
 - Advisory Actions – items that should move into policy and procedure.
 - No Action – if no further input.
- Reports from this phase will be compiled into the ad hoc committee's October report, leading to a formal purpose statement and recommendations for Assembly approval.

Advisory Actions Reported by Groups

1. Form an advisory council to work with the current chair and committee, using a mandatory checklist and monthly meetings.
2. Eliminate coffee service at conventions; strictly adhere to budget limits.
3. Form a location committee tasked with securing affordable venues.
4. Revise and enforce convention guidelines – move from suggestions to rules.
5. Create an advisory committee (past chairs and past committee members) to update convention guidelines in the P&P.
6. Reduce costs by:
 - Using more local speakers.
 - Booking less expensive venues.
 - Considering shorter conventions (e.g., two days).
 - Limiting to one hospitality suite for unity.
7. Require incoming chair interviews on guidelines and budget; advisory committee should shadow them, with at least two past chairs included.
8. Select hotels through open bidding rather than rotating venues.
9. All committee members must understand P&P for the convention.
10. Hold the convention every other year in one central location.
11. Restrict coffee service to hospitality suites only (no hotel-supplied coffee).
12. Finance committee oversight of the convention committee's proposed spending.
13. Stronger supervision and training – incoming committees must consult with past committees on budget and operations.
14. Finance committee approval required for exceptions outside guidelines.
15. P&P revisions:
 - Move convention procedures into the Policies & Procedures Manual.
 - Require multi-year commitment for advisory committee chair or treasurer roles.

Other Key Points

- About 15 advisory actions were generated; the ad hoc committee will consolidate them into a report for the October Assembly, including a purpose statement for the convention.
- Strong emphasis was placed on financial accountability, guideline enforcement, and venue cost management.
- Several groups suggested shorter, more affordable conventions with stronger service focus.
- Closing remarks noted that the 2027 convention chair would have more supervision than ever before.

Additional Business

- A concern was raised that Area 67 lacks proper IRS/state documentation proving its 501(c)(3) nonprofit status.
- Recommendation: form an ad hoc committee to reconstruct and resubmit necessary documents to the IRS and State of Texas to ensure compliance for hotels, banks, and future regulatory needs.

- Alicia and Kevin were identified as key members to assist with this process, with updates expected by the October Assembly.

Delegate Reports

Delegate's Report Christian S.

General Service Conference Report

The delegate from Southeast Texas provided a detailed report on their experience at the 75th General Service Conference in Manhattan, themed *"Working Together, Increasing Trust."*

Conference Structure:

- The conference resembles an area assembly, but with 137 members and three microphones on the floor for faster participation.
- Members were given two minutes to speak, later reduced to one minute as time ran short.

Highlights:

- Buddy System: New delegates are paired with veterans to help them adjust and navigate the process.
- Regional Ties: Delegates across the region formed strong connections during COVID and continue to support one another closely.
- Demographics: The average delegate is 58 years old, with 22 years sobriety and 17 years service experience.

Conference Operations Document:

- A controversial update suggested that co-chairs could refuse to hear a floor action. After pushback, that language was removed.
- Delegates debated at length, ultimately adopting the document on a trial basis, ensuring that all voices could be heard.

Conference Inventory:

Recurring themes included:

- Trustees are overworked (150+ meeting hours annually).
- Social media spreads misinformation, causing disunity.
- Past delegates can be valuable elder statesmen but sometimes overstep.
- Delegates must arrive well-prepared.
- Many members feel proposed agenda items are not making the final agenda.
- A strong need for better, faster communication to groups.

Finance & Self-Support:

- 2024 member and group contributions totaled \$11.2 million, covering 60% of expenses.
- Literature sales covered the other 40%.
- If every AA member gave \$6.48 annually, the fellowship would be fully self-supporting.
- Current Prudent Reserve equals 6.5 months of expenses (historically 9-12 months).

Budget Updates:

- 2025 operating revenue projected at \$20.5 million, expenses \$19.4 million, with \$2 million allocated to retrofit office space to consolidate staff.

Grapevine & La Viña:

- Grapevine subscriptions rose 25% digitally but still showed an \$851k operating loss.
- La Viña circulation grew 17%, supported by \$571k in contributions.
- New policy ensures La Viña reps will not be automatically charged for multiple subscriptions when using their credit card for others.

