

Northeast Texas Area 65 (NETA) –Winter Committee Meeting

Sunday, January 17, 2010 at 1:30 PM

Tyler Alpha Group, 2328 Aberdeen, Tyler, TX 75703

The meeting was called to order by Area Chair Richard R. The meeting opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer and reading of "Why Do We Need A Conference".

Officer and Service Committee Reports not shown in the main body of the minutes are included in an addendum.

Secretary PJ HR Minutes of the Fall Area Committee Meeting were read and accepted with corrections.

Alternate Secretary Jane G (for Maile S) reported the winter 2010 mailout is schedule on February 27, 2010 at 1:30 pm at the Show Me Group located at 2317 W. University Dr. #A3, Denton. The date of the spring mailout is May 8, 2010 at The Principals Group (Trinity Episcopal Church) 12127 Hillcrest Drive, Dallas 75230. The summer mailout is July 24, 2010 at the Lake Highlands Group in Dallas and the fall 2010 mailout will be held at the Golden Triangle Group in Keller on December 4, 2010.

Treasurer James V distributed the September 1 – December 31, 2009 Financial Statement. The beginning Operating Account balance was \$17,583.07 with contributions of \$13,561.88 and \$11,280.81 in budget items paid. SWR Forum account was zero. The ending operating account balance was \$19,864.14. The Prudent Reserve Account beginning balance was \$10,315.50 with interest of \$6.90 for an ending balance of \$10,322.40. The total area treasury balance was \$30,186.54.

For 2009, total budget items paid for equaled \$40,368.68 and total contributions were \$40,361.99 for a difference of -\$6.69. Contributions were from 115 groups (out of approximately 500), 6 districts, and donations from conventions.

2009 Forum financial report: Total received in Forum Committee account \$1923.00. Total expenses for greeter badges, bookmarks, hospitality room, and hostess baskets equaled \$1942.00. Forum Committee received an additional contribution of \$19.00 so expenses did not exceed contributions. The hospitality room received seventh tradition donations of \$732.75. This amount was returned to the NETA treasury. Outstanding receipts of \$277.80 for forum host expenses should have been subtracted from hospitality room seventh tradition donations and will be reimbursed. Report approved.

Alternate Treasurer Stuart R reminded area officers and standing committee members to turn in records and receipts of all items expended. Due to no Winter Assembly, checks will be dispersed today.

Alternate Chair Mo N stated the theme for the 2010 General Service Conference is "Practicing AA's Principles – The Pathway to Unity". Workshops are for groups and districts.

Convention Chair Cody K gave a 2009 Convention account financial report. Total 2009 income of \$4610.06 included: \$967.38 in coffee stars, \$2875.31 in NETA advances, and \$767.37 for Fall Convention registration. Total 2009 expenses of \$4511.02 included: bank fees (\$121.00), hospitality room (\$400.00), miscellaneous (\$84.58), room fees (\$3151.45), speaker expenses (\$669.73,) and supplies (\$84.26,) Operating Account balance as of December 31, 2009 was \$99.04. The location of the 2010 summer and 2010 fall assembly has changed to the Doubletree Hotel in Dallas at Midway and LBJ. Convention chair is taking bids for the 2011 winter assembly.

Assembly Schedule:

2010 Spring Assembly: March 27 – 28, 2010, Comfort Inn & Suites, 1615 NE Big Bend Trail, Glen Rose, TX 76034 (254)-898-8900. Room rate is \$75.00 (double occupancy) and coffee star - \$10.00. Reserve under "North East Texas Area" or "NETA". Cut-off date is 3March 12, 2010.

2010 Summer Assembly: LOCATION CHANGE May 22-23, 2010, Double Tree Hotel, 4099 Valley Creek Lane, Dallas TX 75244 (972)385-9000. Room rate is \$74.00 (double occupancy), coffee star - \$12.00. Reserve under "NETA 65".

2010 Fall Assembly and Convention: LOCATION CHANGE September 17-19, 2010, Double Tree Hotel, 4099 Valley Creek Lane, Dallas TX 75244 (972)385-9000. Room rate is \$74.00 (double occupancy), coffee star - \$12.00. Reserve under "NETA 65".

Alternate Delegate Jim C. provided information on the 2010 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous, July 1-4, 2010, San Antonio, Texas at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. He attended the Volunteer Kick-Off Meeting on January 9, 2010 and distributed the volunteer sign up form. Four thousand volunteers are needed for the 2010 International Convention. Volunteers will serve for one session of four hours. Most volunteer positions needed are greeters at a variety of locations. For a description of the subcommittees and to register by e-mail visit <http://www.aa75.org>. You can also register by fax (210-822-4491) or postal mail (2101 International, 8804 Tradeway, San Antonio, TX, 78217). On Saturday, May 1, 2010, there will be a Volunteer Training Session at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center (time TBA) in San Antonio for those who can attend.

