



NORTHEAST TEXAS AREA - NETA 65 NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Publication

*Welcome to the heartbeat of the Northeast Texas Area 65
Assembly*

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Jimmy D., Delegate, Panel 59, Area 65

I need to open this correspondence by recognizing the gracious indulgence of our Newsletter editor, Jane G., who has for the entire panel allowed me to procrastinate until the 11th hour to prepare material for her – thank you Jane!

Our 2010 International Convention is rapidly approaching – at the SWRDA (Regional Delegates Assembly) in Oklahoma City last weekend we heard registration is at 36,000 and we need to fill a total of 6,100 volunteer slots during the convention weekend - I believe we have +- 3,000 slots assigned at this point. I remember helping special needs members enter the dome for the big meetings at my first International Convention in Minneapolis in 2000 – don't miss the opportunity to be of service to ALL of AA by selecting a volunteer slot or two on the website www.aa75.org.

I'm looking forward to the Assembly in a couple of weeks. Our mock committee process prior to the General Service Conference is always a highlight of the service year. The GSC absolutely depends on the committee system in order to function effectively, and I believe the most effective delegates bring with them the conscience of their respective areas that joins with the other 92 areas in the US and Canada to form the informed (but not instructed) group conscience of the Fellowship. I have broken the Conference agenda up into ten committees – each of you will be assigned a random number from one to ten at registration – this anonymous committee assignment forms the body that will deliberate and discuss the agenda items for their committee in order to formulate responses given back to the Assembly on Saturday afternoon. In my experience this process is second only to our election assemblies in the Fall every two years in both importance and as a true demonstration of service to the Fellowship.

I just received notice from the General Service Office that our Trustees' Public Information Committee is seeking another appointed committee member. I will have the resume and any additional information available at the Spring

Assembly if you are interested in putting your name up for consideration. Appointed committee members are needed when a particular trustees' committee has a special project or duty to accomplish for the Fellowship. In the area of Public Information we seek members who bring some business or professional experience in working with the public along with a spirit of service to AA. This position is appointed annually with a maximum length of service of four years.

I'll close this note by thanking all of you for your continued efforts regarding self-support of our GSO – group contributions from our Area increased by a couple of percentage points in the last quarter – **and a heartfelt plea for support of AA Grapevine and LaVina**. It seems that we have lost the sense of ownership of our magazine (and it does belong to the Fellowship and no one else) and this has resulted in fewer and fewer subscriptions over the past few years. Grapevine and LaVina cannot accept contributions – it is only through subscriptions and sales of GV books and materials that the corporation self-supports. If Grapevine is a 12th Step tool in jails and institutions then let's use it and support it materially and spiritually by purchasing subscriptions to "leave" on the stoop for the alcoholic who still suffers inside the walls or behind the locked doors. If Grapevine is useful to the newcomer then let's purchase a subscription for our groups and "leave" it on the literature table for the new man or woman who comes into our rooms. If Grapevine is no longer needed by the Fellowship we should speak to that as we would with any other service i.e. "...is it really necessary...", not just by suspending our subscriptions but by communicating with the Conference committee and the GV office and board.

Thank you all for keeping the coffee hot and the lights on in your home groups – by not expecting the AA **meeting** to be anything other than a venue for your service to others but knowing the AA **group** is truly the heartbeat of A.A.

Jim C., Alternate Delegate, Panel 59, Area 65

With our abbreviated assembly schedule this year, it's only a short time between our Spring and Summer Assemblies. I hope everyone is looking forward, as I am, to our upcoming assembly at the Double Tree in Dallas. This will be our opportunity to hear our delegate report on the 60th General Service Conference. Actions and considerations made at the Conference in behalf of our fellowship will be reviewed and there will ample time for questions, discussion, and comments. This is a significant event in our service work and instrumental in the two way communications between the groups and AA as a whole.

Also, just on the horizon is the AA International Convention in San Antonio July 1-4. If you haven't already registered and made plans to attend, it's not too late to do so. Carpooling and room sharing can add to the excitement and fun. Many groups and districts are getting involved in these arrangements, so take advantage and experience the strength of our fellowship. It's also not too late to volunteer for a few hours of service at the Convention. Over six thousands volunteer shifts need to be filled, so plenty of opportunity. If you are interested, please contact me and I'll assist you with information, registration, and other details.

