

Northeast Texas Area (NETA 65) - Winter Assembly - January 19-20, 2008
Clarion Hotel 5301 N. Stateline Ave, Texarkana, TX 75502 - (903-792-3222)

Saturday January 19, 2008

Area Chair Jim C called the assembly to order and opened the proceedings with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Jason T, GSR of the Mansfield Group, read "Why Do We Need a Conference."

The morning proceedings consisted of a concurrent GSR Orientation/Sharing session and DCM Sharing Session. The assembly business meeting convened after the morning break.

Area Secretary Arthur S read the minutes of the Fall Assembly, which were accepted with a correction to the name of the member who read "Why Do We Need a Conference." The file copy of the minutes has been corrected.

Area Treasurer PJ H-R announced that donations are still being sent to old PO Box addresses and that donations should be sent to PO Box 169, Allen, TX 75013. The September 1 thru December 31, 2007 Financial Statement had a beginning Operating Account balance of \$12,605.67 with contributions of \$9,173.55, budget items paid of \$7,100.00 for an ending balance of \$14,679.22. The Prudent Reserve Account beginning balance was \$10,222.62 with interest of \$11.73 for an ending balance of \$10,234.35. The total area treasury balance was \$24,913.57.

The 62nd Texas State Convention made a contribution to the area of \$425.00. Total contributions to NETA for 2007 were \$31,521.01. Total budget items actually disbursed in 2007 was \$32,794.97. The 2007 shortfall was \$1,273.96.

Alternate Area Treasurer Mo N reported on expenses paid to date through the Fall Assembly. The mileage allowance rate was changed from 14 cents per mile to 30 cents per mile.

Convention Chair Jim P reported a Convention account balance, as of September 14, 2007 of \$1,145.06. The Fall Assembly and Convention had 186 registrations (\$1,860) and 137 coffee stars purchased (\$1,640). The total cost of the Fall Assembly and Convention was \$3,185.51 and was fully self-supporting. The current Convention account balance is \$1,303.58. The upcoming Assembly schedule is:

Spring 2008: March 29-30 - Sheraton Grand Hotel (\$73) 4440 W John Carpenter Fwy, Irving, 75063 (800-345-5251).

Summer 2008: June - Waco.

Fall 2008: 3rd weekend in September (Election/Convention) - Sheraton Grand Hotel, Irving (registration \$10, coffee star \$12).

Winter 2009: 2nd weekend in January - Sherman.

Jim announced that he will be undergoing surgery and likely be convalescing for 8-10 weeks. Alternate Convention Chair Cody K will take over responsibilities during that period.

Alternate Area Chair Jana A reported that NETA workshop schedules were available as handouts. 2008 is off to a good start. The number of DCMs recruited to participate in conducting workshops is up to 5 and more are expected. If any group wants a workshop please make sure that group conscience has agreed to it.

Alternate Delegate Jimmy D reported that Colorado did a fantastic job hosting the Southwest Regional Forum. NETA will host the next Regional Forum October 9-11, 2009. Larry J is acting as Chairperson of the organizational effort to put the Forum in place at the Westin DFW airport Hotel in Irving. The next SWAARSA will be in St Louis, MO in October 10-12, 2008 (flyers are available and registration is \$5).

Structure Committee Chair Glenice S: reported that a meeting over the lunch break had 4 members present (Jim T, Luis P, Glenice S and Joe P) plus the Southwest Regional Trustee as a non-participating guest. In her absence, Naomi Z emailed her input to the 3 Policies and Procedures (P&P) change motions to be discussed.

There was no disapproval on motion # 1 to amend last sentence of sections 3.5, 3.6, and 3.7 to change the word "year" to "panel" to allow the reconciliation of expenses over a 2-year period. The committee was unable to obtain unanimity and no action was taken on motion # 2 to amend section 4.9 to delete references to the Delegate, Convention Chair, and Area Chair and add a reference to the "Voice of the Convention." On motion # 3 and the question of creating an Area Archivist and Historian position, the motion was tabled to the next meeting for more discussion.

