

Minutes
Alcoholics Anonymous
North West Texas Area 66

Summer Assembly – June 6th & 7th, 2009
Andrews Business & Technology Center, 201 NW AVE. D
Andrews, Texas

Visit www.NWTA66.org for Assembly Schedule, AA Meeting Schedules, Northwest Texas Area 66 News, and more...

Saturday June 6th, 2009

Saturday Morning:

A GSR Orientation was held.

A DCM committee meeting was held.

Assembly

Area Chairman, Tim B. opened the meeting. Tim thanked District XIII for hosting.

The new GSR's and new members to the area assembly were introduced.

The chair reviewed the agenda for the weekend.

Treasurer's Report – Cecil W.

The treasurer's report was tabled to correct a discrepancy in one of the two places the beginning balances were shown. The treasurer's report was corrected and approved Sunday June 7th, 2009, with the following balances.

Cecil W. reported a Beginning Balance of \$10744.61, Prudent Reserve of \$3842.00, and Available Funds of \$6902.61. As of May 31, 2009 there is an Ending Balance of \$11,178.77, a Prudent Reserve of \$3842.00, and Available Funds equaling \$7336.77.

Set aside funds being held are: Newsletter Fund/\$451.72 and Correctional Facilities Literature Fund/\$190.25.

Secretary Report – Roger S.

The minutes of the last meeting's New Business and Old Business were read. The minutes were approved with corrections:

1. To correct Martin N. name
2. To include John M. name on the Ad-Hoc Committee for Guidelines changes.

Alternate Delegate Report – Kenny L.

Kenny attended the Southwest Regional Delegates Assembly in Oklahoma City, Ok on March 13-15, 2009. Presentations were given there from Past Delegates and he met the incoming Panel 59 Delegates and Alternates. On Saturday he participated in mock committee meetings which help the Delegates prepare for their trip to the General Service Conference.

Kenny heard Leon Roberts, NWT A 66 Delegate Panel 58, give the Delegate's Report on the 59th General Service Conference. The report was given in Hereford, Texas, District 3 on May 31, 2009.

Kenny reminded all of the upcoming 2009 Southwest Regional Forum, on October 9, 10 11, 2009, in Irving, Texas. This Forum is put on by the General Service Board and designed to enhance communication and participation among AA members, the General Service Board, and staff and directors from the General Service Office and the AA Grapevine.

Delegate Report - Leon R. NWT A 66 Delegate Panel 58

Leon attended the General Service Conference, April 25th to May 2nd, 2009. The theme was "Enthusiasm and Gratitude in Actions". The conference was made up of 131 voting members, 93 delegates which comprises 71%, 24 Trustees, AAWS directors and GV directors, comprising 18.3% and 14 GSO and GV Staff making up the remaining 10.7%. "Every Conference member has not only a vote but a voice; not only a right but a responsibility to express his or her views."

Leon was the Chairperson for the Literature Committee and the work on that committee started early and ended as late as 12:30 AM, to work on the agenda items.

Leon reported the day by day operations, the presentations, sharing sessions by the GSB, AAWS and GV board and Trustees Finance reports.

Tuesday concluded with a trip and tour of GSO followed by our second Delegates only meeting and dinner where we selected our 2010 Delegate chair, Lowell and Alternate Chair, Betsy G. from our Southeast Area in Texas.

There was a workshop attended – "Language of the Heart-Keeping it Simple".

At the second Southwest Regional Luncheon, candidate Clayton V. Panel 49 from Missouri, was voted and approved to be the Regional Trustee at Large, US.

Leon reported:

[1]

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July 16th, 2009 Web Version

"Third legacy elections were held for the Southeast Regional Trustee, the East Central Regional Trustee and the Trustee at Large, US. Wednesday at 7:30PM we met back at the GSC floor to start work on our Committee Agenda which had 3, Report and charter with 6 and CFC with 2. We finished the night at 10PM."

"Thursday started a 9 AM by finishing tabled items for CFC and Report and Charter. Next we went to my literature committee report where we discussed and voted for six hours on my committee alone. Out of the recommendation from my committee 5 of them passed. PI had 7 pass. In between Committee Reports we had presentations on 'Spiritual Program in Actions' and the 2010 International Convention. We worked on the PI, CPC and Treatment committee reports until 11 PM."