And, of course, there are always service opportunities here in our Area. All of our standing committees are active and several committees are planning annual events. Each of them can always use more help. If you want to assist in making a little more Twelfth Step work possible, contact the Committee Chair of your choice and get involved!

It's time to make your plans to attend the Southwest Regional AA Service Assembly (SWRAASA) to be held in Denver on October 8 -10. For everyone involved in service, thinking about getting involved in service, or just curious as to what this "service" thing is all about, attendance at SWRAASA is an experience not to be missed.

There will be 36 individual sessions covering such topics as the role of the GSR, the DCM, Area Trusted Servants, Traditions, Concepts, AA history, and more. Flyers and other information is available at the assemblies or you can contact me for details.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the assembly and at many of your groups and districts as I accompany our Delegate throughout North East Texas giving Conference reports and assisting in any way I can. It is truly a blessing to be able to serve my fellow AAs.

Jim C. Alternate Delegate – Panel 59, Area 65

altdelegate59@neta65.org

(Area Web Site: www.neta65.org)

"We feel that elimination of our drinking is but a beginning. A much more important demonstration of our principles lies before us in our respective homes, occupations and affairs." BB, p19

Richard R., Area Chairperson, Panel 59, Area 65

Greetings,

WOW!!!! Great job, guys, carrying the message!

It has been a terrific year so far, but I am getting 'assembly withdrawal symptoms'. I did not realize til lately how much the service structure has meant to my sober life. It is always a pleasure to see all that attend on a regular basis plus the new faces. The excitement along with the camaraderie is an event that should not be missed.

In my service area as 'Chair', things have been exciting since moving to the metroplex area. I have visited many more groups than would be possible if I was still living in Wichita Falls. It excites me to see one alcoholic carry the message to another. I know our co-founders would be proud of you because it is working like they thought it should work. If I have not visited your group and wish for me to; please let me know. I would be honored to attend one of your meetings.

Lately several new Spanish speaking A.A. Groups have registered with GSO and it was exciting to attend some of their inaugural meetings. I like what the Big Book says' on page 89; "To watch people recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends-this is an experience you must not miss."

I would like to reiterate that your voice, at assemblies or anywhere, is important to us. Remember that the seed of sobriety was planted and by your planting (your voice) could spell positive ideas to take place. I am always willing to listen. Sobriety has to be fun or else we start to regress and we all know that outcome.

"May God bless you and keep you--until then." (from page 164 BB)

Yours in Service,
Richard R. - Area Chair

Mo N., Alt. Chairperson, Panel 59, Area 65

Greetings, Everyone,

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the spring assembly. I'd like to thank all the groups that have asked for workshops. We've had great attendance at workshops and our GSR.S have done a great job getting the word out.

If your group would like a workshop, please contact me at 817-680-0807 or email me at altchair59@gmail.com. with two dates that I can work with and type of workshop your group would like. Love in service, Alt. Chair, Mo N.

Alt Chair, Mo N

PJHR, Secretary, Panel 59, Area 65

It has been a long time between Assemblies, so it was great to see so many old friends and to make new ones.

Important Information Regarding 2010 Regional Directory:

If your group wants to be included in the 2010 Regional Directory published by GSO, hard copy updates must be received by GSO Records department by April 23, 2010. This is also the deadline for NETA65 to receive updates to input into Fellowship New Vision (FNV).

Groups with the status of Unknown, Inactive Pending Inactive, Pending Active or Incomplete on May 7, 2010 cannot be published in the Regional Directories.

Group contact information that does not include a phone number cannot be included in the Regional Directory. The directories are published to assist traveling AA's reach out to find a meeting wherever they may be. That makes a phone number a very important piece of information.

Additionally, permission to include a group contact's name and phone number in the directory must be indicated in the Fellowship New Vision Record or on Group forms received at the GSO. A request not to list or no indication at all will exclude that particular contact person and possibly the group from being published in the regional directories.

