

District 31 Minutes of February 19, 2023

February 19 at 2:00 pm, Karon M. opened the district meeting at the 494-meeting hall with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Zoom not available due to last minute IT unavailability. Those in attendance discussed alternate IT support for future meetings. Updates to come.

In attendance: Karon M, Marty W., Fran C, Donna F, Eddie M, Mike G, Leslie S, Leta, Leann P, Amy C, Don M, Luis A, Greg M, Hope T, Cristina C, Linda T, Jennifer C, Steffanie J, Patty H, Doug C

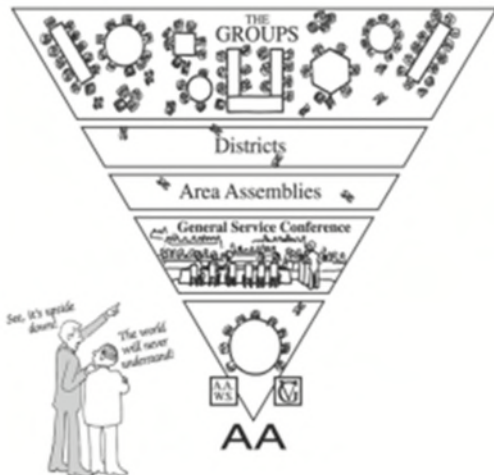
Presentation: Leta D. **Tradition #2** – Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depend upon AA Unity. How to work together as groups means we each need to consider others and in faith must find real strength in unity. Leta talked about Trust as the principle. Eddie M. **Concept #1** The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for AA world services should always reside in the collective conscience of the Fellowship. In 1955, the AA groups confirmed the GSC permanent charter – the actual voice and effective conscience for our whole society. Eddie talked about the UPSIDE down Triangle and the spirit of rotation as trusted servants.

Volunteers for March: Tradition #3 _____ Concept #3 _____

NEW GSRs / First TIME VISITORS / GUESTS

- o District Representative, Rick M and Alternate, Christina S
- o Wayne (1502 group secretary) – visitor and first time attendee to D31 meeting

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENTATION



Area Delegate, **Rick M** and Alternate Delegate, **Christina S** attended D31 meeting today in preparation for the 73rd General Service Conference. The purpose of their visit was to ask for our participation in the Conference process.

GSR's and DCM's

So that I, your Area Delegate can be as informed as possible when I attend the 73rd General Service Conference, please review the following suggestions. If possible, I would appreciate your attention in this matter.

- Have your group/committee review the Conference agenda and pick three items (or more if you so desire) that are important to your group/committee and have a thorough discussion of those items.
- Using the provided feedback form, let me know if the group/committee agrees or disagrees with the item.
- Include any comments in the comments section you feel are pertinent and/or informative.
- The form is fillable, so you can save it and fill it out electronically. Then email it to me or:
- Print it out and fill in by hand. Either scan it and email it or send me a photo of it.

I truly appreciate your time and consideration in this matter. Thank you for your participation in the Conference process.

In love and service,

Rick M.

Handouts were provided to all in attendance and can be found (Spanish and English) on the Website <http://www.aa-seta.org/site>

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SECRETARY REPORT (Fran C)

- Review of January Minutes – Accepted.
- Please review newsletter for accuracy, especially items for your group or committee
- Roster changes in progress – forward updates to D31secretary@gmail.com

TREASURER's REPORT (Kristi N) via email

- Kristi unable to attend today but provided her treasurer's report given by Karon M.
- Total receipts were \$523.69, leaving a positive cash flow for the month of \$240.01. The ending checking account balance is \$6,459.21 less our prudent reserve of \$1,875.00.
- We have a balance of \$4,584.21.
- Per the January treasurer's report, we had a balance of \$4,344.20 starting Jan. 1, 2023.
- Marty W., Alt DCM, did not use allotted SETA convention expenses of \$230.00 for lodging in January.

DCM REPORT (Karon M)

- Our meeting agenda changed for today to accommodate a discussion and solicit feedback regarding the final 73rd GSC agenda released last week. Our thanks to Delegate, Rick M and Alt Delegate Christina S for their time to inform and answer questions.
- Had a wonderful experience at the GV Writing workshop at Spring Group this month. Encourage all of you to attend a writing workshop. Thanks to the group and Leslie for leading it.
- If you would like discuss something at a D31 meeting, please reach out to me directly.

ALT DCM REPORT (Marty W)

- A huge shout-out and thank you to the Spring Group for hosting a spectacular GV writing workshop this month. Learned a lot about the Grapevine and the writing process.
- Sadly, I must resign my position as Alternate DCM for D31 for personal matters. It has been an honor to serve as a trusted servant at the group and district levels.

GSR REPORTS

1502 Group - Amy C

- **49th Group Anniversary on March 25** – 1:00p-6:00p – Conroe, TX (flyers available)
 - **Live band, 50/50 raffle, speakers and more**
- March 2 holding Group Inventory Thursday at 7:05pm
- Group updating written meeting format for chairpersons
- Birthdays celebrated last Saturday of month. 5pm eat & fellowship / 6pm Celebration!