Old Business Agenda

2008 NETA Budget: the Chair called for the Area Treasurer PJ H-R to present and review the NETA 65 proposed 2008 Budget. PJ reviewed the budget item categories and explained the new budget category of "Publishing" for the combined printing of the minutes and newsletter as a self-mailer. PJ then asked for questions and comments.

CPC Chair Joe C requested a quarterly budget item for literature similar to that allocated for the PI committee. The CPC committee budget was increased by \$25 per quarter for literature.

Mike W, Audio-Visual Chair, requested that the A-V budget for Workshops/Presentations be lowered from \$100 to \$75 across the board.

Outcome: the Chair asked if there was any disapproval. None being voiced, the 2008 NETA budget was approved by unanimous consent.

Motion submitted by Jana A, Alternate Chair on the question to amend Section 2.2 of the Policies and Procedures document to insert the sentence noted in bold and underscored below:

- 2.2. A general election is held during the Fall Assembly of even-numbered years for the purpose of electing all Area Committee Officers, Delegate and Alternate Delegate, using Third Legacy Procedures. **If an Alternate Area Committee Officer or Alternate Delegate vacancy subsequently occurs, a special election shall be held at the first possible assembly.** Chairpersons for the Area Service Committees (see 1.1.1 above), chosen from lists of NETA trusted servants who have indicated their willingness to serve in the positions, shall be agreed upon by both the incoming and outgoing Area Chairpersons, subject to NETA Assembly disapproval. The Area Service Committee Chairpersons shall appoint Alternate Chairpersons, to be approved by the Area Committee.

Outcome: the Chair asked if there was any disapproval. None being voiced, the motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Standing (or Service) Committee Reports, which followed the assembly business meeting, are recorded in a 2-page addendum to the minutes to consolidate reports given at the Assembly and the following Area Committee meeting.

As an addendum, Committee Chairs can revise and extend their reports up to the cut-off date for the Area mail-out. The addendum is posted on the NETA65.org web site and included in the Area mail-out as part of the minutes.

After the Standing Committee Reports, the Chair moderated a session of "Ask the Chairman." After those who wished to, had an opportunity to ask questions, the assembly broke for dinner."

Following the dinner break, a 2-hour series of Conference Theme Presentations were conducted by pre-selected members. It was the consensus of the attendees that all the presentations were exceptionally well done.

Sunday January 20, 2008 (correction)

Area Chair Jim C reconvened the assembly and opened the proceedings with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Mansfield Group GSR Jason T read "Why Do We Need a Conference?"

Area Delegate Bill N reported on the preliminary conference committee agenda items. Discussions and Q & A followed.

Area Chair Jim C invited Southwest Regional Trustee Conley B to report to the assembly.

As the final Sunday agenda item, Area Delegate Bill N moderated a session of "What's On Your Mind." After those 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 Committee Meeting - February 10, 2008 Amended Minutes

Hosted by the Language of the Heart Group of District 61
4121 Colleyville Blvd #7, Colleyville, TX 76034

Area Chair Jim C called the meeting to order and opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. David S read "Why Do We Need a Conference." The Chair asked attendees to introduce themselves. Eight DCMs or Alternate DCMs were present.

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

Alternate Secretary Richard R reported the mail-out schedule as: (1) Winter - Richardson Group, March 2 at 1:30PM; (2) Spring - Arlington Central Group; Summer - Rowlett Group and Fall - Frisco Group. Dates and times are to be determined.

Area Treasurer PJ H-R distributed a January 2008 Financial Statement. The Operating Account beginning balance was \$14,679.22 with contributions of \$4,214.11, budget items paid of \$9,897.52 for an ending balance of \$8,995.81. The Prudent Reserve Account balance was \$10,234.35. The total area treasury balance was \$19,230.16. PJ noted that the contributions total included \$482.93 of excess funds returned by Area Trusted Servants from calendar year 2007 disbursements.

