



# NORTHEAST TEXAS AREA NEWS

## The Heartbeat of the Northeast Texas Area

Quarterly Publication

Volume 21, Number 1

Spring 2004

### Delegate's Report Joe P.

The Winter Assembly in Abilene, Texas was well attended and a great time. Our hats are off to District 71 and our Area Convention Committee for doing such a fine job in the planning and hosting of this assembly. I really enjoyed the break out sessions for our Area Committees. It was a great opportunity to share everyone's experience, strength and hope in carrying the AA message to the many places we find alcoholics. We also reviewed the preliminary agenda for the 2004 General Service Conference. I really appreciate everyone's input.

There was a General Service Office Board meeting held in New York City on January 30 - February 2. The delegate chairperson of each Conference Committee was invited to attend the General Service Office Board weekend meetings. At the 2003 GSC I was blessed with the opportunity to be elected as the delegate chair of the Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities. Each delegate chairperson is elected by the members of their respective committees. I arrived on Thursday and visited an AA meeting with the delegates of Southeast New York, Southeast Texas, and Oklahoma. After the AA meeting we walked to SE NY Delegate Terry F.'s favorite Polish restaurant. On Friday and Saturday we met with the GSO Staff and the Class A and Class B Trustees to work on the agenda for the 2004 General Service Conference. Our work started at 8:00 AM and lasted until about 7:00 PM. On Friday night we went to Harlem with GSO staff members Warren S., Adriene B. and delegate Chuck B. for dinner. During the meetings, it was an awesome experience to see the Trustee Committee Chairperson as a kind of referee keeping us all moving ahead in the same direction, while keeping us focused on the agenda item at hand. I can't say enough about the GSO staff. They are a dedicated team that is there to serve Alcoholics Anonymous. I attended every committee meeting that was available and although I had no vote, I was allowed to share.

Through our AA Home Group, we can all be a part of the evolution of a Conference Advisory Action. (A Conference Advisory Action affects Alcoholics Anonymous worldwide. There are no rules in AA. An Advisory Action is as close to a rule as we come in AA - it is a guideline.)

An idea can come from any AA member. The idea can be shared or discussed at the group, district, and at the area assembly. To have an informed group conscious at all levels of service we can use the chart depicting the Structure of the Conference. After thorough discussion at the AA group level, the GSR takes the idea to their district meeting. After more discussion at the district, the DCM takes the idea to the area committee. After full discussion at the area committee meeting, the idea is forwarded to the area assembly. At the area assembly we can discuss the idea some more. At each step in the communication process an idea can be modified or discarded for a better idea. An idea that follows the path of the conference structure can result in an informed group conscious at each level of service.

I welcome your comments and suggestions. A servant in AA, Joe P.

### Alternate Delegate's Report Naomi Z.

One year of Panel 53 has passed and I am so grateful to have the opportunity to serve. I have been asked to attend several districts and groups to talk about the "Joy of Service", one topic I believe is a privilege to talk about. I want to thank you all for allowing me the chance to participate and be apart of your programs.

Our International Convention will be held in Toronto, Canada on June 30-July 3, 2005. In crossing over the border into Canada, there will be restrictions be imposed. We will need to share the pertinent process information and requirements with all of the groups and districts within the Northeast Texas Area. In planning to go to the convention, if you fall under the category of "those who believe they have some past legal incident, such as DUI or felony"; it has been suggested that you start now to plan to meet the requirements for entrance into Canada.

The following websites can be accessed for informational fact sheets for those with criminal convictions or equivalent:

<http://cicnet.ci.gc.ca/english/application/rehabil.html>  
[http://www.aa.org/default/en\\_services\\_aa.cfm?pageid=39](http://www.aa.org/default/en_services_aa.cfm?pageid=39)  
[http://www.travel.state.gov/tips\\_canada.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/tips_canada.html)

"Passports are strongly suggested" plus other types of information included for entry into Canada.

