September 11, 2016

Districts 3B & 3C Redistricting Presentation

A Vision for Austin A.A.

What's A Sharing Session?

- ✦Sharing sessions are called for a specific purpose requiring shared experience and ideas, in order to best serve Alcoholics Anonymous.
- ✦"Chairperson" presents the information to be discussed, and then asks for comments.
- ✦Sharing Sessions are not designed to reach a conclusion.
- ✦Everyone has an opportunity to share equally.

Sharing Sessions

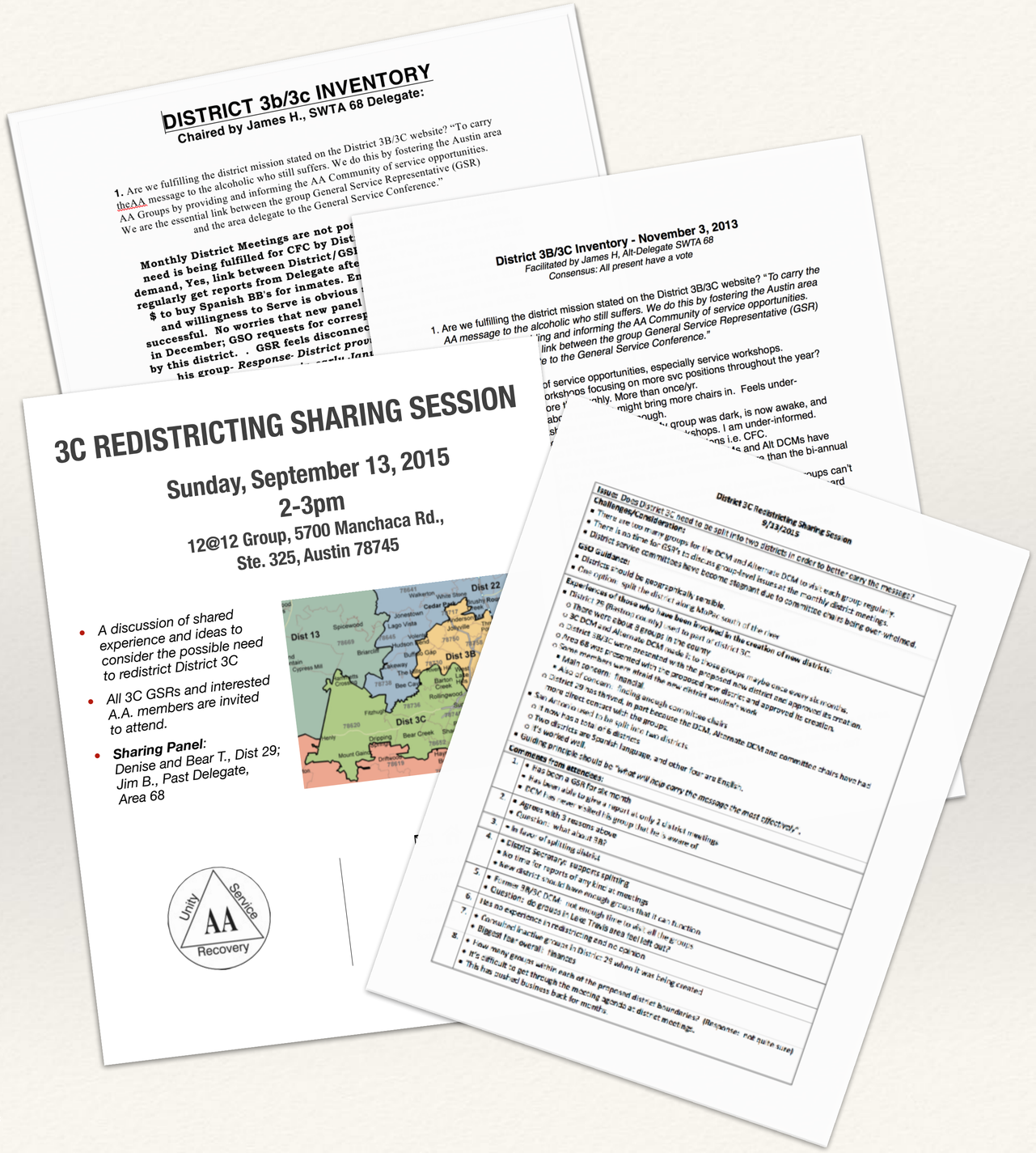
In a sharing session, everyone has a chance to use their experience, strength and hope to contribute ideas and opinions about the welfare of A.A. It can be set up anywhere for any group of people, and is especially useful for assemblies and district meetings. Its format is aimed at drawing out the ideas of even the shyest participant, and keeps the more articulate from dominating the meeting. Each person offers an opinion, and never needs to defend it. The chairperson or leader functions more as a timekeeper than as a participant.

—A.A. Service Manual, p. S40

Why We're Here & How We Got Here

- Provide information in order to make an informed decision on redistricting Austin's two districts.

- District inventories in 2013 and 2015



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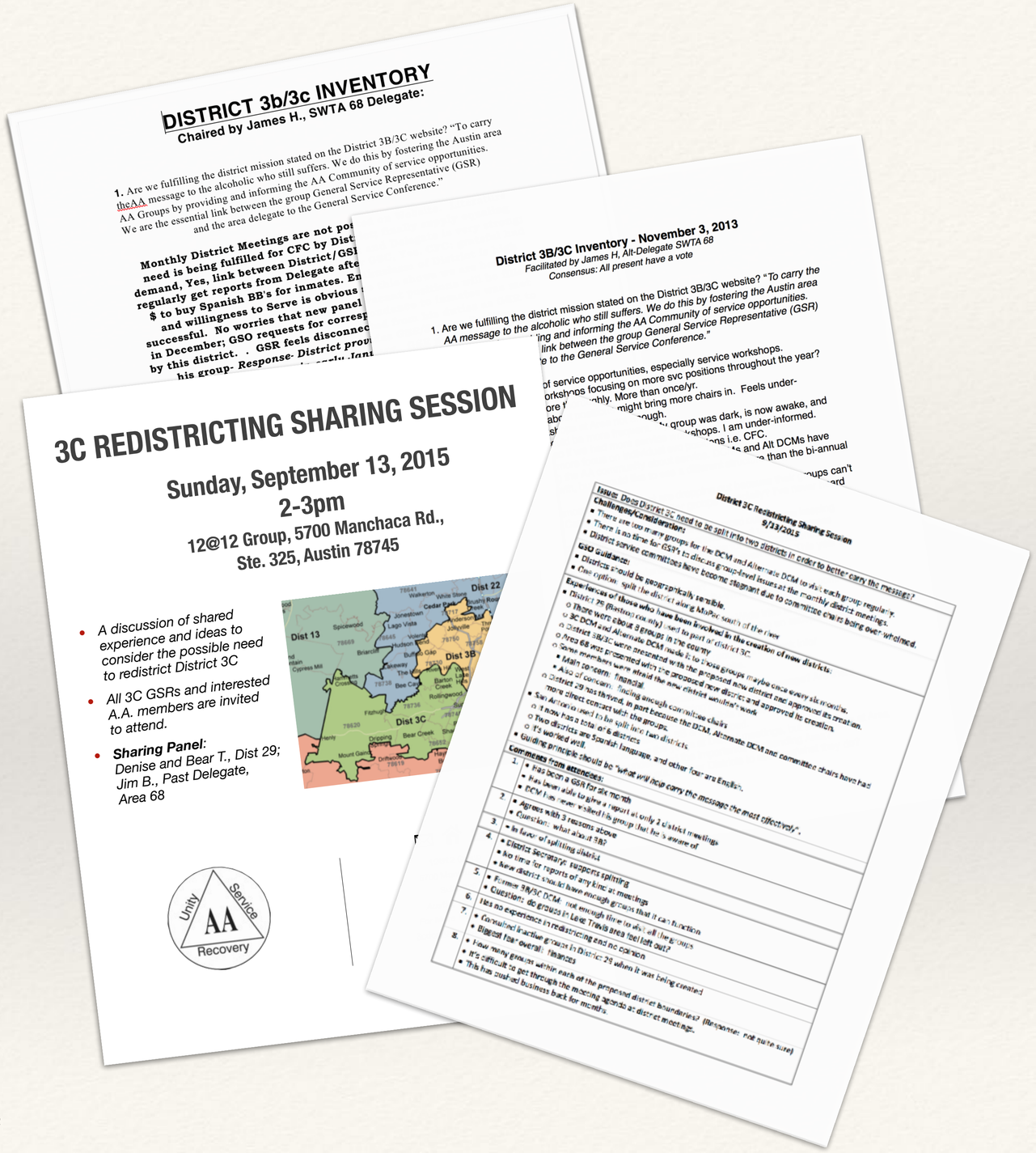
- 2015 District 3C conducts its own sharing session
- January 2016 a Redistricting ad hoc committee was approved
- Recommendations were made to the districts in Sept.



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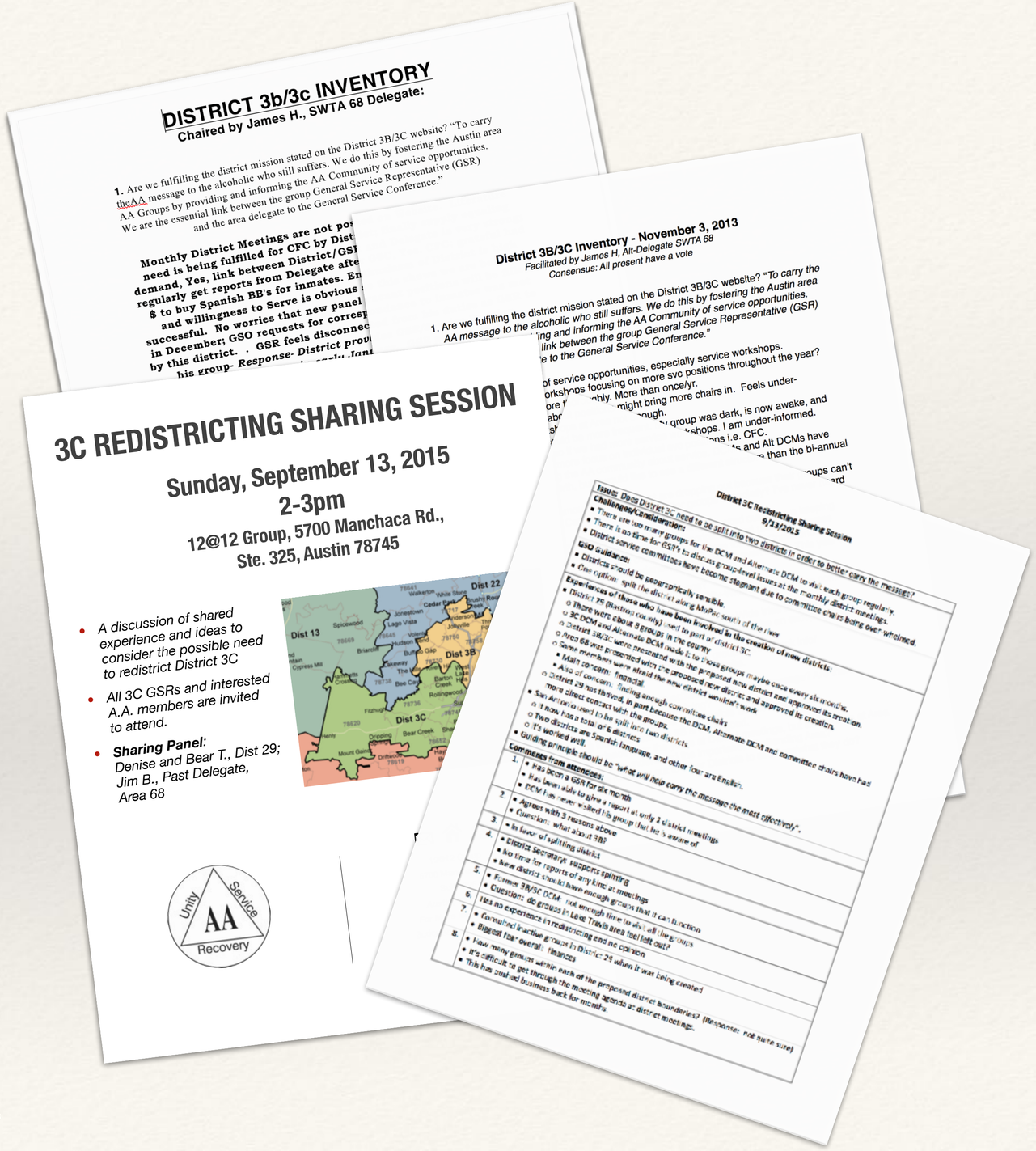
- 2015 District 3C conducts its own sharing session
- January 2016 a Redistricting ad hoc committee was approved
- Recommendations were made to the districts in Sept.
- Sharing sessions to provide information to the groups
- All registered groups in Austin will get to vote — one vote per group



What We Know So Far

- Two districts meeting as one
- We have outgrown the original structure
- Too many groups for the DCM/Alt DCM to visit
- No time for GSRs to discuss issues at District meetings
- District Service Committee work is stagnant

❖ **Chapter Three**

The District and the D.C.M.

