

**Georgia Area 16 State Assembly
Business Meeting Minutes
Pending Approval at September, 2017 Business Meeting
Sunday, May 21st, 2017**

Delegate's Report—Ernie M

Conference

DELEGATE REPORT MAY 2017

ERNEST MURPHY
AREA 16 (GEORGIA) SERVICE ASSEMBLY
67TH GEN SERVICE CONFERENCE

It is truly an honor and pleasure to serve as your Panel 66, Area 16 Georgia Delegate. My name is Ernie and I am an Alcoholic. First, I would like to welcome any new Trusted Servants to this weekend in Macon. I would also like to thank the Area Officers, DCMs and their Alternates for the many hours of reading and research that was put into the Pre-Conference meeting allowing me to be informed of the Areas' thoughts in preparing me for the Conference. Last, but not least by any means are the Past Delegates of Area 16 who were so helpful in their knowledge of Conference and they helped me feel more at ease when I got there.

The 67th General Service Conference was held in Rye Brook, New York, April 22-29, 2017. I drove to New York arriving Friday, departing Savannah at "zero dark thirty", Thursday, a day earlier to get settled. Thank goodness as it took me 4 hours to get from just this side of Washington, D.C. to the other side of Baltimore due to construction & accidents on Thursday.

The delegates reception was Saturday afternoon followed by the delegates only meeting at 7:30 PM Saturday night. The Delegate Chair was Bob Munsell from South Dakota. Bob went through the schedule for the week with numerous pieces of advice for us. I think the best one I heard was: "Everything needs to be said, but not everyone needs to say it." Last year there were 67 agenda items, this year, 93.

Highlights of the schedule were: this is not a marathon, or a sprint; trust the process, be patient; here to carry the conscience of our fellowship. – let the conscience emerge; trust that each committee has taken their work as seriously as you did; when you wake up, say "we'll see", when you go to bed, say "who knew."

Who makes up the Conference? There are 93 Delegates from the US and Canada, 25 Class A and B Trustees, and 15 GSB Members. All have a vote at Conference. I wasn't the oldest nor the youngest in attendance. The average Delegate's age was 58. The oldest was 75, and the youngest 37. The average length of sobriety was 23 years, with the longest 51 years, the shortest 10 years. The person with the longest number of years in sobriety had 50 years.

The structure of the Conference begins with the AA groups at the top, GSRs, districts, area assemblies down to the Delegates, and finally the General Service Board. You, the groups, control what the rest of us do. Your voice is heard.

Sunday, April 23rd, 2017 – 10 am Opening Meeting – Supporting Our Future

Terry Bedient, Chair, General Service Board Manager

Greg Tobin, General Manager, G.S.O. did roll call. We were informed that this conference had the largest number of agenda items ever.

Over 90, plus whatever floor actions were done. We would be in for a very busy week. There would be no trips to either the Office on

Riverside Drive or to Stepping Stones. Those trips would only be for the Conference when held in New York City.

Sunday Afternoon Session – FINANCE Presentation – David Morris – Class A Trustee and Treasurer of the GSB.

2016 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS –

7th Tradition Self-Support – Record in 2016 - \$7.9 million. Up 11% from 2015.

Cost of Services provided to the Fellowship - \$9.9 million

Shortfall between 7th Tradition of self-support and cost of services provided to the Fellowship - \$2.0 million.

AAWS Literature Sales - \$13.4 million, up 5% from 2015.

AAWS publishing net income - \$3.4 million covered the shortfall between the 7th Tradition self-support and costs of services provided, resulting in net profit - \$1.4 million.

Grapevine subscription levels increased in 2016, resulting in net income-\$165,000

General Fund service support for La Viña was \$152,000

Reserve fund - \$14.9 million, resulting in a ratio of 10.3 months

You can now do a recurring contribution to GSO online at aa.org. The average cost of running GSO last year was \$7.27/person in AA. If every member of AA sent GSO \$7.27 once this year, AA would be self-supporting. The Delegates have come up with a challenge called the “727 Challenge,” to try and get everyone to send in that amount.

C.P.C. Trustees Meeting- Joel-CPC/Grapevine Trustee and Committee presented the committee’s report and received any questions asked. Made my CPC committee meeting make more sense.

SUNDAY EVENING Opening dinner. There were 5 - ten minute speakers- included were Delegates, A.A.W.S., Grapevine, & G.S.O. Staff.

*Monday Afternoon- General Service Board Report – Terry Bedient
Highlights-*

- GSC has welcomed two new Class A Trustees – Christine Carpenter and Nancy McCarthy along with three new Class B Trustees—Carole B., General Service Trustee; Tom Ardolf, West Central Trustee; Cate Witting, Western Central Regional Trustee. Billy Noonan, Chet Parker, Bob Wilcox, Trustee-at-Large US, as well as Terry will rotate out.
- The name of Michele Grinberg, will be put forward to succeed Terry as chairperson of the General Service Board.
- This past year has marked the first full year of Grapevine’s relocation to the 11th floor at 475 Riverside Drive. The G.S.O./Grapevine co-locations project has moved through a series of constructions phases, with completion expected in 2017 with everyone practicing A.A. principles in all their affairs.

A.A.W.S. Board Report – Billy Noonan – Chair

The AAWS Board utilizes the committee system to address extensive agendas, to gather background material, and to thoroughly consider requests from Areas. Committees of the AAWS Board are:

Technology/Communications/Services, which address the needs of service assignments, reviews GSO communications with the fellowship, and overseas GSO’s A.A. website. Publishing reviews format requests, reprints, international translations of literature and other publishing matters. Finance oversees budgeting and financial results. Nominating recommends candidates for AAWS Non-Trustee Director and General Service Trustee.

- Group Services –net total of 1,102 new AA groups in the US and Canada were listed at GSO last year. Each new groups’ GSR or contact receives AA literature and basic information to encourage the group to link with their local structure and support Twelfth Step activities.

- GSOs' AA Website – Oversight is the responsibility of the AAWS Board of Directors. The website received a total of 13,327,469 hits for the year 2016, an increase of 4% from the previous year. New features include multiple navigation updates, an enhanced learning feature, the new service piece, "Safety and AA: Our Common Welfare," and audio clips of Bill W.

- Financial- Here is an overview for 2016

- ∞ Total contributions for the year ending December 31, 2016- \$7,934,869, which is \$839,869 (11.78%) greater than budget and \$780,724 (10.91%) greater than last year.

- ∞ Net Sales were \$13,189,258.

- ∞ Gross margin from literature sales were \$10,549,316.

- ∞ Net Revenues were \$15,324,964.

- ∞ Total Operating Expenses were \$15,427,220.

2017 Budget: The AAWS Board approved the 2017 budget for the General Service Office with a net income of \$397,793; after review by the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee, the budget was approved by the General Service Board.