If you have questions about the Regional Directory please contact the records department at 212-870-3132 or via e-mail Records@aa.org.

Other Information:

Reminder to Area Officers, DCMs, Alternate DCMs, GSRs and Alternate GSRs – if you fully and legibly completed a registration form at the 2010 Spring Assembly, the information has been entered into the GSO Fellowship New Vision (FNV) databank. In addition to entering the information in FNV, the registration forms are important for the NETA business meeting roll call, NETA 65 quarterly newsletter/minute distribution mailing list, and NETA 65 phone directory.

I want to encourage all who have e-mail and/or internet access to consider using this electronic venue for receipt of the NETA 65 quarterly newsletter and minutes. This will decrease the cost of printing, paper and postage. The newsletter, assembly

minutes, and area committee meeting minutes are posted on the NETA65.org website.

If you need something sent a mass email distribution regarding area business or update or group or contact information, please email me at secretary59@gmail.com.

Thank you to Camille K. who was appointed by the delegate to input information into FNV for the area. She has done an outstanding job.

Love and Service, PJ HR

Maile S., Alternate Secretary, Panel 59, Area 65

I am sad to announce that I will be going on maternity leave for the next few AA events-- including the mailout, committee meeting and summer assembly.

I will miss seeing all of your shining faces but am excited to see you at the International which will be my rejoining the AA community!

Here is the schedule for the rest of 2010 mailouts:

Spring Mailout May 8th at Principles Group
Summer Mailout July 24th at 1:30pm Lake Highlands Group, Dallas
Fall Mailout December 4th at 1:30pm Triangle Group in Keller

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

James V., Treasurer, Panel 59, Area 65

NETA 65, as you read this, the Spring Assembly is now a fabulous memory. I cannot believe how much fun it was to participate again in the Mock Committees.

There was lots of thoughtful debate as we considered the Finance Committee items... the same agenda items that would be brought before the 2010 General Service Conference in New York. The whole process makes me so very proud to serve with each of you as we do our small part to protect the integrity of our beloved fellowship.

Another memorable moment from the Assembly was our delegate Jimmy D's sendoff to represent us in New York. He left for the GSC in the Big Apple "informed but not instructed." I want to thank everyone who offered their encouragement to Jimmy and expressed our confidence in him as he prepared himself for his long week in New York.

Once again, THANK YOU to all of the groups and individuals who continue to support area service work in Northeast Texas. Without your continued financial support, our 12th Step work by the area would be seriously impaired. For those of you reading

this who may be new GSRs (or new Group Treasurers), please make note of the address for making contributions to Northeast Texas Area 65:

NETA 65 TREASURER, PO BOX 260083, PLANO, TX 75093

Thanks for your help! James V. Area Treasurer

Steven A., Corrections Chair, Panel 59, Area 65

Hello everyone! After a great Corrections Conference, we're excited about the new orientees getting started in TDCJ meetings. Hopefully, everyone has been processed by now. If not, please let me know.

Zach M. is always needing volunteers to help fill slots. I am looking forward to this year and will work hard to serve NETA 65. See ya at the Spring Assembly. Steven A., Corrections Chair

Tom M., CPC Chair, Panel 59, Area 65

(Article written by Stephanie Z., District 54 CPC/PI Committee Chair)

In the winter of 2009, an obituary in a small, local newspaper asked that, in lieu of flowers sent to the family or to the funeral home for the memorial service of the deceased, donations be made to the Dallas Intergroup Association.

Subsequently, the issue of protecting an AA member's posthumous anonymity was raised for discussion among active members in D54, as was the tradition that AA shall not receive donations from non-alcoholic contributors except under very specific circumstances, *i.e.*, as in a single donation made by the executor of a deceased AA member's estate.

In early 2010, an obituary in another small, local paper referred to the decedent's membership in a specific AA group in D54, and asked that memorials be sent directly to that group. Again, the subjects of posthumous anonymity and AA accepting contributions from non-alcoholics came up. In this instance, "memorials" does not necessarily mean financial contributions, but it still begs the question of whether or not a group may receive contributions from outside AA.

