

**Georgia State Assembly
Delegate Message January 2017**

Good morning. My name is Ernie and I am an alcoholic. First, let me thank Area 16 for the privilege of being allowed to represent Area 16 as the Panel 66 Delegate for the 67th General Conference to be held in New York in April 2017.

How many Frist Time Assembly Attendees do we have here with us this morning? Thank you all for coming and welcome to another new adventure in service. Keep Coming Back.

As we begin 2017 let us look back for a moment at the accomplishments of this past year. Area 16 held 4 Cluster Forums – Southwest in Albany, West Central in Perry, Northeast in Buford, and Metro in Atlanta. All were well attended and the presentations were excellent. Our 63rd State Convention was held in Augusta, coming in under budget. You will receive their report later this morning.

In December 2016, the Alternate Delegate, myself, and others from Georgia had the opportunity to attend the Southeast Regional Forum in Orlando, Florida. From Friday evening through Sunday morning there were presentations from the General Service and Corporate Boards. There were presentations from current and past Delegates, Grapevine Board and our AA Trustee-at-Large. There also were numerous “General Sharing Sessions” with questions asked and answered. I had the privilege of being the moderator for the Saturday night workshop – A.A. Corrections.

As always with the beginning of each year we say goodbye to some of our Area Officers and Committee Chairpersons. Many thanks and kudos go out to our Departing Secretary – Debi K., and Treasurer – Diane M. I would like to welcome our New Area Secretary – Joan M., and New Area Treasurer – Rusty L. You will be receiving a report from these new officers later this morning.

Our Area appreciation also goes out to Tim E. – Corrections Committee Chairperson and John L., Treatment and Special Needs Committee Chairperson. These individuals have given four (4) years of devoted service to Alcoholic Anonymous in Area 16. I also have received the resignation of our Communications Co-Chairperson – Gary J. The Area will miss his services. These people deserve special thanks from Area 16. Later this morning you will be asked to approve the appointment of a new Chairperson and Co-Chairperson of the Corrections Committee and Treatment Special Needs Committee. Please support them as you have their predecessors. Currently Area 16 is searching for a “Web Master” and new Co-Chair for the Communications Committee. If you may be interested in either of these positions, please contact Ron G., our Communications Committee Chairperson.

As always, Area 16's appreciation goes out to the tireless efforts of our Area Office Manager Tamera. Also, attending her first Assembly is our newest part time employee in the Area Office - Fran. Please make her feel welcome as you see her today.

AAWS Reports:

Public Information: Tracking for video "Doors" showed that it aired over 80,000 times in the US & Canada with 588 million audience impressions. The English and French versions of the PSA "Tengo Esperanza" are scheduled to be distributed in Jan 2017.

Publishing: Through September 30th gross sales were \$10,192,281 or \$58,868 ahead of budget.

**Total eBook sales through September are \$168,997 with 42,937 units. The Hebrew, Polish, and Thai re-translations are continuing. The Navajo project is in its final recordings and final review.

** The Board approved bundling the 75th anniversary facsimile first edition *Big Book* with *Pass It On, Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers*, and *Alcoholic Anonymous Comes of Age* as special holiday gift set at \$30/set. It will be offered for sale through Jan 31, 2017. Order on line if interested.

CONFERENCE: The committee agreed to forward the final report from the subcommittee on electronic voting at Conference to the 2017 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions with the recommendation that the Conference move forward using electronic voting for all Conference voting with the exception of elections for regional trustee and trustee-at-large.

The committee received a report from the GM on the financial implications of moving the 2018 Conference back to New York City and agreed to that change of venue.

ARCHIVES: The committee agreed to forward to the 2017 Conference Committee on Archives the proposal for a new AAWS book *Unity in Action: Bill W.'s General Conference Talks, 1951-1970* (working title) for consideration.

TRUSTEES' CORRECTION COMMITTEE: Reported that the first National Corrections Conference will be held in November 2017, hosted by Area 38, Eastern Missouri and the location to rotate annually.

FINANCIALS:

GSO:

At the end of 9 months, revenues were approximately \$772,000 (6.75%) greater than budgeted while total operating expenses were \$ 690,000 under budget.

Contributions were approximately \$618,000 greater than budget and \$581,000 greater than same period in 2015.

Net profit was \$800,145 compared with a budgeted loss of \$662.000.

** On-line sales make up 58.22% of all Sales. Since the actual results are so much more positive than 2016 budget, the chair gave the following “big picture” to clarify:

13% increase in 7 th Tradition	620,000
2% increase in literature profits	150,000
7% decrease in employee costs as open positions due to retirements not filled	490,000
4% decrease in operating other expenses	<u>200,000</u>
Nine-month actual profit	800,000

GRAPEVINE:

Combined average circulation was 77,900 compared with last year's average of 77,700. Magazine income was \$ 12,751 greater than budgeted with direct costs of \$ 49,655 less. Gross profit from the magazine of \$ 1,083,973 is \$ 11,516 more than last year and \$ 62,406 greater than budgeted. Other publishing income of \$ 501,291 is \$ 60,985 greater than budget. In summary, the 2016 profit thus far is significantly improved due to magazine circulation increasing over budget and actual expenditures being less than budgeted.

*La Vina Magazine had a shortfall of \$ 108,828 which was \$ 4,900 less than budgeted, but \$ 9,155 greater than this time last year. Average circulation was 10,340 which is 180 more than budgeted and 30 greater than last year.

Preliminary information is that for the full year 2016 the Grapevine is forecast to have a profit of \$ 148,139, but that 2017 will result in a loss of \$ 141,250 with larger losses going forward.

