

Northeast Texas Area 65 (NETA) - Winter Assembly - January 20-21, 2007

Hosted by District 65 at the Camp Crucis Christian Retreat Center, Granbury, TX 75048

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Saturday January 21, 2007

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Area Chair Jim C called the assembly to order and opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Marie H, GSR of the Great Fact Group, Plano read "Why Do We Need a Conference." First day proceedings began with a report by Delegate Bill N on the preliminary 2007 Conference agenda followed by a Q&A session. Alternate Delegate Jimmy D reported on past Conference agenda items that did not result in an advisory action. Attendees later broke out into DCM and GSR orientation sessions. A DCM workshop (on "How to Conduct a Workshop") and a GSR sharing session were also conducted. Reports on the DCM workshop and GSR sharing session were presented by Jane G and Jim C respectively.

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Summary Extract of Standing Committee Reports

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**Archives:** Scott R reported that committee meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of even numbered months. The next meeting is Thursday, February 15, 8:30pm, at the Golden Triangle Group, 3732 Golden Triangle Blvd (Hwy 377) Keller 76248.

**Convention:** Jim P requested bids for hosting the 2008 Winter and Summer assemblies. The Spring 2007 assembly is March 24-25 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel, 4440 W John Carpenter Fwy (Hwy 114) Irving 75063, 800-345-5251 (\$73 double occupancy) coffee stars are \$12. This will also be the location of the Fall 2007 convention and assembly from September 14-16. The Summer 2007 assembly is June 9-10 at the Fletcher Warren Civic Center, 5501 S Business Hwy 69, Greenville 75401. Nearby hotels are: Holiday Inn Express 903-454-8680 (\$84) 2901 Mustang Crossing; La Quinta (\$79) 903-454-3700, 3001 Mustang Crossing; Travelers Inn (\$39.95) 903-454-7000, 1215 E Interstate-30; Best Western (\$50) 903-454-7000, 1216 Interstate-30; and Hampton Inn (\$94) 903-457-9200, 3001 Kari Lane.

**CPC:** Joe C reported that he is in the process of organizing the CPC committee and invited all attendees interested in CPC service to meet after the assembly concludes Saturday evening. A CPC/PI workshop will be held this summer in Victoria.

**Corrections:** Stuart R reported that the Corrections Conference is tentatively scheduled for mid-November. Orange can donations can be mailed in or brought to an assembly. The Houston Intergroup Office provides literature to Huntsville and can send literature to other units if contact info is provided. DCMs are encouraged to invite district Corrections Chairs to sit on the area Corrections Committee. Stuart introduced Alternate Chair Dusty W and the Committee Secretary/Treasurer, Doug M, GSR of the Simply AA Group, Irving. The next committee meeting is Saturday February 17, 4PM, at the Simply AA Group, 211 W 3rd St, Irving 75060 (1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church - Family Life Center).

**Grapevine/La Viña:** Linda A reported that the next monthly committee meeting is Saturday January 27 at 2:30pm at the Irving Group. The primary focus in 2007 will be to get members to contribute articles. An annual "Grape-a-thon" workshop is tentatively scheduled for June or July (more information will follow).

**Literature/Intergroup Liaison:** Bill H reported that the committee will consist of 5-6 members. Phil P will be nominated as Alternate. Bill would like to visit districts for presentations. There is a plan to develop facts and figures broken down to the group and individual level regarding the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition versus the literature price situation at GSO.

**Newsletter:** Charlie A reported that all area committee members should participate in the newsletter. The newsletter reports what is going on in the area free of arguments and rebuttals. The printer will charge the same price as last Panel. Deadlines are dictated by when assemblies are scheduled. The current assembly is usually the cut-off date for articles for the next newsletter but articles can be emailed up to the date of the area committee meeting.

**PI:** Lynn R reported that Keith D will continue as webmaster (Keith later made a brief report after the business meeting). PI committee members are being recruited. Jane G will be nominated as the Alternate Chair.

**Special Needs:** Alfredo G introduced Alternate Chair Bill S and reported that the committee meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at 10am rotating between Dallas and Fort Worth. The next committee meeting is January 27 at the Town North Group. A Special Needs presentation will be made on April 7 at the Richardson Group.

