

8TH District General Service Sharing Session Minutes Wednesday, May 1, 2002

CALL TO ORDER

Anthony N. D.C.M. District 81 opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. Sheila K. read the Twelve Traditions. The Attendance Roster was circulated for sign-in (see attached attendance list). Introductions were made.

MINUTES

The minutes of the April 2002 District Meeting were submitted. Bill H. made a motion to accept the April 2002 minutes. Glenn B. seconded the motion. The April 2002 minutes were accepted.

TREASURER

The May 2002 Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Alternate DCM expenses for the SWRAASA assembly in October were mistakenly included in the Prudent Reserve funds of the Treasurers report. These expenses will be removed and the appropriate fund totals revised to reflect the changes. David H. made a motion that the report be accepted as corrected. Dana H. seconded the motions. The May 2002 Treasurer's Report was accepted as corrected.

Group Contributions should be sent to: --District Treasurer, 1507 Winnie Galveston, TX 77550.

Tony N. asked if A.A. had any speaker videos. His group anniversary chairman has a video that will be part of their program activities. The video is an A.A. speaker from Sweden telling his story. Tony has contacted G.S.O. and asked them if A.A. made speaker videos and they said no. The chairman insists on having the video on the flyer. Susan S. asked if the group conscience could vote to have the video taken off the program? Charles I. said to ask for proof that the video is A.A. approved. Dana H. read from the 1999-2000 Service Manual that listed Bill W. story as A.A. video material available from AAWS.

A GSR asked for feedback on how to approach two group members about their inappropriate behavior in a meeting. Their behavior outside of A.A. is their own business; their behavior at an A.A. meeting is the groups business. Someone suggested talking to their sponsor about their behavior. Tony suggested that they be told that this behavior is distracting the meeting from focusing on recovery. James H. suggested that they be taken to the side after the meeting and told about the distraction. Someone suggested saying what has to be said to them and maybe do a 9th step on it later. Mark suggested that there were two issues. One being that people are acting inappropriately in a meeting and two, a group member is acting inappropriately in his life. The first one is easy to fix, just ask them not to do it. It is the same as someone smoking in a non-smoking meeting or talking loud in the back of the meeting. The other might be taking someone else's inventory.

Sheila K. asked for feedback on placing a circle and triangle sign in the window. What are the do's and don'ts of putting a sign in the window. Charles I. said that his group wants to put out a sign also. People wander around the building looking for the meeting and can't find it. David said that putting an A.A. symbol on buildings, as a permanent fixture, is a no-no. James D. reminded us that since 1996 the circle and triangle has not been used as an A.A. symbol.

SERVICE MANUAL

Dana H. made a motion to not read from the service manual due to the amount of business on tonight's agenda. Charles I. seconded the motion. The motion was accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHIVES

- ❖ Dana H reported a good archives meeting on Saturday afternoon of the assembly. He said there were about 12-15 people there.
- ❖ Archive Committee meets the 2nd Thursday, 7:30 PM, Intergroup Office, 4140 Directors Row, Houston. During Assembly months the Archives Committee also meets on Saturday afternoon at the Assembly.

COOPERATION WITH PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

- ❖ No Report
- ❖ Normally, the CPC meets the first Monday each month at Shoney's, 610S @ Kirby, 6:00 eat, 6:30 meeting

CORRECTIONAL FACILITY COMMITTEE

- ❖ No Report
- ❖ CFC meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month, St. Joseph's Hospital, Houston, 7:30 PM.

GRAPEVINE

- ❖ No Report

- ❖ The Grapevine Committee meets on Saturday afternoon at the Quarterly Area Assembly.

INTERGROUP Sharon P.

