



NORTHEAST TEXAS AREA NEWS

The Heartbeat of the Northeast Texas Area

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Delegate's Report

Joe P.

Hey AAs! It sure was great to be back at the Green Oaks Inn in Fort Worth, Texas. Yes, I took short hike to see if the old ice cream parlor was there, back behind the hotel. :o) It is still there and the service is better than ever – you should have seen the banana split/double dipper they put together for me. At the Fall Assembly, the speakers, Mike D., Gary K., and Charlie M., were very knowledgeable and stuck to our singleness of purpose. We appreciated Al-Anon participation also. We welcomed our incoming Southwest Regional Trustee to a preview of NETA. The Area Convention Committee and the Combined 5 Districts Hospitality Committee served everyone well. It's just great to see all our area committee's tables full of literature and staffed ready to be of service to Alcoholics Anonymous. The NETA Archives is a piece of work. All this makes me grateful to be a small part of the great society of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The 2004 Southwest Regional Forum in Kansas City was very inspirational. There were over five hundred AA's in attendance. To see so many drunks participate in a meaningful and somewhat tranquil discussion is no small miracle. This we can do because of our 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts. I was fortunate to be able to moderate a workshop at the SWR Forum. The workshop was: Tradition Two – The Group Conscience. There were over a hundred AAs present at this workshop and all had the opportunity to share. We followed the service manual on how to conduct a sharing session. To arrive at a true group conscience everyone must have the opportunity to participate, for God speaks to us through the group conscience. We were also reminded that our leaders are but trusted servants, they must not govern. And that a good leader must also be a good follower, when the group conscience has spoken.

I hope everyone has received the General Service Conference Report booklet. We try to review as much of the Conference business at our assemblies. We review: 1) each Committee Advisory Action, 2) each Committee Consideration, and 3) each Committee Recommendation that did not pass. Whew, I know this sounds like a lot of information, it is. We just review it and trust that our HP hands it back to us if and when we need it.

Chairperson's Report

Larry J.

Greetings to all! I am somewhat late with this article, but I feel this is necessary so you, the groups, will be fully informed. One year ago this month we learned that our treasury was short several thousand dollars. The area had just held our elections and I thought that my time left would play out uneventfully.

The area was in a state of shock for a while. I wasn't quite sure what to do. After much prayer and thought, along with talking to older, more experienced members, the solution was clear. When we get in trouble in A.A. we ask for help. That is what always works.

As your Delegate at the time, I held the responsibility of addressing this problem. A letter was drafted and sent to all the groups stating our need for assistance. The DCMs and GSRs did a wonderful job of getting this message to you, the A.A. groups of Northeast Texas. Your response was overwhelming. There is no way that I could find the words to express my personal thanks to the groups in Northeast Texas for the manner in which they handled this situation.

At the very first assembly following our shortfall, we heard one of the most encouraging treasurer's reports that I've heard in a long time. The finances were rapidly becoming stable and the worried looks on the faces of the area were gone.

Many of you are probably aware of some of the safeguards that were put in place and many of you are not. We, the Budget Committee, made a decision that more than one person would receive the bank statements. Area account activity is verified by at least 3 people. In keeping with the 7th Tradition, the prudent reserve account is not available to the standing treasurer, though he does have the ability, along with three past delegates, to monitor the prudent reserve account. The past delegates are the signers on that account.

These actions were not taken as an act of mistrust, but as an act of responsibility. The discussions we had when putting these safeguards in place were always around the principle of the 9th Tradition; that we be "directly responsible to those they serve". I do not believe any of us are so naive that we would fool ourselves into thinking there is a completely foolproof system; and ours certainly is not. But it will sure keep us aware of our vulnerability.

With all that said, it is important to A.A. in Northeast Texas that we continue our support for area services. Our area committee and the standing committee chairs are doing an outstanding job. They are as conscientious and dedicated as any group we have had in the area. In order for them to continue they need your support both financially, as well as your moral support. Thank you again and keep those contributions coming.

Lets switch gears for the last part of this article. We are very dedicated to the GSR time and the DCM time at our assemblies. I would like to make an appeal to all GSRs and DCMs to make the best possible use of the few minutes that are allotted to you at the floor microphones. Rather than spending the better part of your time giving us your meeting schedules we would like to hear the concerns and comments your groups have. In doing this, my hope is that your group's voice will truly be heard at the area level. Your questions and concerns can be addressed by the collective experience the NETA.