Delegate: Jimmy D. is preparing to attend the Winter General Service Board weekend January 27 – February 1, 2010 in Rye New York. Will sit in on Grapevine Board meeting and has been invited to the AAWS/GV joint meeting dinner. The dinner is a not a business meeting but a cooperative sharing between the two cooperate boards. Received the General Service Conference Preliminary Agenda on January 15, 2010 and will send to all DCMs next week. Final GSC agenda will be set during GSB weekend. Final agenda with background materials should be received by mid-February. Mock committee assignments for Spring Assembly breakout sessions will be made by first week in March 2010. Has compiled the information received on the two questions on self support and literature profits and will send with a cover letter to the Trustee's Finance Committee. AAWS highlights indicated our 2009 contributions below budget and literature sales reflected mid-year price increase revenues. Need to continue to communicate to AA members what GSO does for the members and groups and encourage contributions to our office, even \$1.00 per year makes a difference. Grapevine also needs support by purchase of subscriptions as Grapevine cannot accept contributions. **2010**

Structure Committee: Glenice S, (Delegate Panel) – Motion submitted by Steve W., DCM 64: “Combine the NETA Committees of Treatment and Special Needs, to be called Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities to take effect in Panel 61”. Motion sent to members of the Structure Committee by the chair requesting it be considered by email. Outcome: Referred back to NETA 65 Area Committee for review and recommend that it be placed on the agenda for the next assembly (seven affirmative, one undecided)

Old (Unfinished) Business

Motion submitted on 7/12/09 by Steve W., DCM 64: “Combine the NETA Committees of Treatment and Special Needs, to be called Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/ Accessibilities to take effect in Panel 61”. Outcome: place on the 2010 Spring Assembly

New Business Agenda

Request submitted on 1/17/10 by Keith D, DCM 53 “Change DCM Sharing Session format to be chaired by current DCM, content of session not chosen in advance but come out of sharing session and DCM moderator rotate each assembly.” Outcome: Request discussed and change of format under consideration

Request submitted for consideration on 1/17/10 by Arthur S, Archivist/Historian “Consider a single page yearly calendar posted on the NETA 65 website.” Outcome: under consideration

Motion submitted on 1/17/10 by David S, DCM 54 “The NETA (Area 65) request an agenda item for the 61st General Service Conference that any reference to La Vigne in the CPC kit and CPC workbook be removed.” Outcome: placed on the 2010 Spring Assembly Agenda for Area endorsement to send to the General Service Conference

Site and date selection for the 2010 Summer Area Committee Meeting. April 11, 2010 at 1:30 pm at the Golden Triangle Group , 540 Ste A, Keller Parkway, Keller, TX 76248 (817)431-0464 The 2010 Summer Committee meeting will occur June 13, 2010 at 1:30 pm at the Paris Downtown Group, 138 Clarksville St., Paris, TX 75460 (903)785-1951.

Approved the 2010 Spring Assembly Agenda

The meeting concluded with the reciting of “The Lord's Prayer.”

Respectfully submitted

PJ HR,
NETA Secretary

**Addendum to the Minutes
2010 Winter Committee Meeting**

Alternate Delegate - Jim C:

2010 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous in San Antonio (report continued). Convention registration cost is \$95.00 and is available on-line at <http://www.aa.org/lang/en/subpage.cfm?page=199>. After registering online you will be directed to a site regarding available Convention housing. Convention housing for downtown hotel rooms is sold out and no waiting list is available. GSO is continuing to expand the selection of rooms in outlying areas. Information on available rooms is provided to registered Convention attendees.

The Southwest Alcoholics Anonymous Regional Service Assembly (SWAARSA) will be held October 8-10, 2010 at the Doubletree Hotel, 3203 Quebec St., Denver, CO 80207. Registration is \$10.00 and \$7.00 for the Ice Cream Social held each night. Information can be found at 222.swraasa.org or by contacting the registration chair Samantha G. at 858-531-8036. Flyers regarding this upcoming conference and other upcoming events in the NETA 65 Area were distributed.

Alternate Chair - Mo N:

Workshops can be presented on any of the following 2010 Conference Presentation Topics:

1.) Practicing These Principles in All of "Service" Affairs"

- a.) What is the difference between General Service and service in general?
- b) Love and tolerance is our code
- c) Setting an example – Attraction to service

2.) "Unity through Inventory

- a.) Our common welfare should come first
- b) This we owe to AA's future
- c) What happens after inventory?