Literature & Motions:

- Living Sober will be updated, with progress expected by next year.
- Service Manual will remove language allowing groups to decline GSR reports (though groups retain that right).
- Motion for a 12x12x12 book failed.
- The word "woman" was removed from Concept IV essay to make it gender-neutral.
- Review of Plain Language Big Book feedback deferred until the 77th GSC (2027).
- Founders' writings remain under review—committees will clarify definitions before deciding protections.

Censure Discussions:

- Multiple PAIs regarding censure of the General Service Board resurfaced. A policy was drafted but no action taken.
- Floor action to censure failed. Concerns included possible harm to trustees' professional reputations and the fact that many implicated members have rotated off.
- The board has since established a compliance committee and a code of conduct addressing harassment, bullying, and discrimination.

Closing Reflection:

The delegate emphasized the importance of supporting group conscience, maintaining unity, and treating trusted servants with respect. Continued hostility risks discouraging qualified members from serving in leadership.

Questions and Comments

La Viña/Grapevine Subscription Issues

- A member shared that representatives were repeatedly charged when using their own cards to purchase subscriptions for others and also received large volumes of renewal letters (e.g., ~200 envelopes).
- It was reported that Grapevine/La Viña are aware: when a credit card is used multiple times for different subscribers, auto-renew should no longer charge the rep's card. Feedback was noted to also reduce duplicate postal mailings and direct renewal notices to the actual subscriber, not the paying rep.

Founders' Writings – Scope & Policy Concerns

- Members asked whether literature changes should be paused while the fellowship clarifies what "founders' writings" means.
- Concerns included: multiple historical versions of certain Bill W. writings across sources; and the risk that defining "everything before 1971" could effectively include the Concepts, which have deliberately not been "chiseled in stone" to allow flexibility worldwide.
- The delegate noted no formal pause was discussed; committees are gathering definitions and classifications (recovery/service/archival) for review at a future Conference.

Self-Support Number (\$6.48)

- The figure for full self-support (≈ \$6.48 per member per year) is a best estimate based on surveys and approximations of membership; AA has no precise headcount.

Access to Materials

- The delegate's full report, the financial "picnic table" report, and a spreadsheet of agenda items and outcomes are available on the Area website (delegate's page).

GSO Office Retrofit – Cost/Size

- A follow-up was requested on square footage and cost details for the 11th-floor consolidation; the delegate will provide the figures once retrieved.

Censure vs. Power of the Purse

- A member reflected on Concept X and governance tools:
 - Censure carries legal/ reputational risks for trustees and for AA as a corporate entity; both the fellowship and trustees should weigh those risks.
 - The power of the purse is another lever but must be balanced with AA's aim to be self-supporting while living within means if contributions/literature sales fall short.
- Question raised about how censure actions at the Conference level may cascade perceptions of "oversight" into Areas/Districts.

Grapevine/La Viña Viability & App Experience

- Concern voiced that Grapevine's financial targets keep shifting while deficits persist—asking whether the fellowship is signaling reduced demand.
- The delegate noted Grapevine is now multimedia (magazine, app, podcast) but the app experience is clunky (navigation, search, notifications). Improvements require funding vs. subscription growth, creating a catch-22.
- The Grapevine treasurer requested specific UX suggestions; user interviews are planned to guide upgrades.

Plain-Language Big Book

- First printing included errors not aligned with Conference direction; a corrected second printing has been released.
- Further substantive changes will not occur until after the 77th GSC (2027), when compiled PAIs are reviewed.

Alternate Delegate's Report

Bella L.

- The Southwest Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (SWRAASA) will be hosted by Area 67 from October 9–11, 2026, in Baytown, Texas.
- Location: Hyatt Regency Baytown, 100 Convention Center Way.
- Theme: *"A Society of Recovered Alcoholics in Action."*
- This is a regional event held every two years; Area 67 only hosts once every 22 years, making this an honor for our area.
- The website www.swraasa2026.org is active and being updated. Recent banking issues have been resolved.
 - Contributors should note in the payment box whether their contribution is for the Area or for SWRAASA.
- Registration: Forms are available today; members may register directly with the Registration Chair.
- The planning committee meets on the first Monday of each month. Those interested in joining may request the meeting link by email.

- Gratitude was expressed to the Area Delegate and to all the districts for their continued support and participation.

