

Northeast Texas Area 65 (NETA) - Spring Assembly - March 24-25, 2007

Sheraton Grand Hotel
4440 John Carpenter Freeway (Highway 114)
Irving, TX 75063

Saturday March 24, 2007

Area Chair Jim C called the assembly to order and opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Mock Conference Committees: Delegate Bill N reviewed the final 2007 General Service Conference (GSC) agenda and informed the attendees of the organization and break-out room locations for the assembly mock Conference committees. Bill also noted that background material had previously been distributed to mock committee chairs by email and postal mail.

Mock Conference committee sessions were conducted to form recommendations to present to the Delegate. After the lunch break, the Delegate moderated report presentations for the recommendations and comments from each committee for its related GSC agenda items. A Q&A session followed the presentations. Committee recorders were requested to submit their notes to the Delegate for his use as a reference.

Service Committee Reports (note: an experiment is being conducted for the April mail-out to have service committee reports contained in a separate document as an addendum to the minutes. This is being done to allow for more space to print the reports and preclude having to remove information to summarize them for the minutes.)

After the service committee reports were presented, attendees broke out into sharing sessions for GSRs/Alternate, DCMs/Alternates and Service Committee Chairs/Alternates.

Service Committee Chair Sharing Session: participants in the Service Committee sharing session unanimously requested that the Area Chair be informed that they found the sharing session to be a very effective means of exchanging information. They further unanimously requested that a Service Committee Chair sharing session be considered for a regular agenda item at future assemblies.

Traditions Presentation: after the evening dinner break, Past Delegate Larry J conducted a Traditions presentation and Q&A session on Traditions 1 through 6.

Sunday March 25, 2007 Business Meeting

Area Chair Jim C called the assembly business meeting to order and opened the proceedings with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Brad M, Alternate GSR of the Wylie Group, read "Why Do We Need a Conference?"

Secretary's Report and Minutes - Arthur S: reported that members having an e-mail address in the Area Directory are automatically sent the minutes and newsletter by e-mail and are requested to consider opting out of postal mailing to help save expenses. There are 69 email addresses recorded in the Area Directory for Area Committee members and of them 39 have opted out of postal mailing. There are 119 email addresses recorded for GSRs and Alternates and of them 41 have opted out of postal mailing. The minutes of the Winter Assembly were read and accepted.

Treasurer's Report and 2007 Budget Review - PJ H: reported on the January thru February 2007 Financial Statement and 2006 and 2007 budget reports. The beginning Operating Account balance was \$16,221.18 with contributions of \$5,720.77, budget items paid of \$11,109.97 and bank charges of \$3.00 for an ending balance of \$10,828.98. The Prudent Reserve Account beginning balance was \$10,188.51 with interest of \$8.50 for an ending balance of \$10,197.01. The total area treasury balance as of February 28, 2007 was \$21,025.99.

The General Service Office sent out a letter stating that the estimated annual cost per member, and amount of annual contributions per member for GSO to be self-supporting, is \$5.75. Similarly, an estimated annual NETA per member contribution of \$1.90 would allow the area to meet its annual budget.

Convention Chair - Jim P: reported the NETA assembly schedule: (1) Summer - June 9-10, 2007 at the Fletcher Warren Civic Center, Greeneville, (2) Fall Assembly and Convention - September 14-16, 2007 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel, Irving, (3) Winter - January 2008 in Texarkana, (4) Spring - March 2008 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel, (5) Summer - June 2008 in Waco, (6) Fall (Election) Assembly and Convention - September 2008 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel, (7) Winter - January 2009 in Sherman. The Spring 2007 Assembly registration was announced as 202 with 118 coffee stars purchased.

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Alternate Area Chair - Jana A: reported that NETA workshop schedules were available as hand outs on the literature table. A workshop schedule report is also posted on the NETA65.org web site and the NETA65.org web site Calendar.

Alternate Delegate - Jimmy D: reported that groups wishing to contribute to the Texas State Convention can help support a common hospitality area for the convention. Jimmy is the area coordinator for the Gathering of Eagles event in Dallas over the Memorial Day weekend. Members are strongly encouraged to attend the Southwest Regional Forum in October 12-14, 2007 in Denver, CO. The next SWAARSA will be held in St Louis, MO in October 2008 (more information will follow at a later date).