3.) General Service Conference Agenda Selection Process:

- a) How it works
- b) Collective participation
- c) Communication – The key to an informed decision

Additional workshop topics frequently requested in our Area include: Sponsorship, How To Chair Meetings, Home Group in Service, Traditions, Structure of AA, The Program versus The Fellowship of AA and any of the specific service committees.

Seven additional workshops have been booked and will be added on the NETA 65 website. Prior to booking a workshop, please have group conscience approve and have two suggested dates. Workshop schedule is listed on the NETA65.org website.

Delegate- Jimmy D:

Archives renovations at our General Services Officer were completed ahead of schedule. Michelle M has accepted the position of Archivist at GSO. The new *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous* and *Young Peoples* DVD and *Young Peoples* poster (all approved at the 59th GSC) are available through GSO. Panel 59 Delegate from Southeast Michigan (Area 33) resigned in early January. He was also the Conference Literature Chair. Duties as chair fall to his alternate, Panel 59 delegate from Central California (Area 93). Think about purchasing a few subscriptions of the Grapevine for your birthday night gifts and at the district level for CPC, PI, Treatment, or CF work.

Secretary - PJ HR:

GSO is in the process of updating information for the 2010 Regional Directory. For a group to be included in the Regional Directory it must have an address, primary contact and at least one meeting listed. Please send any group updates or corrections to secretary59@gmail.com prior to April 23, 2010 for updating in Fellowship New Vision. If you choose to send a hard copy of the changes directly to GSO, it must be received by GSO Records Department by April 23, 2010.

We will have a short timeline to publish the minutes following the 2010 Spring Assembly and 2010 Area Committee meeting. Please email reports to the secretary prior to the spring assembly and spring committee meeting if possible

We are asking all who are receiving the minutes by postal mail and can receive electronically to consider receiving a paperless version. This saves the Area on printing and postage and allows these funds to be used in other service areas.

Archives – Vince K:

Have received total contributions of \$538.00 from nine groups. Two of these groups are contributing monthly to area archives. He is looking for another 1st Edition printing of the Big Book Alcoholics Anonymous. This will be for a second display to better serve the Area. A complete accounting of all donations and expenditures will be available at the Archives display at the Spring Assembly.

Archivist/Historian – Arthur S:

NETA administrative records for 2009 (Secretary and Treasurer) are digitally archived and a copy will be presented to the NETA Archives Committee for safekeeping at the next Archives Committee meeting. For any area officer or committee chair (including District Committees) who wish to have records preserved for future Panels, please contact if need assistance in setting up.

A NETA 65 history digital archive is still under research and development. Has been asked to sit on a panel with two other AA Historians at International Convention. Working in cooperation with the CD6 and Area Archives Committee to develop an archives workshop as one of the NETA workshop offerings

Audio-Visual (AV) Chair – Lois W:

Recently showed videos at District 56. Will be showing videos at Combined 5 in February 2010. Is willing to bring video presentation to groups. Prior to booking a workshop, have group conscience approval and have two dates.

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Chair – Gary D:

On November 19 & 20, 2009, David M. District 71 DCM, for NETA-65, and Lisa M. from Combined 6 presented two sessions of "Let's Be Friendly With Our Friends" to the Tarrant County Workforce Centers as part of their ongoing education. Approximately 30 attended each session. The program was hosted by Easter Seals of Tarrant County. We have been requested to repeat this presentation again later this year.

The committee has received several correspondences from GSO. There is a new person at the CPC Desk in New York, she is: Mary S.C. One of the letters from GSO was from a professional, non-alcoholic in the town of Alvord, which is located between Bowie and Decatur. This has been referred to the delegate and District 3 DCM. Another letter from GSO was from a professional, non-alcoholic in the Highland Park area of Dallas. The DCM of District 53, Keith D., will be contacting these folks. Apparently there is already a meeting in this location, so Keith will sort out what is happening there. Received a letter from GSO with the 2010 schedule of "The Correctional Management Institute of Texas" offerings for continued education of correctional professionals to be held in Area 67 (SETA) and 68 (SWTA). Has contacted their area CPC Chairs and offered our help. Will also get on the CMIT mailing list for so we can be informed early if there will be a conference in Area 65. Still in need of an alternate, if interested please contact immediately.

Corrections Chair – Steven A:

The collection balance from the correction literature orange can donations is \$376.90 The Area 65 Corrections Conference was held on November 14, 2009. Sixty-three members were certified or recertified as Texas Department of Criminal Justice volunteers. Over 100 participants were registered at the Corrections Conference. Due to the many donations from districts, the registration fee was waived. Thanks to District 21 and their DCM for assistance in setting up the workshop and providing the facility.