THE DISTRICT

A district is a geographical unit containing the right number of groups—right in terms of the committee member's ability to keep in frequent touch with them, to learn their problems, and to find ways to contribute to their growth and well-being.

The number of groups per district varies widely, from as few as five in a rural district to 90 or more in a metropolitan district. Population density and the geographic size of the district, which will affect the ability of the D.C.M. to communicate with the groups, would be key factors determining the number of groups a district will have.

—The A.A. Service Manual, p. S31

What's A District?

- Geographical unit
- Right number of groups
- Right, in the DCM's ability to —
  - Keep in frequent touch with the groups
  - Learn their problems
  - Contribute to growth and well-being of the groups

The District and the D.C.M.

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LINGUISTIC DISTRICTS: To encourage participation of the maximum number of groups, some areas have incorporated linguistic districts within their structure. These districts are made up of groups that conduct meetings in a non-English language. They usually have a bilingual D.C.M. or liaison. Their boundaries may be independent of the conventional geographic district boundaries.

—The A.A. Service Manual, p. S31

What's Redistricting?

- Subdividing to create new districts
- When it is too difficult for the DCM to communicate with the groups it's time to consider redistricting
- Several courses
- Good communication is needed
- The goal is to take care of expansion at the district level.

Redistricting

If it were not for adding committee members to take care of new groups as A.A. grows, the General Service Conference might well become unwieldy. As the number of groups increases and it becomes too difficult for the D.C.M. to communicate with them all, several courses can be followed:

- *New districts:* Divide the district into two or more districts, each with its own D.C.M.
- *Local Committee Member* (L.C.M.): A large district could divide itself into smaller districts (often called subdistricts or local districts), each electing a local committee member. Depending on area practice, these L.C.M.s may or may not be voting members of the area committee and may or may not hold regular meetings with the G.S.R.s they serve.
- *District Committee Member Chairperson* (D.C.M.C.): A large district in a city or county may hold regular meetings led by a D.C.M.C., who serves as the link between the district and the area. Within this large district, there are as many district subdivisions as needed to adequately serve the groups. Each of these may be called a subdistrict, local district, or zone. Each is served by a D.C.M., who may hold regular meetings of G.S.R.s. In some areas, these D.C.M.s are voting members of the area committee and assembly; in some, they are not.

Good communication and cooperation among groups, districts, and areas is important when redistricting or other changes in district structure are undertaken. There are many variations, but the goal is the same: to take care of expansion at the district level.

When additional committee members are elected to respond to expansion, qualifications and election methods listed for a D.C.M. can serve as guidelines.

—A.A. Service Manual, p. S34

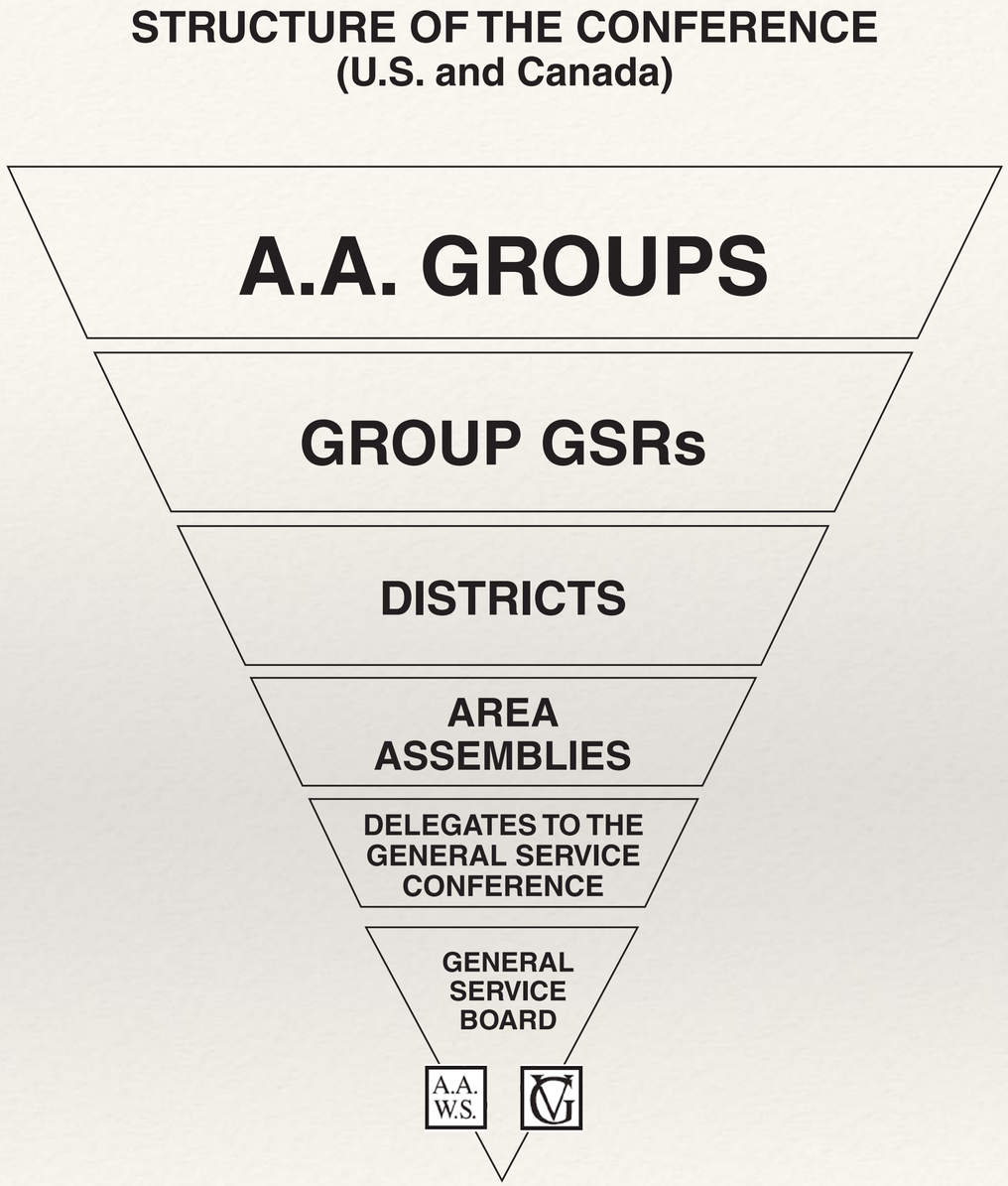
The Active Voice of A.A.

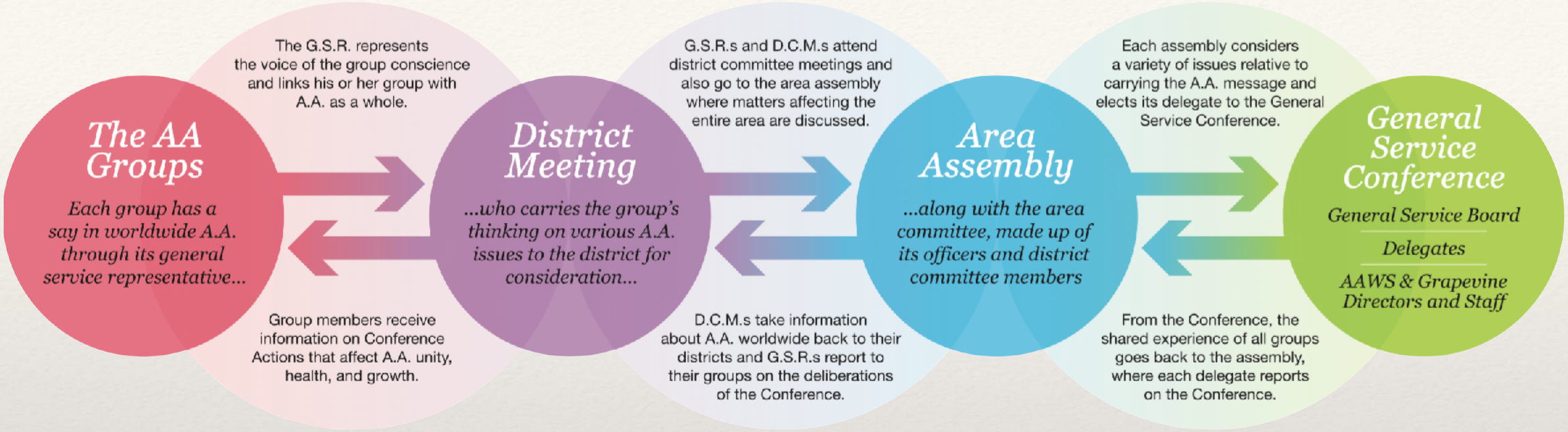
Communication Through the Structure

Keeping a balance between ultimate authority and responsibility and the active, day-to-day functioning of world services means there must be constant communication among all elements of the structure.

THE GROUP: The communication process starts with the group, which lets its group conscience—for or against change, approval or disapproval of a proposed action—be known to its elected general service representative (G.S.R.). The G.S.R. (see Chapter Two) makes sure the group's wishes are heard and fully considered at the district and area levels, and that they are part of the delegate's thinking at the Conference. After each annual Conference, the G.S.R. is responsible for making sure that group members are informed about what went on at the Conference and made aware of the full range of Advisory Actions (see Chapter Seven).