Structure Committee Past Delegate - Glenice S: reported that she is the Panel 57 Structure Committee Chair and Past Delegate Joe P is the new committee Secretary. The March 23, 2007 Structure Committee meeting minutes were read. Recommendations were offered for amendment of three proposed Policies and Procedures changes related to Past Delegate area service activities (section 1.2), assembly voting procedures (section 2.3) and the duties of Registrar (not yet on the Assembly agenda).

Old Business Agenda

Motion submitted by Stuart R, Corrections Committee Chair: on the question of a proposed change to the Policies and Procedures section 1.2 (amended per Structure Committee recommendation) to read:

"All past Delegates may serve as non-voting ex-officio members on the Area Committee. Past Delegates are encouraged not to stand for Area Officers or Standing Committee Chairs.

Outcome: motion carried 91 in favor, 9 opposed. Minority opinion was heard and no motion to reconsider was submitted.

Motion submitted by PJ H, Area Treasurer: on the question of a proposed change to the Policies and Procedures section 2.3 (amended per Structure Committee recommendation and submitter's action) to read:

"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 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. In the event neither the primary nor alternate GSR is in attendance, the group should appoint a representative to attend and register as a voting member. 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 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."

Outcome: motion carried 92 in favor, 8 opposed. Minority opinion was heard and a motion to reconsider failed to carry.

New Business Agenda from 2007 Winter Committee Meeting

Motion submitted by District 64 DCM, Willie T: in behalf of the Mansfield Group, on the question of requesting area endorsement to request GSO to reconcile wording differences on court referrals in the AA Guidelines document "Cooperating with Court, DWI and Similar Programs" and the AA.org web site shown under "Information on Alcoholics Anonymous" in favor of the wording on the web site to protect group autonomy.

Outcome: the Chair asked if there was any disapproval, none being voiced, the motion carried unanimously.

Delegate Send-off: Alternate Delegate Jimmy D explained the NETA practice of ending the Spring Assembly with a "Delegate send-off" allowing attendees to offer their best wishes to Delegate Bill N in his departing for the General Service Conference "informed but not instructed."

Following the Delegate send-off, the assembly concluded with the reciting of "The Lord's Prayer."

Respectfully submitted:

Arthur S
NETA Secretary

Northeast Texas Area 65 (NETA) -Spring Committee Meeting - April 15, 2007

Hosted by the Town North Group of District 55
229 Farmers Branch Shopping Center, Farmers Branch, TX 75234

Area Chair Jim C called the meeting to order and opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Maile S, District 53 DCM, read "Why Do We Need a Conference." The Chair announced that copies of the Spring Committee and Summer Assembly agendas, in English and Spanish, were available with the literature handouts. The Chair reviewed the order of business and announced that he has received reports of difficulties in getting help for translation of documents from English to Spanish (the subject was announced again later under New Business).

Secretary Arthur S: read the minutes of the Winter 2007 Area Committee meeting which were accepted as read.

Alternate Secretary Richard R: reported the area mail-out schedule as April 29, 2007 at 1:30PM at the Show Me Group, Denton; August 5, 2007 at 1:30PM at the Town South Group, Lancaster; and on a date to be determined at the Mesquite Big Town Group in Balch Springs after the Fall Assembly. Any group or district wishing to host a mail-out should contact Richard for information and scheduling.

Treasurer PJ H: distributed a report for March 2007 which included a Financial Statement, Contributions to NETA and Budget Items Paid. The beginning balance in the Operating Account was reported as \$10,828.98 with contributions of \$3,104.33, budget items paid of \$7,375.00 for an ending balance as of March 31, 2007 of \$6,555.31. The Prudent Reserve Account beginning balance was \$10,197.01 with interest of \$3.90 for an ending balance as of March 31, 2007 of \$10,200.91. The total March 31, 2007 area treasury balance is \$16,756.22. PJ also reported that the prudent reserve may range from a minimum of \$9,412.40 to a maximum of \$28,237.50. A Budget Committee meeting will be held June 8, 2007 at 8PM in Greeneville. The Budget Committee consists of past Treasurers, past Delegates and the current Delegate.

Alternate Treasurer Mo N: reported that expense report forms are available and if expense reports are mailed in, to please not send them to the Treasurer's PO Box but mail them directly to her home address shown in the NETA Phone List.

Alternate Chair: Jana A: reported that an additional workshop has been scheduled above that which was announced at the Spring Assembly. It will be a Sponsorship Workshop at the ODAAT Group in Texarkana on April 28, 2007 from 2-4PM. Quite a few Group Inventories have been scheduled. Tentative dates are being set for four more workshops and members will be contacted to see if their calendars will allow for participation.