- Publishing –

Total eBook gross sales for January-December 2016 stand at \$227,611.61 with 58,277 units distributed.

- GSO Visitors - In 2016 GSO welcomed 2,520 visitors, many of whom travelled great distances to visit and express gratitude for their sobriety.

- Archives: Archives finished 2016 with approximately 1,450 requests for information as compared to 1,300 in 2015.

- Reprint Requests: In 2015, AAWS granted permission/did not object to 70 requests to reprint AA literature and denied permission to 81 requests.

- "Safety in AA Rooms" will be topic beginning in July 2017.

Grapevine Report – Albin Zezula, Chair of Grapevine Board

Since the last Conference, Grapevine has produced 12 issues and six issues of *LaViña*; four books and e-books (*Happy Joyous & Free*, special Conference editions in English, Spanish and French, and *Forming True Partnerships*, (about relationships in sobriety); an audiobook version of *The Language of the Heart*; a wall calendar and a pocket planner.

- AA Grapevine initiated a fellowship-wide 2015 subscription challenge – Missouri won and Delaware won for *LaViña*.
- In 2015 GV continued the collection phase for audio story submissions from the Fellowship. As of January 2016, GV had collected 230 audio stories. Nine stories are available free at www.aagrapevine.org as examples for members who wish to record a story.
- GV Financials for 2016
 - ∞ Net Sales: \$2,955,353 Expenses: \$2,722,642 Net Income: \$240,811
- LV Financials
 - ∞ Net Sales: \$134,095 Expenses: \$280,473 Net Income: (\$145,378)

Conference Committee Meetings - my committee - C.P.C. met in the mornings on Monday and Tuesday to go over the agenda items. Mary C. was our committee secretary and helped tremendously in wording and rewording our recommendations/suggestions. We were at liberty to ask for a Trustee to answer any questions which she could not answer. Mary was not allowed to voice any opinions in our final recommendations. When we were discussing Social Media, we had two professionals dealing with treatment come in and answer questions, mostly about LinkedIn service.

Delegates Only Dinner – As usual with all meals at Conference, there was plenty of food and deserts. After dinner, there was a lot of information passed on for the Panel 67 Delegates getting them ready

for the remainder of the week. “Trust the Process.” Election of the 67th Conference Delegate Chair and Alternate –each region pulls from the hat a nominee from 66s. All nominees are placed in a hat. The Delegate Chair pulled from the hat was Ben B., Panel 67, Oklahoma, and the Alternate Chair will be Joann Lowrie, Panel 67, Area 6, Northern CA.

Tuesday Afternoon saw the Workshop Sessions. I had the privilege of moderating the workshop I was assigned to. All had the same topic – “Anonymity – The Spiritual Foundation.” Results of the 10 individual workshops compiled will appear in the final report later this year.

- Anonymity Workshop
 - 1. What are some of the ways groups/districts in your area foster awareness of our principle of anonymity?
 - 2. How has misinformation about personal anonymity among A.A. members been an obstacle with Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community service?
 - 3. What is the experience of members in your Area regarding social media with regard to A.A.’s anonymity Traditions?
 - 4. How well do we practice a “genuine humility?” As members? As a Fellowship?

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BEGAN COMMITTEE REPORTS –

Elections were held for the new Southeast Trustee & Trustee-at-Large-US. After several ballots two names were placed in the hat and Cathy Beckman, W VA was chosen to be the next SE Trustee. Newton Pritchett, NC, was elected as the new Trustee-at-Large-US.

HERE WE GO –The following recommendations were approved by the 67th General Service Conference.

Agenda

It was recommended that:

1. The theme for the 2018 General Service Conference be: “A.A. – A Solution for All Generations.”

2. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2018 General Service Conference:
 - a. Today’s Alcoholic: Inclusion, Not Exclusion
 - b. Participation in all of A.A. – Is My Triangle Balanced?
 - c. A.A. Technology: Where Innovation Meets the Traditions
 - d. Attraction Not Promotion: A.A.’s Relation to the World
 - e. Group Conscience: The Guiding Force

3. Conference: “Getting the A.A. Message Out...”

Archives

It was recommended that:

4. A draft or a progress report of *Unity in Action: Bill W.’s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970* (working title) be brought back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Archives for review.

Cooperation with the Professional Community

It was recommended that:

5. The pamphlet “Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W.” be retired.

6. A footnote with the following text be added to the pamphlet “Problems Other Than Alcohol” at the bottom of page one:

This pamphlet is derived from an article written by A.A. co-founder Bill W. in 1958. Therefore, some of the language may be dated, but the issues addressed are prevalent today.

7. The title of the pamphlet "Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace?" be changed to "Is There a Problem Drinker in the Workplace?"
- 8.. The Trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community review the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional," develop text to include information for professionals who come in contact with veterans and active members of the Armed Services, including information on how to contact A.A. worldwide, and bring back a report or draft text to the 2018 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community for review.
- 9 The Trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community review the pamphlet "Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous," develop text to include information for professionals who come in contact with veterans and active members of the Armed Services, including information on how to contact A.A. Worldwide, and bring back a report or draft text to the 2018 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community for review.
10. The Trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community review the pamphlet "A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional," develop text to include information for professionals who come in contact with veterans and active members of the Armed Services, including information on how to contact A.A. Worldwide, and bring back a report or draft text to the

2018 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community for review.

Corrections

No Recommendations

Finance

It was recommended that:

11. The suggested area contribution for Delegate expense for the Conference be increased from \$1,600 to \$1,800.

12. Review of the suggested Area contribution for Delegates' expenses to the Conference be every other year. The next review will take place in 2019.

13. Review of the Conference-approved level for bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members be every other year. The next review will take place in 2019.

14. Review of the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member be every other year. The next review will take place in 2019.

15. The following text be added to the pamphlet: "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix," "Question: Can an individual or group make a recurring online contribution? Answer: Yes, online at aa.org."

Grapevine

No recommendations

International Conventions/Regional Forums

No recommendations

Literature

It was recommended that:

- 16 The following two bullet points in the section “What procedures can a group set up to sponsor new members?” in the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” be removed:
 - A *file* of names, addresses, and phone numbers of newcomers (who wish to volunteer the information), with notations showing sponsor or sponsors for each one.
 - *Review of newcomers* list by steering committee (or Twelfth Step or sponsorship committee) – with follow-up activity where it seems needed.

17. The revised plan for the annual review of recovery literature be implemented, with the first report to be delivered to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature.

18. The following text about Young People’s Conferences be added to the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” in the section “Where do I find A.A.?”:

Young People’s Conferences are held in the United States and Canada and around the world. For information, consult your local A.A. area, intergroup office, or search online for YPAA.