### Alternate Chairperson's Report Joe G.

To all in NETA: We just concluded the Winter Assembly in Abilene. What a great weekend we had!

The workshop topics we have available are: "Our Singleness of Purpose", "Sponsorship", "Chairing Meetings", "Traditions", and "Service Structure: The History of Service".

Please contact me if your district or group would like to schedule a workshop. See you at the Spring Assembly!

### Treasurer's Report Bill N.

Greetings to all. As I have made everyone aware, the Area contributions have dropped dramatically since October. We are running roughly 1/2 of what is needed to achieve budget.

Current donations to GSO from NETA groups are running around 45% participation, while contributions to the Area itself are around 20%. The question is why and what can we do?

I have made a great deal of effort to keep DCMs informed through emails, phone calls and website updates.

The bottom line fact is this: if every group in the Northeast Texas Area contributed only \$4.00 per month, we would make budget. That's \$48.00 per year to help fund AA's vital services. Our Area Committee consists of some of the hardest working, dedicated members I've ever had the pleasure to know. We humbly request your support in any way you can. God bless AA.

### **Convention Chairperson's Report Doug M.**

Upcoming Assembly information:

Spring 2004: March 27-28  
Sheraton Grand Hotel (reserve by March 12)  
4440 West John Carpenter Freeway (Hwy 114)  
Irving, TX 75063  
800-345-5251 Room rate: \$69/night

Summer 2004: June 26-27  
Holiday Inn (reserve by April 26)  
2865 W. Washington St.  
Stephenville, TX  
254-968-5256 or 877-531-5084 Room rate:\$63/night

Fall 2004: September 10-12  
Sheraton Grand Hotel (reserve by August 27)  
address and all other info same as above

Winter 2004: January 15-16  
Best Western (reserve by December 15)  
3119 Estes Parkway  
Longview, TX 75602  
903-758-0700 Room rate:\$52/night

### **Newsletter Chairperson's Report Dawn F.**

Thanks to the Grand Prairie Group for hosting the newsletter mailout. God is good! It doesn't matter how much I worry, we always have just enough hands to get the job done.

Thanks for all the requests to receive the newsletter via email. If you would like to have the newsletter emailed to you please contact me and let me know your preference (English, Spanish or bilingual).

One more note: please update your information with the NETA Secretary. We need to make sure that we have good information so that we do not waste money by sending mail to the wrong address, old GSRs and DCMs, etc. Thanks.

### **Intergroup Chairperson's Report John C.**

Janis, Dallas Intergroup and Patty, Ft. Worth Central Office went to Intergroup/Central Office Convention in California and returned with lots of new ideas.

Dallas Intergroup has elected new trustees and raised all the prices except for the price of the Big Book. Bridging the Gap is going slowly.

Ft. Worth Central Office has changed quarterly meetings to monthly, has set up a website, is trying to revitalize office, and has lots of exciting things going on.

A new central office has been formed in Malakof called Cedar Creek Central Office.

### **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 Again Area 65. Panel 53 is starting its final year and we have many new faces in District 21. Many new GSRs and Alternate GSRs are starting their two years at their groups. So because of this the GSRs that host the meetings are going to be doing presentations on concepts at their groups as we rotate around. Also it has been suggested that they get service sponsors as well.

Welcome to all the new GSRs. Glad to have seen some of you at the Winter Assembly in Abilene. The assembly was a VERY spirited discussion of concerns at hand in NETA. For those of you that missed it, I challenge you to make it your mission to attend the Spring Assembly at the Sheraton on 114, just north of DFW Airport, in March so we can all send our Delegate to New York INFORMED but NOT instructed. That means making sure the lines of communication are open and fully functioning with information flowing in both directions. Down to the delegate and up to the groups via the DCMs and GSRs.