Convention Chair Jim P: reported that the Spring Assembly cost was \$2,726.06 with 202 registrations. \$1,555.00 was collected from 118 coffee stars. \$1,171.06 from the Convention Account covered remaining expenses for an ending Convention Account balance of \$1,145.06. The assembly schedule is: **Summer** - June 9-10, 2007 at the Fletcher Warren Civic Center, 5501 S Business Hwy 69, Greeneville, TX 75401; **Fall Assembly and Convention** - September 14-16, 2007 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel, 4440 John Carpenter Fwy (Hwy 114) Irving, TX 75663 (800-345-5251); **Winter** - January 2008 in Texarkana; **Spring** - March 2008 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel; **Summer** - June 2008 in Waco; **Fall (Election) Assembly and Convention** - September 2008 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel; and **Winter** - January 2009 in Sherman.

Alternate Delegate Jimmy D: reported that (1) standing committees hosting tables at the Gathering of Eagles event need volunteers to man tables. Volunteers will not have to pay registration unless they wish to attend regular activities the same as all other attendees. (2) Texas State Convention flyers are available. Groups wishing to support a hospitality room should see Jimmy for a contact name. (3) Bi-lingual flyers are available for the Southwest Regional Forum on October 12-14, 2007 in Denver, CO. (4) SWRAASA 2006 in Kansas had 661 attendees and a positive cash flow of \$5,800. This allowed for a \$2,900 donation to GSO and seed funds of \$2,900 for SWRAASA 2008 which will be held in St Louis, MO on October 10-12, 2008 at the Sheraton Westport Hotel. (5) As a reminder, NETA will be hosting the Southwest Regional Forum in 2009.

Delegate Bill N: reported that (1) a letter from the GSO Finance Office informed him that of the 2005 contributions to support GSO, 71% was from group contributions and 29% from literature sales. A final 2006 total is not yet available but it appears that for the first time in AA history group contributions to GSO will exceed 6 million dollars. 40% of NETA groups contributed to GSO in 2005 and that rose to 42% in 2006. If each AA member contributed \$5.75 per year it would fully fund essential GSO services and literature would be priced at cost. (2) DCMs will be contacted regarding registration forms for new groups in the area. (3) The Conference will be reviewing an agenda item to include a DCM change form in the Service Manual. (4) Anyone wishing to have a post-Conference report should schedule it soon. The calendar is quickly filling up. It is planned to digitally record the post-Conference report at the Summer Assembly. Copies will be made available on CD or by email to members on request.

Northeast Texas Area 65 (NETA) -Spring Committee Meeting - April 15, 2007

Service Committee Reports (note: an experiment is being conducted for the April mail-out to have service committee reports contained in a separate document as an addendum to the minutes. This is being done to allow for more space to print the reports and preclude having to remove information to summarize them for the minutes.)

Ad Hoc Committees: interim reports were submitted by the District Mapping and Area Handbook ad hoc committee Chairs. A final report was submitted by the Area Inventory ad hoc committee Chair. Following the report, a question was raised regarding the Area Inventory ad hoc committee Chair unilaterally appointing additional committee members. The Area Chair advised that ad hoc committee members who were appointed at, and approved by, the Area Committee are the only members of the committee. Ad hoc committee Chairs do not have the authority to unilaterally appoint additional members.

Old Business

The Chair called for the reading of agenda items previously referred to the Structure Committee that have not been acted on for two assemblies. An item referred to the Structure Committee on July 9, 2006 will be brought to the Summer Assembly:

Motion submitted by Lauren D, District 91 DCM: on the question to change the Policies and Procedures. 1.1 E. Registrar F. Alternate Registrar. And changes to the 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 and groups using the compatible database format/program that GSO currently uses. 4. Registers voting members and Past Delegates at Assemblies and reports the number of voting and non-voting members present.

Past Delegate Glenice S requested the Area Committee minutes reflect that the Structure Committee report at the Spring Assembly recommended that Registrar duties be assigned to the Alternate Secretary.

New Business

Administrative Items: (1) The Chair presented a proposed 2007 Summer Assembly agenda which was accepted without disapproval. (2) The Chair called for District hosts for the Fall Committee meeting. Three Districts extended invitations. The Area Committee voted to accept District 21 as host of the Fall Committee meeting on September 30, 1:30PM at the Show Me Group in Denton. (3) The Alternate Delegate requested, and received, approval to loan the NETA translation equipment to the Colorado Area for use at the Southwest Regional Forum. (4) The Delegate announced that the Texas State Convention asked if they could borrow the NETA translation equipment and obtain translation services which they would fund. Maria R and Florinda F were asked if they would be willing to provide translation services and graciously accepted to do so. (5) The Secretary and Newsletter Editor received permission to anonymously donate obsolete area PCs to a charity.