**TF:** Don G reported that Bobbi C will be nominated as Alternate Chair. Committee meetings will be at least quarterly at rotating locations to encourage participation. A meeting was held with the outgoing TF Chair to review last Panel's accomplishments. The committee focus will be to support local treatment facilities and "Bridging the Gap" programs.

**Audio/Video:** Mike W reported that members should please check with group conscience and try to get two dates for scheduling video showings. The current calendar is open.

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Sunday January 22, 2007 Assembly Business Meeting

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Area Chair Jim C called the business meeting to order and opened the proceedings with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Assembly registration was announced as 191.

**Secretary's Report:** area mail-outs are scheduled for Sunday February 18, 1:30pm at the New Life Group in Wichita Falls and on Sunday April 29, 1:30pm at the Show Me Group in Denton. To help lower printing and mailing costs members can opt for electronic distribution of the minutes and newsletter instead of postal mail. The minutes and newsletter can be downloaded from the NETA65.org web site. For those opting to download, please send an email to secretary@NETA65.org. Minutes from the September 16-17, 2006 Fall Convention and Assembly were read and accepted with 2 editing amendments (to strike a brief sentence from a report given by Jimmy D and identify Beth R as a past SW Regional Trustee).

The Chair announced that the next area committee meeting is February 4 at the Big Town Group, Balch Springs at 1:30pm.

**Treasurer's Report and 2007 Budget Review:** PJ H distributed financial reports which included the Financial Statement and Actual Expenses Reported for 2006 and a proposed 2007 area budget. The new mailing address for contributions is NETA Treasurer, PO Box 169 Allen, TX 75013. Labels prepared, by the Secretary, for donation envelopes listed an incorrect zip code of 76013 which should be changed to 75013. The beginning balance in the Operating Account was \$18,511.71 with contributions of \$8,597.43, budget items paid of \$10,887.96 for an ending balance as of December 31, 2006 of \$16,221.18. The Prudent Reserve Account opening balance was \$5,167.42 with interest of \$21.09 and a \$5,000 transfer from the Operating Account for an ending balance as of December 31, 2006 of \$10,188.51. The combined end of year area treasury balance is \$26,409.69. The proposed 2007 area budget was presented and explained. After thorough review and discussion the Chair called for a show of hands for approval or disapproval. Outcome: the 2007 budget was approved unanimously.

**Convention:** Jim P reported that the starting balance in the Convention bank account as of December 31, 2006 is \$784.19.

**Alternate Chair:** Jana A reported that a workshops schedule was available for the attendees. The Conference theme is "Our 12<sup>th</sup> Step responsibility, are we going to any lengths"? Conference theme presentations conducted at the assembly can also be conducted at groups and districts. Other workshops topics are: Sponsorship, How to Chair Meeting, the Home Group and Service, Traditions, Structure of AA, and Fellowship of AA Compared to the Program of AA. Area service committees can also be a workshop subject. Current schedule: Sponsorship Workshop - Carrollton Group, January 27, 2-4pm; Fellowship of AA Compared to the Program of AA Workshop, Grapevine Unity Group, February 17, 2-4pm.

**Alternate Delegate:** Jimmy D asked DCMs to pick up extra copies of the preliminary Conference agenda and pass them out to GSRs who were not in attendance. The 2007 (62<sup>nd</sup>) Texas State Convention will be held from June 15-17 at the Fort Worth Convention Center. No hotel information is available now but will be available in February. October 12-13-14 are the dates for the SW Regional Forum at the Red-Lion hotel in Denver CO. Registration can be accomplished on-line at AA.org.

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Old business tabled from 2006 Fall Assembly (submitted by James V, DCM 54) amended to read

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NETA will purchase a portable sound system, not to exceed a cost of \$1,200. Funding should be from the NETA operating account as a 1-time equipment purchase and added as a line item to the 2007 budget. The NETA Convention Chair will assume responsibility for the equipment. Outcome: motion carried unanimously by show of hands.