—The A.A. Service Manual, p. S17





The Austin Groups and Their Districts

Groups make up a District
Austin has two districts—3B north of the Colorado River, 3C groups south of river
3B has 52 registered groups
3C has 32 registered groups

A Small But Important Part of a Larger Whole

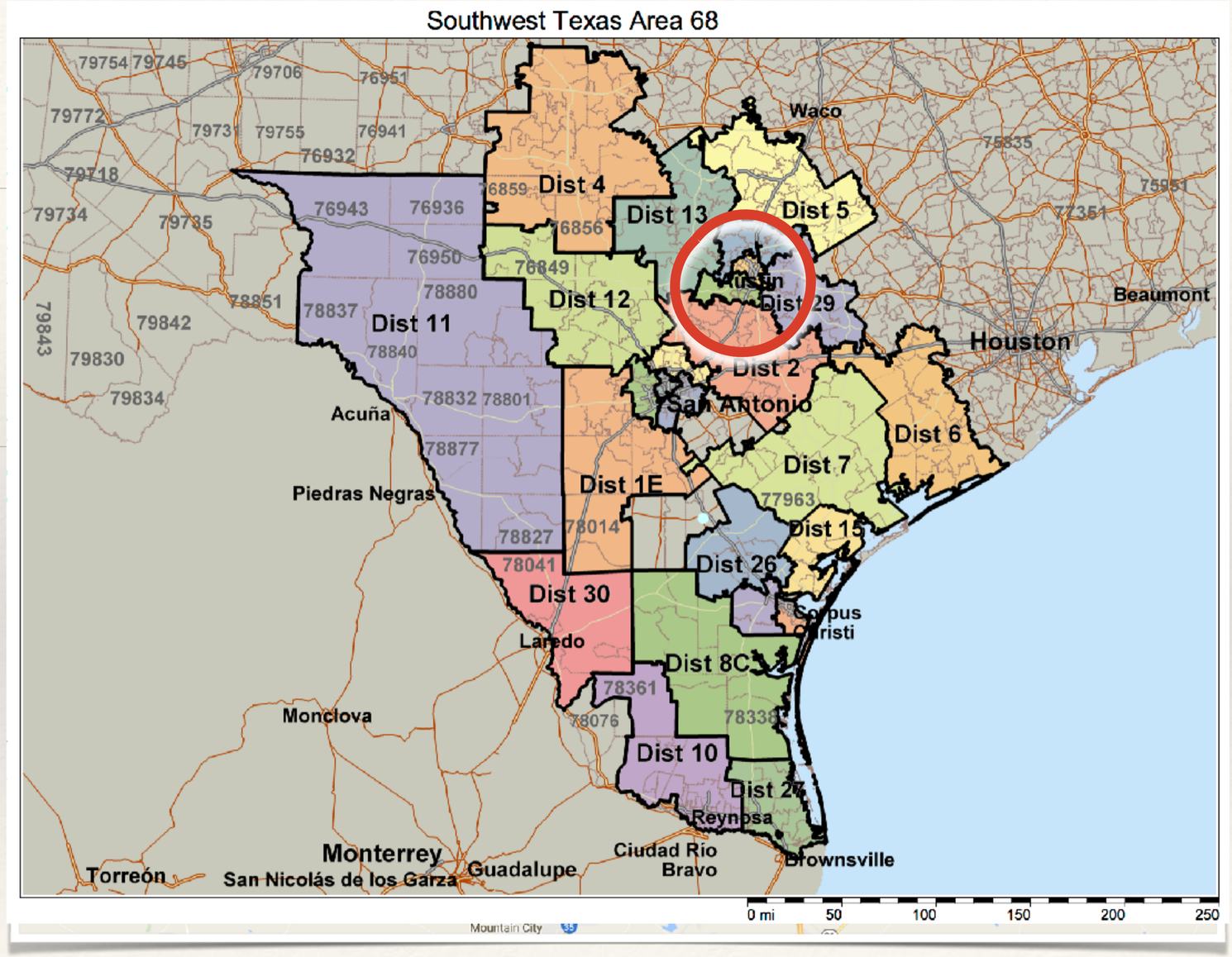
Current District Map

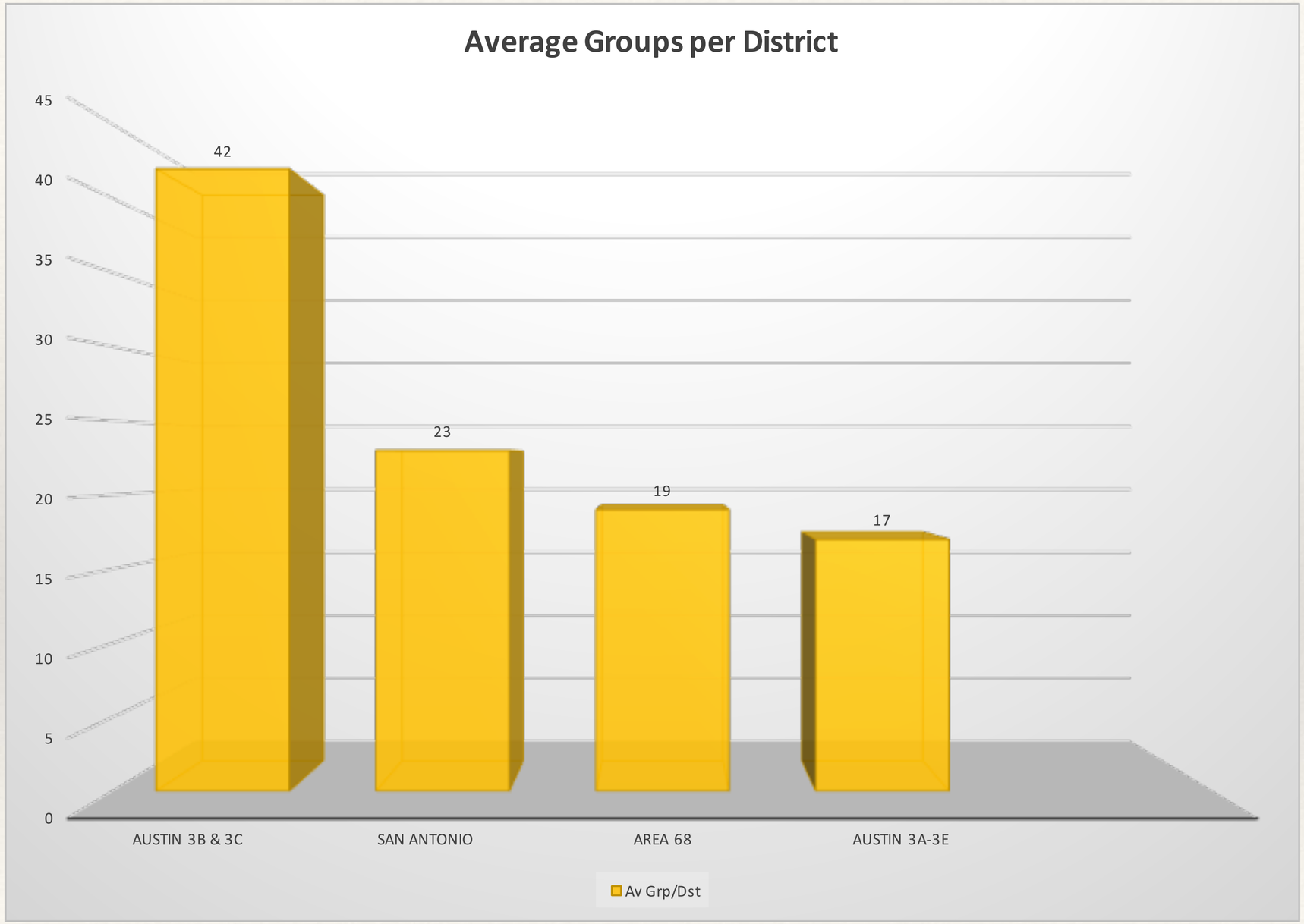
Austin's two districts account for:

32.4% of the members in Area 68
14% of the groups

Average number of groups per district
- Austin - 42
- Rest of A68 - 17.2

Average number of members per group
- Austin - 54
- Rest of A68 - 19

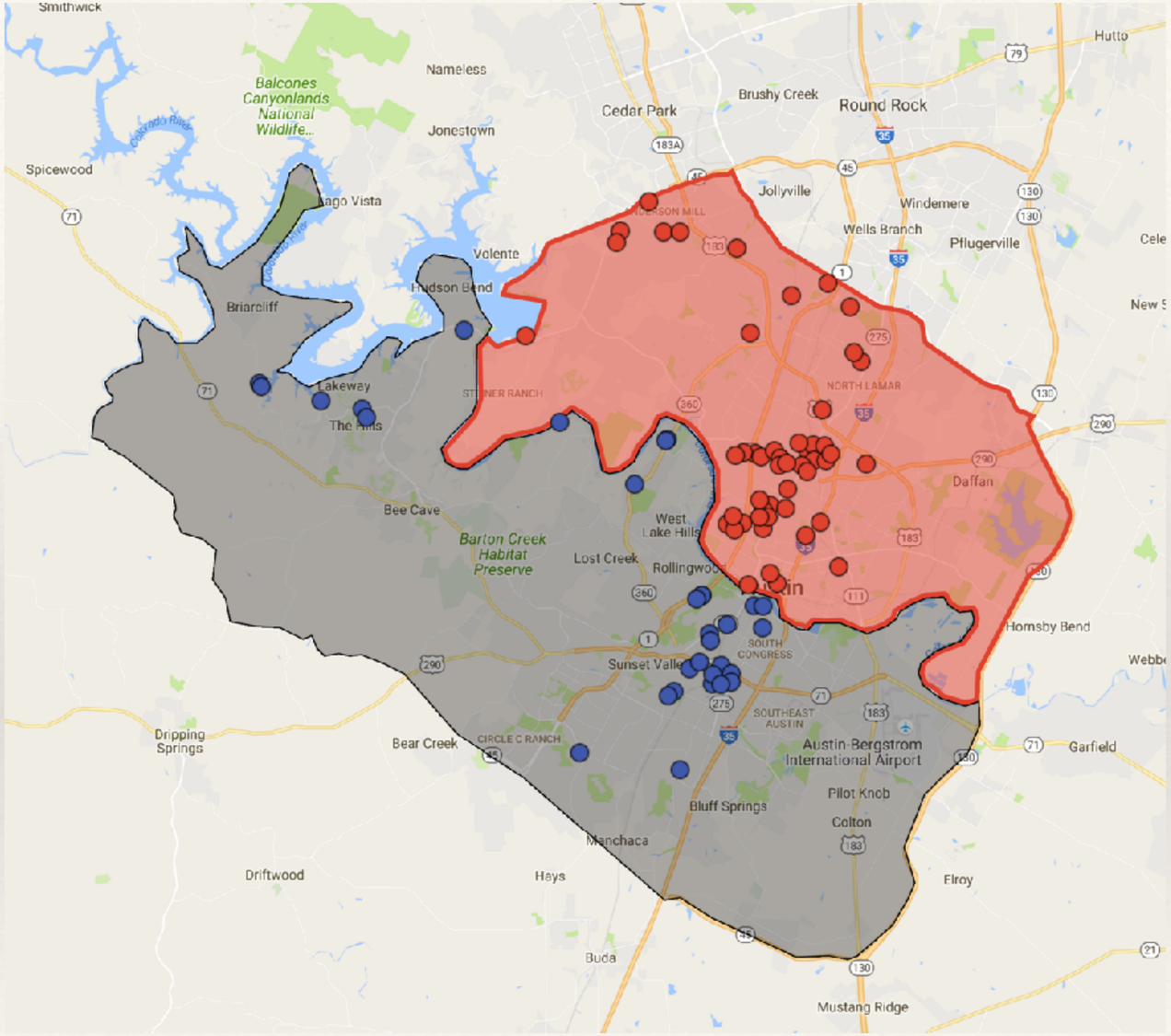



Average Groups per District
45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
42
23
19
17
AUSTIN 3B & 3C
SAN ANTONIO
AREA 68
AUSTIN 3A-3E
Av Grp/Dst