19. Question 10 in the pamphlet “The A.A. Group” in the section “A.A. Group Inventory” that currently reads, “Are we doing all we can to provide an attractive and accessible meeting place?” be revised to read:

Are we doing all we can to provide a safe, attractive and accessible meeting place?

20. The pamphlet “The A.A. Group” be revised to add the following text from “Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare” to the section “Principles Before Personalities”:

Safety and A.A.: Suggestions to Consider

“Safety is an important issue within A.A. – one that all groups and members can address to develop workable solutions and help keep our meetings safe based on the fundamental principles of the Fellowship.

“Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward. (Tradition One, Long Form)”

“A.A. groups are spiritual entities made up of alcoholics who gather for the sole purpose of staying sober and helping other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. Yet, we are not immune to the difficulties that affect the rest of humanity.”

“Alcoholics Anonymous is a microcosm of the larger society within which we exist. Problems found in the outside world can also make their way into the rooms of A.A. As we strive to share in a spirit of trust, both at meetings and individually with sponsors and friends, it is reasonable for each member to expect a meaningful level of safety. Those attending A.A. meetings derive a benefit by providing a safe environment in which alcoholics can focus on gaining and maintaining sobriety. The group can then fulfill its primary purpose – to carry the

A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. For this reason, groups and members discuss the topic of safety.”

For more information see “Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare” (SMF-209) www.aa.org

21. The Trustees’ Literature Committee develop language regarding safety to be incorporated in current and new recovery literature, where appropriate, along with a plan for implementation. The committee requested that the draft language and proposed plan or progress report be brought back to the 2018 General Service Conference.

Policy/Admissions

It was recommended that:

22. The 2018 General Service Conference move ahead with electronic voting to be used for all Conference voting, with the exception of elections for Regional Trustees and Trustees-at-Large, which are conducted by ballot.

23. The Trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference develop a plan for the equitable distribution of the workload of Conference Committees by combining and/or creating committees for review by the 2018 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.

24. Starting with the 67th General Service Conference, an anonymity-protected, digital *Final Conference Report* be published in addition to the current print version.

25. The 70th General Service Conference be held April 19-25, 2020 since these dates do not conflict with any significant holiday or hotel availability.

- 26 Starting at the 2018 General Service Conference, the proposed dates of future General Service Conferences be considered as an additional Committee Consideration rather than requiring an Advisory Action.
27. General Service Office management submit a report on the process, implementation and status on the site selection of the General Service Conference for review by the 2018 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.

Public Information

It was recommended that:

28. A new video public service announcement be developed for a cost not to exceed \$40,000.
29. The pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity” be rewritten to include material from G.S.O. literature covering Tradition Eleven and to expand the discussion of humility in Tradition Twelve as it relates to anonymity and that a progress report or draft language be brought back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Public Information.
30. A.A. World Services, Inc. create a Google for Nonprofits account, with use of the account limited to the YouTube Nonprofit Program and with a guarantee that comments not be shown on A.A.W.S. YouTube pages. The committee requested that a report including information from website analytics and the usefulness and effectiveness of the A.A.W.S. YouTube account be brought back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Public Information.

Report and Charter

It was recommended that:

- 31 The following text be added to Chapter Four of *The A.A. Service Manual*.

Area Websites

Many A.A. entities now use websites to communicate meeting and service information within the Fellowship. An A.A. website can serve as a public information tool, providing information about A.A. to the public as well. As with newsletters, it has been found prudent for a committee (rather than one or two individuals) to be responsible for the format, planning, and content of the website.

As anonymity is the “spiritual foundation of all our Traditions,” we practice anonymity on A.A. websites at all times. An A.A. website is a public medium, which has the potential for reaching the broadest possible audience and, therefore, requires the same safeguards that we use at the level of press, radio and film. Some areas have included password protected sections of the website, which can limit access to members only, and where full names may be used. Not all A.A. websites contain the same information. For instance, in places where an active intergroup or central office provides meeting information, general service websites may not need to duplicate this effort, and may link to them instead.

A.A. websites may feature brief excerpts from A.A. literature using the same guidelines as newsletters. If a site wishes to include items that are currently available on the G.S.O. or Grapevine websites, they may link to the appropriate pages of those sites. Area websites may copy a thumbnail of a pamphlet, book or video from these sites and use it on the site as a link to the material on the G.S.O. or A.A. Grapevine site. Because public service announcements are intended to

be widely shared, they may be posted directly on local A.A. sites. For more information, see the “FAQ on A.A. Websites” and the A.A. Guidelines on the Internet.

32. The bylaws of A.A. World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. be included in *The A.A. Service Manual* as appendices.
33. A new section on the General Service Board’s “Mission-Vision-Action Statement” be added to Chapter 9 of *The A.A. Service Manual*.
34. The G.S.O. Department reports which are shared at Conference be included in the *Final Conference Report*.
35. Brief bios for non-trustee directors, similar to those for trustees, be included in the *Final Conference Report*.

Treatment and Accessibilities

It was recommended that:

- 36 The pamphlet “A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs” be approved with suggested editorial changes and be retitled “Accessibility for All Alcoholics.”

Trustees

It was recommended that:

37. The following slate of trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2017, following presentation at the 2017 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any:

Class A Trustees

Leslie S. Backus, B.A.

Class B Trustees

Thomas Ardolf

Hon. Christine Carpenter
Michele Grinberg, J.D.
Hon. Ivan L.R. Lemelle
Peter Luongo, Ph.D., LCSW-C
Nancy J. McCarthy
David M. Morris, C.P.A.

Cathy Beckham
Richard Boisvert
Carole Boerner
Joel Castellaw
Mark Everett
Yolanda Flores
Scott Huyghebaert
David Noll
Newton Pritchett
Richard Purtell
Ginger Rhoades Bell
Cate Wittig
Vacancy

- 38 The following slate of officers of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2017, following presentation at the 2017 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any:

<i>Chairperson</i>	Michele Grinberg, J.D.
<i>First vice-chairperson</i>	Joel Castellaw
<i>Second vice-chairperson</i>	Scott Huyghebaert
<i>Treasurer</i>	David M. Morris, C.P.A.
<i>Secretary</i>	Yolanda Flores
<i>Assistant treasurer</i>	Bob Slotterback
<i>Assistant secretary</i>	Eva Sanchez

39. The January 2017 appointment of the following officers by the chair of the General Service Board be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2017:

<i>Assistant treasurer</i>	Bob Slotterback
<i>Assistant secretary</i>	Eva Sanchez

This appointment process is in accordance with the General Service Board Bylaws.

40. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in April 2017, following presentation at the 2017 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any:

Tom Ardolf	David Noll
Deborah Attix	Richard Purtell
Richard Boisvert	Eva Sanchez
Beau Bush	Greg Tobin
Homer Moeller	

41. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2017, following presentation at the 2017 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any:

Carole Boerner	Ivan Lemelle
Ami Brophy	Paz Preciado
Josh Eggleston	Ginger Rhoades Bell
Yolanda Flores	Cate Wittig
Tommi Hanley	

42. The Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., as revised, be approved at the annual meeting of the General Service Board in April 2017.

Floor Actions- Eight floor actions were introduced and these 3 were approved.

It was recommended that:

1. In the spirit of unity and inclusiveness, the General Service Office strive to provide Conference background materials in English by

February 15 and Spanish and French by the first week in March, beginning with the 68th General Service Conference.

2. The pamphlet "Too Young?" be revised to reflect more current collective experiences of young alcoholics and their welcome to A.A.
3. A.A. Grapevine create a Google for Nonprofits account, with use of the account limited to the YouTube Nonprofit Program and with a guarantee that comments not be shown on the A.A. Grapevine YouTube pages. The A.A. Grapevine Board will track its effectiveness through website metrics.

I will have all the Advisory Actions, additional considerations, and no action taken added to our website with this Delegate's Report. As Friday evening came to a close around 9:00 pm, we heard the farewell remarks from the rotating Delegates. "Grace got us here." "Everything will be OK." "Remember your Conference Buddy next year and stay in touch." "Support him/her." "If we missed anything this year, you can fix it next year." "Your life has changed forever." "We made history this week." "It takes a little bit of ego to get into service, but a lot of humility to stay." "Our co-founders would be pleased - we were the voice of AA this week, and we shared something magic together." All the current trustees and those rotating formed a reception line and we all got to say good-bye to the rotating individuals.

As we got closer to the weekend, I realized something was wrong. I was missing something. I realized that all week we had not said the Lord's Prayer at the end of any meeting or day. We had closed with either the Serenity Prayer or the Responsibility Statement. I guess I have been in the South too long. After breakfast Saturday, we said our goodbyes to each other and as I headed to the car all I could say was AMEN. Thank you, Area 16, and most of all "THANK YOU GOD" for one of the most amazing experiences of my entire sober life.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Panel 66 Delegate to the 67th General Service Conference

Postscript: For the year 2016, Georgia had the highest percentage of contributions by group to GSO. 58.8% of Georgia groups contributed to GSO. We did not contribute the most money, but by group percentage. We averaged with our contributions \$7.39 per member.

Recognition of Past Area Officers—Rebecca T

Patty L., Past Delegate, Past Secretary; Glenda, Past Secretary, Past Office Manager; David M., Past Delegate, Past Treasurer; Gene T., Past Treasurer; Debi K., Past Secretary; Diane M., Past Treasurer
Others recognized: Tamara P., Office Manager; Fran L., Office Support; Volunteers who helped put this weekend on; Leslie B., Class A Trustee

Approval of Minutes from January 2017 Business Meeting—Rebecca T

No corrections or amendments

Show of hands

All in favor

64th GA Prepaid Convention Report (Macon)—Tracy M, Prepaid Chair

MAY 21ST 2017

64th Georgia State Prepaid Convention Report

I am grateful and honored to be your chair for the 64th GA State Pre-Paid Convention. I am blessed with an awesome co-chair and dedicated committee chairs that are carrying out their responsibilities. I want to remind everyone of our date: Thursday October 12th thru Sunday the 15th.

FACILITIES

We have been blessed with our facility being here to have a good working knowledge of the layout of where our events and speakers will be. Our facilities chair is working closely with the hotel to stay current as we draw closer to convention time. Our room rate is \$120.00 plus tax per night. Parking is free.

ENTERTAINMENT/SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Our co-chair Mike T. will also be our Voice for the convention.

Thursday evening

Registration and hospitality open

Speaker 8:00 pm

Friday

Registration and hospitality open

Early bird meeting

Early afternoon workshop

Late afternoon speaker

Friday night speaker

Full karaoke experience after speaker

Saturday

8am golf tournament at a local golf course

Kayaking event at 9am and 1pm. This is about a 2hr float down the river. You will need to send in a check or money order to secure your place. Cost is \$30.00 per person for kayak and \$60.00 for 2 people in a canoe. Price includes shuttle. This event has been very popular so book early. If you have your own kayak, you can pay a \$10 shuttle fee.

Early bird discussion meeting

Al-Anon speaker will be at 10:00 am

Workshop at 2pm

AA speaker at 4pm

Sobriety countdown Saturday night before the 8pm speaker. **You don't want to miss this!**

8pm speaker followed by an awesome live band and dance.

We will also have musicians playing in a more laid back setting in our hospitality room Friday and Saturday night

Sunday

Conclude with our 10:00 am speaker and closing prayer.

REGISTRATION

We urge anyone who hasn't already registered to do so online. We have 445 total registered at the time of this report and expect to have more registering before we leave.

VOLENTEERS

Our volunteer committee is working with all our committees to provide and organize help with registration, hospitality, and outreach.

HOSPITALITY

I believe that our hospitality room will be the talk of our area for years to come. I am amazed how many groups we have that are on board and hosting the hospitality room for their assigned time slots. We will have our hospitality room open and provide food, coffee, water, and much more. Groups from 7A and 7B will be bringing food like an eating meeting every 1 ½ hours. We will close for speaker meetings.

SPEAKERS AND PROGRAM

Our speaker committee has a great line up of speakers confirmed. In addition to the regular speaker meetings we will have workshops on Friday and Saturday afternoon hosted by Earl H., and Kent C. Our speaker committee has also addressed the special needs as they are indicated on our registrations submitted.

ALANON

Our Al-Anon liaison has provided our Al-Anon speaker for Saturday morning. Al-Anon meetings and functions will be listed in our program. We welcome our Al-Anon and Al-Ateen participation.

TREASURER

We are running a little over on budget in comparison with the last three-year average. We are still negotiating with the hotel on what they call on site amenities. We are confident that we will be able to stay reasonably close to budget. We are working hard to spend our area's money wisely.

OUTREACH

Letters of invitation have been sent to all our service committee chairs. I also wanted to formally invite our area office committee and area office manager. We are so grateful for the service provided by these trusted servants who are dedicated to the very theme of our 2017 prepaid convention which is:

“PRESERVING OUR FUTURE”

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your convention chair.

Tracy Miller

SSAASA 2017 Report—Rebecca T

We need your help at the Southern States Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly. This is a weekend full of workshops, co-hosted by Georgia, Alabama and NW Florida. As of now, 50 people have registered and booked hotel rooms.

The location we had booked by the Atlanta airport will no longer be in operation at the time of the Service Assembly. We have been assured that there are other hotels in the Marriott family nearby, so our contract will be moved to another hotel. We will find out more information the first or second week in June, and when available will update our website.