2026 SETA Convention Update

Malana Q. (Made by Annette @ Assembly)

Chair – Malana Q (malana.q@aa-seta.org), Co-Chair – Sommer S (sommer.s@aa-seta.org)

Dates: January 23-25, 2025

Location: Holiday Inn & Suites Beaumont Plaza, 3950 I-10 South, Beaumont, TX, 77705

Theme: "The Broad Highway"

Updates:

- the committee has been meeting monthly at Holiday Inn/Zoom
- much progress has been made in planning
- all speakers have been selected
- committee and subcommittee discussed at length which software to use for credit card processing and registration since this cost can be significant. It was decided to use the square store and link this to the website for registration, coffee, scholarships, and contributions. The square store has been created and linked to the website which has been set up and is active for registrations. Please check out the flyer and distribute it to your home groups. QR codes are active for hotel booking and convention registration. Final date for booking in room block: Monday, December 29, 2025
- It was discovered that we are unable to assign the fee for using square to pay for registration to the purchaser as previously thought. The fees are 2.9% plus \$0.30 per transaction. The committee is discussing ways to offset this cost at their meeting on July 26th. Ideas include selling one optional ticket to registrants for door prizes (not a raffle). ***At this time we encourage as many people as possible to register by mail to reduce fees associated with electronic payment processing. Please see the flyer for information on how to register by mail and who to make checks payable to.
- the seta convention website/domain through GoDaddy had to be renewed which was done by Debi F. and the cost fell to the 2026 convention – this is not written in the guidelines so we were unaware of the cost and it was not included in the budget, please consider adding this to the guidelines moving forward.
- The biggest concern/struggle for the committee has been having bank accounts turned over from previous convention. This process was not completed until June 2026, we do hope that it can be more streamlined for future conventions.
- Overall much progress has been made in registration, hotel booking, programming, hospitality, and planning for a successful and fun convention. Our main objective is to offer a great experience for attendees while facilitating the work of the area assembly and being good stewards of the budget. Please plan to attend "The Broad Highway" 2026 SETA Convention and Assembly in January 2026!!

2027 SETA Convention Update

Keith M.

- No Report

2025 Texas State Convention

Melissa R.

The chair of the 2025 Texas State Convention gave an update. The convention will be held at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Houston, beginning three weeks from today. Registration has seen a significant increase in the last four weeks, likely due to the conclusion of the International Convention.

Hotel & Registration:

- The hotel contract has been extended through Friday, August 1st at a rate of \$149 per night.
- There have been ongoing issues with the 800 reservation line and the online booking link. Members experiencing problems are asked to email the convention at houstontexasstateconvention@gmail.com so that registration can be handled directly with the hotel liaison.

- The room block is currently full, but additional rooms have been added. The convention is now expected to take over the hotel.

Volunteers Needed:

- Volunteers are still needed in several areas:
 - Hospitality (English speakers)
 - Greeters (bilingual preferred)
 - Registration (bilingual preferred)
- Members can sign up through the convention website's contact page, which is actively monitored.

Reminders:

- Preregistration is strongly encouraged.
- A registration table is also available at the back of the Assembly for those who have not yet signed up.

Announcements

Reino F. - Alt Chair

44th Annual District 90 Convention - August 8-10 2025 - Beaumont, Texas.

78th Annual State Convention - Houston, Royal Sonesta August 15-17, 2025

TXSCYPAA - October 24-26, 2025, Marriott Hobby Airport

SW Regional Forum - November 14-16, Marriott Albuquerque, NM

63rd SETA Convention - January 23-25, 2026, Holiday Inn Beaumont

2026 SWRAASA - October 9 - 11, 2026 Hyatt Regency Baytown - Houston

Close Meeting

Responsibility Statement - I am responsible....when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help; I want the hand of A.A. to always be there and for that, I am responsible.