Two Districts–One Meeting

A System Whose Time Has Passed

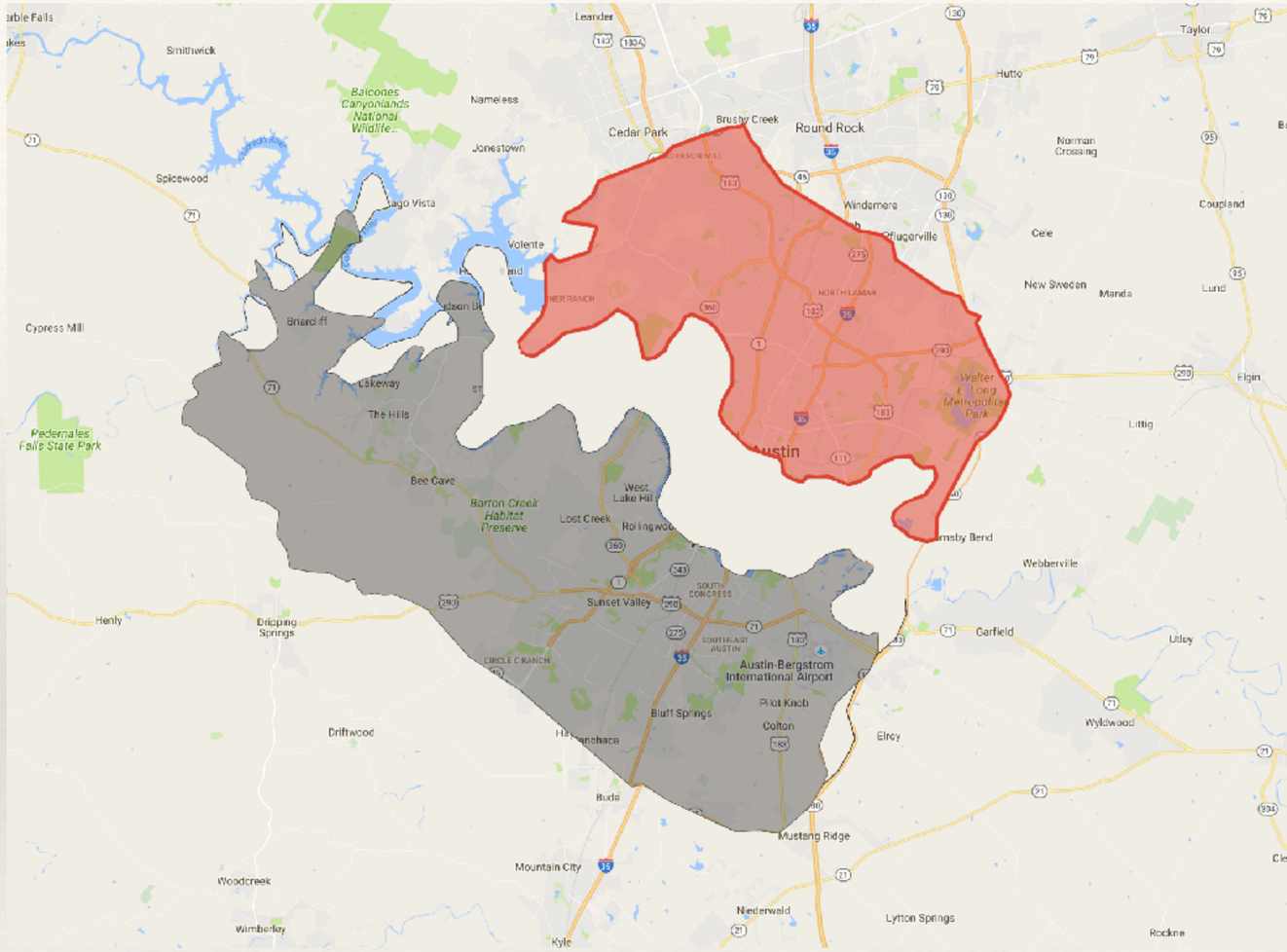
The Districts began meeting together to encourage participation and to provide unity.
We have outgrown the structure.



Two Districts—One Meeting

A System Whose Time Has Passed

Why not just meet separately?

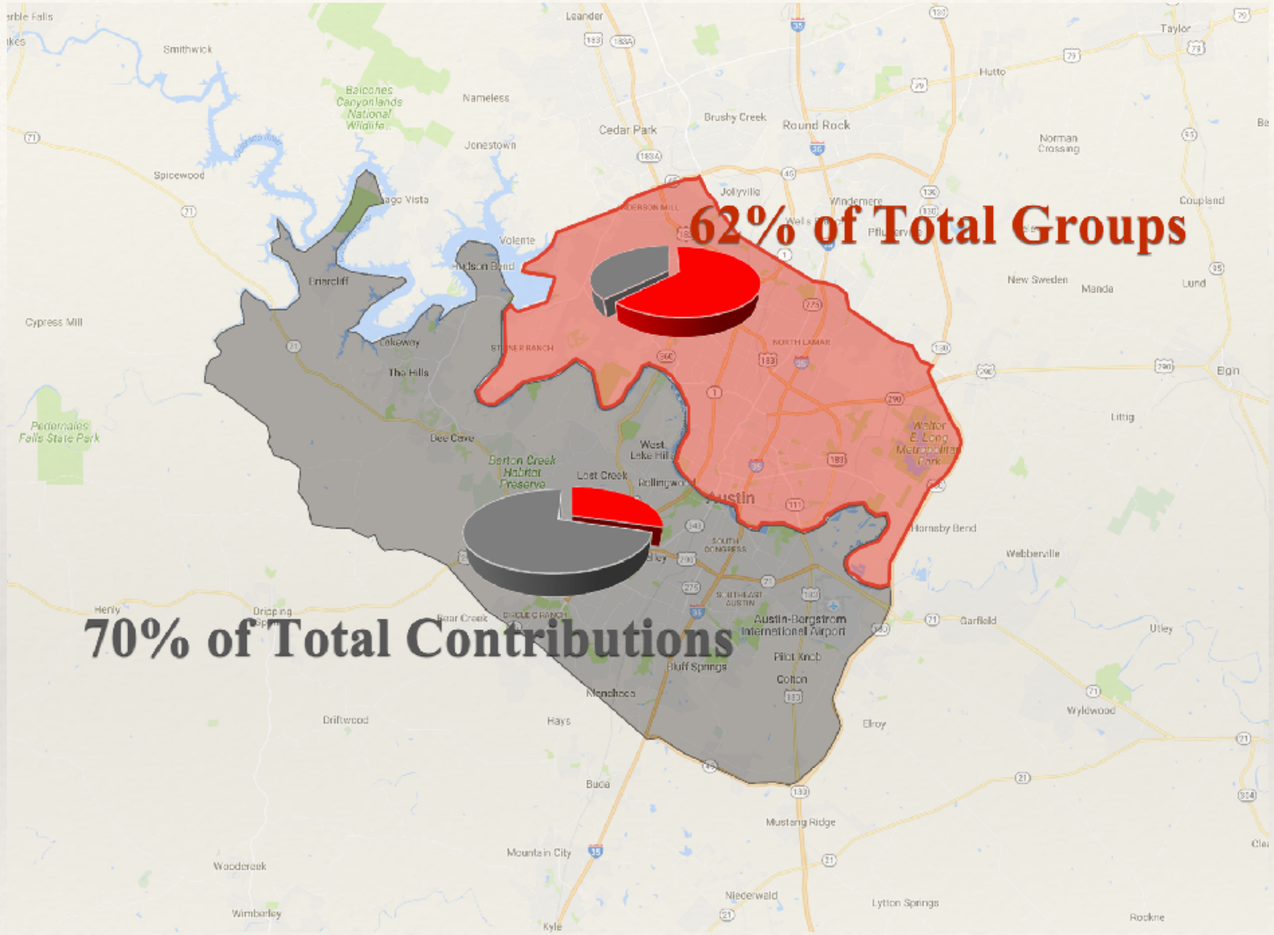


Two Districts—One Meeting

A System Whose Time Has Passed

Our two districts were quite different

✶3B had almost ⅔ of the groups in Austin, but only 30% of the financial contributions
✶3C had 38% of the groups and accounted for 70% of the combined districts' contributions



Two Districts—One Meeting

A System Whose Time Has Passed

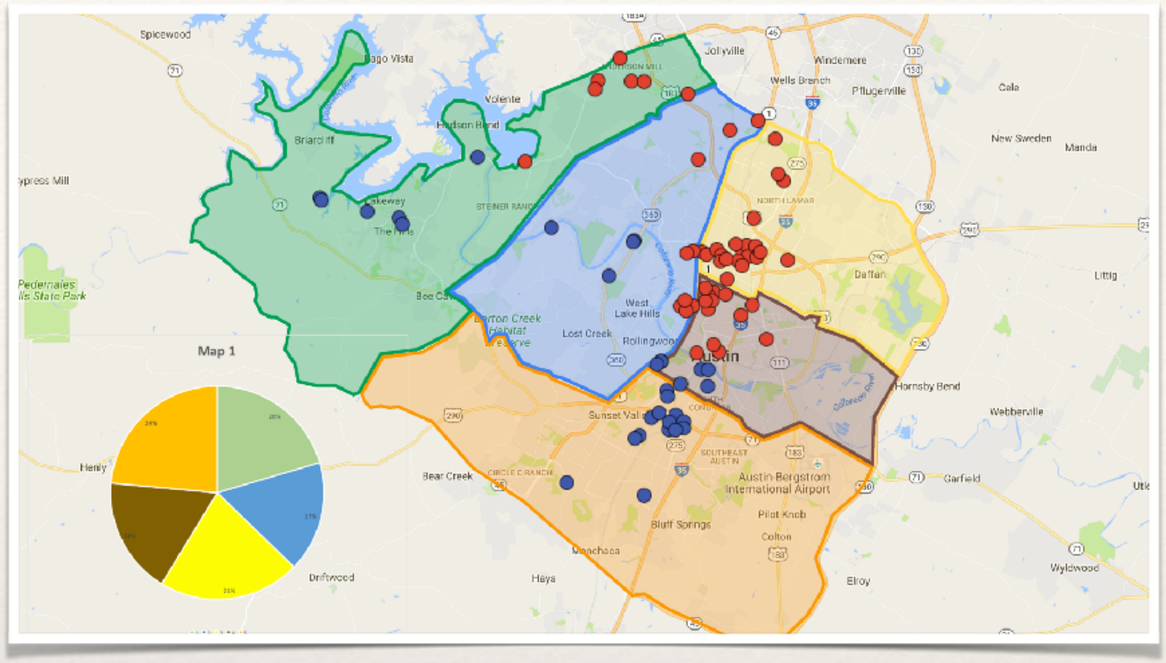
Redistricting each of the two districts wouldn't be fair to the majority of the groups in Austin

Putting the Pieces Together

- One whole, not two parts
  - Geographic sense
  - Financial Sense
  - Group Participation

Putting the Pieces Together

- One whole, not two parts
  - Geographic sense
  - Financial Sense
  - Group Participation
- Records research — data mining
- Shared experience