District 21 is continuing to support the treatment facilities in our District. We also are compiling a list of the treatment facilities available to us in NETA that can be passed on to our groups so we have resources when we have wet drunks to meet with and talk with sharing our experience, strength and hope.

Look for improvements in the new forum for "concerns" at the Assemblies, where DCMs and GSRs can bring their concerns to the mic and solutions and suggestions can be obtained through open discussion during these periods of time.

#### **Jim C. – DCM District 54**

The New Year started with a bang. Our January District meeting featured talks by five past DCMs who shared their experience, strength, and hope regarding their service work for District 54 and our fellowship. They have created a great legacy and continue to be an inspiration for those of us that follow.

Next it was on to Abilene for the Winter Assembly and Nocona for the Area Committee meeting. Thanks to both those hosting Districts for the hospitality and warm welcome. I hope everyone plans to attend the Spring Assembly in Irving. Not only will we be presented with the final agenda for the 54<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference, but also there will be two motions for consideration, which, if passed, will provide significant changes to our Area structure and procedure. This is an opportunity for everyone's voice to be heard and participate in the process.

The Area website is looking good. With much appreciation to our District Secretary, David S., we are complementing the NETA site with our own District 54 site where current and recent meeting minutes, monthly agendas, and committee reports can be viewed and downloaded. Visit us at <http://home.earthlink.net/~district54>.

Once again – it is a great honor and privilege to be of service to Alcoholics Anonymous and to District 54. Keep coming back!

#### **Rodney S.—DCM District 56**

Hi Y'all! Here we are in the New Year and having lots of fun. District 56 is still very active. We are looking to replace our Grapevine/La Vina Representative. We also will need a new PI/CPC Representative. Our groups are looking for opportunities to be of service. We have a new GSR at the Freedom Group, where we hosted the Combined 5 meeting and had a new GSR Orientation that was led by Les W. WOW it is still a lot of fun. The Assembly in Abilene was terrific and the hospitality room was great. We are looking forward to meeting you all on the road to happy destiny.

#### **Rickey W. – Treasurer District 62**

It is hard to believe another year has gone by. Time sure flies when you get involved in service work. This is my third year holding a service position and, like I was told, it just gets better.

We all in District 62 are looking forward to another full year. We want to welcome Rich L. as the new GSR from the Harbor Group and also welcome the Saginaw Group. They wish to get involved in the service structure.

We just returned from Winter Assembly at Abilene. Once again the North East Texas Area has kept us well informed. I'm looking forward to reporting that my home group is Stewart Street in Azle, since I'm also their GSR. If you are ever in the Azle area feel free to stop in. We meet 7 days a week at 12:00 p.m., 6:30-p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

I can't express enough what service work has done for my recovery. I'm looking forward to another exciting year "one day at a time".

#### **Yvonne L. – DCM District 65**

District meetings are rotated from group to group and held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month.

District 65 will be hosting our Annual May Chalk Mountain Breakfast on May 16. Come and join us for breakfast at sunrise and a fellowship meeting in the outdoors. Family and friends are all invited. For more info or directions call Rex W. or myself. Hope to see you'll there.

#### **Jerry H. – DCM District 71**

A big "thank you" for all those who supported us financially through coffee stars and donations at the Winter Assembly. You're all invited to the 58th Abilene Anniversary on April 24th. See [www.district71.org](http://www.district71.org) for speakers/details.

#### **Tony H. – DCM District 82**

We are all doing great down here in East Texas. Interest in workshops has really picked up. I have had the privilege of helping with three in our district in the last couple of months and one in Longview at the Clean Air Group. I also have a few other groups interested in having one in the near future. I really think these workshops have answered a lot of questions our members have had down in this area on "Sponsorship", "Traditions", and "How to Chair a Meeting". Joe G. and Larry J. both gave excellent presentations on these subjects.

I would also like to welcome our new Alternate DCM, Paul G., from Jacksonville.