Acting Convention Chair Cody K reported that Jim P appears to be healing well after surgery. The opening Convention account balance was \$1,303.58. There were 158 registrations at the Winter Assembly and 131 coffee stars were sold for \$1,310.00. Winter Assembly expenses were \$2,425 and the current Convention account balance stands at \$688.58. The upcoming Assembly schedule is:

Spring	2008: March 29-30	Sheraton Grand Hotel (\$73) 4440 W John Carpenter Fwy, Irving 75063 (800-345-5251).
Summer	2008: June 21-22	Diane Heaven Community Center, 400 Schroeder Dr (Hwy 84 near Hwy 6), Waco 76710.
Fall	2008: September 19-21	(Election/Convention) Sheraton Grand Hotel (registration \$10, coffee star \$12).
Winter	2009: January 10-11	Sherman (Pottsboro).

Area Officer, Standing (or Service) Committee and Ad Hoc Committee Reports: due to the large amount of business introduced at the committee meeting some officer reports and standing committee reports are recorded in an addendum to the minutes to consolidate information reported at the Assembly and area committee meeting. As an addendum, Committee Chairs can revise and extend their reports up to the cut-off date for the Area mail-out. The addendum is posted on the NETA65.org web site and included in the Area mail-out.

Miscellaneous: the Chair announced that he would depart from routine procedure and allow attendees to pose questions to the Financial Budget Committee and/or Structure Committee. In a rhetorical question directed to the Financial Budget Committee, it was inferred from the floor that area committee members may possibly face personal liability related to increasing the mileage reimbursement rate from 14 to 30 cents per mile. The Treasurer responded that based on information she had received from the IRS and a tax attorney committee members may possibly face personal liability related to increasing the mileage rate reimbursement from 14 to 30 cents per mile. The Chair indicated that the matter should be addressed by the Financial Budget Committee. The Delegate informed the attendees that while in New York he spoke directly with the incoming new Treasurer on the matter and was informed that NETA can reimburse whatever mileage rate it chooses. Further confirmation of this was echoed by an attendee who is the Deputy Director of the United Way Charities.

Motions Introduced

9/30/2007 motion [amended 2/10/2008] submitted by Bill N, Area Delegate on the question to change the last sentence of P&P sections 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8 as follows:

(1) The last sentence of sections 3.5 and 3.6 be changed to read: "If the expense amount does not exceed the amount of the advance then the amount of the excess funds disbursed are to be returned to the NETA Treasury at the end of each ~~year~~ panel (i.e. two-year term of office)." (2) The last sentence of sections 3.7 and 3.8 be changed to read: "If advanced funds for the ~~year~~ panel (i.e. two-year term of office) have exceeded receipts submitted for expenses then the amount of the excess funds disbursed are to be returned to the NETA Treasury at the end of each ~~year~~ panel (i.e. two-year term of office)." Outcome: placed on the 2008 Spring Assembly agenda as Old Business.

9/30/2007 motion submitted by Bill N, Area Delegate on the question to change P&P section 4.9 as follows: "The Northeast Texas Area Fall Assembly and Convention shall pay for the transportation, lodging, meals and registration for the following persons:

Currently reads

- A. All speakers (AA, Al-Anon, and Alateen).
- B. Northeast Texas Area Delegate.
- C. Al-Anon Chairperson.
- D. Convention Chairperson.
- E. Northeast Texas Area Chairperson."

Change to read

- A. All speakers (AA, Al-Anon, and Alateen).
- B. Al-Anon Chairperson
- C. Voice of the Convention

Outcome: placed on the 2008 Spring Assembly agenda as Old Business.

2/10/2008 motion submitted by Newsletter Editor Charlie A on the question to change P&P section 6.3 as follows:

Section 6.3 currently reads: Amendment of the NETA Policies and Procedures requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Assembly for approval. Change 6.3 to read: Amendment of the NETA Policies and Procedures requires a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the Assembly for approval. Outcome: referred to the Structure Committee.

2/10/2008 motion submitted by Alt. Delegate Jimmy D on the question to retire (i.e. eliminate) the Area service position of Audio-Visual Chair. Outcome: referred to the Structure Committee.

