

AREA 65 (N.E. TX), DISTRICT 54 MONTHLY MEETING
MAY 4, 2008
HELD AT ADDISON GROUP

- ❖ At 1:30 pm, Liz L. (GSR, Addison) welcomed the district and opened the meeting with The Serenity Prayer, and then read "Why Do We Need a Conference" (The AA Service Manual, page S-19) before turning the meeting over to James V (District 54 DCM).
- ❖ Those present introduced themselves with their names and service positions. 17 groups were represented (Addison, Belmont, Carrollton, Clean Air North, Dallas North, Garland Clean Air, Georgetown, Great Fact, Legacy, Lifesavers, New Freedom, No Hassle, ODAAT, Omega, Plano, Richardson, Sachse) and 35 people (including 7 guests) were in attendance.
- ❖ Tradition 5: John G. (GSR, Carrollton) led a discussion of the 5th Tradition.
- ❖ Concept 5: Greg G. (GSR, Clean Air North) led a discussion of the 5th Concept.

AREA 65 NETA DELEGATE REPORT

- ❖ Bill N., Area 65 NETA Delegate, presented his report from the 58th General Service Conference.
 - ❖ On Wednesday afternoon we went to the GSO floor and began the voting process.
 - ❖ 13 committees drawn by lot by which order they present. Bill's was Corrections. His committee didn't get any questions.
 - ❖ Bill covered the agenda items as follows:
 - 2009 Conference theme will be "Our Commitment to carry AA's message – Enthusiasm and Gratitude in Action".
 - New workshop topics include
 - Humility and sacrifice (setting an example, changing perceptions, anonymity, sacrificing egos)
 - Hope and purpose from defeat and despair
 - Cooperation w/Professional Community –
 - Agreed to focus on Employment, Legal and Healthcare (formerly called Medical).
 - A series of video segments directed to professionals will address these three areas and will be put on the GSO website when they are complete.
 - Corrections – cleaned up the workbook, including adding the correctional video (AA in Correction Facilities) for the workbook.
 - Finance –
 - Discussed shifting from a funding model from literature sales to a self-support model. This means that literature could be sold at cost and funding of GSO would be from the fellowship's contributions.
 - Selling literature to cover financial gaps could jeopardize our 501C
 - If each individual AA member contributed \$6.88 year then GSO could cover our literature costs. This is based on 1,314,552 members times \$6.88 = \$9,044,117.76.
 - No decisions were made and this discussion will continue in depth at the next GSO conference.
 - AA Grapevine –
 - Gray pages: last year forwarded to conference with unanimous support for continuing to publish them in the Grapevine. The Delegates and Trustees now appear to be split on this.
 - The Assembly recommended "no action" which implies that the Assembly agreed that the Gray Pages should continue to be published to see if it they are effective.
 - The new chair of the Grapevine committee next year is against the Gray pages.
 - The Grapevine and the LaVina were \$96K in the red for 2007-2008 (\$67K was LaVina). The Grapevine Committee
- recommended that the Grapevine and LaVina focus on self-support.
- Policy/admissions –
 - Committee recommended that GSO will fund up to 3 countries and 2 representatives to observe as international guest observers. This will be managed on a case by case basis.
 - Public Information
 - Seven hours spent on this workshop.
 - There will not be a new PSA video for 2009
 - Posthumous anonymity was discussed when reviewing the "Understanding Anonymity" pamphlet.
 - Only a handful of young persons' videos have been submitted as part of the AA Videos for Young People Project.
 - Bill shared a sample of the membership survey with District 54.
 - Treatment Facilities
 - Assembly recommended the video "Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous" be completed.
 - Trustees –
 - The slates of trustees must be accepted in total (not voted for individually). Bill voted against the entire slate and was joined by 27 other delegates in this action.
 - International Conventions / Regional forums
 - 2020 International Conference locations being discussed: Detroit, Los Angeles, New Orleans, or Vancouver, BC
- ❖ There were 13 agenda items and 15 floor actions – all were heard.
 - Several of these did not have background information.
 - Delegates (and some Trustees) were upset about Trustees adding agenda items into the Assembly agenda without coming through the proper channels, and agenda items that were forwarded through the proper channels and rejected by GSO without proper background information or explanation. The Trustees said they were using "right of decision" to disapprove items.
 - The Grapevine – LaVina "Alcoholism At large" section ("gray pages") recommended to be discontinued. There was not a 2/3 vote and the motion was recommitted.
 - The survey that GSO identified as proving that 2/3 of the membership supported the "gray pages", actually was only 2/3 of the members who answered the question about the "gray pages" on the survey last year.
 - The Board said only 12 members had sent in complaints about the "gray pages". This was suspected as being inaccurate since delegates across the country know at least 12 people who have written letters asking for its removal.
 - Suggested additional media platforms were sent back to the PI committee for discussion.