"Friday morning started at 8 AM with a presentation on the 20th AA World Service Meeting, followed by a very very long day of committee reports with the committees having the following number of advisory actions. CPC-1, TF-2, Policy and Admissions-7, Archives-None, Trustees-5, Finance-2, Grapevine-None, International Convention-2, and eight floor actions. The night ended at 2:30 AM. We concluded the Friday night (Saturday Morning) session with the Serenity Prayer in three languages, French, Spanish and English."

"Saturday morning started at 7:30 with closing talks by our Rotating Trustees, Two Class A's including Leonard, our Chairman of the Board, two General Service Trustees, Two regional Trustees and Dorothy W., the Trustee at Large, US."

The full Delegate's report is posted at www.NWTA66.org

Old Business

New Business

1. Officers mailing out documents, agenda, etc.

Discussion included the fact the minutes are not being mailed out and that we either mail them out or change the guidelines. (Section D. OFFICERS 2. Duties of the officers: c. the duties of the secretary.)

Also that the Assembly serves the groups and that it is desired that the groups be served with a mail out of the minutes and the agenda. Support was emphasized that the group GSRs need a mailed out hard copy of the minutes and the agenda. Some GSRs expressed that the mail outs make the group feel to be a part of.

It was understood that the Alternate Chair will keep up to date the mailing list for Area and groups and provide the mailing labels to the secretary and that the minutes be mailed out.

2. To confirm John M. for another term (6 years, 2009-2015) as the Archive Chair.

John M. explained the history of the term as Archive Chair. And that he is willing to continue for another term.

There was no disapproval to the Chair recommendation of John M. as the Archive Chair for another term. (2009-2015) John Miller will be the Archive Chair for another term.

3. New Chair Persons.

The current vacancies are: Grapevine, Treatment Facilities.

Tim Bryson, Area chair stated that he has continued to try to find people to fill these vacancies, but has not able to. Tim Bryson asked if anyone in the Assembly is interested in filling those vacancies. One interest was shown and will be talking with the Area Chair about that.

4. Approve Expense for Conley B. to Attend the 4th Quarter Assembly.

The travel expense would be approximately \$300.00 plus room expense. Total expense estimated: \$500.00. The chair had looked at expenses for others to come and Conley's expenses would be most reasonable.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Conley's expense to the 4th Quarter assembly. During discussion, Denise Bridgman, offered to donate a room in San Angelo for Conley Byrd. during his stay for the Assembly. That was accepted. Discussion included Conley's contribution. Conley B. is the Southwest Regional Trustee and would facilitate the Area 66 Third Legacy elections process at the 4th quarter Assembly. (November 14th and 15th in San Angelo-elections on the 15th)

The motion passed.

Area Inventory Report – Bruce C. LCM District III

Bruce addressed Question 1, 2 and 3 of the most recent Area Inventory.

Question 1

On page 64 of the Big Book, it talks about a fact-finding and fact facing process...an effort to discover the truth. From what you have read, do you believe that we are on the right track? In other words, have we begun to find truths about our area and do we seem willing to face these truths and do something about them?

The consensus of the responders has been that there hasn't been a lot of accountability from our officers and committee chairs. The only update from the last assembly that anyone is aware of is the newsletter. There needs to be more accountability and the officers and chairpersons need to communicate more with the GSRs and DCMs. Maybe we should not be paying expenses when committee chairs or officers are not fulfilling their duties. The key is action.

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Question 2

There are several suggestions, made by the members who participated and are a part of the results. Do you believe it is necessary to address each question with a committee and make further suggestions or just ask the area officers and chairpersons to begin implementing the ideas that have been suggested and emphasize to the next committee that it is important to continue implementing these ideas?

The overwhelming response to this question was that the members, officers and chairpersons were there and have seen the results of the inventory. Implementing the suggestions made by the area should be the responsibility of the person to whom the suggestion was intended. Traditions one and two address whether or not a suggestion should be implemented and the concepts give the responsibility and authority to carry those out. Also a list could be made to pass along to the next committee.