2/10/2008 motion from District 55 DCM Bill M in behalf of the Simply AA Group GSR, Doug M on the question to change the Winter, Spring and Summer assembly schedule from 2-day events to 1-day events. Outcome: referred to the Structure Committee.

2/10/2008 motion submitted by Secretary Arthur S on the question to have past Delegates practice the principle of rotation. Change P&P sections 1.2 and 5.1 as follows:

Section 1.2 currently reads: 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. Change 1.2 to read: Past Delegates may serve as voting members on the Area Committee, and receive disbursements of general expense funds, for a term of six (6) years immediately following their term as Delegate. Past Delegates are encouraged not to stand for Area Officers or Standing Committee Chairs.

Section 5.1 currently reads: The Area Structure Committee is composed of past Northeast Texas Area Delegates and Past Delegates from other Areas, living in the Northeast Texas Area. They are non-voting, only making suggestions. Change 5.1 to read: The Area Structure Committee is composed of the last three (3) past Northeast Texas Area Delegates who may wish to serve plus all Area Officers elected by Third Legacy procedure at an assembly.

Outcome: referred to the Structure Committee.

2/10/2008 motion submitted by District 61 DCM Jan L in behalf of a District 61 GSR on the question to return paragraph #3, as it appears in the 3rd edition, 73rd printing of the Big Book, pg. 546, in the story "Freedom from Bondage." The missing passage is

"I looked around me at people who seemed happy and tried to analyze their happiness, and it seemed to me that without exception these people had something or somebody they loved very much. I didn't have the courage to love; I was not even sure I had the capacity. Fear of rejection and its ensuing pain were not to be risked, and I turned away from myself once more for the answer, this time to the drinks I had always refused before, and in alcohol I found a false courage."

Outcome: placed on the Spring Assembly agenda as New Business.

Administrative: the Spring Assembly agenda was reviewed and approved with modifications.

Nominations: Grapevine/La Vina Chair Linda A submitted the nomination of Caroline R as Alternate Gv/LV Chair. After presenting her service experience, Caroline was welcomed into Area Committee service with no disapproval.

Next Area Committee Meeting: the Chair called for recommendations on a site and date for the 2008 Summer Area Committee meeting. District 71 volunteered to host it at 1:30 PM, July 13 at the Open Door Club, 3157 Russell Ave, Abilene 79605 (325-672-0190). The Spring Area Committee meeting will be at 1:30PM, April 13 at the ODAAT Group, 2109 W Parker Rd, Plano 75023 (972-867-1115).

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 Area Assembly and Area Committee Minutes
Consolidated Standing Committee Reports
NETA 2008 Winter Assembly and Winter Area Committee Meeting**

Alternate Area Chair Jana A reported at the area committee meeting that three additional workshops have been scheduled since the Winter Assembly. If any workshop presenters have notes, Jana requested that they be sent to her by email.

Alternate Delegate Jimmy D reported at the area committee meeting that the 63rd Annual Texas State AA Convention will be held in Odessa from June 13-15. Flyers are available and this will be the weekend before our Summer Assembly. The Texas State Convention has been very helpful in financial support to all four Texas Areas. DCMs were asked to take 2008 SWRAASA flyers home with them (a link is also on the NETA65.org web site).

Delegate Bill N reported at the area committee meeting that the upcoming SWRDA will be held in Oklahoma City March 7-9, 2008. I just returned from Board Weekend in NYC (Jan 31-Feb 4) and it appears that the final Conference Agenda will be light.

There was a long debate at the final GSB meeting on Monday morning with many of the Trustees accusing certain Trustee Committees of "legislating" from the Committees rather than the Conference. The General Manager has formally submitted his resignation to take place no later than 12/31/08. A search committee has been named to find a replacement. There was a major 2-hour debate at the final GSB Board meeting in regards to the report that the Trustee's Nominating Committee is planning to submit to the Conference. There was no substantive change to the current Nominating Procedure #9 and many felt that this was an insult to the Conference and the Fellowship as a whole. It appears we will have fireworks at the Conference. The GSB is clearly divided at this time. The event of trying to stop a Trustee's Committee report at the GSB was unprecedented and there were requests to attach minority reports to the final report. There are no clear guidelines in place as to how to handle this which was verified by our Archivist Amy F. The whole mess ended in chaos and indecision. I found that particular experience very disturbing, to say the least, and there are clearly Trustees there who feel little to no connection to the fellowship in their decisions.