190 Group - Mike G

- Group has noticed an uptick in attendance.
- Still having a difficult time recruiting Trusted Servants for the Group.
- Book study reading **Dr. Bob & Good Old Timers**. Great interest and Great read.

494 Lunch Bunch Karacinda via Email

- Janet C – beloved member with 46 years passed away Feb. 1, 2023. Special thanks to all who attended the Celebration of Her Life on February 10. She was a shining example to all.
- **"Boston Bob" celebrates 50 years of sobriety** and the group will celebrate at Noon, Saturday, March 25th with a potluck/meeting celebration. Come join us to celebrate.

Atascocita Group - Don M via email

- Group elected Luis as Alt GSR
- Group voted to keep current preamble.
- Group is having a **Service Workshop March 5th**, Noon – 3:00 p.m. (Flyer available)
 - What is Service? **All are welcome to attend. Bring a friend or sponsee.**
 - Workshop Panelists: Patty H, Ron C, and Troy D
- Group voted to restart donations to AA entities.

Cleveland Camel Group - Greg M

- Group donation for rent at church increased (w/utilities) (Spanish AA also meets in same location)
- Group has had a decline in income but have not had to touch prudent reserve but might need to do so.
- Second Saturday of month Speaker meeting. (6p food & fellowship / 7p speaker)
 - Eddie R, from area archives spoke in February
- Group conscience meets 1st Saturday of the month at 5:30pm

Conroe-Willis Group – James H (not in attendance)

Tim, Group Chair and Wayne, Group Secretary representing today

- Club building and grounds are in process of being sold. Transition begins April 1st. Updates to come.
- Group and Members are actively seeking a new location but in the meantime groups continue meeting
- Speakers meeting continues every Friday night at 8pm (Fellowship & Food at 7pm)

Early Bird Group - Hope T

- Hope asked the group for suggestions or experience from District members regarding a question brought to the group about allowing meeting attendance and participation of different people with issues other than alcohol. Early Bird Group not in favor (safety and tradition concerns). Group tabled and forwarded the request to the Steering Committee of 494. Comments included following guidelines of BB, traditions and remaining true to the primary purpose.

Good News Group – Fran C

- Group conscience March 7th
- Seeking new GSR and Alternate

H.O.W. Group – Daryl R

- Noon Meetings and Tuesday 6:30 AA Literature Study

Into Action Group – Matthew B

- Group meetings schedule M-F 7:00 am (zoom/in person) Sat 7:30am (zoom/in person)
- Sunday at 7:30 am ZOOM ONLY

Kingwood Group – Cristina C / ALT Julia G

- March 26 will hold a Group Inventory 12-3pm
- Group conscience now meet 2nd Tuesday of the month
- Group 49th Anniversary planned for April. Details to come.
- Christina asked for experience with handling person onsite that is clearly impaired but not a safety threat. Brief discussion held with suggestions made for her to take back to her group conscience.

Livingston Unity Group - Linda

- New Friday night meeting started at 10pm around the outdoor Fire Pit
- Working to build fellowship

Serenity Group of the Woodlands – Kristi

- No report

Spring Group – Jennifer C / ALT Steffanie J

- TFC Rep, Taylor C, attended our recent group conscience and presented information about working with Treatment facilities. In the past, our Group used to be active with the Cypress Treatment Center. Group members have a desire to re-engage in this service work. After Taylor's presentation, five members are committed to coordinate and reach out to local treatment facilities and another group member will begin attending the AREA TFC meetings.
- Our group hosted a very **successful Writing Workshop** thanks to Leslie's guidance and our group member's organization skills. There were attendees from around the entire District and Area. Feedback has been positive. Thanks to all who participated.
- As she steps down, we want to give a special thanks to Marty for her service

TRIVIA BREAK (Karon)

No trivia this month

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHIVES (Donna F) via email

- Founders Day confirmed for **Saturday, Nov. 4** *Mark your calendars! Bring a friend or two and enjoy food, fellowship and stories from those that have walked before us! Flyer w/details to follow.* Lamb of God Church, Social Hall, Humble, TX
- Church fee for rental (10am-4pm) is \$150.00.

CFC (Eddie M) via Email

- CFC Representatives will attend the March D31 meeting to educate and solicit support.
- Thanks and appreciation to groups and members for the Blue Can contributions which make it possible to bring meetings and provide Big Books, 12 & 12's and other AA approved literature to those incarcerated.