Please continue to register. Presenters at the assembly will be selected from those registered. We also need volunteers with hospitality, greeting, and so on.

Rebecca challenges the state of Georgia to see if we can get more participants than NW Florida or Alabama.

AREA OFFICER REPORTS

Alternate Delegate—Rick M

Cluster Forum Topics: Growth, Participation, and Contributions

Previously held Cluster Forums

Southeast held in Savannah—over 175 in attendance with over 50% attending their first forum

District 17-Spanish—As always, great support and excellent food

Upcoming Cluster Forums

June 17th, East Central—Dublin, GA

August 12th, Northwest—Acworth, GA at HOW Place

Other State Functions

May 27th--Corrections Certification—8am-1pm, state office

June 24th--Treatment and Accessibilities Workshop at NABA in Atlanta

Northwest Cluster Forum—TBA

August 4-6—GCYPAA in Macon

September 10th—Metro Service Meeting at NABA

September 15-17—Assembly

October 12-15—Pre-Paid Convention in Macon

November 10-12—SSAASA

This weekend we were notified by the hotel that we had not reached our negotiated block of rooms. Don't forget to make your room reservations in advance. There has been concern by members that when they call the 800 number or direct to the hotel, they get different messages on availability and price. If you get a mixed message about room rates, please advise our office staff, Tamara or Fran, at 478.745.2588.

Secretary Report—Joan M

Attendance at May Assembly

DCMs	44
Alternate DCMs	15
District Secretary/Treasurer	2
GSRs	186
Alternate GSRs	83
Group Secretary/Treasurer	23
Grapevine Reps	7
Treatment Reps	3
Corrections Reps	5
Communications Reps	4
PI/CPC Reps	7
Archives Reps	7
Members at Large	30
TOTAL	416

Thanks to all in attendance

Group Secretaries

Please keep your group information updated. Forms are available online at aageorgia.org. Under the Find A Meeting tab there will be three different forms you can use depending on what you want to change.

New Group Registration-one time only when registering a group

Existing Group Trusted Servants Updates-GSR or other trusted servants changes

Existing Group Meeting Changes Form-location, start time, type of meeting, etc.

DCMs, District and Zone Secretaries

Send in District minutes at districtminutes@aageorgia.org. Everyone on the office committee receives a copy of the minutes you send in and a copy is saved at our State Office.

DCMs

The Area's favorite form of communication with you is via your district mailbox. It can be accessed by going to [district @aageorgia.org](mailto:district@aageorgia.org) and signing in with your password.

Treasurer—Rusty L

I will hit the highpoints and give you the big numbers. All the specific financial reports are available on the website at aageorgia.org. They are password protected. Click on: Service>Treasurer>Reports. Reports are kept up to date quarterly for both GSSA and the Pre-Paid Convention.

The numbers presented today are totals of specific area within that report. The specifics are available to you. I have them and I am willing to go over them with you as well. Don't hesitate to ask me questions. I can be reached at treasurer@aageorgia.org.

The numbers I'm giving you today are where we are so far this year vs. where we expected to be this year based on the budget.



INCOME

January-April 2017

	2017 (actual)	2017 (budget)	2017 Difference
ORDINARY INCOME	\$59,877.72	\$56,761.88	\$3,115.84
LITERATURE SALES	\$32,193.03	\$30,833.36	\$1,359.67
TOTAL INCOME	\$92,070.75	\$87,595.24	\$4,475.51



EXPENSES-OPERATIONS & OTHER

January-April 2017

	2017 (actual)	2017 (budget)	2017 Difference
ASSEMBLY	\$13,676.57	\$13,385.81	(\$290.76)
COMMITTEES	\$8,542.41	\$13,247.10	\$4,704.69
OPERATIONS	\$30,587.70	\$33,604.36	\$3,016.66
LITERATURE	\$26,822.64	\$27,500.00	\$677.36
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$79,629.32	\$87,737.27	\$8,107.95



TOTALS
January-April 2017

	2017 (actual)	2017 (budget)	2017 Difference
TOTAL INCOME	\$92,070.75	\$87,595.24	\$4,475.51
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$79,629.32	\$87,737.27	\$8,107.95
DIFFERENCE	\$12,441.43	(\$142.03)	\$12,583.46

Operations-\$7,071.04 Literature-\$5,370.39



GSSA RESERVE FUND

Current Reserve Fund Balance (as of 04/30/2017)	\$128,435.50
Operating Expenses (as of 12/31/2016)	\$161,952.42
Months of Operating Expense (as of 04/30/2016)	9.52



PREPAID CONVENTION

Contributions (thru 04/30/2017)	\$9,734.11
Reserve Fund Balance (as of 04/30/2017)	\$127,506.64



GIFT BOXES
(TOTAL YEAR END EXPENSES FOR 2016/MEMBERSHIP)

GSSA	\$8.45
GSO	\$7.27

Bob W—Past Trustee-at-Large, U.S.

I'm Bob, I'm an alcoholic. Thank you for this weekend. I've been asked to share the next step in the Conference process and what happens. The 12 Concepts for World Service very much apply to our Conference process and what we do. When I was newer in service and in AA, I felt like I had to figure everything out right away and understand it. I've come to a point even to this day, with all I've experienced, being a Trustee, a Delegate, years as a DCM and GSR, and all the things I've done, is that I'm a student of the 36 principles of AA for the rest of my life one day at a time—the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. I have utilized these as I gained experience and done different things and they have meant more as I've gone thru. Maybe this is a time when it's fresh in your mind to go home and read a concept or two. It might mean a little more, and you build to the next level of each service position that you're in.

Our first concept says the final responsibility and ultimate authority for AA World Service should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship—all of us. In a very close second, our Conference Charter was confirmed to carry out Concept 1 and create our Conference. Our Conference replaced our founders as guides to the General Service Board. And that's what the Conference does.

You elect your Delegate and he takes his right of decision. He's not an instructed delegate. You tell him what you think, but he uses his right of decision as he hears the collective conscience of the whole fellowship, and he votes his conscience for AA as a whole, as all conference members do.

The Conference is made up of 135 members, 93 of whom are Delegates representing individual areas. The balance is top heavy and the General Service Board (GSB) really takes that to heart because the GSB knows that the Delegates can kick them out if they do not do what they are supposed to do. There is an honest, true respect for that, but, the Delegates have that top heavy portion for a reason. We need to really be able to listen to the fellowship.

Then we have Concepts 3, 4, and 5. These are principled-based concepts—the right of decision, the right of participation, and the right of appeal. They can be exercised with all of you throughout the process. You can participate in the process. You can appeal the process.