Question 3

Finally, on page 118 of the Big Book there are four watch words—patience, tolerance, understanding, and love. Then on page 127, it talks about how our periods of crankiness, depression or apathy will disappear when there is tolerance, love, and spiritual understanding. In your experience, how important is it that we practice these principals when dealing with our GSRs, DCMs, area chair people, and area officers. If it's important, then what can we do as an area to stress this? We seem to be perfectly able to practice these principles when dealing with a newcomer, but what about with everyone else?

Responses varied but solution seemed common. Personal responsibility is critical. Take service positions seriously. The Traditions and Concepts should be learned and followed to serve at the best of one's ability. We must follow these principles in all our affairs and service work is one of our affairs.

Committee Reports

Area Registrar- No Report

Bi-Lingual – No Report

Finance – No Report

Grapevine/La-Vina – Vacant

Treatment Facilities – Vacant

Area Registrar- No Report

Website- Allen M.

New site will be up by the end of the day Monday.

More group information is being collected from the groups that have not provided meeting information.

Some have had problems accessing The Forms section of the website, and the "contact" section has been going other persons than the Website Chair.

Archives-John M.

Arthur S. NETA 65 Historian will be presenting at the Area 66 Mini-Forum in Lubbock, Texas, August 8th, 2009.

Presentation will be on the History of Service related things as GSRs, DCMs etc.

Archives presented "AA Myths" for Big Bend group in Alpine.

Visited and also presented this at the Concho Valley Conference and thanked them for covering fuel expense and for making a generous donation to the Archives Fund.

Attended and presented on the beginnings of AA at the Gathering of Eagles (DFW) The estate of Searcy W. has donated a large part of their excess holdings to NWT66 Archives and will be donating more next year.

The Archives Chair is participating in a project outlining AA's beginnings in Texas.

Archives reported total contributions of \$252.00 for period from March 6, 2009 through June 4, 2009. Total expenses for the period were \$303.00 and leaving a balance of \$2,233.56.

Upcoming events include the Texas State Convention, Caprock Convention, Area Min-Forum, Founder's Day, National Archives Workshop, and the Southwest Regional Forum.

Anniversary Grapevines are available to match sobriety month.

Correctional Facilities – Jose D.

Jose recognized District I and District III for their active participation in correctional meetings work. Many of the participators do not attend Area assembly but recognized their efforts, going into all the prisons in their districts. District IV is attending meetings at the Mogford prison and the county jail.

District VII attends meetings at institutions. CFC is about youth detentions centers and a wide range of facilities besides jails. Progress is being made in attending more of these. Ft Stockton contacted GSO about getting some books to get their meetings started. Plainview has been asking for meetings and literature.

Jose discussed things about AA and "singleness of purpose" education to the inmates.

District IX is at the Assembly and is going into the prisons in Colorado City, Texas.

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Jose asked for continued support for the books to go into prisons.

Literature- Jerry T.

An approved Literature display is up at the Assembly. Literature prices will be going up in July 2009.

Newsletter – Ramona S.

Started mailing out hard copies to those that have requested a copy.

Newsletter was done in Spanish as well as English for April.

Newsletter has been promoting the groups who aren't active in hopes to reach those. Mission is: "To Promote and Attract"

State Convention- Diane D. - Past Delegate Panel 56

Time is here for the 64th Texas State Convention in Austin, June 13th, 14th, 2009. Donations are being accepted for sponsorships.

Next year, 2010, there will not be a Texas State Convention, as the International AA Convention will be in San Antonio, Texas.

The following year, 2011, the Texas State Convention will be in Dallas, Texas.

Presentation –John M.

John gave an evening Presentation – "History of Three Legacies". This was well attended and received with positive enthusiastic responses.

Committee Reports- After breakout into committee discussions

Archives-John M.

John reported they talked about some new ideas to consider, and a new member attended from the Ft. Davis Mountain Holler Group. A summary page of the Archives would be handy for new people.

Bi-Lingual-Arturo H.