Map 1
Spicewood
Lago Vista
Jonyville
Windemere
Wells Branch
Pflugerville
Cele
Volente
Hudson Bend
Briarcliff
New Sweden
Manda
Lakeway
The Hills
Daffan
Littig
Bee Cave
West Lake Hills
Barton Creek Habitat Preserve
Lost Creek
Rollingwood
Hornsby Bend
Webberville
Sunset Valley
Austin-Bergstrom International Airport
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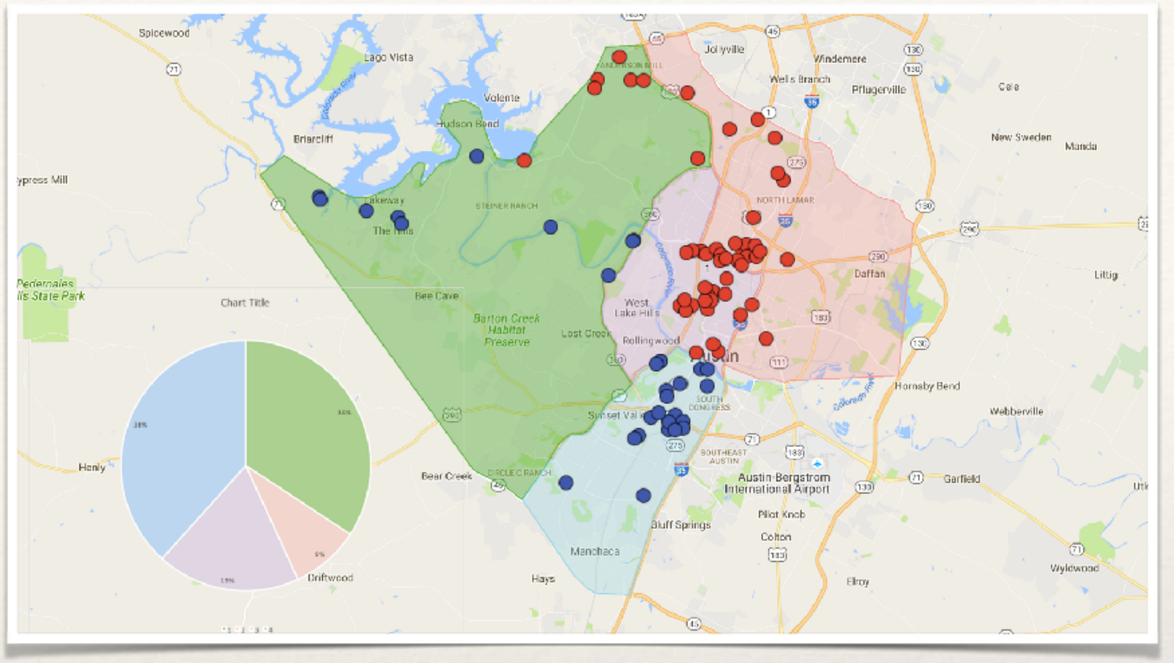
Elroy
Wyldwood
Henly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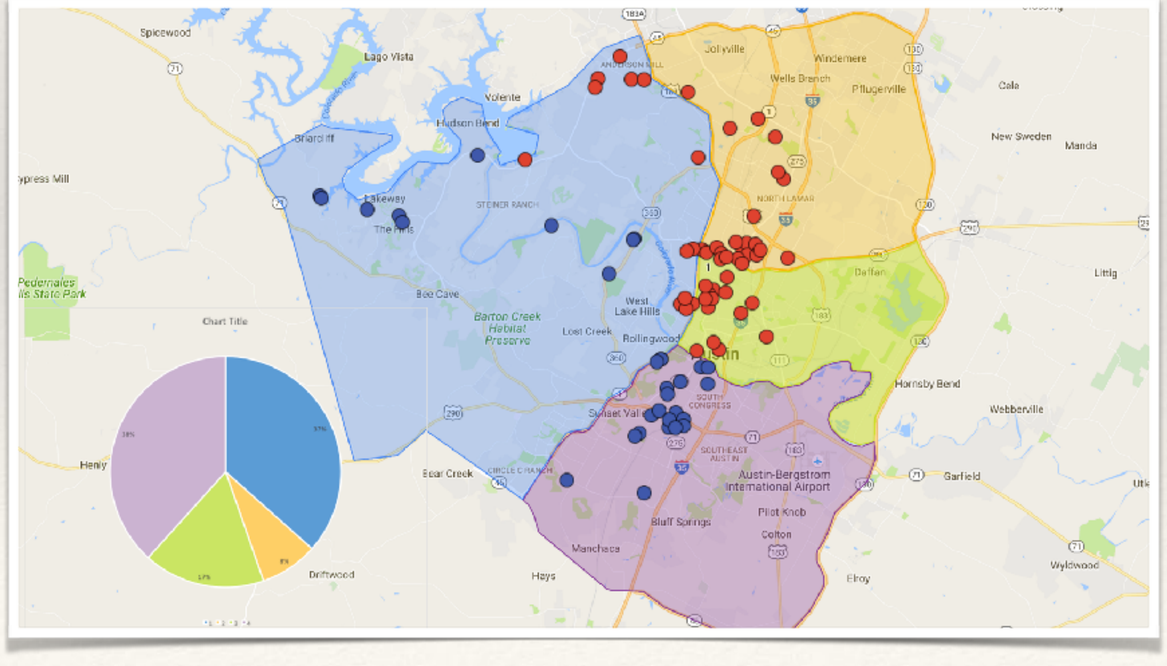
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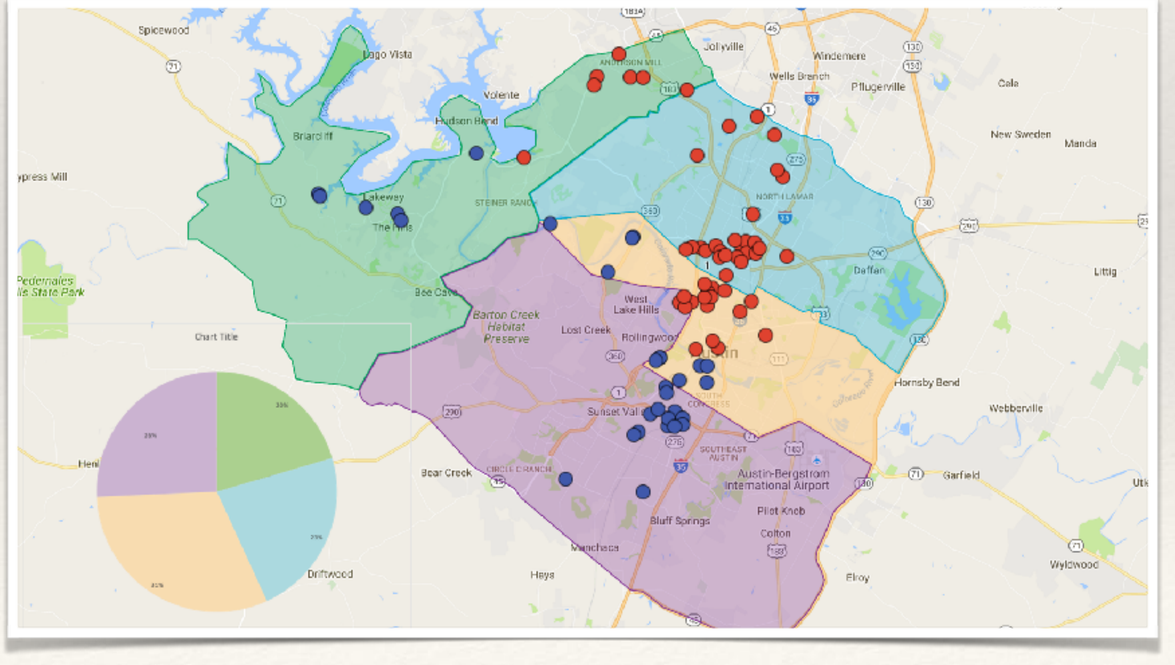
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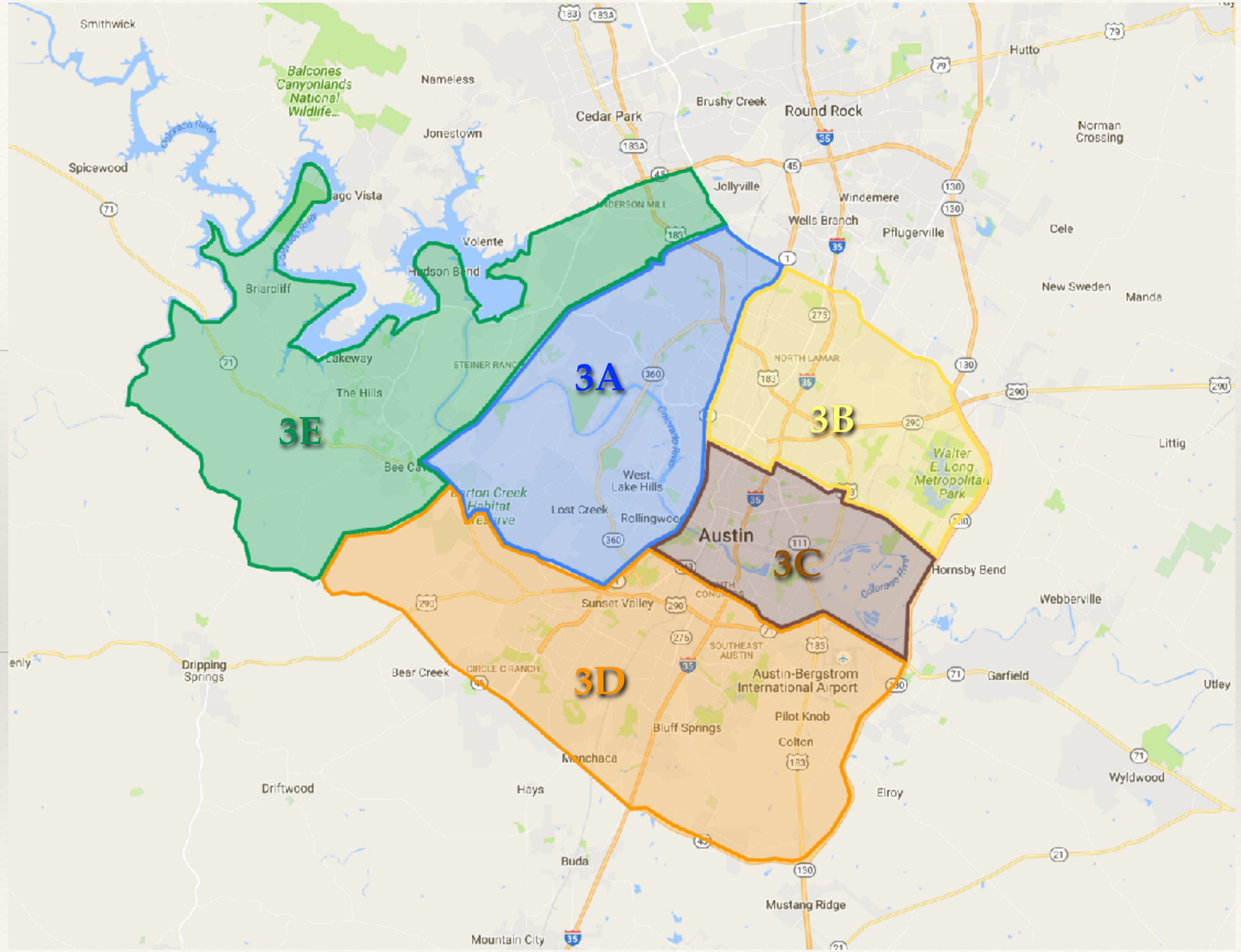
We present