Then we have our Conference. Our 6th Concept says the Conference holds responsibility for the maintenance of our world services in large matters of policy, but they give that responsibility away immediately. They share that authority with the GSB who takes the chief initiative and the active responsibility.

The Conference says to the GSB in the form of advisory actions, this is what we think the policy should be, and the GSB is to carry them out throughout the year. And yet the GSB does not have to carry them out. The GSB has never not carried out an advisory action. They respect so much the Delegates and the Conference. But if for some reason they felt it necessary, they would not have to carry them out.

Trustees may not fully understand the action, but they support it because of the second Tradition and our HP working throughout the process.

The Board now implements these advisory actions and makes them happen. They will do that thru their affiliate corporations AAWS and the Grapevine. AAWS implements a lot of that thru the General Service Office (GSO) who do the day to day work and operations.

The next step in the process is that the GSB will meet. The first Board weekend after Conference in July is very pivotal. The Trustees will gather and GSO will help all the Trustees Committees pull the advisory

actions together and make sure things are being implemented and followed up on. The Trustees Committees will even look at additional committee considerations, even though those are not directives per say from the Conference. There's a lot of weight held in the directives. Trustees and Committees (which are made up of Directors and Trustees and their staff workers), will say "you know, this wasn't an advisory action but there was a real strong discussion and this meant a lot to this Conference Committee and we think that we need to take this very seriously." The Trustees respect that this is what the Delegates and fellowship want the Board to do. Again, implementing Tradition two, they try to develop and come up with policy, perhaps even bring them back up thru other potential agenda items for the next years' Conference.

Sometimes the Conference will ask different committees or the trustees to look at other items and bring reports back and this will cause subcommittees to be formed. In August 2016, we had 27 subcommittees-the most anyone had remembered. I was on six. This is work we are doing in-between, throughout the Conference process because we care so much about what you tell us.

Good ideas can come from anywhere. We've learned that in our fellowship, so when you think something is stupid, it's not. Bring it forward no matter what you think of it. A good idea can be developed throughout this process.

Next, the GSB will have its October Board weekend, and continue to follow up on what was discussed previously, consider new items, looking at what last years' Conference asked us to do and make sure that everything is in order. They try to make it as complete as possible, so when we come to the January Board weekend, the GSB will say, "Ok, it's final. We can submit this." This is what they asked for and we hope that this is the best possible product that we can give them, developing that group conscience process.

Ernie talked a lot about the military. There have been issues coming up and suggestions and agenda items throughout the fellowship all four

years I served on the Board. Sometimes it takes a long period of time for something to happen—the good is the enemy of the best. If we jump to do something too quickly we don't end up with the best. Regarding any issues around our returning military, we want the best, and I'm confident that will happen.

We've seen an awful lot churning within the Young People's movement within AA, requesting the Board to look at different items related to young people. I'm confident something will happen with that as well.

These Concepts are about sharing this authority, this mutual respect, this love and constantly deferring back and forth to each other to come up with the best possible solutions that we can. To reach out to the still suffering alcoholic who hasn't found AA, but also to focus on our own membership. We still need to stay sober. We need different services as we grow and change in sobriety so we can continue to carry the message. All of this it might seem complex. Yet it is so simple. We have these things to learn, all these cogs in the wheel—GSRs, CPC reps, Committee Chairs, Area Chairs, 93 areas, Trustees, non-Trustee Directors, appointed committee members, conference calls, GSO staff—we've all these kinds of things.

As Ernie said, "when all else fails, if we screw it up, we'll fit it next year."

Thank you for the opportunity to be here.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Savannah Bid for 2019 Pre-Paid Convention

Bid Announcement-Liz

We, the DCMs of District 5, would like to place a bid for the 66th Georgia Pre-Paid Convention.

Savannah would be the perfect location to host the convention Thursday, October 18th thru Sunday, October 21st, 2019.

We are prepared to sign a contract with the Savannah Civic Center for their Johnny Mercer Theater where we successfully hosted the 54th Pre-Paid Convention in 2007. This venue will accommodate up to 2500 people, and it has breakout rooms for meetings, as well as ample space for registration, hospitality and other special events.

Our facilities coordinators have contracted local hotels throughout the area and have secured room prices from \$70-\$200 nightly, depending on location. We have been guaranteed that 250 rooms will be available for us in the downtown historic area near the venue. Being 2 ½ years out, we have not been guaranteed specific rates, but we have been told that downtown price ranges will run from \$130-\$200 nightly. More specific pricing will be made available as we draw closer to the event time.

Savannah is one of the top 10 tourist destinations on the east coast. As a result, there is no lack of fine dining and attractions nearby.

The convention committee has many ideas for events and workshops for you. Savannah is known as the “Hostess City” for a reason, and we would be honored to host you.

Please grant us the opportunity to be of service to Area 16 by awarding us the Pre-Paid convention in 2019.

No questions

Show of hands to approve bid

Bid accepted

Motion: Area 16 adopt electronic voting procedures for elections, period. (vote)

3rd assembly of the process

Open discussion

Tom S-GSR Abbeville Grp—opposed, thinks there is a more viable solution with no cost to the Assembly

Jarrold-DCM 13F—What is the concept behind not electing the entire Office Committee in one year vs. Delegate/Alt Delegate one year and Secretary/Treasurer opposite years; did the ad-hoc committee consider this

Missy DCM 13A, ad hoc chair—did not consider this issue

Rebecca Assembly Chair—continuity, so all four committee members are not new at the same time

Ken—ad hoc committee member; security issues—system operates on its own separate private network; all devices can only talk to each other; think about trying the system before final commitment

David M-Past Delegate Panel 58—opposed to motion; suggests DCMs collect ballots, place in envelope after counting, marks on envelope total. “Tally” as referenced in our manual doesn’t mean ticks on chalkboard, but “to count, total something”; GSO uses e-voting for everything but elections, we only want to use for elections.

Dick D-DCM 16B—ad hoc committee member; estimated cost \$1500. If we have 500 people at assembly and everyone put in \$1 it would pay for itself; would we use 750 saved hours in a better way? Would you go to a meeting that night, call your sponsor, meet with sponsee, follow up on one of the service committees, look up the concepts?

David F, GSR 13G—only GSRs vote. Today we have 232 GSRs. Options offered were from \$1500-\$2000. If we used the \$2000 option it would be \$8/GSR to vote today to save 1 ½ hours time. Our time is what we volunteer. We’re now asking our groups to pay for our time here. If you personally are willing to pay \$8-fine. If you are asking your group to pay it’s not fine.

Karen, GSR 11B—My group is willing to pass the basket one time at our meeting to help contribute to the cost of e-voting. Other groups willing?

Tom R, DCM 16D—Clarification for GSRs: a suggestion was made to try this once on a trial basis and before anybody even begins to consider

that, can we change the manual one time for it to be tried on a trial basis?