- ❖ Inter group is continuing to reduce cash to a "Prudent Reserve" by utilizing that amount above Prudent Reserve (one years operating expense) to further achieve purpose set in By-Laws, "to help the suffering alcoholic". Lowering prices on some literature, Upped the amount given to TDC for A.A. literature for prisoners. Working on office improvements (committee meetings area enlarged to accommodate increasing number of delegates attending meetings) along with improvements to front entrance area. At the last meeting a concern was brought up on the check writing policy at the Intergroup Book Store of requiring a Credit Card as an ID, so the Board reviewed the policy and changed it to the normal use of "proper ID" drivers licenses, etc. Even though the Board set in place a plan to show a short fall in monthly income by using excess of prudent reserve, March showed a positive income) \$3,073.76) due to some unexpected large rebates from the Insurance Company along with increased literature sales. The office is losing one of its part time employees (John) for a time, so Marjory is in training to take his place. The Office can use more volunteers, on all days. Question was asked, what are the qualifications and job descriptions? Answer, We at least would like to have people that have quit "vibrating" and have some common sense. Phone volunteers need to be able to read meeting schedules and key maps. Office will train and assist you in this. And the office will work with all volunteers on what is the best time for them, morning and evening slots are available. There is also volunteer work known as "stamp therapy" (marking prices on literature) available for those not comfortable answering the phone. The new Communications Committee (Wayne- Chair) is looking for ways to improve communications with all Houston/Area A.A. Groups. Plans to update and make improvements in the LINK, put more information on the Web Site, he will be available to all delegate to hear their ideas and suggestions. We want to let everyone know just what it is the Intergroup does. The new Conference Committee is looking at Houston Intergroup following example of other Intergroups and holding an annual conference to give all A.A. the chance to attend. To gain knowledge and participate in the operation of the Intergroup Office. Speakers, Workshops, Panels discussions, etc. If your group changes times of meetings, locations of meetings, discontinues a meeting or starts a new meeting please let the Intergroup Office know this. It is important to make sure they have the correct information to list in the schedule and give out on the phone.... Have you ever gone to a meeting and no one showed up???? To the newcomer and sometimes the recovering alcoholic from out of town, finding a meeting can be life saving to the Alcoholic.... All information concerning a change must be in writing...
- ❖ The Intergroup Committee meets on the 3rd Thursday of the even numbered months at 8:00 PM in the Intergroup Office and Book Store at 4141 Directors Row, Suite D & E, Houston. The phone number for questions is 713-686-6300.

MULTI-LINGUAL COMMITTEE

- ❖ No Report
- ❖ The Multi Lingual Committee meets the last Friday of every month (except during Assembly months) at 7:00 PM at 4721 N. Main, Houston. During Assembly months the meeting is held on Saturday afternoon at the Assembly.

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE

- ❖ Linda reported that PSA effectiveness was one of the discussion topics. The committee talked about the expense of tracking PSA Usage, about \$20,000 a year. Changing the committee workbook back to conference-approved material was discussed. We discussed having groups visited by the district liaison and discuss the importance of the PI work in A.A and where the groups can carry the message. The PI committee will only meet at the quarterly meetings now. Tony N. commented on a movie theater in Galveston that will run PSAs for a small sum. The PSAs would be shown during the intermission time between movies.
- ❖ The PI Committee meets on Saturday afternoon at the Quarterly Area Assembly.

TREATMENT FACILITY COMMITTEE

- ❖ This meeting was chaired by Brian H. (Alternate Chair) due to (Chairman) Gary H. being on a special work assignment. Introductions were made. Seven people were in attendance. Brian H. read the purpose of the TFC committee, and purpose of BTG. It was pointed out by one of the members that the importance of this committee right now is to rebuild itself and getting back to what our purpose is. Getting back into treatment centers. The treatment centers are getting fewer and fewer. Memorial Hermann now PARC (prevention and recovery center) locations very recently. All other Memorial Hermann locations have discontinued their treatment programs. They are now centrally located at the PARC located at 1515 La Concha which is close to Astrodome. Brian very recently started holding presentations there every Wednesday morning at 9:00 AM. Another thing that has been started is that people that would like to come up and talk to the people in detox. So he has started a 12-step list. Not only for people who are interested in BTG, but also call up to the nurses' station at the PARC and ask if they have anyone in detox and if so would they like an A.A. to come up and talk to them. One of the

things that's currently being done is compiling a list of volunteers to do detox. So Brian asked members if we know of anyone in our groups that would be willing to do this. Keep in mind that this facility is by the Astrodome.

Barbara Jordan Health Care (old St. Elizabeth Hospital) off Waco and something, downtown area, District 32. Brian was going to call the DCM for District 32 and see if he can't get something going there. It was also noted that the VA Hospital needs help assistance (Detox Only). Brian also mentioned a TF in Willis Texas, District 31 or 31.

Cheyenne Center (off of Hwy 59 on Bonita St.) contacted G.S.O. to ask if the TFC had any Big Books. Brian noted that beginning April 10th, the TFC will be able to purchase Big Books for dollar apiece.