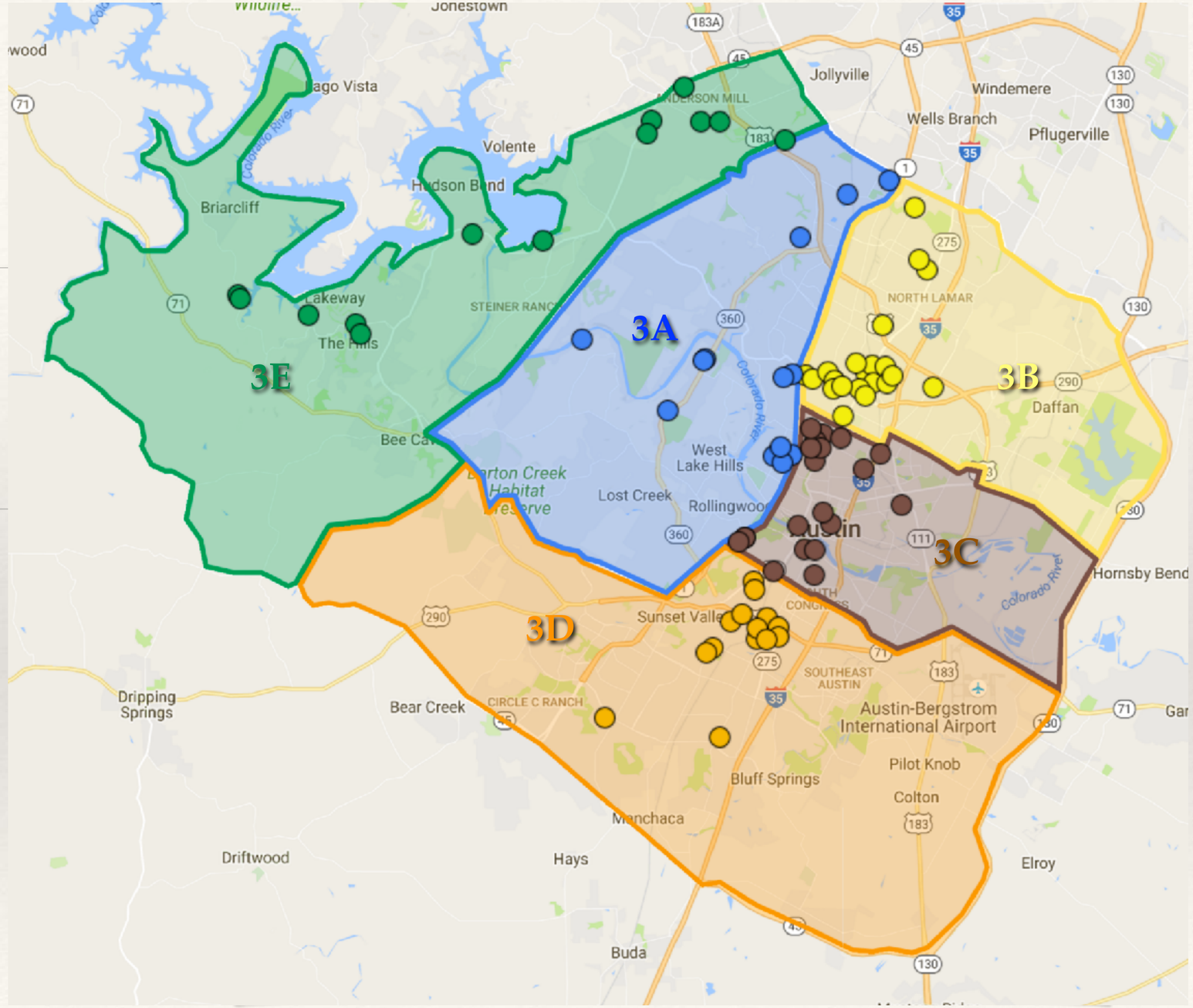
Austin's Five Districts



A Look at the Future

Districts and Groups

District 3A - 13 Groups
District 3B - 23 Groups
District 3C - 20 Groups
District 3D - 13 Groups
District 3E - 13 Groups

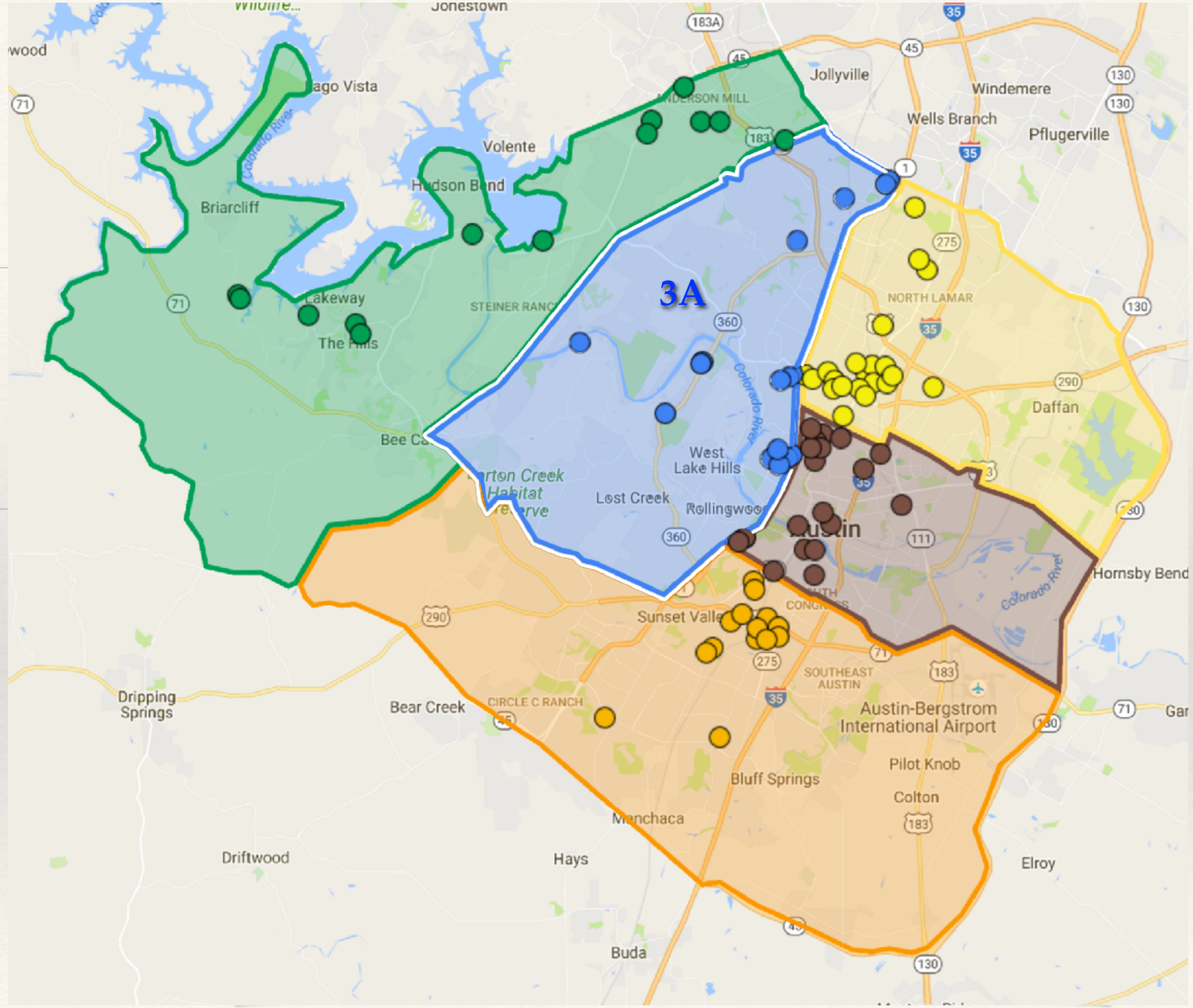


A Look at the Future

Districts and Groups

District 3A - 13 Groups

Austin Citywide
Bluebonnet
Bridge To Shore
Fire Makers
Grass Roots
Hilltoppers
Into Service
Miracles
Solutions In Sobriety
So What Now What
Spearheads
Tarrytown
Welcome Home

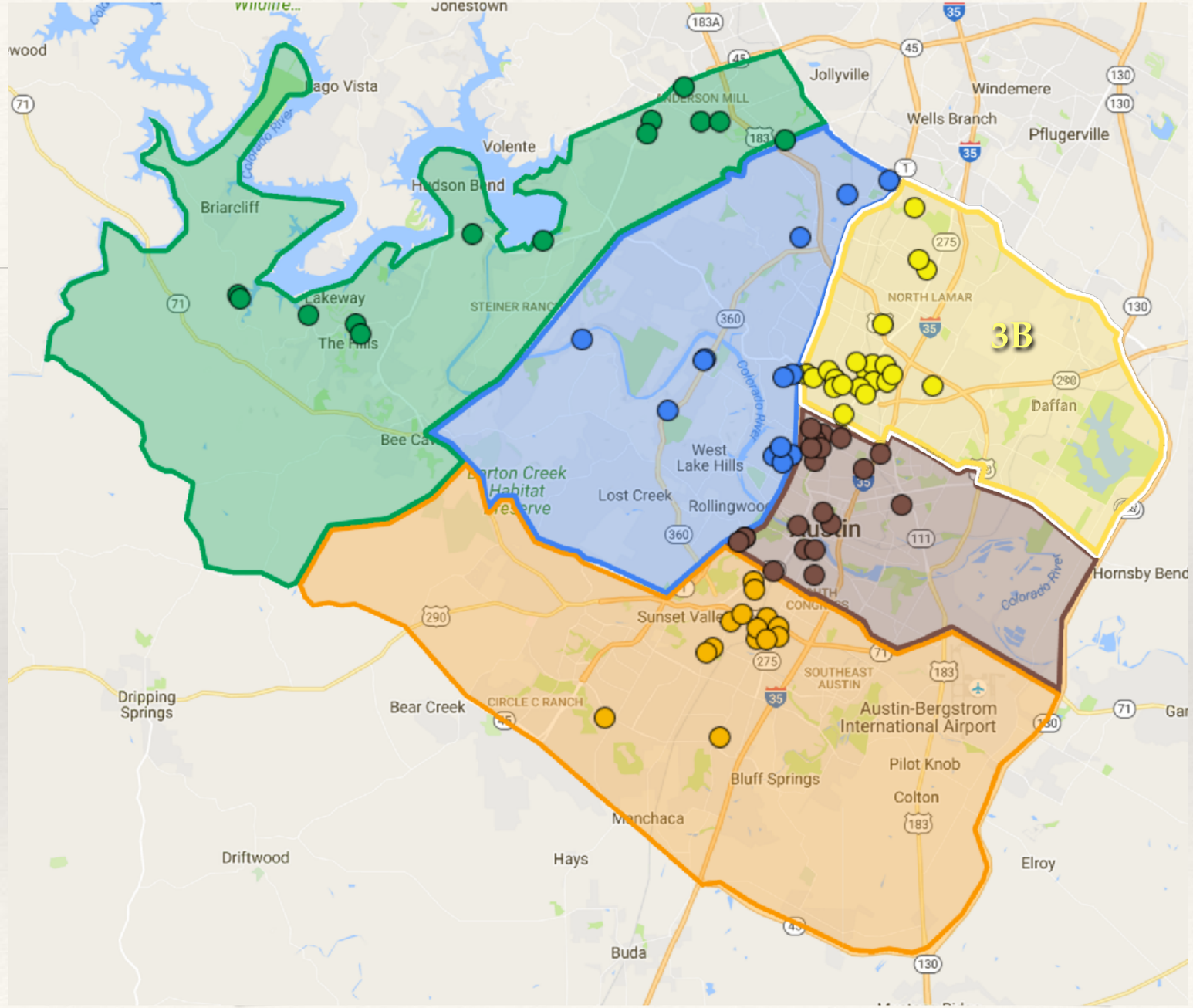


A Look at the Future

Districts and Groups

District 3B - 23 Groups

Allandale
Apples and Oranges
Beyond Belief
Brothers Of The Fourth Dimension
Carry This Message II
Children Of Chaos
Four Points
Lambda Live & Let Live
North Austin 24
Northland
Our Gang
Reading Rainbow
Renegade Ducks
Restoring To Life
Rule 62
Straight Pepper Diet
Suburban
Sunshine
Super Sober Chicks
Tin Roof
Unity
We Are Not Saints
Women In Solutions