Rebecca—No

Frank F, GSR White Bluff Grp—To further discussion, I would like to offer a **friendly amendment** to add at the end of the motion the words: **“for a 1 year trial period.”**

Rebecca—this is new to us, a gray area; if we propose a trial do we change or not change the manual; if it's in do we then have to make a manual change to take it out

Rebecca—is there a 2nd to the amendment to the motion?

Stu H alt GSR Brown Baggers—2nd the amendment to the motion

Rebecca—Frank please repeat amendment

Frank—adding at the end “for a 1 year trial period”

Rebecca—which could also be removed from the manual? We would need to add that part because if not then we are going back to another manual change

Tom H, Office Committee Chair—I suggest that if we did some kind of trial period that we would add to the motion or some kind of * to the manual that if it becomes permanent then we would change the manual

Dwight, 4th Dimension Group—(maker of original motion) Accept friendly amendment

Rebecca—we will put the * and if it becomes permanent we will change the manual

Rebecca—the motion would be “Area 16 adopt electronic voting procedure for elections for a 1 year trial period.” If it becomes permanent we will add it to the manual

It would take a vote, but not another ad-hoc committee and 3 assembly process. We would have to give data feedback about how it went thru that trial period

Dwight—if it does become permanent, may we move in September to put it immediately in the manual?

Rebecca—No changes this September, no matter what happens today. This matter would go to the Communications Committee etc., so we are not prepared for this to occur this September.

Michael B, GSR 7A—Can we always vote it back out?

Rebecca—back up a bit. We need the entire body to accept the amendment

By a show of hands, who accepts the amendment?

Amendment passes

John, alt-GSR Turning Point Grp—experience in the past is that these devices do not always work. How do we know the devices will be viable in a venue such as this.

Dick—I took the bids. Out of 8 vendors, 5 were viable, 4 within budget. We were convinced they were secure and would be accurate, and all 5 would do a trial ahead of time with us in this venue before the actual vote

Diane, Communications co-Chair, Past Treasurer—our ultimate goal is to try to save time during the election process. Two options that have been presented, one the is the motion on the floor and the other is where the DCMs count and then provide the envelopes. Since the current motion has now been amended to do a trial period is it possible to table the current motion instead of us spending money up front for this for 1 year. Can we try the other manual method before we have the outlay of cash? Can we table the motion or rescind it to then re-present if the motion maker chooses to re-present the motion without having to go thru the long process we already have gone thru?

Rusty L, alcoholic—Assembly attendee for 10 years. Early on disliked process. Over time, realized there is a tradition in what we do. Not opposed to speeding up the process. However, it would take time away from us seeing each other, getting to know new people, sharing experience, strength and hope here. We grow up in AA together and this is where we do it from around the state.

John R, DCM Dist 9—Clarification. Would this motion require one manual change or two and at what cost?

Rebecca—One change; no cost to change the manual. Updated online immediately, changed at reprint.

John, GSR 14D—would we sign a 5 year contract? How much would the price go up for the one year trial?

Rebecca--\$1500-\$2000 is the price per year depending on the vendor we select.

Dick—the price is for one year. We rent, and could get the best price possible

Billy, GSR We Agnostics—I'd like to call the question

Mike, GSR Perry Group—I second the call

Rebecca—We are voting to **CALL the Question**

Show of hands/**Passed**

Now we will vote on the **motion** which is: **Area 16 adopt electronic voting procedures for elections for a one year trial period.**

Show of hands in favor-132

Show of hands against-70

Needed 135 to pass

Motion did not pass

Minority Opinion

Amy, GSR Gilmore Area Grp—Re: fellowship during voting process.

How many people actually get up and communicate with people in other districts?

Christine, GSR 13G A Common Solution for Women—If we mess it up this time we can fix it next time, but worth trying something different

Stu H, alt GSR 14C—Thinks the vote would be more certain using e-voting

Joy, GSR 10B Fresh Start Grp—Need to keep things simple. Try the e-voting.

Chris, GSR Sunrise Grp-16B—Tallying procedure with DCMs worth a look at in new business

Karen, GSR 11B—**Motion to reconsider**

Kevin M, alt GSR Cartersville Closed Disc Grp—**2nd the motion**
Rebecca—need a simple majority to consider discussion on this topic
Show of hands—**motion passes by simple majority**

Discussion open, pro and con for the motion: Area 16 adopt electronic voting procedures for elections for a 1 year trial period.

Mark, GSR-16D—Changing vote to “against” 1) extra cost to assembly
2) no reason to add costs when other options haven’t been thoroughly considered

Robin, GSR Chapter 3 Grp—voted against. Primary purpose is to carry the message to alcoholics. Any extra funds need to go to that process. E-voting is not carrying the message.

John A, Alt DCM 5B—thinks e-voting would be more accurate

Littrell D, GSR Tick area group—**motion to table**

Karen, GSR 12 Step Sisters 11B—**second the motion to table**

Rebecca—**show of hands to table this motion** (this would be brought back to another assembly with more discussion)

Show of hands for tabling—110

Show of hands against tabling—74

Motion carries to table

Ad-hoc Committee Report

MOTION [amended]: That all GSSA Office and Area Service Committee related expenses associated with the Prepaid Convention be [paid] from the Prepaid Convention account, rather than the GSSA account.

The Ad Hoc Committee members conducted communications by phone and email, and we had a face-to-face meeting just prior to the April Pre-Conference Planning meeting in Macon. We sought input from current and past Area Treasurers, other members of AA, and we discussed this Motion with GSRs at our respective

District/Zone Meetings. In order to provide recommendations to the GSSA regarding this Motion, the Ad Hoc Committee members considered four primary issues:

1. The specific dollar amounts associated with moving these expenses from the GSSA Budget to the Prepaid Convention Budget.
2. The recent Actual expenses, vs. the Budgeted expenses.
3. The potential long-term effects of these changes.
4. When these changes should go into effect.

For the current year, 2017, there is a total of \$4,520 for Prepaid Convention expenses in the GSSA Budget. This amount represents the sum of budgeted meal and mileage expenses for Area Office Committee and Area Service Committee members to attend the Prepaid Convention. These travel expense payments are limited to the following individuals.