Committee will translate the Delegate's Report in to Spanish. Committee will make a report in the District groups. District III has 3 Hispanic speaking groups. How the Bi-Lingual committee will help in the Area, to have a full committee, Secretary, Treasurer, and to have a committee in every District, have sponsorship from the Area Committee Chair, so that will keep us in line, that we won't go in different directions.

Correctional Facilities-Jose D.

Committee will take pamphlet "AA in Prison", 17 copies in English and 17 copies in Spanish, to send to the units in Area 66. Committee will try to do this in all the Districts even if the district has no Correctional Committee or Committee Chair, Jose requested all GSRs take this information back to their district. Please donate to the Correctional Facilities Fund for books to go into prisons.

Finance - Cecil W.

Committee is working on the beginning balances discrepancy.

Literature - Jerry T.

We will donate some of the Spanish literature to a new group in Hereford, Texas. Committee will supply information about the literature to the districts and will become more familiar with the literature to better help others.

Newsletter - Ramona S.

Ramona will email a copy of the newsletter to Roger to mail out with the mailings, which will save the committee some money and the Area and make for some more interesting reading for some people than reading the minutes. Donations the newsletter, birthdays and memorials will be recognized in the newsletter. Also we will try to dig out more information about the smaller groups and the new groups that are becoming active in the area now, and try to get more of them involved.

Public Information - Martin N.

Martin reported that they forgot to tell him that he needed to make a report. ☺

PI is becoming aware of having PSAs for the television to be revised by the conference of 2010. There will be an expense of no more than \$40,000 and not to show the full faces.

Committee is working with District VII to keep the message going on PI. Committee is waiting for administration permission to put literature posters in the Metro community buses in El Paso.

Committee is working with DCM in District X so she can be there also to help out.

Committee talked with David H., PI Chair in District XIII, about working with the Public service announcements in English and Spanish.

To carry the message better we needed better communication in the districts and the groups so that we can guide ourselves through the literature and service, so we can understand better our guidelines. Guidelines guide us to give information about AA and not so much about our drunken stories.

Sunday June 7th, 2009

Area Committee Meeting (Officers, Committee Chairs, DCMs)

Discussion was held to verify and confirm the dates for the Mini-forum, August 8th, 2009 Lubbock Municipal Gardens and Arts Center, 4215 University, in Lubbock, Texas and the November Assembly-Elections, November 14th and 15th, 2009, La Quinta Inn, 2307 Loop 306, in San Angelo, Texas.

Also, it was decided to include an item on the agenda for the November 14th, -15th, 2009 Assembly. The agenda item would include: To discuss the format for the Mini-Forum in January so that the format would include some business, as reading the minutes, approving Chair Committee recommendations and possibly other business as well.

Traditions Presentation

Diane D., Past Delegate Panel 56, led the Traditions Presentation.

Tradition 1-Unity

Tradition 7-Contributions

Tradition 2-Group Conscience

Tradition 8-Non Professional

Tradition 3-Membership

Tradition 9-Leadership

Tradition 4-Group Autonomy

Tradition 10-No outside opinion

Tradition 5-Group Purpose

Tradition 11-Public Relations

Tradition 6-Money Property and Prestige

Tradition 12-Anonymity

Participants were: Diane D., Past Delegate Panel 56, Tradition 5, Roger S. Tradition 7, Leonard S. Tradition 1, Linda C., Past Delegate Panel 50, Tradition 3, and Linda R., Past Delegate Panel 48, Tradition 2.

Area Chairman Report –Tim B.

I visited Districts 7, 10, 4 and 14. I found the hospitality and enthusiasm fantastic and impressed with the hard work being done. District 7 PI is very active and doing some unique things to carry the message. At District 10 they met at Luby's Cafeteria and we discussed them being a part of the PI committee and connected them with David H., District XIII. Murray was sent a box of used Big Books and twelve and twelve's for the district to use. At District 4 we went over the upcoming mini-forum and talked about some strategies to encourage local members to attend. At district 14 we talked about the upcoming November Elections Assembly, and about getting with Martin to get some PSAs and I was pleased to see some new members there.

DCM Reports

District III-DCM Teresa S.