Adjourned @ 4:30 PM

Area Assembly Roll Call

Position	Name	Committee July 19th	Assembly July 26th
Area Officers			
Delegate	Christina S.	Present	Present
Alternate Delegate	Bella L.	Present	Present
Chairperson	Patricia H.	Present	Present
Alternate Chairperson	Reino F.	Present	Present
Registrar	Elizabeth G.	Present	Present
Alternate Registrar	Edwin C.	Present	Not Present
Secretary	Fernando B.	Present	Not Present
Alternate Secretary	Hannah S.	Not Present	Present
Treasurer	Aliciea M.	Present	Present
Alternate Treasurer	Brandi W.	Not Present	Present
Standing Committee Chairpersons			
Archives	Joel G.	Not Present	Present
Alternate Archives	Roland	Not Present	Present
CPC	Don M.	Present	Present
Alternate CPC	Octavia D.	Not Present	Not Present
CFC	Harold B.	Present	Present
Alternate CFC	Sarah E.	Present	Not Present
Finance	Kevin W.	Present	Present
Alternate Finance	Debi F.	Not Present	Not Present
Grapevine	Terry P.	Not Present	Present
Alternate Grapevine	Marcus S.	Not Present	Not Present
IT	Brad H.	Present	Present
Alternate IT			
La Vina	Elias L.	Present	Present
Alternate La Vina			
Literature	Jim M.	Present	Present
Alternate Literature	Carol F.	Not Present	Not Present
Multi-Lingual	Luis P.	Present	Present
Alternate Multi-Lingual			
Newsletter	Allise B.	Present	Present
Alternate Newsletter	Stephanie D.	Not Present	Not Present
Public Information (PI)			
Alternate PI			
SCAP	Charlie W.	Present	Present

Alternate SCAP			
TFC	Tony A.	Present	Present
Alternate TFC			
Convention Chairs			
2026 SETA Convention Chair	Malana Q.	Not Present	Not Present
2026 SETA Convention Co-Chair	Sommer S.	Not Present	Not Present
2027 SETA Convention Chair	Keith M.	Not Present	Not Present
2027 SETA Convention Co-Chair			
2025 State Convention Chair	Melissa R.	Present	Present
2025 State Convention Co-Chair	Troy B-D.	Present	Present
Intergroup Liaisons			
Houston Intergroup	Bryon A.	Present	Present
Ninth District Intergroup	Darlene S.	Not Present	Present
Ninth District Intergroup Alternate			
Oficina Intergruppal Hispana D63, 64, 65	Jose B.	Present	Present
Oficina Intergruppal Hispana Alt D63, 64, 65			
Intergrupo Hispano del SW (D 62, 66)	Martin M.	Not Present	Present
Intergrupo Hispano del SW Alt (D 62, 66)	Pedro H.	Not Present	Not Present
DCMs			
District 10 DCM			
District 10 Alt DCM			
District 20 DCM	Linda G.	Not Present	Not Present
District 20 Alt DCM	Jim W.	Not Present	Not Present
District 31 DCM	Jennifer C.	Present	Present
District 31 Alt DCM	Taylor C.	Not Present	Not Present
District 32 DCM	Mark E.	Not Present	Present
District 32 Alt DCM	Ivy L.	Not Present	Present
District 33 DCM	Cody R.	Present	Present
District 33 Alt DCM	Elijah K.	Not Present	Present
District 40 DCM	Mike B.	Present	Present
District 40 Alt DCM	Juan C.	Present	Present
District 51 DCM	Kelvin S.	Not Present	Present
District 51 Alt DCM	David L.	Not Present	Not Present
District 52 DCM	Donna G.	Present	Present
District 52 Alt DCM	Jim C.	Not Present	Not Present
District 60 DCM	Eric V.	Not Present	Not Present
District 60 Alt DCM	Jeff B.	Not Present	Present
District 62 DCM			

District 62 Alt DCM			
District 63 DCM	Antonio M.	Present	Not Present
District 63 Alt DCM	Lorenzo G.	Not Present	Present
District 64 DCM	Jose M.	Present	Present
District 64 Alt DCM	Arturo G.	Not Present	Present
District 65 DCM	Cristian S.	Not Present	Present
District 65 Alt DCM			
District 66 DCM	Ramses G.	Present	Present
District 66 Alt DCM	Luis D.	Present	Present
District 70 DCM	Sara B.	Not Present	Present
District 70 Alt DCM	Victor T.	Not Present	Present
District 81 DCM	Danny G.	Present	Present
District 81 Alt DCM	Andrea W.	Present	Not Present
District 82 DCM	Jennifer W.	Present	Present
District 82 Alt DCM	Libby T.	Not Present	Not Present
District 90 DCM	David S.	Present	Present
District 90 Alt DCM	Anette C.	Present	Not Present
Other			
Archivist	Julian L.	Not Present	Present
Webmaster	Cheryl M.	Present	Present
Alt Webmaster			