For example, you express a concern the area chairperson who will, having a full view of the assembly, call on one of the experienced members to meet with you one on one at a later time during the assembly. This way we become informed and you leave the meeting with answers and/or suggestions from A.A. experience. I believe this concept has true merit and we are going to put it in effect at the winter assembly in Abilene, January 10-11, 2004.

Thanks again for the opportunity to serve and for your continued indulgence of my ramblings.

Treasurer's Report

Bill N.

Greetings to all. A year ago we discovered that the Northeast Texas Area Treasury was in severe trouble. Most folks know what happened and we had quite a mess on our hands.

What transpired over the course of the following 12 months was one of the most amazing things I have ever witnessed at NETA. The problem appeared to be one of the darkest moments in NETA history. What followed had to be some of our finest hours.

The way we responded to our dilemma was overwhelming. It showed us that our area is one of the best in the service structure. To have had the privilege to witness this event from my vantage point was on the most significant periods of my sobriety. At times it got quite emotional to see what a truly giving area we are a part of. I thank the area from the bottom of my heart for allowing me the privilege to be of service. Love and service is a blast!

PI Chairperson's Report

Bill M.

At the Fall Convention and Assembly the area approved the new area website. The URL is www.neta65.org. The website is live, but some of the functions are not working. Next week the disclaimer that one is leaving the area website when linking to GSO will be in place. The districts will be listed and boxes will become usable. The email will have "broadcast" function so the delegate, chairman or committee chairs can pass along information more effectively. The addresses will be areachairman@neta65.org and on down through the standing committee chairs.

We are closer to becoming involved in facilitating the Dallas Police's Chaplaincy Group in the formation of an AA group for the department. The meeting place will be Lovers Lane United Methodist Church. Larry J. will be involved with the initial stages of this effort.

CPC Chairperson's Report

Don C.

Since my last report we have been involved in the 1st Annual Combined 6 CPC/PI Workshop. I gave a presentation to the Combined 5 and we have corresponded with several other professionals that were referred to us by New York.

The workshop was a real success even though the turn out was less than stellar. We were able to talk with one professional who was very new and had no idea what AA was all about. We had some very good questions from the crowd and the entire event was a success.

I was privileged to attend the last Combined 5 meeting and to once again give my presentation.

We were able to attend the Southwest Regional Forum in Kansas City this year and what a time we had. I think everyone who went to it came back with much enthusiasm and a renewed sense of purpose. A lot of questions were answered and a good time was had by all.

I have been asked by GSO to staff a booth at the Annual State Meeting of Psychologists in March of 2004. Hopefully I'll have more information for you in Abilene.

Archives Chairperson Report

Arthur S.

Ted K. – Alternate

Due to medical restrictions on my part, Ted K. will assume the duties of the archives chair until further notice. I'll still be involved in archives matters but have a number of physical restrictions in what I can and cannot do, and will likely be undergoing some future additional medical procedures.

The GSO Archives Display was at the Fall Assembly and Convention and appeared to be well received. The cost of the display was around \$72 as opposed to the \$150 we had initially estimated for shipping charges. The display has been approved by the area for use at the 2004 Assembly and Convention.

At the Fall Assembly and Convention all the small information cards in the archives display cases were in both English and Spanish. A Spanish translation of the NETA Group Archives Guidelines has also been completed and is available. Thanks to Luis P. and Joe P. for their hard work in doing the translation. We also plan to translate the NETA Area Guidelines as soon as possible.

Since January of the year groups have been invited to schedule the area archives to be displayed at their anniversaries or special events. To date group response has been very encouraging. Due to situations beyond our control, we had to make some schedule changes for October. We are currently doing some reorganizing and, where possible, will fulfill all our scheduled commitments.

The archives committee met on September 4th at 8PM at the Lewisville Main Street Group. Our next meeting is scheduled for December 4th at 8PM at the Richardson Group. The newest member of the archives committee is Dave C., who will represent Combined 5.

Our next major project will be the development of an archives workshop. A questionnaire was handed out at the last three assemblies and area committee meetings to obtain district, group and member input on what the workshop should contain. The first meeting to develop the workshop took place on October 13th at 7PM at my house. This meeting was for archives committee members only to shape the outline of the planned workshop.

A revised archives inventory has been submitted to the area secretary. The archives history of assembly action items has been updated through the 2003 Summer Assembly.