It seems timely to address these issues, one incident following the other so closely. They may not be breaches of AA traditions, just issues that are big enough now to warrant discussion and wise counsel. Like any issue, it may seem ambiguous until enough people have had enough experience with it to try & define it. It seems appropriate to address it within our AA community, on the group level, as well as a matter of Public Information. A couple of AAs composed a letter-in form like much of our PI letters—that might be appropriate to make contact with funeral homes to offer

information & assistance when composing obituary notices for deceased AA members & their families. It goes like this:

"This letter comes to you from the Public Information Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous, not as a request for anything, but as an offer of AA services through you to the individuals and families whose lives may have been affected by alcoholism. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of the fellowship of AA, and members strive to preserve anonymity throughout their lives and posthumously. Families of deceased members of Alcoholics Anonymous sometimes ask that contributions be made to the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in lieu of flowers or other tokens of remembrance. AA does not accept donations from sources outside our fellowship, however; we do not receive contributions from people who are not members of Alcoholics Anonymous. More information about this is available in our literature, and if it would be of service to you, a member of the Public Information Committee will gladly provide it and any other information that might be helpful to you."

This seems to be a great opportunity to explore our Traditions and grow within our home groups, and within our community!

Margie R., Grapevine/Lavina Chair, Panel 59, Area 65

Spring is here and the Grapevine is just as festive as always. We encourage members of the area to write stories for the Grapevine. I've heard complaints from members that they do not always like the content of the GV and my answer is have you written the editor, have you submitted a story. It is, after all, our meeting in print. I don't know about you but if I'm at a meeting I'm supposed to think about how I can contribute to that meeting, not complain about it.

I take the same front with the Grapevine. If I think something is missing, I add my two cents by sending in a story or writing to the editor. I see what I can do to contribute and I do not complain about it in front of newcomers. So if you have a complaint about content, be aware my first question to you is how have you tried to be part of the solution. How have you tried to contribute?

And if it is about the gray pages, the conference approved them going back into the magazine and until the conference approves them to be removed they are in. We can use this as an opportunity to show how we as good AA members follow the 2nd tradition and humble ourselves to the decision of the group conscience. Talk to our delegate about how to submit a change because all I can do is to tell you to write the editor and talk to your sponsor or delegate.

Jana A., Literature/Intergroup Liason Chair, Panel 59, Area 65

Hi Everyone! We are welcoming Lauren D. to our Committee as the liaison to the Dallas Central Office and look forward to her help in serving the NETA and the Central Office.

The Fort Worth Central Office will hold their Open House on May 15, 2010 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Groups named to the Steering Committee at the February 9, 2010 meeting are: Grand Prairie Group, Meadowbrook Group, Glass House Group, Graves Street Group, Mansfield Group, and Eastside Group.

The 4th Annual DIA Chili Cook Off will be held on April 10, 2010 from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm at the Westside Christian Church, 4711 Westside Drive, Dallas, TX 75209. The speaker will be Tom N. from Wisconsin. If you have any questions or your group wants to participate, contact the office at 214-887-6699 or e-mail janis@aadallas.org.

Stories Needed: Submissions of personal stories are being sought for a revision of the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" from A.A. members who can briefly present their experience with the A.A. program of recovery while incarcerated. Please send submissions to the Corrections desk at corrections@aa.org, or by mail to Corrections, PO Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. The **deadline for submissions is June 15, 2010**. Questions should be directed to the Corrections desk at G.S.O., either by e-mail or phone, 212-870-3400.

We still have some donated pamphlets available for groups that need them free of charge. Come by the literature table at an Assembly and pick some up if your group needs them. If you won't have a representative at an Assembly, contact us at lit.liaison59@neta65.org and we will find a way to get some to your group. We try not to mail them unless absolutely necessary to save on postage costs.

In Service,
Jana A.

Jane G., Newsletter Chair, Panel 59, Area 65

Hi, Everyone! Another Assembly has come and gone, this time with the informative Mock Committees in preparation for the General Service Conference in New York. Our delegate has been informed but not instructed and will act in the best interest of AA as a whole. He will give a full report on the GSC at the Summer Assembly in May.

We are asking that if you have access to the Internet and/or email, to receive your newsletter this way in order to save on postage and printing costs.