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New business from 2006 Fall Committee Meeting (submitted by Jana A, Alternate Chair) amended to read

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The Language of the Heart Group in District 61 is requesting endorsement by the area to send the following request to the General Service Conference: NETA 65 is requesting the illustration of the inverted triangle in the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts for World Services Illustrated" (printed 1996, page 2) be replaced with the simpler illustration presented below (note: the illustrations are shown in the archived set of minutes). Outcome: the Chair asked if there was any disapproval, and none being voiced, the motion carried unanimously.

Upon the conclusion of assembly business, Delegate Bill N moderated a session of "What's On Your Mind." After those attendees who wished to, had an opportunity to speak, the assembly concluded with the reciting of "The Lord's Prayer."

Respectfully submitted

Arthur S  
NETA Secretary

Northeast Texas Area 65 (NETA) - Winter Assembly - January 20-21, 2007

Agenda

2007 General Service Conference Theme  
"Our 12<sup>th</sup> Step Responsibility - Are We Going To Any Length?"

January 20 - Saturday

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- 08:00 Registration opens
- 08:30 Chair Jim C: welcoming remarks and opening of Assembly followed by the Serenity Prayer and reading of "Why Do We Need a Conference?"
- 08:45 Delegate Bill N: report and General Service Conference preliminary agenda
- 10:00 Coffee break
- 10:15 Questions and answers on Delegate's report
- 11:30 Lunch break
- 01:00 Workshop: How to Conduct Workshops; DCM Orientation (Standing Committee Chairs, DCM's)  
Sharing Session: GSR Orientation (GSRs)
- 03:00 Coffee break
- 03:15 Workshop/sharing session reports presented to the Assembly
- 03:45 Standing Committee reports followed by questions and answers
- 05:00 Dinner break
- 06:45 Standing Committees breakout sharing sessions: Archives, Corrections (CF), Convention, Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC), Grapevine/La Viña, Literature/Intergroup, Newsletter, Public Information (PI), Special Needs, Treatment Facilities (TF), Video
- 07:45 Coffee break
- 08:00 Conference theme presentations:
1. Inclusiveness - Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Tradition, Growth of our Fellowship, Reaching Out to All Who Want It
  2. Our Primary Purpose - Attraction Rather than Promotion, Working With Wet Drunks, Practicing These Principles in All Our Affairs
  3. Humility and Responsibility - Expressed by Anonymity, Are We Resting on Our Laurels? Raising Literature Prices or Footing the Bill
- 09:00 Close for the day

January 21 - Sunday

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- 08:30 Chair Jim C: welcoming remarks and opening of Assembly business meeting
- 08:45 Reports:  
Secretary Arthur S (minutes), Treasurer PJ H (finances); Convention Chair Jim P (schedule of Assemblies); Alternate Area Chair Jana A (workshops), Alternate Delegate Jimmy D, Structure Committee
- 09:45 Business Meeting (see other side for agenda items)
- 10:50 Coffee Break
- 11:00 Delegate Bill N: report followed by what's on your mind?
- Noon Close the Assembly

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Old Business (and Structure Committee referrals awaiting consensus within 2 assemblies)

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**Tabled motion from 2006 Fall Assembly (submitted by James V DCM 54):** purchase a sound system with a cost not to exceed \$1,300. \$800 to come from the Convention account and up to \$500 to come from the maintenance account. Equipment will be the responsibility of the Convention Chair.

**Referred to Structure Committee Jul 9, 2006 (submitted by Stuart R CF Chair):** add the following to Policy 1.2: "past delegates are not eligible to serve as Area Officers or Standing Committee Chairs." Policy 1.2 currently reads: All past Delegates may serve as non-voting ex-officio members on the Area Committee. Proposed policy 1.2 would read: All past Delegates may serve as non-voting ex-officio members on the Area Committee. Past Delegates are not eligible to serve as Area Officers or Standing Committee Chairs.

**Referred to Structure Committee Jul 9, 2006 (submitted by PJ H Treasurer):** amend NETA 65 Policies and Procedures: AREA ASSEMBLY. Section 2.3 currently reads: 2.3 Voting rights at these Area Assemblies are extended to members of the Area Committee as set forth in article 1.1, and to all General Service Representatives (GSRs) in the Northeast Texas Area. Alternate Area Conference Chairpersons vote only in the absence of the chairpersons. Alternate DCMs and GSRs vote only if the primary DCM or GSR is not in attendance. In the event neither the primary nor alternate is in attendance, the group should appoint a representative to attend.

