

District 54 Monthly Meeting

February 4th, 2004

Held At The Trinity Group

- ❖ The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm. Mark L. (Trinity GSR) opened the meeting and welcomed the district. He then led in the Serenity Prayer, and read "Why We Need a Conference."
- ❖ The attendees answered roll by introducing themselves by name, group, and service position. Twenty-five members signed the roll sheet, representing sixteen groups.
- ❖ David Z. (Carrollton GSR) led a discussion on the 2nd Tradition.
- ❖ John R. (Lakeside Traditions GSR) led a discussion on the 2nd Concept.
- ❖ Group Reports
 - Trinity – (Mark L.) The last Group Conscience decided to put up a wall for separate smoking / non-smoking meeting rooms.
 - Coppell (Jay M.) The group is having difficulty getting people to chair meetings.
 - Lake Highlands (Susan B.) They'll be holding a workshop on February 15th at 2pm with the topic "How to Chair a Meeting." They'll be celebrating their 23rd Anniversary on February 21st.
 - Belmont (Caren M.) Their group is trying to get an Alternate GSR elected. They had a fire in their building, and the prudent reserve was depleted in making repairs. They held a Bridging the Gap Orientation on January 31st, and had 12 in attendance.
 - Into Action (Mike E.) They'll be celebrating their anniversary July 24th starting at 5:00PM. It will be held at St. Paul Catholic church in Richardson.
 - ODAAT (James V.) Their group just had a big Anniversary party. The proposed "Back to Basics" meeting was not approved, after much discussion.
 - Carrollton Group (Dave Z.) Everything's okay.
 - Legacy (Ken W.) They'll be holding a workshop on February 29th at 2pm with the topic "Singleness of Purpose, The Cornerstone of AA." They have a new alternate GSR, and are filling other trusted servant positions. Their "Guiding Principles" procedural document was approved.
 - Clean Air North (Michael W.) They'll be holding a workshop on February 22nd at 2:00pm with the topic "The Home Group", followed by refreshments.
 - Georgetown (Nina E.) Everything's okay.
 - Spiritual Principles (Mike C.) Everything's okay.
 - Plano (Ken H.) The group's chairperson is back from an injury. Everything's okay.
 - Broad Hwy (PJ T.) They've elected new officers, and have new volunteers for Correctional Facilities and other service work positions. Their member who was going to stand for Grapevine / La Viña Rep. for district may not be available,
- after all. They've repainted their meeting room. They're taking meetings to Homeward Bound. Good prudent reserve.
- Garland Clean Air (George N.) They are taking meetings to Genesis and VA. They are reimbursing their GSR for Assembly attendance and making contributions to district, area and GSO
- Lakeside Traditions (John R.) Their group has moved. They are now at 3902 Melcer Drive, Suite 202, Rowlett, TX. 75088 Phone: 214-607-1481. Their meeting schedule has also changed. They will be having NETA Video chair on February 7th at 7pm showing Bill's Story in his own words. They'll be voting on alternate GSR at their next group conscience meeting. Taking meetings to Cornell facility, and Green Villa.
- Richardson (Mike W.) Everything's okay.
- ❖ Trusted Servants Reports
 - Secretary: David S. read the minutes. The following corrections were made: the Tradition and the Concept discussed were the 1st, not the 12th. A motion was made to accept the minutes as amended, seconded and passed.
 - Treasurer Sheryl R. read a printed report and reviewed with the district. The budget will be available online. Figures for new year has not come in. PJ had some questions about what rolled over from last year. She might need to have some moved over from unused items.
 - Correctional Facilities (PJ H.)
 - Most of the AA literature that has been available to the inmates in the TDCJ facilities is gone, has "disappeared", etc. (possibly thrown away when the SATP programs were eliminated).
 - A letter was distributed from Bob Lewis, TDCJ Volunteer Coordinator. The letter stated that due to the elimination of the SATP programs, there is a greater need for AA volunteers to carry the message into TDCJ facilities. Bob Lewis requested that this letter be given to CFC and H&I Reps and posted at the AA groups in an effort to recruit additional volunteers.
 - The CFC discussed the current needs/challenges:
 - Importance of getting literature into TDCJ Facilities. Most TDCJ facilities require Big Books (soft cover only) and 12/12 (soft cover only) to be mailed into facility from GSO or local Intergroup.
 - Problems getting meetings into facilities: some TDCJ facilities were only allowing AA meetings when free world AA's could bring them in but were limiting these to one time per month.
 - The need to coordinate volunteers.