AREA 16'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO GSO:

Thru the end of September, 2016, 54.56% of Georgia's groups contributed to GSO as compared to 52.5% in 2015. Area 16 has contributed \$109,716.42 thru the end of September to GSO. If any DCM would like to see the list from his/her District, please feel free to see either

myself or the Alternate Delegate for that information or you may email either of us and we will forward your district information to you.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS - That the Trustees' Committee of Literature consider development of A. A. Literature providing information and guidance to A.A. groups regarding matters of personal conduct, safety and the protection of our members. It was recommended that the service material document of Safety presented by G.S.O. staff be approved and sent for legal review, with final editing provided by Publishing. It was also that Publishing develop, with input from staff, a Safety card, and that it be brought back to the Board to review. This matter is still pending and we may see some development at Conference regarding this matter.

Area 16 has 17 Districts, 50 DCMs, 779 groups and approximately 19,100 members. Your group contributions fund the services that the Area provides. In November, 2016 we had the DCM planning meeting for the year 2017. The DCMs approved the budget for 2017 with some recommended changes by the Budget Committee. It was decided to remain with four Cluster Forums as budget did not seem to allow expansion back to the eight Cluster Forums. Your Alternate Delegate will go over the schedule later this morning in his report.

In April 2017, the Area will be having its pre-conference meeting with the DCMs in preparation for the 67th General Conference in New York. This meeting will allow me to hear and carry the voice of Area 16 on numerous agenda items on Finance, PI, CPC, Grapevine, Treat/Special Needs, Corrections, Archives, etc. The DCMs have been asked to share their respective committee assignments with the groups in their Districts and bring back your wishes to the pre-conference meeting. I have the privilege of being selected a member of the Cooperation with the Professional Committee (PIC). In early February I will receive the complete packet of agenda items for conference and will have our Area Secretary send the DCMs their respective committee agenda items.

As you heard in yesterday afternoon presentations, Area 16 (Georgia) and Area 1 (Alabama & North Florida), will be hosting the Southern States Alcoholic Anonymous Service Assembly IV (SSAASA) in Atlanta, November 10-12th. What an excellent opportunity for all the members in Area 16 to attend a local "service assembly". What a way to find their respective "niche" in AA.

Today you will receive the Ad-hoc Committee report on "electronic voting". Please carry this information back to your home groups for their input and be prepared to vote in May, 2017.

The Trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment & Special Needs changed the name of the Committee to Treatment/Accessibilities with the approval of the 66th General Conference. Since this is a name change and does not

change the function or scope of the Committee, I would like to have the Assembly make a motion to change the name of our Treatment/Special Needs Committee to Treatment/Accessibilities. Per our Service Manual, pg. 13, the Assembly may make a motion to changes in “committees and non-policy decisions” supported by the will of the Assembly and can be updated regularly.

Also at your May Assembly, the Area will accept nominations for our Panel 68 Delegate to the General Service Conference in 2018 either by roll call of the current DCMs or nomination by a standing GSR/Alternate GSR. Please review the Georgia Service Manual for the nomination criteria and procedures. Remember that any candidate wishing to stand for either Delegate or Alternate Delegate, must stand for Delegate and after that election, the Alternate Delegate will be elected/chosen from the remaining candidates.

Again in 2017, I would like to encourage assembly attendance and participation. When I first came to Assembly in 1991, there was a lot of interest shown in Area 16. Group members pooled their funds along with what groups could afford to give them. We carpooled, shared rooms, meal expenses and had a great time. We attended workshops, the Saturday night Speaker Meeting (usually over 800 in attendance) and didn't leave Sunday morning until the meeting was over. There were times we ate at the Huddle House or shared pizza, but we all survived on what we could afford. We found a way for all to attend who had a desire to come and enjoy this eye-opening experience. Remember your first assembly, the hello's and welcomes and finally that “light bulb” turning on.

There are three (3) sides to the AA triangle - Recovery, Unity, and Service. The Big Book guarantees our sobriety if we are working with another alcoholic. Fellowship alone will not guarantee my sobriety. I must be involved in the “whole program” not just the steps. I encourage sponsors today not just to work the steps, but encourage involvement in group participation from set up, clean up, and including carrying the message through service work. Let us all begin “walking the walk” instead of “talking the talk”.

As we go through the Assembly this weekend, I encourage you all to use the evaluation forms available at the registration area or on the website. Please take the time to fill out the form/questions. The only way the Assembly can be of better service to you is for you to let us know what is good and what is not working for you. Your input is a valuable tool to plan for better assemblies in the future.

Our 2017, the 67th General Service Conference will be held in Rye, New York, April 23-29, 2017. I am very excited to represent Area 16. I have been assigned to the CPC Committee – “Cooperation with the Professional Community. That will be my primary committee research area, but I am looking forward to carrying the Area’s wishes on the additional other agenda items.

Also at the 67th General Conference the Southeast Delegates will be electing a new Southeast Delegate for the next four years. Chet P., our current Southeast Delegate, has done an excellent job representing us. Our own Tom H., (Past Panel 62 Delegate, and currently our Office Committee Chairperson) has been nominated by Area 16, and I will support that nomination at the Conference.

In preparation for the May Assembly, I have asked our current Trustee-at-Large/U.S. Bob W. to be our guest. He will not only share his story with us Saturday evening, but will also do a presentation on Saturday afternoon regarding his duty position/function and travel as our Trustee-at-Large.

Again, many thanks for allowing me to represent Area 16.

Questions?????