Proposed policy would read: 2.3 Voting rights at these Area Assemblies are extended to members of the Area Committee as set forth in article 1.1, and to all General Service Representatives (GSRs) of GSO registered groups in the Northeast Texas Area. Alternate Area Service Committee Chairpersons (approved under section 2.2) vote only in the absence of the Chairpersons. Alternate DCMs and GSRs vote only if the primary DCM or GSR is not in attendance. The business portion of each NETA Assembly will begin with the NETA Secretary completing a roll call of NETA officers, NETA standing committee chairs, DCMs and GSRs of GSO registered groups using the NETA registration attendance list. Voting members will sit in a space reserved for voting members only during the business portion of the meeting.

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New Business from 2006 Fall Committee Meeting

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**Oct 1, 2006 (submitted by Area Treasurer and Convention Chair):** review and approve Area budget for 2007. Convention Chair requests that the Spring Assembly budget be changed from \$500 to \$700.

**Oct 1, 2006 (submitted by Jana A Alternate Area Chair):** the Language of the Heart Group in District 61 is requesting endorsement by the Area to send the following request to the General Service Conference: "NETA 65 is requesting the illustration of the inverted triangle in the pamphlet '*The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated*' (printed 1996, page 2) be replaced with the illustration originally printed in '*The AA Service Manual*' (page S23 published 1991)."

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Pending Business from Structure Committee

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**Referred to Structure Committee Oct 1, 2006 (submitted by Lauren D DCM 92):** separate the position of Area Registrar from the position of Area Secretary with alternates for each position.

Would include changes to Policies and Procedures. 1.1 E. Registrar F. Alternate Registrar. And changes to NETA 65 information handbook adding: after Alternate Secretary: Area registrar: 1. maintain a confidential data base on the Area computer for Area mailings and ensure it is kept current and the anonymity of its contents is properly preserved. The data base consists of records of registered groups (either active or inactive) within NETA and contains information such as group name, address, time and phone number for groups, GSRs, DCMs (and District Committee Service Committee members) Area Officers and other Area Committee members. 2. Provide name and address labels for quarterly and other Area mailings as needed. 3. Ensure that an Area Directory is distributed periodically to members of the Area Committee and advise GSO of any data changes relative to the Area Committee & groups using the compatible database format/program that GSO currently uses. 4. Registers voting members and Past Delegates at Assemblies and reports number of voting & non-voting members present.

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January 20, 2007 Reports (confidential information removed)

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- **Audio/Visual Chair Mike W**

Please check with your group conscience first before scheduling to have the audio/visuals shown at your home group. Right now the calendar is open. See sign up sheet at display table.

Note: on an email title put in "Audio" else the mail will go to my bit bucket.

- **Corrections Chair Stuart R**

Corrections conference is tentatively scheduled for mid-November, more info will be forthcoming. The orange contribution cans are available for your groups!! If you have funds to contribute, send them to my address or give them to me at each assembly.

Huntsville has a surplus of big books at present time, if you will give me contact info for your unit, I can get them sent.

If you want to be on the Corrections email list please sign up at the Corrections table.

The next corrections committee meeting is Feb 17<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm at Simply AA, 211 W 3rd St, Irving, 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church, Family Life Center.

**Added notes:** Would like to encourage DCMs to invite the district corrections chairs to sit on the committee. Alt Corrections Chair Dusty W was introduced. Corrections Committee Secretary/Treasurer Doug M introduced. Sobriety cards developed.

- **Grapevine/La Viña Chair Linda A**

We are holding our monthly meeting at the Irving Group at 2:30pm January 27.

The Committee is: inviting individual AAs to write/share/contribute to the Grapevine like a regular meeting; developing District Grapevine Representatives; calling and e-mailing GSRs to keep a current list of GVRs; offering an annual Grape-a-thon Workshop/Festival in June or July; taking orders for Grapevine materials like calendars and books that are not available through the Intergroup resources.