Thank you to all who contribute to the newsletter. Without your contributions, there would be no newsletter.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.
Jane G.

Jan L., Special Needs Chair, Panel 59, Area 65

The Special Needs Committee has been busy visiting nursing homes and assisted living facilities in the Area. Our committee developed a spreadsheet of facilities all over the Area, and our goal is to visit these facilities over the remaining year, to let them know that Alcoholics Anonymous is available to any of their residents who may need our help.

In addition, we have decided to expand the use of our pamphlet to also address those who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, and the homeless. We have an enthusiastic and dedicated committee, and are always looking for more volunteers.

If you would like to help our committee, please plan to attend our upcoming meeting. We will meet at the Summer Assembly on Fri night, May 21st at 7pm., at the Doubletree Hotel in Dallas.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve-Jan L.

Dale V., DCM District 42

Greetings from District 42! Our District just had it's February 2010 meeting and I gave the GSRs an update on the January 17, 2010 Area Committee Meeting held at the Alpha Group Clubhouse here in Tyler.

The Meeting seemed to be quite productive and the agenda for the upcoming Assembly was laid out. In addition, the DCMs in attendance were able to hold a mini-meeting before the formal Area Committee Meeting to discuss the chairing of the DCM meeting at the next Area Assembly. It was the consensus that DCMs in attendance that DCMs ought to chair the DCM meetings.

All the GSRs were encouraged to attend this next assembly as it has the mock committees. These mock committees are a big part of the preparations for sending the Delegate off to the annual General Services Conference.

Our District has been active locally as we now have purchased several boxes of sobriety cards (desire chips, 30 days and 90 days) which our local Intergroup office (The Tyler Central Service Office) has agreed to distribute on our behalf at no charge to individuals or groups going into treatment or correctional facilities.

Our regular monthly meeting has been seeing a steady attendance over the last few months and we hope to continue to see an upward trend as more groups start to participate. Take care for now! In loving service, DCV

Kathy F., DCM District 52

Our district is studying the Concepts using the Concepts Checklist this year. So far we have had Lois W, area Audio Visual chair, as moderator on Concept 1 in January, James V., area Treasurer, as moderator on Concept 2 in February and Tom M., area PI chair, as moderator on Concept 3 in March. We have had some good sharing sessions all three months In April. We will have Jan L., area Special Needs chair, as moderator for Concept 4.

We usually have people from four groups at each district meeting. We have two new Alt GSRs: Duncanville Group Alt. GSR is Louise L and Town South Alt. GSR is Christ W. I have just heard about another group in our District 52, Welcome Home Group, in Oak Cliff.

I'm looking forward to serving as one of the co-chairpersons at the spring assembly, in the mock committee on Grapevine

In service Kathy F. DCM 52

Keith D., DCM District 53

First of all, thanks to all the DCM's and Committee chairs that voiced their support for our attempts to make a more effective DCM sharing session.

For those that are still concerned, I ask that you please continue to give your feedback, as I for one am not being closed minded and am open to input from anyone. I think we all just want our Assembly to be as effective as possible and I believe we are working towards that end.

I am excited about our Spring Assembly. It seems like forever since I've seen everyone! Our district participation is growing and currently have 9-10 groups participating. District 53 is hosting the Hospitality suite at the Summer Assembly and we are getting that organized.

Also, I have been asked to be a Volunteer Team Captain at the International in July. If you need assistance in getting signed up to volunteer, I can help.

I have some slots available on my team directly, or if you have a group, and are willing, we can probably use you as a Team Captain as well.

Keith Davis (214) 906-5183

Steve W., DCM District 64

Hello to all in Area 65!

The registered groups of District 64 remain healthy and viable. Most are still carrying the message to treatment facilities and correctional institutions, as well as participating in various other service opportunities through the district service structure.

The Meadowbrook Group and Combined District 6 will be hosting a review of the General Service Conference Final Agenda with the Area delegate, Jimmy D., on Saturday, March 20. Lunch will be served at 11:00 a.m., and the presentation will begin at 11:30.