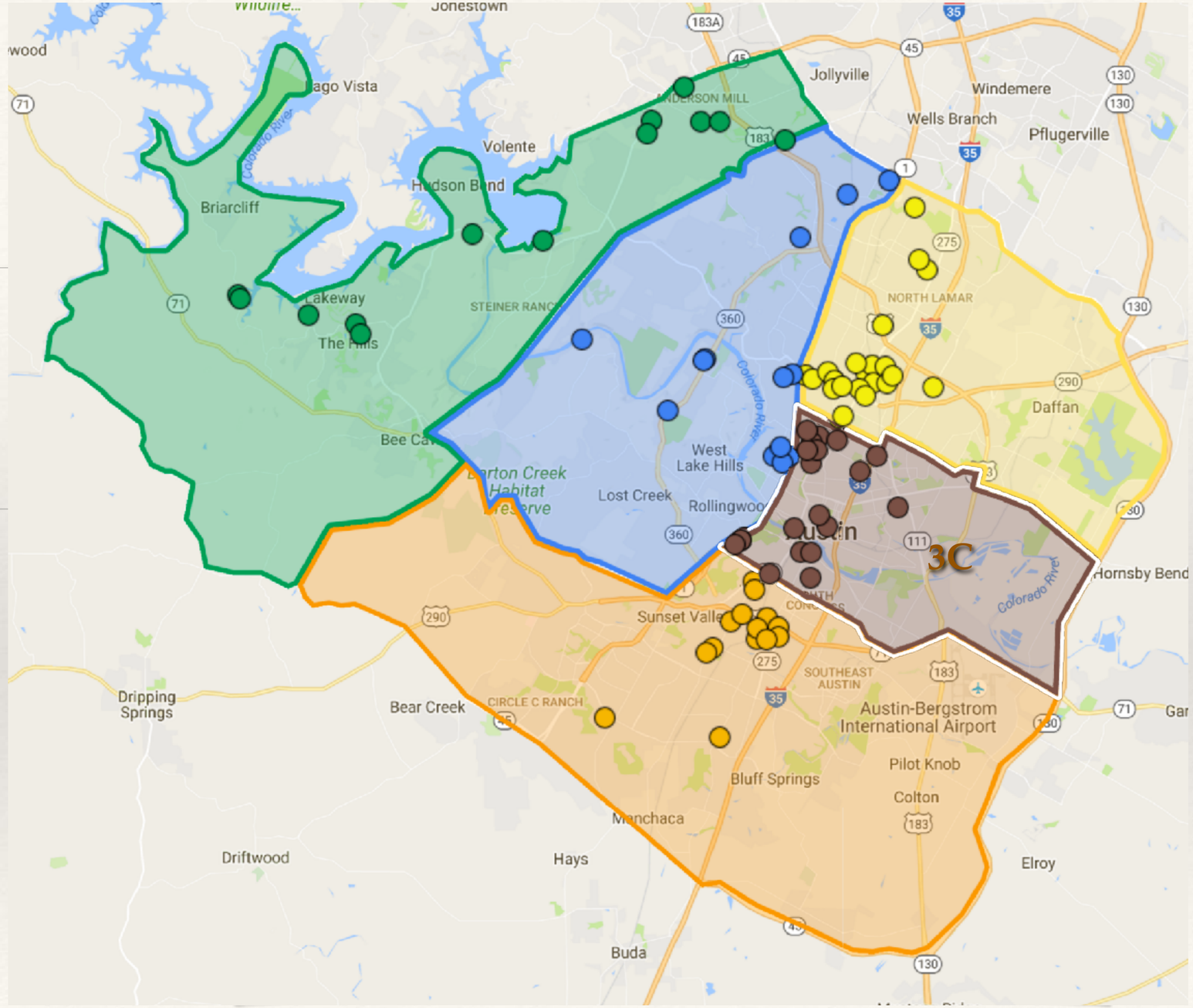


A Look at the Future

Districts and Groups

District 3C - 20 Groups

1313
Bouldin Avenue
Central Brazos
Courage To Change
Desire To Stop
East Austin
Fresh Start
L'Chaim
Liars Central
Liars South
Mills Avenue
New Beginnings
P-11 The Drs Opinion
Seniors
Shoal Creek
Things Are Looking Up
Triangle
Vision For You
Voices Carry
Westlake

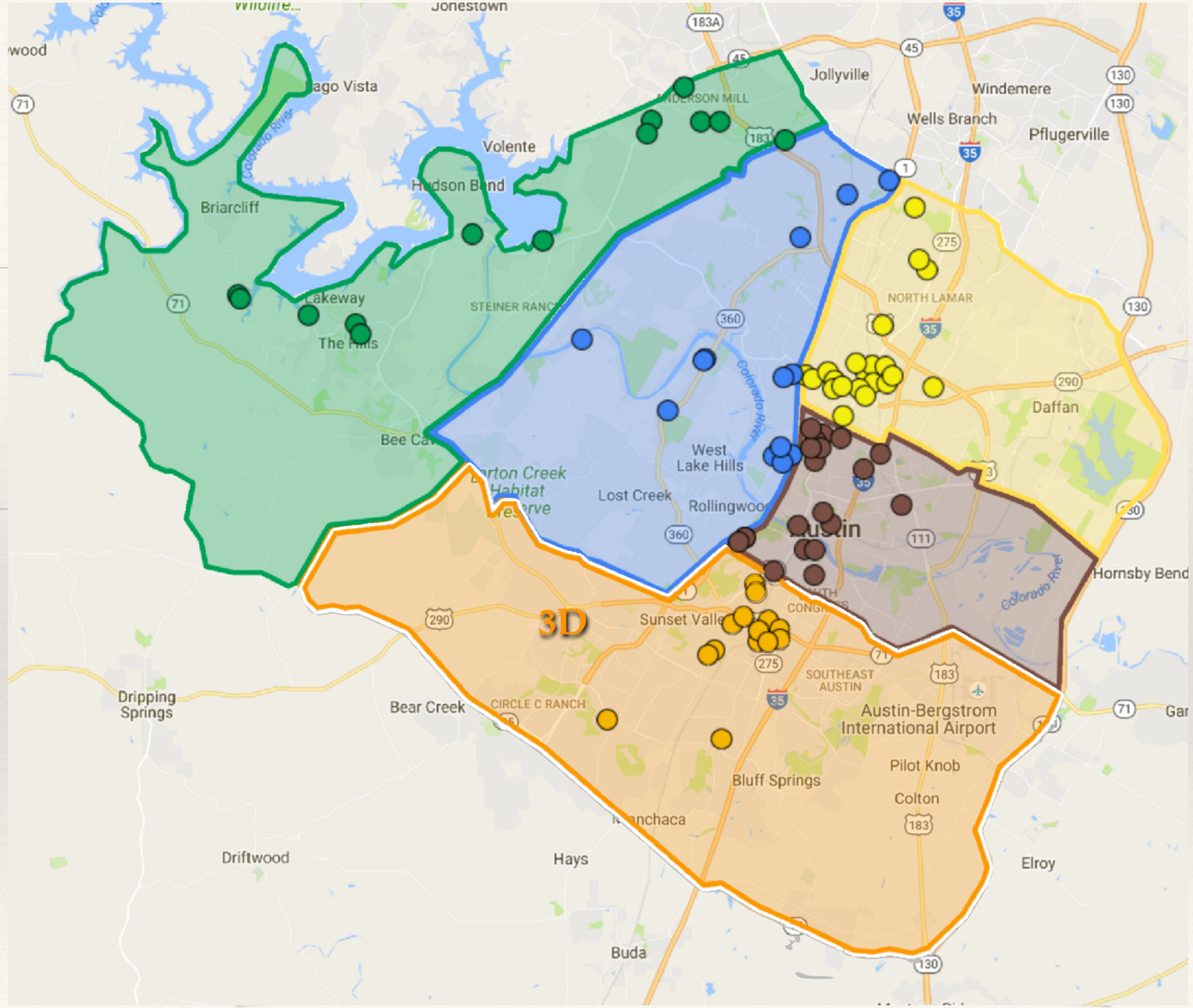


A Look at the Future

Districts and Groups

District 3D - 13 Groups

12@12
164 Page Winners
7th Street Sisters
A Way Out
Any Lengths
Five Thirty Meeting
Keep 1st Things 1st
Living Faith
Nooner
Primary Purpose
Principles Of Recovery
Single Purpose
South Side
We Agnostics
Western Trails