Newsletter Chairperson's Report

Dawn F.

Thanks to The Colony Group for hosting the newsletter mailout. Good food and good company; can't get much better. Also, thanks to the Big Town Group for hosting the mailout on November 23rd. We ate good chili and got those newsletters folded! I am so grateful to be in an area that is so service-oriented.

I also need to apologize the Big Town Group for my misprint in the Newsletter that the Grand Prairie Group hosted the mailout on in November. The Grand Prairie Group will host the mailout on February 15, 2004.

Thanks!!!

Audiovisual Chairperson's Report

Bill H.

Alcoholics Anonymous – An Inside View - Depicts alcoholics recovering in A.A. 28 minutes

It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell - Filmed inside correctional facilities in the U.S. and Canada. 17 minutes

Young People in A.A. - Four young A. A. members describe what it was like drinking and what their lives are like sober today. 28 minutes

Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous - Explains the principles of A.A. – What A.A. is and isn't, primary purpose; sponsorship and basic recovery tools. 5 minutes

A.A. – Rap With Us – Rap music and lyrics bridge these four young people's stories of alcoholic despair and A.A. recovery. 16 minutes

Markings on the Journey – Depicts 45 years of A.A. history, using rare material from our archives. 35 minutes

Bill's Own Story – Co-founder Bill W. tells of his drinking and recovery in his own words. 60 minutes

Bill Discusses the Twelve Traditions – How the principles safeguarding A.A. developed. 60 minutes

Carrying the Message Behind These Walls – Focuses on encouraging more A.A.'s to participate in carrying the message into correctional facilities. 28 minutes

You're A.A. General Service Office, the Grapevine, and the General Service Structure – Tour the Grapevine office and your G.S.O. Also contains information on A.A.'s service structure. 21 minutes

Keep your group happy; remember to clear these videos with your group's steering committee!!

Cary C. - DCM – District 21

Hello Area 65. Many challenges are ahead. I have a new grapevine chairperson, Julie Lehman, from Carry the Message in Denton. Our treatment facilities chair has faded away so I will need to have a talk with the alternate about two hats and a decision.

The forum was very informative and an excellent experience. Thank you to Dan M., the Non Trustee AAWS Director of the Publishing Department, for our spirited discussion about changes in Dr. Bob's Nightmare and to the delegate, panel 53 from Iowa about the changes in the service manual.

Much brouhaha has come about due to the new edition of the service manual. Those of us that have yet to see it will be amazed. It appears to be in newsprint style with a burgundy cover. It was made this way so it "Could be rolled up and put in your hip pocket." Good excuse for cheap workmanship in my book. Many complaints were lodged from the audience at the forum.

I come out in strong support of the request made by Naomi to have the six points that define a group be reinstated to the Group Pamphlet. I will be forwarding this to all my groups so they can review this, vote their conscience and bring it to the winter assembly to be forwarded to GSO and then added as background materials to our efforts to reinstate this.

Boyce R. – DCM District 22

District meetings are held the second Sunday of each month at 1:00 PM at rotating locations.

Larry J. and Naomi Z. will be at the Greenville Traditions Group to conduct a Concepts Workshop starting at 10:30 AM until 5 PM on Sunday, November 2nd.

Bill H. will show videos after the district meeting in Greenville at the Traditions Group on the second Sunday in December.

I enjoyed the opportunity to attend the Regional Forum in Kansas City.

Robert R. – DCM District 53

District meetings are held the first Sunday of each month at 12:30 PM at the Preston Group.

We are working on adopting policy and procedures for the district hopefully by the first of the year they will be in place. An election was held in November for a new treasurer and secretary and they will take their positions in January.

Aquarius hosted the Combined 5 in October. Representatives from Lambda, Cornerstone, Preston, Chicago and Belwood attended the regional forum in Kansas City, MO on October 3rd –5th. The Fall Assembly and Convention was attended by GSRs and their Alternates from Cornerstone, Chicago, Live and Let Live, Clean Air and Lambda.

Jim C. – DCM District 54

With all the activity in the past couple of months, I am reminded again how grateful I am to have the opportunity to be involved in service to the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. At District 54 we are having to replace our treasurer and secretary, two very dear and dedicated servants, due to their recent change of home groups outside of our district. They will be missed and their service was much appreciated. We are hopeful that the positions will be filled at our October monthly meeting.