CPC (Michael G) via Email

- CPC working to increase meeting attendance and participation
- Established following tasks/goals for committee.
 - Build relationships in D31 with
 - a. Probation offices
 - b. DWI courts
 - c. Medical and Nursing programs
 - d. Mental Health organizations
- CPC participants responsible for establishing and improving execution of tasks as assigned

GRAPEVINE (Leslie S) via email

- STORY submissions wanted
 - Young & Sober stories due March 15 (ICYPAA celebrates 65 years!)
 - Mid-Sobriety Challenges stories due April 15
 - **SHARE YOUR AUDIO STORY – Two ways to record your experience, strength, hope**

TELL STORY THROUGH VOICEMAIL SYSTEM

- . Call VM system at 559-726-1216
- . Press 1 to hear tips and begin recording your story after tone
- . When finished recording Press # and you will be prompted to save your story by pressing 1
- . Press 2 to give AA GV permission to use your story

DO IT YOURSELF

- . Use your own digital recorder, smartphone or other mobile device (WAVE and MP3 files accepted)
- . Send your recording to email: webcoord@agrapevine.org

LISTEN to GV stories online: <https://www.aagrapevine.org/magazine>

- AREA Grapevine updates
 - GV Subscription Drive planning in process. Details to come!
 - Group agreed the Writing Workshop hosted by Spring Group on Feb 12 was great success.
 - BIG thanks Nate, Jennifer and Steffanie for organizing and hosting event. The workshop gave tips on the writing process and reminded members that everyone has a story that could help another suffering alcoholic. *Most importantly, the GV continues to be a meeting in print for our military personnel and those that are homebound.*
 - Writing workshops planned for other Districts:
 - March 25 1:00p-3:00p at the BAC in Clute TX
 - May 5 in League City area. Details to come (D70)
 - Thank your group representatives for their participation and service.

INTERGROUP LIAISON (Leta D) via email

- **Financials**
 - 2023 Budget Approved
 - \$5k reserved for air conditioning unit (no A/C unit original to location) needed for hosting events
 - YTD finances/expenses reviewed and inline to date. Bookstore income over budget
 - Report reviewed for 21 vs 22 phone calls, chip sales reviewed (asked Leta to provide #s for this report)
- **Literature**
 - Jacketless booklet in stock and available
 - Voted to digitize Meeting Directory (updates w/software) cost effective. Also printable if needed
 - Printed Bookmark with QR code (*links directly to Intergroup Website Meeting Directory*) now being distributed to correctional facilities and treatment centers.
- **Office**
 - Welcome Casey – new bookstore Assistant. Kelly stepping down and a committee (with criteria established are in process to replace her)
 - Board of Trustees held elections for two positions and both were filled
 - Bookstore Closed April 7 – Good Friday

IT (Sergey K) not in attendance. No report

-

LITERATURE (Leann P)

-

PUBLIC INFORMATION (Byron T) not in attendance

- Seeking a ride to monthly D31 meetings if anyone can help.

TFC (Taylor C) via email

- AREA TFC Committee Meeting
 - Feb 15th first meeting under the guidance of new Chair, Chris G. Chris replaced Kendyl W.
 - Time provided to meet and greet all attendees.
 - Chris introduced himself into the new role and presented a comprehensive TFC mission, vision and goals document. He provided everyone new insights into the long-term direction and responsibility of the area committee and needs for service.
 - Attendees (many active and interested group and district representatives) graciously volunteered to work with the Chris and the committee on area upcoming projects to accomplish these goals.
- Current Projects of TFC
 - Treatment Facility Mapping initiatives
 - Updates to area literature such as B.T.G. bookmarks and tri-fold pamphlets
 - Bridging the Gap National Workshop Weekend (Host/Planning Committee)
- CALL for OPEN positions for the Area Committee
 - Literature, IT, Alternate-Chair, Alt-Secretary, Alt-Treasurer
 - Bilingual Rep position FILLED
- **March 15 @ 7pm Next Meeting via zoom**

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

o District Member Voting

- Karon M: “It was brought to my attention, with the New Year, that we should clarify the vote process for new district members as there are some members of D31 that hold two positions: 1) a committee position and 2) a GSR position for their home group. We want to make it clearly understood that if you are voting at Area you are entitled TO ONE VOTE as a GSR for your group. Only the DCM and ALT DCM have votes on behalf of the district.
- At our district level, D31 has a current policy that allows votes in both positions and the group today discussed:
 - o Patricia H asked that each GSR ask their Groups to actively seek to fill the GSR and Alternate trusted servant positions
 - o Doug talked about the need for Rotations at Groups for trusted servants and the importance of this practice.
 - o Many members shared their experience and frustration with the lack of willingness and commitment by home group members to serve as trusted servants and/or participate at the service level.
 - o DCM asked if the group would like to vote to keep the policy at the district level the same at this time. Majority was Yes.

o Storage of D31 Supplies

- Over the years, D31 has accumulated many bins of supplies that have moved from garage to garage. The group is seeking to find a central location where items are accessible to more than one or two people. Items include but not limited to:
 - o Paper goods, Coffee Urn, etc. (used for meetings)
 - With group 494 approval these supplies will be stored at 494
 - o Items for Public Information
 - Leann is currently collecting all items – including literature racks, and literature and will need a space for storage
 - o Posters for Founders Day (Old Timers / Archive materials) (Donna H temporarily storing these posters at her home.)
- Discussion held and it was agreed to have an Ad-Hoc committee
 - o Patricia H. will obtain pricing for storage facilities and provide D31 with the information at next meeting.
 - o Leann will do district inventory of all literature and materials to determine amount of space required.

CLOSING

DCM reminded all that two CFC representatives will attend our March 19 D31 meeting.

Meeting closed by Karon M. at 3:45 p.m. with the Responsibility Pledge