Upcoming: Corrections Facilities Meeting at Clean Air North, Addison, TX on February 21 @ 1:30 pm

Grapevine/La Viña (Gv/LV) Chair – Margie R:

Had display at Texas State Conference of Young People in AA (TXSCYPAA) in Waco, Tyler Anniversary, and NETA 65 Corrections Conference. Participation is needed from district and group GV/LV representatives. At the last two GV/LV meetings only two people were in attendance, the GV/LV chair and a person from the hosting group. Groups that have been coming consistently to meetings are from District 21, 53, 54, and 65. Will be accepting bids for the upcoming Grape-a-thon. If a group would like to host, must have bid in by 2010 Spring Assembly.

The new book published by the Grapevine called “A Rabbit Walked Into a Bar” is here. There is also a new Grapevine Representative handbook. Has ordered these handbooks and other Grapevine service pieces. They will be available at the March 2010 Assembly.

Please consider submitting a story to the Grapevine. It can be sent via email or postal mail. Grapevine always welcomes stories, pictures and jokes. Publishing guidelines are available on the website. If your story is approved Grapevine will send you a readers copy and a consent form to publish and/or reprint the article which must be signed and returned so they can legally use your story.

Upcoming Events: Grapevine/La Viña meeting at Meadowbrook Group on 2/13/2010 at 3:30pm (Note: Meadowbrook has a new location, Hendly Methodist Church, 2929 Forest Ave., Ft Worth)

Grapevine/La Viña meeting at 2010 March Assembly on Saturday, 3/27/10. The meeting will be held 30 minutes after the lunch break

Literature/Intergroup Liaison Chair – Jana A:

Dallas Central Office News:

Four new board members were elected at the November 2009 meeting: Diane H., Debie H., Randy D. and Joe J. The Chair of the Board is Chrys H. and the new Treasurer is Randy D. The Delegate attended, made a brief report and delivered the 59th General Service Conference final reports. The attendance at the meeting was very good and had quite a few new group representatives. No committee activities reported at the meeting. The Lambda Group circulated an item for the groups review and vote on having a gay/lesbian friendly designation in the printed Intergroup meeting schedule and on the website. The Finances are staying consistent with the Office recognizing a steady revenue stream from contributions assisted by the sale of AA literature and about 15% of revenues coming from non-AA sources.

Fort Worth Central Office News:

New officers were elected to the Steering Committee at the December meeting: Fred H. – Chair; Hal S. – Alternate Chair, and Denny H. – Secretary. They will assume their new responsibilities at the next Steering Committee meeting in February, 2010. The Steering Committee discussed that there were a larger than usual amount of outstanding invoices from some groups. An Ad Hoc Committee will look into writing specific guidelines to address this issue. The Tradition of Gratitude Open House was held November 7, 2009 raised \$314.00 for the Central Office.

Other Offices:

No reports received from Waco, Tyler, or Dallas Hispanic Intergroup.

Literature Review:

The Committee has completed its review of the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship." The recommendations have been forwarded to the Delegate for submission to the GSO. The Committee has been working on the review since June of last year and has done a great job. Thank you to all who participated for the time and energy put into this project. The Advisory action that prompted this project stated: "The trustees' Literature Committee undertake a thorough review of the pamphlet, "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship," and eliminate or revise outmoded ethnic, cultural and vocational references." The Committee did a **thorough** review and our recommendations were numerous.

Newsletter - Jane G:

Thanks to all who submitted articles for the upcoming newsletter. It takes a minimum of fifteen articles to fill the newsletter, but only thirteen were received for this publication. Cut-off date for article submission for the next newsletter is March 15, 2010. There will not be an extension to allow for additional articles due to the time needed for translation, publication and distribution so please get your articles in on time. Following the March Assembly, the Newsletter will be late due to shortened time between the March Assembly and May Assembly.

The printer NETA 65 has used for many years has retired. The new printer is Office Solutions in Greenville. The cost will be approximately \$300 for 1000 copies (800 English and 200 Spanish) or approx 29 cents per copy. If you are receiving a copy of the newsletter by email and also by postal mail, please consider receiving by email only to reduce NETA65 cost, both postal and printing. You may also download the newsletter from the NETA65 website.

Due to the retirement of the printer in the midst of the newsletter printing, the Spanish minutes did not get printed in time for the fall mail out. Our apologies to the Spanish groups, RSGs, and DCMs for this error. Copies were made available at the Area Committee meeting and will also be available at the Spring Assembly.