The district has also begun very preliminary discussions on whether the district is too big to continue to be effective and that whether splitting or spinning off a few groups into another district might be something for members of the next panel (55) to consider. Much more discussion is needed.

I was able to attend and participate in our Fall Assembly and Convention, always an enjoyable experience. It is nice that we are able to get our "outside" speakers and it was also a pleasure to get to meet our new Regional Trustee. Many thanks to Rodney S., DCM-District 56, for heading up the Combined 5 Hospitality effort.

I was also able to attend the SW Regional Forum in Kansas City along with three district trusted servants and GSRs from ODAAT, Clean Air North, and Lakeside Traditions groups. In addition to always learning new things at the sharing sessions and presentations, I really appreciate the opportunity to hear fellow AA's from New York and around the region. Perhaps most gratifying, however, is the opportunity to get to know so many great people in our fellowship as we trudge the road to happy destiny.

Rodney S. - DCM District 56

HI Y'ALL !! OK, is it just me or do these assemblies and forums just keep getting better? I was still buzzing from Ft. Worth and then had an even more wonderful time in K.C. at the regional forum. It was just great to see and hear from old and new friends. I have heard that we "recharge" our batteries. It is hard to believe our terms are halfway completed. I guess we really do learn on the run. That old boring service manual is really starting to come to life. We in District 56 are excited about our new SW Regional Trustee, Gary K. He will do a wonderful job representing all of us in our region.

We have a new group in Forney at the 1st Baptist Church. They meet at 7:30 P.M. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We wish them all the luck and will be helping them all we can. Dallas Central Office agrees they fill a big hole on the area map. They are now listed on that website.

Speaking of websites, we are REALLY HAPPY to see our own NETA site get approval and are anxious to start using it. HEY, SEE YA IN ABILENE next year!

Vince K. – Alt DCM District 62

Summers over and fall is in the air. Football season used to be just another reason to practice my disease. Now when I watch a game I can remember it, which is not always a blessing. The holidays are coming soon, family get-togethers and company parties, District 62 has meetings 24/7 if you need a break. Hope to see you at a meeting soon. The Golden Triangle Group in Keller celebrated 15 years in October.

Jerry H. – DCM District 71

Preparations are underway to host the winter assembly at the Ambassador Suites in Abilene. Your DCM will have a flyer with more details and info will also be posted at www.district71.org. The rooms at the Ambassador are well-suited to sharing: a sleeper sofa in the sitting room separate from the bedroom. The rate includes a full, cooked-to-order breakfast. If you need more info please contact us so that we can help.

Past Delegates Share...

"Going to Kansas City", the AA Way

What a deal! I get to do my two favorite things, with the fave, my wife Beverly and many of my good AA friends. We get to travel and do AA at the same time! Because I'm sober and grateful, I get to say "yes" many times to AA. I believe this is in line with God's will for me. This includes a great amount of travel. It doesn't get any better than that! Traveling, seeing much of God's creation, while carrying the AA message.

We just got back from a wonderful forum in Kansas City. It was a peaceful forum and very informative. Our delegate, Joe P., moderated a good workshop on "Tradition Two - The Group Conscience". Then our alternate delegate, Naomi Z., moderated another workshop on "Embracing the Group Conscience". They were both very well attended with lots of good participation. Those are the first times that I've ever seen a sharing session at a forum which followed the directions in the service manual exactly! It's no wonder that I am mighty proud of the N.E. Texas Area. We are very well informed, indeed!

We got to meet several of the trustees, both Class A and B, staff workers, AAWS directors and AA Grapevine directors, as well as trusted servants from all 11 areas of our SW region. There were also some visitors from Iowa (West Central Region) and Louisiana (SE Region).

Several of us saw the corner of 12th St. & Vine (from the song "Goin' to Kansas City"), took a few pictures and discovered some great places to chow down. (That, of course is a by-product of good AA Fellowship and events, too!)

This was the first regional forum for our newly elected SW Regional Trustee, Gary K. I am convinced that our region is in good hands. He is an inspiration and a no bull type of leader who seems to have a real humble spirit. I am really looking forward to the next four years association with this trustee.

Looking forward to seeing y'all at the Winter Assembly in "Abilene, Abilene, prettiest town I've ever seen..." (Another song from the past).

It works! It really does!!

Love, Jim T. Panel 45 Delegate N.E. Texas Area 65

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