Motion submitted by Charlie A, Newsletter Editor, in behalf of the ad hoc committee for the Area Inventory: on the question to amend Policies and Procedures sections 6.1 and 6.2 which currently read: 6.1 Any member of the Northeast Texas Area may submit a suggested change for the NETA Policies and Procedures to the Area Structure Committee through the Area Committee for consideration and review; 6.2 After review, the NETA Structure Committee brings their recommendation to the Area Committee for placement on the NETA Assembly agenda. In the event that the NETA Structure Committee is unable to reach consensus, within two assemblies, the items are brought to the NETA Assembly for resolution.

Proposed sections would read: 6.1 Any member of the Northeast Texas Area may submit a suggested change for the NETA Policies and Procedures to the Area Structure Committee through the Area Committee for consideration and review. Changes to the NETA Policies and Procedures will be voted on only at the Fall Assembly. 6.2 After review, the NETA Structure Committee brings their recommendation to the Area Committee for placement on the next NETA Fall Assembly agenda." The matter was referred to the Structure Committee for review and recommendation.

The Chair called for a motion and second to adjourn. The meeting concluded with the reciting of "The Lord's Prayer."

Respectfully submitted

Arthur S,
NETA Secretary

Addendum to the Minutes for Consolidated Standing Committee Reports

NETA Spring 2007 Assembly and Area Committee Meeting

Archives Chair - Scott R:

The next committee meeting is April 19 at the Compass Group. The display/presentation calendar is: February 10: Pockets of Enthusiasm Conference, March 13: the Alternate Chair joined in a history presentation at the McKinney Fellowship Group, March 30-31 at the Irving Spring Conference, April 7 at the Stephenville Group, May 5 at the Fort Worth Central Office, May 12 at the Stewart Street Group, June 15-17 at the Texas State Convention, July 14 at the Greeneville Traditions Group, July 22 at the Grape-a-Thon event at the Richardson Group. The Archives display schedule is being incorporated into the NETA65.org web site Calendar.

Audio-Visual Chair - Mike W:

Group approval should be obtained prior to scheduling video showings. The calendar is open. A condensed video public service announcement (PSA) from GSO is available for showing and can be made available to committee members. It includes four titles: (1) a Testimonial, (2) Living in Chaos, (3) We Know What It Is Like and (4) Reaching Out. It will be made available at the next assembly for committee members to view it.

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Chair - Joe C:

I'm regularly attending Combined District 6 meetings at the Meadowbrook Group. The first CPC committee meeting was March 10 at the Palestine (Green Room) Group with good turn out. A presentation will be made April 21 for the District 54 meeting at the Rowlett Group at 2PM. The next CPC meeting will be at the Rowlett Group on May 12 at 6PM. CPC will have display table at the gathering of Eagles event over the Memorial Day weekend and at the Texas State Convention in Fort Worth in June (Saturday only). A corrected flyer for the Southwest Texas PI/CPC Conference in Victoria is available. Bill D, Area 33 (SE Michigan) PI Co-Chair and PI/CPC News Exchange Editor was contacted. Contact Joe C for additional information on CPC service and the PI/CPC News Exchange. Joe will be working to help the Special Needs Committee with an outside agency for the blind.

Corrections Chair - Stuart R:

I've contacted the Correction Chairs in the three other Texas areas. No reply has been received yet about pre-release contact programs. Lynann D at Huntsville is searching for the right contact. Two GSO pre-release contact letters have been filled. A request for a meeting inside the Limestone County Unit was forwarded to the District 91 DCM and Corrections Chair. Huntsville has Big Books and 12&12s available for other Units. Send in a Unit address and a contact name and books will be sent to the Unit contact. The NETA Corrections Conference is tentatively scheduled for November 10-11. "Orange can" collections to date are \$319.47. As always volunteers are needed to take meetings into the jails and application forms are available for those wishing to sign up for state authorization. Volunteers do not need to be state approved to go into jails in order to be a pre-release contact (i.e. be a contact someone who is being released near where the contact lives). It is one of the most important jobs in Corrections service - released inmates have an 80% better chance of not going back to jail. Stuart is attempting to build a data base of volunteers willing to be pre-release contacts. Service opportunities are available to take men and women's meetings into the Palo Pinto jail on Sundays at 6:30PM and the Collin County jail on Mondays at 6:30PM. The next Corrections Committee meeting is May 5 at 2PM at The Colony Group.