Public Information Chair (PI) - Tom M:

Our roster has grown to fifty people, although of that list only about a dozen are active participants in the area's PI committee conference call meetings. Our calls are an opportunity for PI folks to share info about PI projects they are working on or might like to start. Many of the folks on the roster are out there doing PI work but are not joining our calls for whatever reason. Between now and the assembly, hope to learn more about what our "absentees" are doing so I can share with the area a complete picture of the PI work going on in our area.

Some groups, and perhaps some districts, have recently elected new PI folks. If there's been a PI change in your group or district, I would like to update the committee roster so we may communicate with one another. My contact info is on the NETA 65 roster (pichair59@neta65.org). And of course, if your district/group *doesn't* have a PI person, please let me know how I can help change that.

The PI committee set up its display at the Texas State Conference of Young People in AA (TXSCYPAA) in Waco over Halloween weekend. I gave a PI presentation at Combined 5 last week, and will be participating in both next week's District 54 service fair (Sat 1/23, Addison Group, 1:30 – 5:30 PM) and next month's District 21 CPC/PI workshop (Sun 2/21, Show Me Group, 2-4 PM). I anticipate that we will have the display set up at the Irving Spring Conference next month. The PI committee recently purchased materials to set up a second display, which the committee's alternate will be the steward of. This allows us more flexibility in getting the display to the places it needs to be.

Finally, the Area 65 website committee has plans to revamp the website in the coming year.

Special Needs Chair - Jan L:

Gave a presentation at District 53 meeting on November 1, 2009. Will be presenting at District 21 in March 2010..

Last meeting was held at the Dallas North Group, November 21, 2009. Paul S. from Big Town Group gave a presentation on how to carry the message those who are blind/visually impaired.

The committee has developed a spreadsheet listing nursing and assisted living facilities in the Area. This information will help us track our visitations to these facilities. Funds collected from Special Needs contribution cans at area presentations and member contributions for 2009 totaled \$144.00

Upcoming Events: Special Needs Committee meeting – Language of the Heart, February 27, 1:30pm-3:30pm

Treatment Facilities Chair – Clyde R:

Attended Northwest Texas Area Assembly in November to meet with their representative regarding the Bridging the Gap program. Met with the Corrections Chair (they have no Treatment Facilities Chair or Intergroup Chair).

Alternate John V. gave information on the Bridging the Gap website. He has verified it is a secure site and is not a break in Tradition 11. The website is a tool to get individuals to meetings within 24 hours after release from a treatment facility. Currently there are Bridging the Gap contacts in Desdemona, Wichita Falls, Ft Worth, Denton, and Dallas and is trying to get contacts for Tyler and Waco. If you are interested in being a primary contact, please contact John or Clyde to discuss. The website is www.btg.wv.org (Bridging the Gap World Wide).

Ad Hoc Committee Report – Bill N (Ad Hoc Committee Chair on Feasibility of improving real time translation English to Spanish): Final report will be presented at Spring Committee meeting.



Agenda: Spring Assembly March 27-28, 2010



Comfort Inn & Suites, 1615 NE Big Bend Trail,
Glen Rose, TX 76034 (254)-898-8900

2010 General Service Conference Theme: "Practicing A.A.'s Principles – the Pathway to Unity"

Saturday - March 27

- 08:00** Registration Opens
- 08:30** Welcome – Open Assembly – Richard R
- 08:45** Delegate's Report – Final GSC Agenda – Jimmy D
- 9:00** GSC Mock Committee Break Out Sessions
- 10:00** Break
- 10:15** GSC Mock Committee Break Out Sessions (Continued)
- 11:30** Lunch
- 1:00** GSC Mock Committee Reports to Delegate
- 2:30** GSC Q & A – Delegate
- 3:30** Break
- 3:45** Sharing Session: a) DCM, b) GSR, c) Standing Committee Chairs
- 5:00** Dinner
- 7:00** 2010 General Service Conference Theme Presentation: "Practicing A.A.'s Principles-the Pathway to Unity"
- 8:00** Skit (Let's have some fun)
- 9:00** Close – Lord's Prayer

Sunday - March 28

- 8:30** Welcome – Open Assembly – Richard R
- 8:45** Reports: Secretary and Alternate, Treasurer and Alternate, Convention, Alternate. Chair, Convention Chair
- 9:15** Standing Committee Reports – Archives, Archivist/Historian, Audio/Visual, Corrections, CPC, GV/LV, IG/Literature, PI, Special Needs
- 9:45** Break
- 10:00** Old Business and New Business
- 11:30** Delegate Send Off – Jimmy D
- 12:00** Close – Lord's Prayer