- The seven Area Office Committee members (at \$180 each):
 - Delegate
 - Alternate Delegate
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - State Chair
 - Office Chair
 - Office Manager
- The seventeen members of Area Service Committees (at \$180 each):
 - PI/CPC (2)
 - Treatment and Accessibility (2)
 - Corrections (2)
 - Archives (2)
 - Grapevine (2)
 - Communications (2), which also includes Translation (3) and Web (2)
- An additional expense of \$100 each is budgeted for the Alternate Delegate and Area Treasurer to attend a Convention Committee Meeting

Prior to 2014, there were no meal and mileage expenses included in the GSSA Budget for the Area Service Committees to attend the Prepaid Convention. These expenses were added to the GSSA Budget following a Prepaid Convention Inventory that was conducted in 2014, and a subsequent motion that was passed at the September Assembly that year. Some people believe that this change was a reaction to the above average costs for the 2013 Prepaid Convention in Atlanta and concerns about the long-term ability of the Prepaid Convention account to meet future expenses. It should be noted that the 2017 GSSA Budget for the Area Office Committee members to attend the Prepaid Convention is about half of what it was in 2007, which does serve to offset a portion of the additional expenses for the Service Committee Chairs/Co-chairs. It also demonstrates that those responsible for managing our funds over the past several years have been good stewards.

We looked at the last three years of actual expenses for the Area Office Committee members and the Area Service Committee Chairs/Co-chairs to attend the Prepaid Convention. Although the actual Prepaid Convention expenses paid for the Area Office Committee members in 2014 did exceed the total budgeted amount, the 2015 actual expenses were only 43% of budget, and the 2016 actuals were only 24% of budget. Over this period, 2014 through 2016, the combined actual expenses of approximately \$4,800 were about half of the \$9,455 budgeted for this period. Furthermore, the actual expenses paid for the Service Committee Chairs/Co-chairs in 2016 were only 10% of the budgeted amount.

We did discuss potential long-term effects of the transfer of these expenses to the Prepaid Convention Budget. Each member of the Ad Hoc Committee has been involved in Area 16 service work long enough to remember when the Prepaid Convention did not have the financial strength that it does now. We also know that some groups in Area 16 recently have reduced, or even eliminated, their contributions to the Prepaid Convention due to the relative imbalance between the Prepaid Convention funds and the GSSA funds. Our general concern is that if this trend continues, then having these GSSA travel expenses included in the Prepaid

Convention Budget could become a burden. However, the solution to this potential challenge is for the future stewards of our funds to continue to monitor the balances of the GSSA and Prepaid Convention accounts, and to keep the DCMs and GSRs informed of the relative condition of each account, so that appropriate adjustments to group contributions can be made. Therefore, this Ad Hoc Committee believes that any long-term negative impacts can be averted.

The final issue is when the transfer of these meal and mileage expenses should occur. Given that we are nearly half way through the current year, only five months away from the 2017 Prepaid Convention, and in accordance with the request of our Area Treasurer, the consensus is that this transfer from the GSSA Budget to the Prepaid Convention Budget should go into effect with the respective 2018 budgets.

Based on these considerations, this Ad Hoc Committee recommends that the Motion should be passed, and that these changes should go into effect with the 2018 GSSA and Prepaid Convention Budgets.

On behalf of myself and the other DCMs on this Ad Hoc Committee, I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to serve Area 16.

Yours in Service,

Ken M. (13-I), Denney B. (12-A), John R. (9), and Warren B. (8)

Rebecca—open discussion on ad hoc report

Bruce GSR 16D—What do the trusted servants do at the Pre-Paid? Are they invited by the Pre-Paid? What will be paid for if this is approved? How many people?

Rebecca—Attending Committee Chairs man tables to foster service opportunities for their specific committee; yes; meals and mileage; 17
Diane, Past Treasurer—each PPD committee chooses which committee chairs they want in attendance. Do not need to invite the chair and co-

chair of each committee. Need to budget for all, since we don't know who will be invited.

Amy, GSR-Gilmore Area—Lower % taken out of GSSA fund for PPD Convention this past year. Is that because fewer trusted servants attended?

Rebecca—Fewer people could be going plus we can elect to not take the full amount budgeted for us

Amy—If we accept, what would happen to the Convention if donations fell short?

Rebecca—Now have money for 3+ conventions in prudent reserve. Area Treasurer can inform the body where we stand with contributions and make suggestions to groups to act accordingly and shift where they send contributions

Frank S, GSR-White Bluff Grp—Should the participation of the trusted servants be supported by the area as a whole and have funds come GSSA, or should the expense for carrying the message come from the Convention? Is service at a PPD by the trusted servants considered a part of their job description as an area trusted servant, or is this function ancillary, just as we ask outside speakers to participate?

Buster D, Friendship in the Steps—GSSA funds stay in GSSA; Pre-Paid Convention should stand on its own

Tom H—If trusted servants aren't reimbursed for service provided, only the wealthy could serve and that's an issue. At a convention there are more people NOT involved in service and having the committees to promote service is worth every penny.

Tina, alt GSR, Sober at 6 Grp—Our group readjusted the % given to PPD several months ago thinking the PPD might have too much money in its coffers. We are willing to change our % back to help offset the cost of trusted servants at the convention.

Joe, GSR-Hope on the Island Grp—Whenever I see one of our trusted servants at a convention, they always answer my questions, invited or not

Rebecca—No further discussion. This will be tabled, and discuss and voted on it in September.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of new Area Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs

Due to vacancies in two service committees, the following members were appointed:

Diane M--Communications Co-Chair

Christy G—Treatment/Accessibilities Chair

Richard R—Treatment/Accessibilities Co-Chair

Show of hands to confirm—all in favor

Nominations for Delegate

Second year DCMs available for election:

Randal Hughes 16E

Ken Martin 13I

Charles Hess 13B

Richard McNamara-current Alt-Delegate available for election

Nominations:

Deborah Keane—accept nomination

Service resumes will appear in the next two Messages

General Sharing

Missy M, DCM 13A—13A is asking the body for approval to split the zone into two different zones. Currently 13A has 44 groups which makes it difficult for me and the Alt DCM to effectively communicate with all of them. Discussion began last November to see if we could be self-supporting, and have trusted servants available, and decided it was feasible. Currently 13A encompasses North Fulton County, north

of 285. An almost even split would be at the Chattahoochee River (groups, money, servants). We propose 13A to be North Fulton County north of 285 and south of the Chattahoochee River; 13L, the new zone, North Fulton County, north of the Chattahoochee River.

Show of hands for rezoning 13A

All in favor

Mark, GSR Solution Group—Question on gift boxes. When we pass the baskets at Assembly, is the money collected the same as the money in the gift boxes on the dais?

Rusty, Treasurer—Baskets are traditionally passed here to help offset the expense of the Assembly by those that attend. Boxes are separate.

Dick—If a DCM counted vote would not take a manual change, could we not do that in September without the motion?

Rebecca—We do not believe so but we will look at that one more time.

Karen, GSR 11B—Can we cut costs by not sending out welcome GSR packets if GS already have one?

Rebecca—Sent out by GSO, not the Area

Robin, GSR-Chapter 3 group—Motion to adjourn

Mark, GSR—second the motion to adjourn

Adjourn/Lords' Prayer (Spanish/English)