Mock Committee assignments will be coming late next week when I receive the final 2008 GSC Agenda.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

Jana A reported that Area Handbook ad hoc committee met the morning of the Area Committee meeting to review the input from the Area Committee received on their job descriptions. Copies of job descriptions were handed out at the assembly to the current position holder and alternate and past position holder and alternate and asked for input by February 2. Not much input has been received so the deadline is being extended to February 20. The Audio-Visual Chair commented that he did not receive a write-up for the Audio-Visual Chair position at the assembly. Jana said she will get it to him.

Arthur S reported for the District Mapping ad hoc committee that sample maps were displayed at the last two assemblies and the previous committee meeting. 8 ½ x 11 size area maps for English and Spanish language districts are completed. The committee recommends that new large size base maps not be purchased and the current base maps, updated with the taped lines drawn by Bill N, be used. The tape will also allow for easy alteration to the maps in the future if needed. Individual district maps and reports will be sent to DCMs requesting that they review their district county line boundaries with their neighboring DCMs and make whatever recommendations for district boundary changes they consider appropriate.

Bill N explained the county line boundary adjustments that were made on the current maps for districts in the western part of the area. None of the changes affected any of the groups. A recommendation was made to take a look at district 73 which has been dark for some period of time. It appears that the counties making up District 73 should be made part of District 71. It was also recommended that the DCMs of Districts 91 and 92 consider having Districts 92 become part of District 91. District 92 has 2 registered groups. This is the final report of the Mapping Committee. Follow-on work will be done by the Area Secretary to provide each district with a customized district map and special large maps showing the locations of groups in the Northeast Texas Area.

Corrections Chair Stuart R (and Dusty W Alternate Chair): If your group would like to host a Corrections Committee meeting let me know. Dusty and I are available to bring presentations to your groups or districts.

Thanks to all who worked and supported our conference in November. It financially came out \$194.63 to the good, but only thanks to a 50% discount from the hotel. We were not quite self-supporting. We are very grateful for the contributions from district 53, 55, and Arlington Group. Thanks to Combined District 6 for their help in the hospitality suite. We had 86 paid registrations and 4 comp. registrations. The orientation was a great success with many new volunteers approved. The 2008 Corrections Conference is tentatively scheduled for November 8-9 at the Ramada DFW South. We are considering making this a single day event.

Orange cans: contributions for 2007 totaled \$1,803.12. We purchased literature totaling \$1,559.37 leaving \$243.75 in the literature fund. General finance: Our opening balance at the beginning of the panel was \$332.76. Add \$194.63 from the conference and \$243.75 from literature and our year-end balance was \$771.14.

Corrections service opportunities: (1) Larry B (mecrazyone1@embarqmail.com) 214-538-0905 needs both men and women volunteers. (2) Jose G (joseg47@tx.rr.com) 817-371- 8921 is looking for volunteers for the Lindsey state jail in Jacksboro. You must be state approved. (3) Toni K, 972-742-4706 needs women for the Dawson unit in Dallas. (4) Jimmy D (jdean@halfie.com) 214-674-7836 helps to coordinate meetings into 4 state jails: Estes, Colfield, Powledge, and Dawson units. You must be state approved. (5) Mike L, 469-835-4099, Keith D, 214-906-5183, Mike R, 214-649-9785 need volunteers for the Way Back House in Dallas. Men and women needed. (6) Kim L (leithtx@tx.rr.com) 972-890-3943 needs volunteers for the Collin County Jail. (7) Joe S, 817-229-6158 needs volunteers for Palo Pinto county jail. Men and women needed. (8) As always we need people to be pre release contacts and correspondence contacts.