- Current need for women volunteers to take meetings into Collin County Detention Center on Tuesday Night.
- The need to get listings of halfway houses and the possibility of carrying meetings into these facilities.
- The CFC decided to host a District 54 Workshop. Tentative dates: April 18th (1st Choice) or March 21st (2nd Choice)
- Next District 54 CFC Meeting: Tuesday, February 17th @ 7:00 PM – Legacy Group
- Saturday February 6th, 2004 – NETA Corrections Committee Meeting at Grand Prairie Group
- Saturday, July 24, 2004 – NETA Corrections Workshop 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM – Place To Be Determined
- Treatment Facilities (Alternate Chair Dave R.)
 - They had seven people at their meeting today, representing five groups
 - They had another group hold a Bridging the Gap workshop.
- CPC/PI (David C. was unable to attend. Jim C. read the following report that Dave emailed in)
 - The District 54 CPC/PI committee met Tuesday January 13, 2004 at the ODAAT group. There were five alcoholics in attendance.
 - The committee chair gave a report on the fall assembly. Two new CPC/PI reps. were introduced.
 - The committee discussed upcoming joint projects with District 22, Don C. and the North East Texas Area, and the beginning stages of planning a District 54 PI Workshop. Date and time to be announced
 - The NETA is having a booth at an upcoming Psychology convention on March 30th – April 3rd. District 54 is being asked to volunteer time. The convention will be held in Dallas at the Dallas convention center. More information will be passed on at a later date.
 - District 54 CPC/PI upcoming projects include, placement of Big Books in the Carrollton, Richardson, and Garland libraries, as well as drafting a letter to schools in our District introducing ourselves, and our availability to do school workshops with teachers or students. Our next meeting will be held February 18th, 7:30pm at the Georgetown group.
- Intergroup Liaison (Pat O.)
 - Pat attended the January 18th Dallas Intergroup meeting. Fourteen District 54 groups were represented.
 - Intergroup ran \$5000 in the hole for 2003. They are considering cost-cutting measures, and may cut the DIAlog newsletter..
 - Nightwatch has a new coordinator and has much improved.
 - CRIP still needs help from the groups.
 - Pat hasn't heard anything about Bridging the Gap from the Intergroup level
 - She has shared the District 54's speaker list with Intergroup. There was some discussion on whether this was appropriate.
- Alternate DCM / Archives (Dave Cl.)
 - Dave attended the Combined 5 meeting hosted by the Freedom group (District 56) on January 18th, 2004. The one hour GSR/Alt.-DCM/Alt. Orientation (held prior to the C5 meeting each January, April, July & October) was highlighted by a talk from Les W., Panel 39 Delegate, Area 65 (N. E. TX.)
 - Updated District 54 Speaker lists (along with group sign-up forms) were passed out at the Jan. meeting. The list, distributed quarterly, will be updated electronically whenever new information is provided. This includes additions, as well as deletions.
 - He has recorded histories on file (written and/or taped) from the following groups: Belmont, Broad Highway, Carrollton, Dallas North, Garland Clean Air, Georgetown, Into Action, New Freedom, Legacy, Omega, Richardson, Rowlett, Trinity.
 - Finally, the District 54 Archives: after talking to the area 65 Archives Chair (Arthur S.), Dave is exercising the right of decision regarding the duplication of our archives (as a backup), to be placed in the safekeeping of the area 65 Archives Committee.
 - The next NETA Archives meeting will be 2/12 at the Richardson Group at 8pm.
- DCM Report
 1. Attended Area Assembly on Jan 10-11 in Abilene.
 - Review of preliminary agenda for 54th General Service Conference. There are several proposals in the Literature Committee agenda of interest and will be discussed more in detail if they are contained in the final agenda.
 - Trusted Servants Information Handbook was passed out. Several added items and errors noted.
 - NETA web page is mostly functional (neta65.org). District news, etc. items will be available to add later.
 - Motion to change Policy & Procedures regarding method of selecting Area Committee Chairs failed. Will continue to be selected by outgoing and incoming Area Chairpersons.
 - Recommendation to encourage Literature Committee of the General Service Conference to re-instate wording in Group Pamphlet with six points that define a group was approved.
 - Good district turnout was noted with ten groups represented and five District Trusted Servants in attendance.
 2. Attended Area Committee Meeting on Jan 25 in Nocona.
 - CF Committee reported that their annual workshop would be held in July rather than May.
 - Report on Area workshops included information that topics include Sponsorship, Chairing a Meeting, Primary Purpose, Traditions, and Service Structure/History. Other topics to suit your group's needs can also be addressed. See your DCM or the Area Chairperson-Alternate (Joe G.) to schedule a workshop for your group.
 - Area Treasurer reported that donations are down some and that only about 20% of the area groups are contributing.
 - Motions approved by the Committee to be on the agenda at the Spring Assembly:

1. Create a Special Needs Committee for NETA beginning with Panel 55 (January 1st, 2005). If approved, Chairperson would be selected as all other committee chairs and committee would be funded just as the others are. The committee would be responsible for making sure that the needs of all members are being met.
2. Limit speaker time to "as scheduled" at the Fall Assembly to ensure that there is enough time for area business.
3. Amend Policies & Procedures subsection 2.2 to read:

A general election is held during the Fall Assembly of even numbered years. Volunteers sign up for service positions to be elected. The Area Delegate, Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and their respective Alternates are elected using Third Legacy procedures. Service Committee Chairs (see 1.1. 1) are elected by a different procedure:

A. The order of elections is decided by lot (from the hat). After a Service Committee name is picked from the hat:

1. The names of the volunteers who have signed up for the service position are announced to the Assembly.
2. Each volunteer is asked if he/she is willing to serve. A candidate may withdraw at any time.
3. Candidates willing to serve assemble at the microphone and each, in turn, briefly states his/her service experience.

B. Voting is by written ballot. If the first vote does not produce a simple majority (1/2 + 1 of votes cast), then:

1. The candidates are reduced to the two highest vote counts (including ties).
2. If a second vote does not produce a simple majority, the election is decided by going to the hat.
3. When the election is completed, the next Service Committee Chair position to be selected is determined by lot (go back to Step A).

C. Service Committee Chairs recruit their Alternates and present them to the Area Committee for disapproval.

Passage of this motion fundamentally changes the way our Area Committee Chairs are selected. Currently, they are picked from a list of volunteers by the outgoing and incoming Area Chairpersons rather than elected as described above. 2/3 majority is required to change Policies & Procedures.

3. Upcoming events:

- Spring Assembly – Sheraton Grand, Irving. 3/27-28
- State Convention – LaVillita Assembly Hall, San Antonio. 6/18-20.
- SWRAASA – Clarion Inn/Hampton Inn, Houston. 10/8-10.

❖ Old Business

- The discussion on splitting/rearranging district postponed until next month. In the meantime please review the service manual for how this would occur.
- David S. gave a report on the ad hoc committee. It is available on the website. The motion was made to proceed with the project, seconded and passed.

❖ New Business

- Jim C. noted that the first Sunday in July is the 4th of July. Jim made a motion to move to the 11th. Seconded and passed.
- The Belmont Group will host the District 54 meeting in April.
- James V. will lead the discussion on the 3rd Tradition in March. PJ T. will lead the discussion on the 3rd Concept.
- PJ T suggested that District 54 make \$10/month contributions to C5. There was discussion and the motion failed.
- David S. brought up the fact that GSO has put the entire contents of the Big Book online. Discussion was tabled.
- James V. made a motion that the District secretary be reimbursed for attending the winter assembly up to \$200. The motion was seconded and passed.

❖ The basket was passed in accordance to the 7th Tradition.

❖ Motion to close: A motion was made and seconded to close the meeting. Motion passed.

Important Dates		
Date/Time	Event	Location
February 29 th at 2pm	Workshop: "Singleness of Purpose, The Cornerstone of AA."	The Legacy Group
March 7 th at 2pm	District 54 Meeting	The Carrollton Group
April 4 th at 2pm	District 54 Meeting	The Belmont Group
June 18 th – 20 th	Texas State Convention	LaVillita Assembly Hall 401 Villita San Antonio, TX
July 24 th	NETA Correctional Facilities Workshop	TBA
September 10 th - 12 th	NETA Fall Assembly	Sheraton Grand Hotel 4440 W. John Carpenter Irving, TX 75063 (800) 345-5251 \$69.00/night (Reserve by 8/27)
October 8 th – 10 th	Southwest Regional AA Service Assembly	Houston, TX