West Oaks Brian mentioned that he got a report from Bonita, who is on the PI Committee, that a woman called her from West Oaks. She wants to set up a BTG presentation for Unit 5. Brian and another volunteer from the Delta Club will begin those presentations on Friday at 10:00 AM (every other Friday), along with James F. who also does New Women's TF once a month.

Edith Ervin Treatment Facility (part of Riverside Memorial Southwest Hospital bldg. on Buford. District 60 collected \$60 for Edith Ervin TF to purchase Big Books.

Flyers and Pilot Project Brian received a e-mail from David F., DCM for District 20, who recommended that we work with District 20 to customize a flyer to encourage people in those groups to get involved in BTG programs and in other Districts.

Combining TF with CPC or PI Brian pointed out that in the SETA A.A. Quarterly Newsletter, our Delegate Marvin W. stated there was a trend in combining the CPC committee with the TFC committee because of the shrinking number of TF's. So the question was asked about combining Treatment with the CPC or PI committees. It was the conscience of the members not to combine them.

Note: It was recommended that we meet quarterly. This has to get approved by Gary H. Stay tuned for further updates.

- ❖ The Treatment Facility Committee meets on the 1st Sunday of the month (except during Assembly months) at 3:30 PM in the St. Joseph Hospital's Cullen Family Mental Health Building located at 1404 St. Joseph Parkway (formerly Calhoun), Houston. During Assembly months the meeting is held on Saturday afternoon at the Assembly.

ELECTIONS

GSRs, please inform your groups of the positions of service that are open at the district level. Anyone wishing to find out more about them or stand for a position should attend the next district meeting.

- ❖ Alternate DCM 81
- ❖ Alternate District Secretary
- ❖ Archives Liaison
- ❖ Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee Liaison
- ❖ Correctional Facility Committee Liaison
- ❖ Grapevine Liaison
- ❖ Multi Lingual Committee Liaison

OLD BUSINESS

- ❖ GSR Kits-Melody reported that G.S.O. is sending us a sample kit in English and Spanish. G.S.O. wanted to know who the old Literature person was and what district and area we were in. This would make it easier to keep records on. Melody passed around a GSR information sheet for those needing a GSR kit. She will fax the information to G.S.O.
- ❖ District Inventory-David said that Marvin is not available for the June 8th date selected for the inventory. However he is available on June 22nd. The host group said that the June 22nd was OK with them. David H. made a motion to change the District inventory date to June 22nd. Bill H. seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- ❖ SETA 2003 Hospitality Suite-David H. reminded us that the main purpose of the hospitality suite was to provide a place for that newcomer at an A.A. convention to have a free cup of coffee and feel a part of A.A. He said that the district cost was about \$450 for the room and that the groups would contribute funds for the food. Gus H., District 90 DCM, said that he was still trying to sell the idea to his district. His district felt that the last one that they hosted was a waste of money. He felt that by combining the efforts of several districts to reduce the cost plus get some unity going on between districts makes a lot of sense. He believes that by having District 81 & 82 DCMs at the GSR meeting on Sunday will go a long ways in the spirit of unity.

NEW BUSINESS

- ❖ Delegate's Report-Tony asked if the district wanted to invite the delegate to give his GSC report. The answer was yes, when ever it was possible for him to do so. Tony will get a date set and report back at the next meeting.
- ❖ District Inventory Questions-Glenn reminded us that there is still time to get your inventory questions to the secretary before the district inventory at the Angleton Group on June 22nd.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ Round Robin at District 90 in Beaumont at the District Plaza on May 18th. David H. will be speaking.
- ❖ 33rd St. Group Anniversary on May 25, 2002.
- ❖ District 40 Traditions Dinner June 8, 2002. 1656 Blalock, Houston.
- ❖ 57th Annual Texas State Conference June 13-16, 2002. Holiday Inn, Odessa, Texas
- ❖ Quarterly Assembly July 13-14, 2002. Clarion Inn International Houston.
- ❖ Quarterly Assembly October 5-6, 2002. Clarion Inn International Houston.
- ❖ SWRAASA 2002 October 11-13, 2002. Fort Worth, Texas
- ❖ SETA Gratitude Dinner November 16, 2002 University of St. Thomas Houston.
- ❖ SETA Convention January 17-19, 2002 Moody Gardens Hotel, Galveston.

CLOSE

Bill H. made a motion to close the meeting. David H. seconded the motion. The meeting was closed in the usual manner.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tandy B.

8th District Secretary