At the Area Committee meeting Stuart made a request that due to mix up in communication with our contact in Huntsville the names of the 40-50 members who attended the orientation session at the November Corrections Conference need to be identified again. An email has been sent out to everyone on the Corrections email list but no response has been received so far. Anyone who had an orientation in November is requested to contact Stuart.

CPC Chair Joe C: I am willing to go anywhere in the area to district meeting or groups wherever I can be of service.

Activities include: (1) attending Combined District 6 CPC/PI Monthly Meetings. (2) CPC Presentation for District 54 on October 7. (3) Attended the Regional Forum October 12-14 in Denver. (4) CPC display at Young People in AA Conference October 26-28. (5) District 22 in Allen on November 9. (6) CPC display at the Area CF Conference in Irving November 10-11. (7) Area CPC meeting on November 24 at the Big Town Group in Balch Springs. (8) On January 13-15 attended American Corrections Association Winter Conference at the Gaylord Conference Center in Grapevine. (9) attended a January 26 District 54 CPC/PI meeting at the ODAAT Group and (10) will be at the District 22 Round-robin in Farmersville on February 23. (11) On March 8 we're having our next Area CPC meeting at the Arlington Central Group at 2PM. (12) there will be a March 9 presentation for District 24 (date and time pending). (13) On May 2-4 I'll be at the Heart of Texas Conference in Waco.

Grapevine/La Vina Chair Linda A: The committee welcomes invitations to participate in AA functions by providing speakers, participating in workshops, presenting plays and the Area Grapevine/La Vina Display.

Activities this past quarter includes: (1) 10/16/07 presentation to the Keller Golden Triangle Group. (2) 10/26-28/07 TXSYPAA Convention, Dallas, display and information. (3) 11/10-11/07 display at the Corrections Committee Conference. (4) 11/17/07 presentation and display at the Special Needs Workshop at the Show Me Group in Denton. (5) 11/17/07 GV/LV presentation and talk at Texoma Group #1 in Denison. (6) 12/1/07 presentation for District 62 at the 24 Hour Group, Fort Worth. (7) 1/11-13/07 display and information table at the Tyler Groups Combined Anniversary Weekend. (8) 1/12/07 presentation at District 42 Meeting in Tyler. (9) 1/13/07 presentation at afternoon meeting of Combined 5 at the Town South Group in Lancaster

The GV/LV Committee Meets the second Saturday of the month at groups. For the past quarter we want to thank Town South Group in Lancaster, Frisco Group, Lake Highlands Group in Dallas. We are open for invitations for the meetings coming up in May, June and July 2008 (see the NETA65.org website calendar). The GV/LV Committee looks forward to participating with an information table and display 5/2-4/08 at the Heart of Texas Conference in Waco. Mark your calendar, the ODAAT Group in Plano will host the annual Grape-a-thon Workshop on July 20 (1/2 day 12:30 to 5:30). We look forward to talks, food, fellowship and SW Regional Trustee, Conley B as keynote speaker. Special thanks to District 53.

Special Needs Chair Bill S: reported that they continue to hold monthly committee meetings at different locations throughout the area (locations and times are posted on the NETA65.org calendar). We will be doing a presentation at Combined 5 sometime this year. The 3rd annual Special Needs Workshop was on November 17, 2007 at the Show Me Group in Denton. This went very well but will ask for more support from everyone next year. Attendance was lower than I would have liked. We did a presentation at the District 54 meeting in December. We will be going to the CD-6 Special Needs Committee meeting in February and the Special Needs Committee Chair of CD-6 will be coming to ours. I hope to help build a strong working relationship between to two committees.

Literature/Intergroup Liaison Bill H: reported that the committee's mid-panel inventory in December showed a need to improve meeting attendance and communication with central offices in the area and steps are underway by the chair and alternate to address this. Also, the committee can contribute to area service by helping members and the districts and groups become more aware of the wealth of AA knowledge and experience available in pamphlet and other publications available at minimal cost. Improvement in this area will help the groups improve and expand the service they do to reach to alcoholic who still suffers with our message of recovery. We plan to do as many presentations and displays as possible to assist members of Area 65 to fully utilize available literature resources.