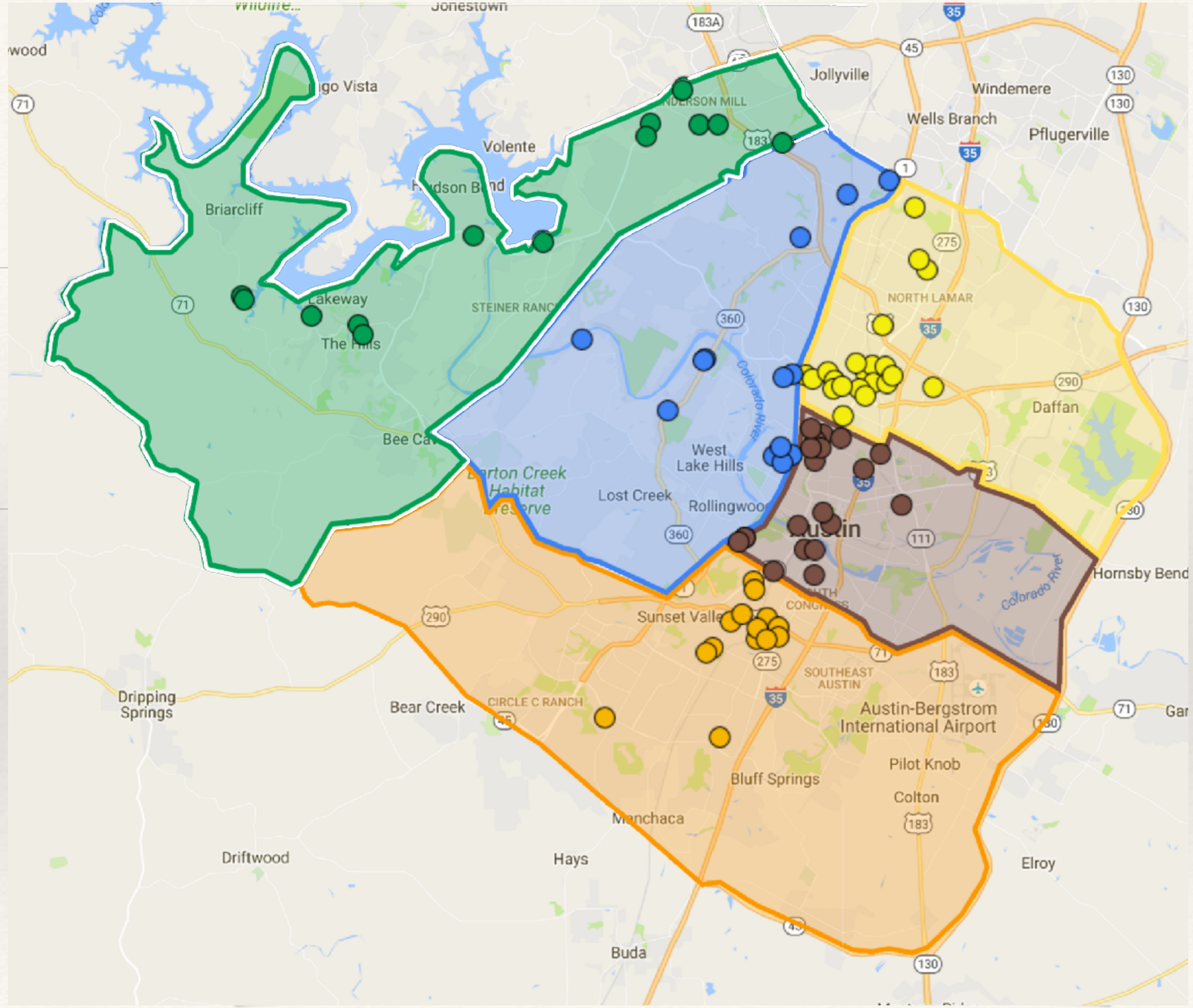


A Look at the Future

Districts and Groups

District 3E - 13 Groups

620 Peace
Bee Creek
Friday Night
Higher Power Hr
Lakeway Keystone
Lighthouse
LT Serenity
Marshall Ford
North 183
Pedernales
Saturday Morning
Spiritual Awakening
SundaySunrise



What's In It For My Group?

- Provide your group with more service opportunities; increasing the ability to carry the message
- To be more connected to the district/area, and your DCM
- More time to discuss group issues/problems at district meetings for solutions and experience
- District meetings are closer to your general vicinity
- More information to take back to your groups
- Your DCM will be able to stay in contact with your group
- Better communication with A.A. as a whole

Redistricting Proposal & Voting

Redistrict 3B and 3C into five autonomous districts as described — each with its own DCM. The new districts 3A through 3E will take effect January 01, 2018.

VOTING

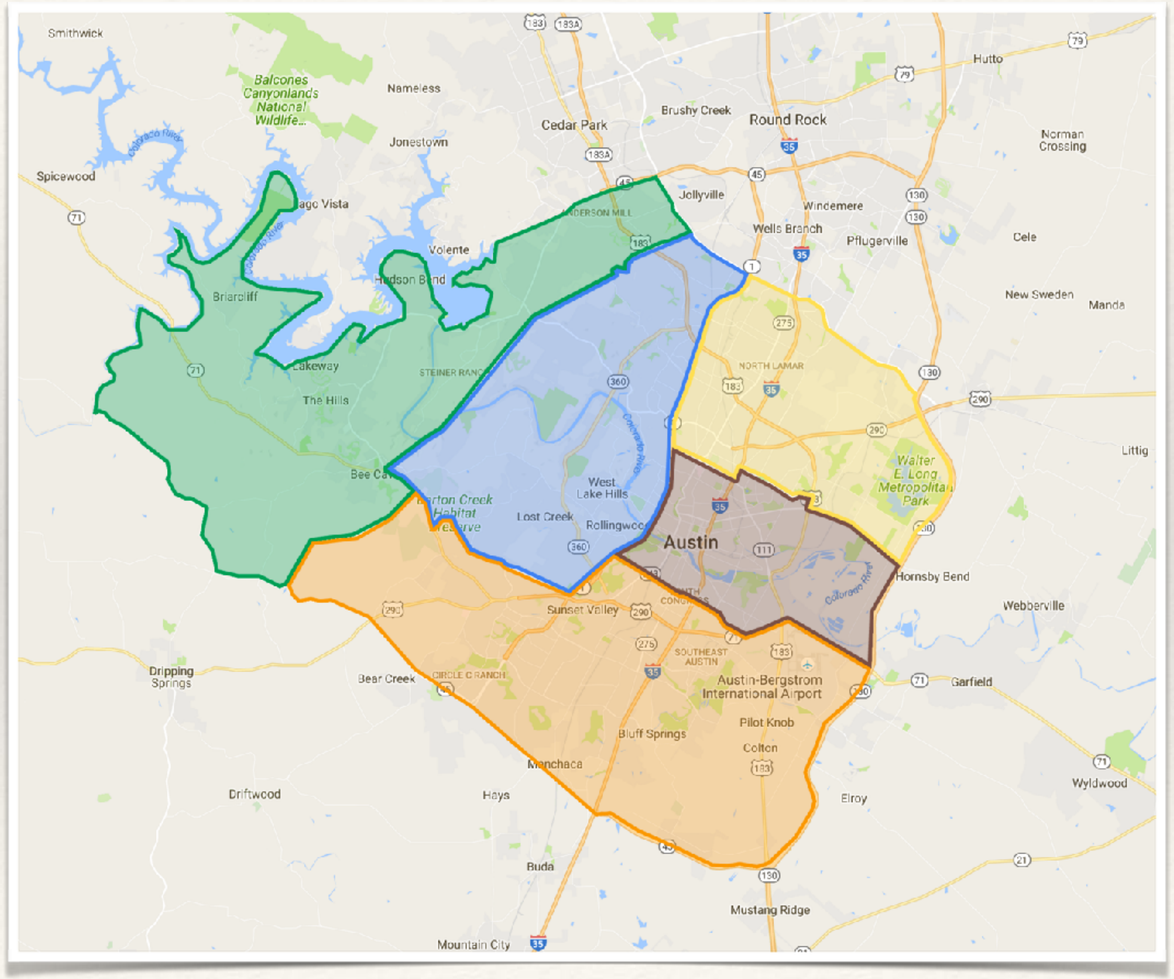
Ballots will be mailed to each group's GSR or Primary Contact of record mid-December 2016. Ballots must be received by February 5, 2017. A two-thirds majority is required to pass.

Further Considerations

- DCMs meet regularly, possibly utilizing a past DCM as chairperson (DCMC)
- Consider re-purposing website for the remainder of contract
- Consider dividing the treasury equally among the five new districts
- Consider what to do with the 501(c)(3)
- Consider holding an annual unity event
- Consider what to do with existing archives

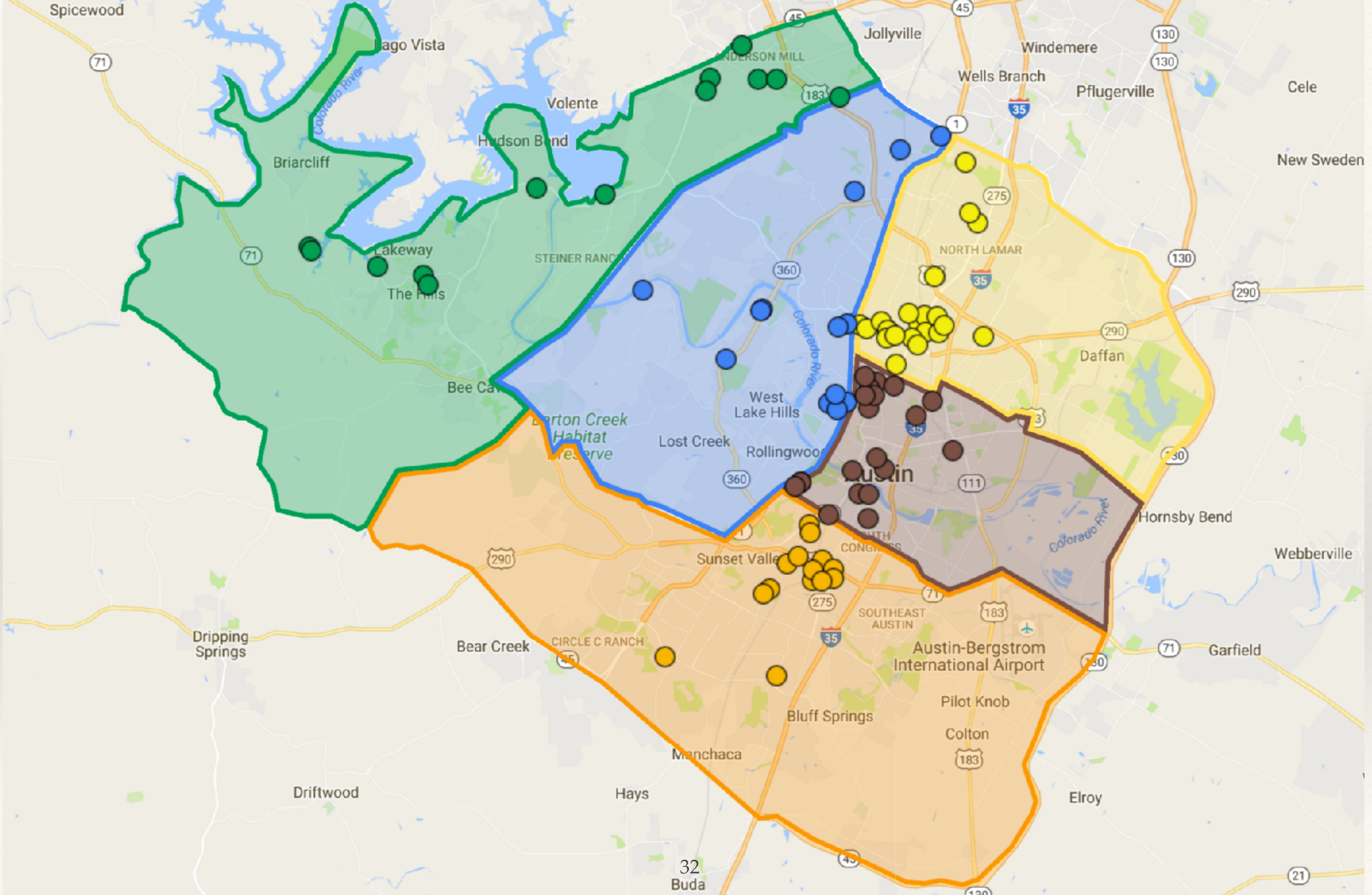
New Districts Making A Fresh Start

- Continue attending district meetings and workshops for support and information
- Form an ad hoc or interim district committee
- Mailing address
- Bank account
- District guidelines
- Schedule elections for DCM, Alternate DCM, and officers by September 2017
- Take it easy, form committees as needed
- Start keeping records, minutes of meetings



It’s Time to Share!

- Volunteer recorder to take minutes.
- Go around the room taking turns. Everyone gets a turn.
- Please:
  - Respect the timer, everyone gets the same amount of time—Two Minutes
  - Don't share again until everyone has shared once
  - Sharing continues until everyone’s done, or we run out of time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Daffan
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Lost Creek
Rollingwood
Austin
Hornsby Bend
Webberville
Sunset Valley
SOUTHEAST AUSTIN
Austin-Bergstrom International Airport
Garfield
Dripping Springs
Bear Creek
CIRCLE C RANCH
Pilot Knob
Bluff Springs
Colton
Manchaca
Driftwood
Hays
Elroy
Buda
Colorado River

Thank You!
Spicewood
Lago Vista
Jollyville
Windemere
Wells Branch
Pflugerville
Cele
New Sweden
Manda
Volente
Hudson Bend
Briarcliff
Lakeway
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STEINER RANCH
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Littig
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