Grapevine/La Viña (Gv/LV) Chair - Linda A:

I attended a Dallas Oficina Intergrupala La Viña meeting February 11. On a percentage basis, participation in La Viña is outstanding. A committee meeting was held March 10 at the Plano ODAAT Group. The next meeting is April 14 at 2:30PM at The Gift Group. The presentation/display calendar is: March 4 at the District 53 and 54 meetings, March 10 at the District 54 TF Committee meeting, March 11 at the District 22 meeting, March 30-31 at the Irving Spring Conference, April 1 at the District 56 meeting, April 7 at the Special Needs Workshop at the Richardson Group, May 1 at the District 1 meeting, May 12 at the CPC Committee meeting (Rowlett Group), May 25-27 at the Gathering of Eagles event in Dallas, June 15-17 at the Texas State Convention in Fort Worth and in October at the TXYPAA Convention. Two 2-hour Grapevine/La Vina workshops are scheduled: the first is at the McKinney Fellowship Group May 5 from 7-9PM, the second at the Mesquite Big Town Group May 20 from 2-4PM. Information on the regular monthly Grapevine/La Vina Committee meetings is posted on the NETA65.org web site Calendar. The annual half-day "Grape-a-thon" event is scheduled for July 22 from noon to 6PM at the Richardson Group.

Literature/Intergroup Liaison Chair - Bill H:

The Dallas Intergroup Association set up a literature table at the Spring Assembly. The literature theme was the 7th Tradition. The Fort Worth Central Office also distributed almost 200 group 7th Tradition packets for GSRs to take with them. Committee contact members are active with the Waco and Tyler Central offices. Various selections of service literature items will continue to be featured at assemblies to keep the membership informed. The tentative planned Assembly display themes for literature are: Summer 2007 - Corrections, Fall 2007 - Treatment, Winter 2008 - PI and CPC in combination, Spring 2008 - Special Needs and the Summer 2008 theme will focus on the Concepts. A literature and Intergroup/Central display will be at the Texas State Convention with information on the various structures of the Central Offices and how they function. Presentations were made at the District 53 and 54 meetings and at the Combined District 5 meeting. DCMs are encouraged to schedule Literature/Intergroup presentations at their district meetings. The Intergroup/Central Offices all have web sites which are a great source of information.

Newsletter Editor - Charlie A:

The first newsletter was successful. There is a problem with a lack of support for translations and support is being recruited (no newsletter input was received from the Hispanic community). Submission deadlines are hard copy by the assembly and soft copy (e-mail) by the area committee meeting. Confirmations will be sent out for articles submitted.

Public Information (PI) Chair Lynn R:

The PI meeting/presentation calendar is: February 4 at the Fort Worth "repeat offenders" Court together with the Area Corrections Chair, February 15 at the District 9 meeting accompanied by the Area Delegate, March 10 at the Combined District 6 PI/CPC Committee meeting, March 11 at the Combined District 5 meeting, May 6 at the District 21 meeting at the Lewisville Group and June 27 at the Fort Worth Employee Health and Benefits Fair. PI will have a table at the Texas State Convention in Fort Worth.

Special Needs Chair - Fred G (and Alternate Bill S reporting):

A workshop was held April 7 at the Richardson Group and had good turnout and was supported by the Audio-Visual and Grapevine Committees. The next workshop is April 21 at 1:30PM at the Town North Group. Several speakers will attend. One is from the Texas Association for the Blind; two speakers will be persons confined to wheelchairs and a blind member will also speak to discuss their challenges in sobriety as handicapped individuals. Plans are being made for a large workshop in November 2007 and more information will be presented at a future date.

Treatment Facilities (TF) Chair - Don G:

The next committee meeting is April 22 at 2PM at the Arlington Central Group from 2-4PM. A primary focus for discussion will be AA's singleness of purpose and problems other than alcohol.

General Reminder and Call for Volunteers:

All Service Committees are in continuous need of volunteers. Please refer to the NETA Phone List and contact the Committee Chairs and/or Alternates for information. Even if you might only be able to participate on an infrequent basis, please contact the Service Committee Chairs and volunteer whatever time you can.