We welcome your group invitations to share the Grapevine story-we supply speakers. We want to work with the other Standing Committees to support the work of each by using the Grapevine as a tool for each of their objectives. We welcome the opportunity to provide the Grapevine Display at your group/district/committee functions. The Grapevine is part of the solution. We welcome the opportunity to serve.

- **Public Information Chair Lynn R**

I want to thank Bobbi C and the Area for allowing me to serve as the Alternate PI Chair for the past two tears. I am looking forward to serving as the PI Chair for the next panel.

Keith D has agreed to serve as webmaster again and I would like to thank him for all the effort he puts into maintaining our Area website. I want the Area to know that I serve you and if there is anything that I can do to help you with your service work let me know.

I will be presenting Jane G at the Area committee meeting on Feb.4<sup>th</sup> as my alternate. Thanks for allowing me to serve

- **Treatment Facilities Chair Don G**

The incoming Treatment Facilities Chair, the Alternate Chair, the outgoing chair and a former chair of a combined district committee met on January 6. We reviewed what was accomplished in the previous panel.

The committee held an area workshop and tried to involve district chairs and others. The group agreed that our purpose is to support the local treatment facilities committees and local Bridging the Gap programs. We will attempt to meet in as many different districts as we can in order to give everyone a chance to attend at least one meeting.

My e-mail is [treatmentchair@NETA65.org](mailto:treatmentchair@NETA65.org)

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January 21, 2007 Reports

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- **Area Delegate Bill N**

The preliminary conference committee agenda items were presented and discussed during the morning of the first day of the assembly up to lunch break.

Bi-lingual versions of the agenda are available as PDF files on the area web site -

NETA65.org. Mock conference committees will be conducted at the Spring assembly using an updated preliminary agenda available at that time.

Note: the Delegates multiple hour conference committee agenda report and its following question and answer session were digitally recorded. The "What's On Your Mind" session moderated by the Delegate, was also recorded.

- **Area Secretary Arthur S**

Copies of the NETA Phone lists are available at the registration table. It's a single-sheet list of contact information for the area committee that is personal and confidential. Please respect and protect the anonymity of the members listed. The information should only be used for NETA and AA related matters.

Richard R, the Area Alternate Secretary and Charlie A, the Newsletter Editor and I participate in the area mail-out of the minutes and newsletter to groups, GSRs/Alternates and area committee members.

Richard R is the coordinator of the mail-out. We are looking for groups and districts willing to host a mail-out. It's an opportunity for good service and good fellowship. If you would like to host a mail-out please obtain group conscience approval and contact Richard R. Current mail-out schedule is Sunday February 18 at 1:30pm at the New Life Group in Wichita Fall and Sunday April 29 at 1:30pm at the Show Me Group in Denton (group conscience approval is pending).

Over the next few months we will be streamlining the mail-out to lower printing and mailing cost. You can help in this goal by voluntary use of electronic distribution of the minutes and newsletter instead of postal mail. The minutes and newsletter can be downloaded from the NETA.org web site. The web site version of the minutes will contain much more information than the version mailed out. The web site version will have copies of assembly and committee meeting hand-outs. We cannot include them in the version mailed out or postage would more than double.

If you would like to personally help to reduce area expenses, you can voluntarily opt out of receiving postal mail by sending an email message to [secretary@NETA65.org](mailto:secretary@NETA65.org) stating your intention. You can also opt back in any time you want. We mail out over 1,100 pieces of mail 4 times a year. For every 4 members who opt out of postal mailing and download from the web site, the area can save \$1 per mail-out or \$4 per year in printing, paper and postage expenses. An email notice will be sent out as soon as the minutes and newsletter are posted on the web site. You can certainly use both the downloading and mailing methods. However, the difference is that downloading helps to reduce expenses and mailing increases expenses.

We need help with the important matter of English and Spanish language translation and are trying to organize a pool of volunteers to help with document translation. If you are bi-lingual and would like to volunteer, there are sign-up sheets at the registration table. The only requirements are that you can be contacted by email and have Microsoft Word or some other word processor. You can do the translation work at home. If you know of any AA member who is bi-lingual then please help us recruit volunteers. They can send an email to [secretary@NETA65.org](mailto:secretary@NETA65.org) to volunteer.