GROUP REPORTS/CONCERNS

- ❖ Sachse Group has new GSR Brad L said the group is experiencing new growth with 2-3 newcomers a meeting.
- ❖ Carrollton Sponsorship Workshop on May 10th at 2:00 – 4:00 pm. There were 28 guys
- ❖ Great Fact Group is revamping format and scheduled times and now meeting from 7:00 – 8:00 PM on Monday evenings.
- ❖ Addison will have a group inventory on May 17th at 2:00 pm, and will be facilitated by Arthur S., Area Secretary.

DISTRICT 54 OFFICER REPORTS

- ❖ Treasurer (presented by Dennis S., Treasurer)

- Beginning operating fund balance 3/31/2008: \$5,382.05; total April income: \$325.00; total April expenses: \$423.14; Ending operating fund balance 04/30/08: \$5,283.91; Prudent Reserve: \$1,500.00, total assets: \$6,783.91.
 - Misc. Income (\$98) covers Jan – Feb 7th tradition basket.
 - Dennis S confirmed to Camille K verified that Georgetown has not sent in any contributions to the District. He verified that the mailing address was P.O. Box 832252, Richardson, TX 75083
- ❖ Secretary (Camille K., Georgetown)
 - Copies of the April minutes were provided and the DCM asked for additions and corrections. Minutes were approved with corrections.
- ❖ District Committee Member (James V., ODAAT)
 - D-54 "Thursday Night Out"
 - In March I visited Georgetown (3/13); Into Action (3/20); Sachse (Wed 3/26)
 - In April I visited Clean Air North (4/17); Dallas North (4/24)
 - May visit plans include Carrollton (5/8 6pm); Legacy (5/15 7:30 pm); Great Fact (5/19 7pm).
 - NETA Summer Assembly will be held on June 21-22nd at Diane Heaven Community Center, 400 Schroeder Dr., Waco, TX 76710.
 - Rooms are available 7 miles away at the Clarion Hotel Waco at 801 South 4th St., Waco, TX 76706, Telephone: 254-757-2000. Rate is \$84/night.
 - Assembly Agenda was attached: several motions should be on the agenda and will be forwarded as soon as available from the NETA Secretary.
 - Ad Hoc Committee on NETA Handbook changes - 1st Draft is available via Email
 - NETA Workshop Schedule is attached.
 - Special Needs questionnaire. Please complete and return to me before Summer Assembly.
 - Met with Dave S. (CPC) and a representative of the Dallas Probation Office regarding training classes for new PO's.
 - Upcoming events:
 - June 21-22 the NETA Summer Assembly (see info above).
 - July 13th, 1:30 PM NETA Summer Committee Meeting at Open Door Club in Abilene, TX
 - Sept 19th-21st NETA Fall Election/Convention at Ramada South, 4440 W. Airport Fwy, Irving, TX 75062 Telephone: 972-399-1010. Rate is \$69/night. \$10 registration fee / \$12 Coffee Star.
 - January 10-11/2009; NETA 2009 Winter Assembly in Pottsboro (Sherman) TX at the Tanglewood Resort. Rate is \$65/night
- ❖ Alternate District Committee Member (Bob B., Clean Air North)
 - Attended the monthly District 54 meeting at the Georgetown Group on April 6th.
 - Conducted "Night Out" visits going to Belmont, Clean Air North, and Dallas North groups. These visits are proceeding as scheduled and are made to talk to groups (new and old) about the responsibilities of service work as described on pages S29 of the AA Service Manual. In addition to the DCM and Alt DCM, the rest of the District 54 panel is invited to attend.
 - The new Spirit of Recovery Group is still looking for a place to meet. Since there are several churches nearby, I suggested they try one. They are currently meeting at a private home at 710 Greenleaf in Richardson (MAPSCO 16-D). They have an open discussion meeting on Wednesdays at 6 pm.
 - The NETA65 Archives Committee meeting was held at the Richardson Group on April 17th. There will be no Archives meeting in May.
 - If your group would like to schedule a workshop, GSRs are asked to let Bob B know a couple of months in advance, with a date, time and topic selected.
 - Please provide a recent copy of your group history.
- ❖ Cooperation with the Professional Community / Public Information (David S., Clean Air North)
 - The District 54 CPC/PI Committee was to meet on April 19th at The Clean Air North Group, but unfortunately no one attended, other than myself. I met with our DCM, James V., and a member of the Dallas County probation office. This led to a new service opportunity providing information about A.A. to probation officers during their quarterly training. The first of these training sessions will be on May 9th. Since I'll be out of town, I passed on this service opportunity to Joe C., the NETA CPC Chair, and one of the member's of the District 54 CPC/PI Committee. Thank you, James, for helping to make this possible.
 - Plans are underway for a District 54 Public Information Workshop. It is tentatively scheduled for July 12th.
 - Upcoming meetings and events
 - The next District 54 CPC/PI Committee meeting will be held at The Clean Air North Group on Saturday, May 17th at 2:00 pm. Included on the agenda will be planning for a District 54 Public Information workshop in the summer.
 - The next NETA CPC Committee meeting will be at The Mesquite Bigtown Group on May 10th at 3:00 pm. It will include a discussion of the pamphlet "How A.A. Members Cooperate with Professionals."
- ❖ Grapevine / La Viña (Keith C., ODAAT)
 - Keith was in Lancaster, representing The Grapevine for the Town South Group's anniversary event. He brought the District's display and everything! Chris B. attended the NETA 65 Grapevine meeting, the main focus of which was...
 - The 2008 NETA 65 **Grape-a-Thon!** It'll be at the ODAAT Group in Plano, TX on July 20, 2008 from 12:00PM – 6:00 pm. Southwest Regional Trustee Conley B. (Sheridan, AR) will be in attendance to address the participants. It's gonna be a right rollickin' time! Bring a sponsee and come on out.
 - The *Digital Archive* has e-copies of every article, letter, joke and cartoon since the publication's inception in 1944. If you're dealing with a problem and want experience, strength, and hope from 62 years of history all over the world, it's there at your fingertips. Go to www.aagrapevine.org to learn more.
 - The next NETA Grapevine meeting will be at the Frisco Group, Saturday, May 10, at 2:30pm.
- ❖ Correctional Facilities (Tony C., Garland Clean Air)
 - Attended 28th Annual Spring Conference in Irving, TX.
 - Placed an order for 10 Large print Big Books.
 - Placed an order for 12 Steps; 12&12 window shades.
 - Spoke at the Town North Group
- ❖ Treatment Facilities (Dave R., TFC Chair, Georgetown)
 - Attended the Area 65 Treatment Facilities meeting. Began planning an Area Treatment Workshop. The workshop will be held at the Glass House on November 16th at 1:30PM.
 - District 54 will host the next Area 65 Treatment Facilities Meeting. It will be held at the Georgetown Group on Sunday, July 20th at 2PM.
 - Met with Jennifer Perla - Timberlawn Community Relations Liaison. Discussed bringing treatment facility meetings to Timberlawn.
 - Treatment Facilities. Meetings are available at Green Oaks and Nexus. Come to the next district treatment facilities meeting for times and dates.
 - The next District 54 Treatment Facilities meeting will be held at the Clean Air North Group on Sunday, June 1st at 12:30 PM.
- ❖ Intergroup Liaison (Tom M., Intergroup Liaison)
 - Could not attend the DIA meeting on April 10 because of school. However, according to both Janis and a rep that covers for me when I can't be there, it was a relatively quiet month.
 - I continue to be impressed with DIA's finances. It seems to be a pretty well-run operation. As always, I have the financials here with me if anyone would like to review them.
 - The 2nd Annual DIA Chili Cook-Off was held on April 12th. Roughly 125 people were in attendance. I will have income/expense information to report next month.