The goal of this presentation is to provide an opportunity for the group members of A.A. in the surrounding area to be informed of the Agenda items being considered that affect the Fellowship as a whole.

The Meadowbrook Group is also hosting a CD6 Treatment Facilities Workshop (an annual event) on April 25, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served and all A.A. members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

I am really looking forward to the up-coming Spring Assembly in Glenrose. The mock committee process is exciting to watch and be a part of. It is, in my opinion, one of the most effective ways of executing the practical application of the upside-down pyramid whereby the groups and their members are in charge of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Sincerely, Steve W.

Editor's Note: Articles for the newsletter are due one week prior to the Area Committee meeting to allow sufficient time for translation, publication and distribution. The cut-off date will be announced at the Assembly and Area Committee meeting and reminders will be sent out by email with the exact date. Please send articles to the following email address jgilbert2002@live.com. Thank you! This is your newsletter.

(Editor's note--With the conference approaching, it seemed appropriate to print an excerpt from the Service Manual regarding a brief history of the Conference. It is on page S11 and is reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc. The excerpt is entitled "Birth of the Conference.")

"It was one thing to say that we ought to have a General Service Conference, but it was quite another to devise a plan which would bring it into successful existence. The cost of holding one was easily dismissed, but how on earth were we going to cut down on destructive politics, with all its usual struggles for prestige and vainglory? How many delegates would be required and from where should they come? Arrived at New York, how could they be related to the board of trustees? What would be their actual powers and duties?

"With these several weighty considerations in mind, and with some misgivings, I commenced work on a draft of a plan, much assisted by Helen B., an A.A. staff member.

"Though the Conference might be later enlarged to include the whole world, we felt that the first delegates should come from the U.S. and Canada only. Each state and province might be allowed one delegate. Those containing heavy A.A. populations could have additional delegates. To give the Conference continuity, delegates could be divided into panels. An odd-numbered panel (Panel One), elected for two years, would be invited for 1951, the first years. An even-numbered panel (Panel Two), elected for two years, would be seated in 1952. Thereafter, one panel would be elected and one would be retired yearly. This would cause the Conference to rotate, while maintaining some continuity.

"But how could we pull the inevitable election pressure down? To accomplish this, it was provided that a delegate must receive two-thirds vote for election. If a delegate a majority of this size, nobody would kick much. But if he or she didn't, and the election was close, what then? Well, perhaps the names of the two highest in the running, or the three officers of the committee, or even the whole committee, would be put in a hat. One name would be drawn. The winner of this painless lottery would become the delegate.

"But when these delegates met in conference, what would they do? We thought they would want to have real authority. So, in the charter drawn for the Conference itself, it was provided that the delegates could issue flat directions to the trustees on a two-thirds vote. And even a simple majority vote would constitute a mighty strong opinion."

Calendar of Events

We are still a busy area with workshops, mailouts, assemblies, the International Convention in San Antonio and SWRAASA (Southwest Regional AA Service Assembly.)

Workshops that have been set (and there are more) are Sponsorship, April 10, at the Grand Prairie Group from 1:30—3:30 p.m.; and Spiritual Program in Action/Program vs. the Fellowship, Heart of Texas Conference in Waco, May 1, times to be announced. Workshops are informative and fun and invite participation.

Mailouts are also scheduled for 2010. These are fun and a good way to meet AAs in other groups. Help is always needed.

May 8, Principles Group, Dallas, 1 p.m.

July 24, Lake Highlands Group,, Dallas, 1:30 p.m.

December 14, Golden Triangle Group, Keller, 1:30 p.m.

The **Summer Assembly** will be May 15-16 at the Radisson Hotel Forth Worth South, 100 Alta Mesa Blvd. in Ft. Worth. Reservations number is 800-385-7046—cutoff date is April 30.

there is the **AA International Convention** in San Antonio July 1-4. Grab your AA buddies and head down south for an event that is practically right in our backyard. Sign up to volunteer for this really big event at www.aa75.org. Many in our Area will be volunteering and are actively involved in getting more volunteers from our Area.

SWRAASA is scheduled for October 8-10 at the Doubletree Hotel Denver. Contact www.swraasa.org for more information.

NETA 65

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