We also have been working on regaining more interest in the Grapevine. Our new GVR has been working hard to get people interested in subscribing. We are also working on things in our P.I. area. Really, we are working on things in all areas of our committee to improve our service to the great fellowship we have down in this area.

#### **Past Delegates Share...**

##### **Special Needs - Do We Need It?**

Our area is now considering a very important service need. This topic came up about 18 or 19 years ago. It was in the form of a proposal to create a standing committee for Special Needs. It was defeated. It re-surfaced just before this panel and was placed under the auspices of Public Information. Due to the extra duties and activities that PI has been involved in the request has again been brought forward to make Special Needs a committee unto itself. By the time you receive this newsletter, this request should be on the Spring Assembly Agenda, in whatever form your area committee deems fit.

I attended the Special Needs Workshop at the Harbor Group last fall, and it was awesome! I listened to a blind man 'READ' "How it Works" from a Braille Big Book. His seeing-eye dog guided him to the podium, and he 'looked' at the audience, as his fingers read the brail. It was hard to keep your eyes dry when you realized how AVAILABLE our message has become to the still suffering alcoholic.

Later in the workshop, a deaf man signed his presentation to the attendants, while a signer interpreted the ASL to the audience. He shared with us the difficulties of being hearing impaired and trying to 'hear' the language of the heart. One of his deaf associates, who knows how to talk a little, shared with us. He was hard to understand, but what you couldn't decipher with your brain, your heart could hear in its language!

There was another blind man, who uses a stick, instead of a seeing-eye-dog. He is a member of a group in our area and has obtained some good sobriety.

To see these still suffering alcoholics get the same chance as the rest of us to get this life saving message of sobriety, was awesome. I have a lot of confidence that the Northeast Texas Area will step up to the plate, and do the right thing and give this service a shot. I trust that we will practice principles before personalities and keep the 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition at the forefront of all of our deliberations.

It works! It really does!

Love in Service, Jim T., Panel 45 Delegate

### **NETA Winter Assembly Sharing Session Recaps!!!!**

#### **CPC-PI Report**

The session began with discussion about the NETA PI Website. There was a concern about whether the website stated what AA is and what AA is not. It was noted that there are quotes from AA literature on the website such as: "A.A.'s Twelve Steps are a group of principles, spiritual in their nature, which if practiced as a way of life, can expel the obsession to drink and enable the sufferer to become happily and usefully whole." This is from the forward of A.A.'s 12 Steps and 12 Traditions.

Many members have already started using the Website for an information tool. Some expressed they were having problems with printing from the site. Members asked about having General Service Conference and NETA Agendas available on the site. It was noted that



the website is linked to the GSO website under conference approved websites.

Our CPC discussion began with an update with the sessions Chairman and current NETA CPC Chair giving us an update on what has been done with CPC Committee at the Area level so far in this panel. The update referred to health fairs, companies, districts, doctors, and lawyers that have invited us to come see them and give presentations. The question was asked if the Area was holding regular CPC committee meetings currently and the answer was "no, not at this time". One member asked, "How do you keep from getting too far spread out with trying to cover all areas of professionals?" It was suggested to try focusing on one group of professionals at a time. One member also suggested to check the CPC Workbook and said it gives a list of specific goals. The question was asked, "How could we generate interest in CPC and PI work at the group or the district?" It was suggested to ask for a presentation or workshop to be done by the area committee in which the group or the district has an interest. It was asked, "How many people does the area have helping with CPC work now at the area level?" The answer was about 7 people. One CPC/PI district representative said he has had good responses in his district by going to the groups and asking them to elect a chairperson for their group. In the end of the session District Reps. Showed interest in doing more work in this area and working closer with the Area Chairs.

**CONFIDENTIAL PUBLICATION:** This publication contains full names and addresses of members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Please respect their anonymity. Do not circulate this newsletter outside of AA. Names and addresses are not to be used for mailing lists. They are strictly for AA use.