- If you are interested in special needs work, DIA could use your help. Please call Janis at the office if you'd like to make yourself available.
- DIA also needs volunteers for upcoming PI events. The communication between DIA and D54's PI committee seems quite good, so I'm sure our PI chair is on the ball regarding anything that might be of interest to D54.
- The next meeting is this Thursday, May 8th. I will be there, and hope to see your IGRs there too.

OLD BUSINESS

- ❖ The district revisited a consideration raised at the March meeting. The motion raised was amended to give the 7th tradition basket proceeds to the group hosting the monthly District 54 meeting. In 2007, the basket took in about \$40 per district meeting. The motion was withdrawn.
- ❖ Dennis discussed the 2008 Budget. We will carry a \$1600 funds over into 2008. If it still exists at the end of the panel, we will discuss what to do with the money. .
 - Our expenses are \$7680 and our income is forecasted to be \$5100. We will continue to be over-budget even with bringing the \$1600 forward.
 - Motion to approve 2008 budget passed but did not pass unanimously. The opposed minority opinion expressed concern about the district's deficit spending.

NEW BUSINESS

- ❖ No new business.

TRADITION / CONCEPT PRESENTERS FOR APRIL

- ❖ Tradition 6: Lonnie H. (Alt GSR, Clean Air North)
- ❖ Concept 6: Stephanie S. (GSR, Dallas North)

UPCOMING GSR MEETING DATES / TIMES

- ❖ 6/1/2008 at 2:00 pm, Clean Air North Group
- ❖ 7/6/2008 at 2:00 pm, ODAAT Group
- ❖ 8/3/2008 at 2:00 pm, Legacy Group

ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ Being no more business before the District, the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 4:30 pm.