Leon Roberts, Delegate Panel 58 gave his reports on the 59th General Service Conference in Hereford, Texas on May 31st, 2009. Ronnie A. reported at the district meeting on "how important AA Unity is to each member of AA, to our groups, and AA as a whole." Ronnie is active on the Gratitude Meeting Committee and reports to the district.

Answering Service Committee reports that in March 229 call were received.

Bi-Lingual Committee is trying to get a committee formed and there is a need for more Spanish speaking members.

Correctional Facilities Committee reports that Texas Dept of corrections now requires volunteers to retrain every 2 years. District III will be holding an orientation.

Grapevine committee reports they were able to attend various group functions, with Grapevine literature.

Literature Depot reports they have updated the meeting schedule that the depot sold \$1727.28 of literature in April, and they are preparing for the coming price increase.

PI committee reports that they exhibited at 2009 Amarillo Business Connection with 350 exhibitors and 5000+ attendees. Cost was \$500, most literature was provided by GSO, and about 18 members helped with this process.

Treatment Facility Committee held a first Workshop-Sharing session at the Top OF Texas Group April 19.

Website Committee is a new committee and a set of website guidelines has been approved.

District 4-DCM

District 7-DCM Oscar F. By Jose R.

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There are 5 groups in the district.

Esfuerzo A. Group – GSR: Hector M.

San Francisco Group – GSR: Antonio V.

Socorro Group - GSR: Genaro G.

8 De Enero Group – GSR: Bernardo D.

Tercera Tradicion Group – GSR: Jose R.

Groups participate in covering 2 treatment facilities 4 times a week. There are 2 work meetings and 2 study meetings per month. A PI committee, chaired by Martin N., has meetings and visits the radio and TV stations. We have literature for the groups. Every Wednesday we visit one group to take information and motivate the members. There is a cell phone answered 24 hours a day. It gets 3-6 calls for help each day. We visit a group that is not participating and invite them. District was invited to take information to group Tercera Tradicion and the group decided to participate with the district.

District 8-DCM

District 10-DCM Vicky C.

Elected a new district secretary, Laura M. Treasurer and PI are still vacant.

The Back to Basics Workshop is in such demand that it is booked until 2010 calendar year.

Tim Bryson, Area chair, visited District 10 May meeting, and we are looking forward to having Leon Roberts, Delegate Panel 58, visit us and combine his visit with a mini-forum or workshop.

Thank you to the core group of GSRs that attend district and carry out the vital business of AA.

We are disappointed to learn that El Paso's Central Office no longer orders the AA Service Manual for members.

District 12-DCM

District 13-DCM Sandy E.

Attendance is growing and some inactive groups have been attending.

Financially the district is doing well. More groups have begun participating in our 7th Tradition.

The Suburban Group is conducting a Concepts and Traditions meeting on Wednesdays at 7PM.

The District Hotline in operating and receiving calls for English and Spanish. More Spanish speaking volunteers and communication between members is needed. Spanish volunteers have going to the callers to help them to meetings.

District XIII is planning a workshop on sponsorship, October 31, 2009 2PM to 4PM, at the Suburban Group in Odessa.

District is working with the Mid-Winter Conference to have a workshop on Saturday at the conference location.

PI/CPC Committee, David H. Chair, continues to work on distribution of schedules for the community, counselors of schools, and churches. Also plaques for public restrooms are being considered.

Literature reports that sales are up probably due to the coming price increase coming in July 2009.

Website is up and running.

CFC no chair. The contact at the Peyote youth facility no longer works there, apparently.

Concerns: Getting more groups and member to participate, getting chair persons, and getting members to volunteer on committees.

District 14-DCM Dennise B.

Thanks to Teresa Shannon L. and Linda R. for the workshop on sponsorship and self-support.

We have a new checking account. The treasurer had stepped down and was replaced by Jolene D. Literature chair reports trying to get a date set for ordering literature to save on shipping. Sherwood group has elected a GSR. Midtown group sent a representative to district meeting. Tim B., Area Chair, visited the last district meeting. GSR from New Spirit group reports that the group has decided to continue contributing to district. Their surpluses will be distributed between district, area, and GSO. They are further discussing whether to buy literature through district.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger S.

North West Texas Area 66 Secretary